

Oil price shocks, market distortion and output growth: Theory and evidence from China

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Abstract:

Energy prices are often distorted by government control, which is usually justified on the ground that such control will help mitigate the negative impact of price volatility from oil imports and thus positively affect domestic economy. In this paper, we show in a two-sector growth model that such price distortion indeed affects the economy, and then based on the model, we empirically estimate its impact on the output growth in China, using monthly time series data. In contrast to the usual argument for price control, we find that the price distortion negatively affects the output growth in China in both the short run and long run, which is robust to different measures of output and price distortion. The price control is one important barrier towards energy market integration. Since the induced distortion dampens domestic economy, the ground to maintain price control is seriously undermined. Therefore, the finding of this paper lends support to the energy market integration that many regions, such as East Asia, are advocating.

Key words: price regulation; macroeconomy; price distortion; energy market integration; China

JEL classification: C02, E23, Q43

1. Introduction

The relationship between oil price and macroeconomy has been debated since early 1980s (Hamilton, 1983) with the first oil crisis and the global recessions that followed (Jones et al., 2004; Segal, 2007). These studies were initially spurred by the stagnation of the US economy in the 1970s as oil price shocks were thought to be the only promising hypothesis to explain the stagflation (Barsky & Kilian, 2004). Many early studies, such as Darby (1982) and

32 Hamilton (1983; 1985), demonstrate that changes in oil price have significant impacts on
33 output, employment, inflation and economic growth. However, others argue that, the induced
34 monetary policy, rather than oil price shock itself, is the key driver for recessions after oil
35 price shocks (Bernanke et al., 1997; Chen, 2009; Clark & Terry, 2009). The issues were
36 revitalized in the 2000s with the fact that oil price has risen more than 600 per cent between
37 2001 and 2008, while the average quarterly core inflation in the US was only about 2 per cent
38 over the same period (Clark & Terry, 2009). A more recent study finds that the relationship
39 may exist in some cases of oil shocks but not in the others (Kilian, 2008).

40 In China, on which this paper focuses, literature on the impact of international oil price
41 shock on economic growth also yields inconclusive findings. Zaouali (2007), using a CGE
42 model, finds that an oil price hike will have negative impact on GDP, and the impacts on the
43 petroleum sector is much more serious than on the non-petroleum sector. Tang et al. (2010)
44 also find that oil price increase will lead to output decrease. Using a structural dynamic factor
45 model approach, Ou et al. (2012) find that oil price shock will make China's industrial output
46 increase initially but decrease for a long term subsequently. Lescaroux & Suez (2009) show
47 that an oil price shocks leads to a delayed negative impact on GDP as well. However, in
48 contrast, Du *et al.* (Du *et al.*, 2010; Wu *et al.*, forthcoming) find that China's GDP is
49 positively related to oil price increase.

50 Despite the empirical results are inconclusive, it appears that policy makers generally
51 believe that oil price shocks exert a negative impact on domestic economy, and due to this
52 belief price regulation in the energy market, such as price cap and subsidies, has been
53 practiced for a long time and is still prevailing in many countries (IEA, 2012). Many policy
54 makers prefer to have such price regulation on the ground that these measures can insulate
55 the domestic economy from negative impacts of high oil prices in the world market. For
56 example, Indonesia and Malaysia fixed their petroleum prices at a very low level (Wu *et al.*,
57 2012).

58 Nevertheless, the price regulation will inevitably lead to price distortion in the energy
59 market, and is one important barrier towards energy market integration that many regions,
60 such as East Asia, are advocating (Shi & Kimura, 2010). Although policy makers hope such
61 price regulation may help domestic economy, the induced distortion may actually exert
62 negative impacts. If the distortion dampens domestic economy, the ground to maintain price
63 regulation will be seriously undermined.

64 Therefore examining the impact of price distortion will present significant implications to
65 policy makers, and shed light on a better understanding of energy market integration.

66 However, even for its policy significance, to the best of our knowledge, there is no previous
67 study that explores the impact of energy price distortion on domestic economy. To fill this
68 gap, this paper intends to explore the impact of energy price distortion, both theoretically
69 through a two-sector growth model and empirically by a time-series analysis of China's case.

70 This paper focuses on China, a large developing economy. On the one hand, China's fast
71 economic growth creates a huge demand for such resources as oil; while on the other hand it
72 also maintains a number of intervention measures, such as price control, in the domestic
73 energy market. Since 2009, the imported oil has accounted for more than half of total oil
74 consumption in China, and meanwhile the oil price has become more volatile. Investigating
75 the impact of price distortion, which occurs due to these intervention measures, will lead to
76 significant implications for policy makers not only in China but also in other developing
77 economies. Later, our empirical exercise will reveal that such distortion does harm to the
78 industrial output.

79 The contribution of this paper lies in four folds. First, we explicitly introduce the role of
80 energy market distortion into the well examined oil price shock-macroeconomy nexus. We
81 further argue that market distortion, including energy price distortion, will have a significant
82 negative impact on the relationship. . Second, we illustrate the impact of the price distortion
83 in a two-sector growth model. Third, our empirical exercise focuses on China, a large and
84 fast growing developing economy with high dependence on imported oil and price control,
85 which will lead to significant implications for policy makers both in China and other
86 developing countries. We also propose several measures of the price distortion in China.
87 Fourth, our study will also shed light on a better understanding of energy market integration
88 which is often blocked by subsidies and other price control measures in domestic markets.

89 The rest of the paper proceeds as follows. Following the introduction, in Section 2 we
90 present a discussion of the oil consumption and energy pricing mechanism in China, which
91 gives background information for subsequent exercise, and measures the energy price
92 distortion in China. Section 3 presents a two-sector growth model, where we illustrate that oil
93 price distortion indeed affects domestic economy. Using implication of the theoretical model
94 in Section 3, we then propose the empirical specification and discuss the data in Section 4,
95 and in Section 5 we report empirical results. Section 6 concludes the paper.

96 **2. Oil pricing mechanism and price distortion in China**

97 Due to its escalating volume of oil consumption, increasing dependence on oil imports,

98 and gradually liberalizing domestic oil pricing mechanism, researchers have expected a more
99 active interaction between the world oil price and China's macro-economy (Du *et al.*, 2010;
100 Wu *et al.*, forthcoming). Therefore, not surprisingly, China is a good case to study the role of
101 market distortion and oil price shocks. In this section, we will discuss the pricing mechanisms
102 in the energy market, and measure the associated price distortion.

103 **2.1 The oil consumption and pricing mechanisms**

104 China's energy consumption, as well as its dependence on imported oil, has been
105 increasing dramatically in the past two decades and is expected to continuously grow in the
106 future (IEA, 2012). During 1990-2008, China's GDP grew at an annual rate of 10 per cent on
107 average, and is expected to grow at an annual average rate of 5.7 per cent during 2008-2035
108 (IEA, 2010). Such fast economic growth leads to strong demand for energy. In 2009, China
109 became the world's largest energy consumer.

110 Meanwhile, China's domestic oil price has also experienced significant changes. Before
111 1998, it was heavily regulated. In the 1980s and 1990s, China adopted a dual-track pricing
112 system, under which prices for most of the oil products were tightly regulated. A market-
113 based petroleum pricing mechanism was adopted in 1998 and in October 2001, oil product
114 prices were linked to major international futures markets (Du *et al.*, 2010). They were firstly
115 benchmarked against the Singapore futures markets, and later in 2001 the benchmark was
116 extended to Singapore, Rotterdam and New York futures markets, where a unpublished
117 weight was used in setting the domestic prices (Du *et al.*, 2010). In 2006, this price
118 benchmark was changed from refinery product prices to the Brent, Dubai and Minas crude oil
119 prices.

120 However, this price benchmarking, although it enables the domestic markets to follow the
121 international markets, also intends to insulate domestic markets from the volatility of
122 petroleum prices in the global markets (IEA, 2010). Due to this intention, even with those
123 liberalizing reforms implemented in the early 2000, the pricing regime was besotted with ad
124 hoc subsidies and non-transparent and not consistently enforced pricing behaviour.

125 In 2009, China introduced a formula-based pricing mechanism for oil products.
126 According to this formula, domestic fuel prices may be adjusted when international crude oil
127 prices, measured as a weighted average of the Brent, Dubai and Cinta crude oil prices, change
128 more than 4 per cent over a period of 22 working days (Government of China, 2008).

129 This pricing mechanism can smooth the price volatility in the fuel markets and
130 subsequently the shocks in China will be less severe. When the average crude oil price is

131 below US\$ 80 a barrel, domestic gasoline prices move relatively freely; between US\$ 80 and
132 US\$ 130 a barrel, domestic prices are responsive, but cannot increase as much as the crude oil
133 prices does; and above US\$ 130, fuel tax breaks will be used to keep domestic prices low.
134 Furthermore, fuel price adjustments have lagged behind the world price movement (Kojima,
135 2012). However, it was reported that the China may change its oil pricing mechanism: it may
136 adjust domestic oil prices every ten working days regardless of how much international oil
137 prices change (CNC, 2012).

138 **2.2 Measurement of oil price distortions**

139 Even though China is gradually liberalizing the pricing mechanism of domestic oil
140 products, there still exists significant price control in the energy market, as discussed above.
141 Such price control creates distortions in the energy market. We measure the price distortion in
142 the following way:

143 First, we calculate the average monthly gasoline price (yuan per ton) in China over three
144 types of gasoline without lead (namely gasoline no. 90, 93, and 97), where the prices for
145 these three types of gasoline are sourced from the CEIC database. Second, we extract the
146 average end user price of all grade motor gasoline in the US, which is sourced from the US
147 Energy Information Administration (EIA). The unit of this price is US dollar per gallon,
148 which we then convert into US dollar per ton by using the formula of 1 gallon gasoline =
149 2.7974 kg gasoline. This price is further converted into Chinese currency (yuan) by using the
150 period average of official nominal exchange rate sourced from IMF.

151 Third, after we obtain the China and US gasoline prices with the same unit (Chinese yuan
152 per ton), we calculate three measures of domestic oil price distortion. The first measure is a
153 ratio of China price against US price, namely $\sigma_1 = P_{China} / P_{US}$, where P denotes price and σ
154 denotes price distortion¹. The second measure is a percentage difference between China and
155 US prices, namely $\sigma_2 = (P_{China} - P_{US}) / P_{US}$. For σ_2 , it is also possible that the direction of
156 percentage difference does not matter in affecting the economy, namely the impact is
157 symmetric. Considering this point, we also calculate the third measure as $\sigma_3 = |P_{China} - P_{US}| /$
158 P_{US} .

159 Note that in measuring the price distortion, as in Lin & Jiang (2011) we use the US
160 gasoline price as a reference, namely we assume that the US price to be close to the perfectly
161 competitive market price. Although the US gasoline price cannot be a perfectly competitive

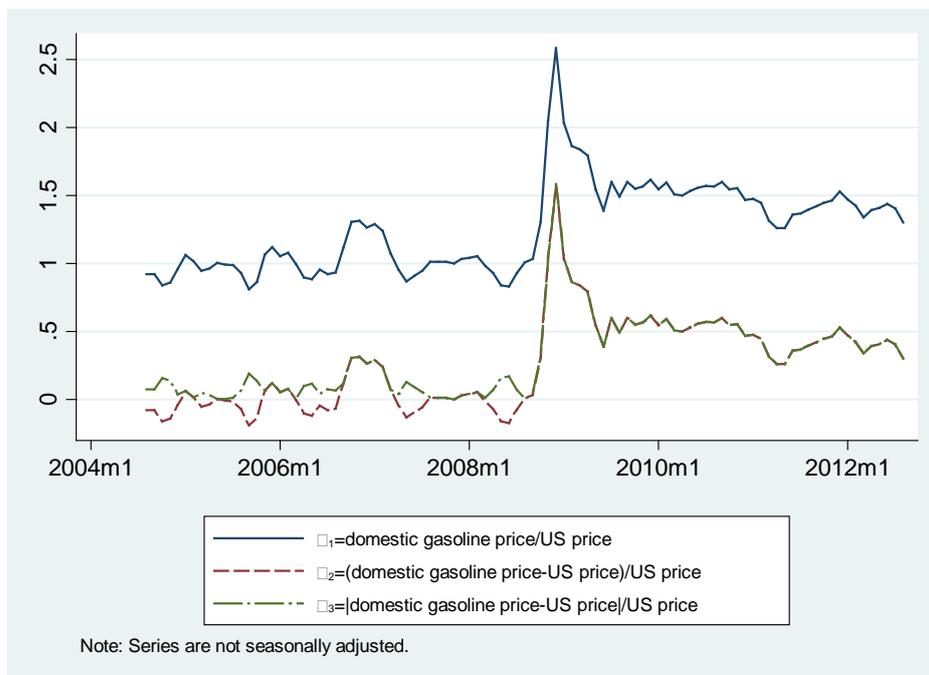
¹ Later we use this measure in the theoretical model.

162 market price, it is probably the best available proxy to the perfectly competitive market price
 163 for the following two reasons. First, the US enforce a 13% tax, lower than that in all
 164 European countries (Thompson, 2011), and thus compared to European countries, the
 165 distortion from the government intervention is small. Second, the US maintains a strict
 166 control on anticompetitive conduct in the petroleum industry, including the gasoline market
 167 (The US Federal Trade Commission, 2007) and thus the distortion from market power is
 168 small too.

169 Figure 1 presents the constructed price distortion. We can observe that there exist
 170 significant price distortions in China. On average China's price is around 26 per cent higher
 171 than that of the US. In addition, even though China is trying to liberalize its oil product
 172 pricing mechanism, the distortion does not appear to be reducing. In addition, there appears
 173 to be a structural break in 2009m1. After 2009m1, the average price distortion is clearly
 174 higher than that of before 2009m1. One reason for the suddenly increase of gasoline price is
 175 that fuel tax was increased from 0.2 CNY (US\$ 3 cent) per litter to 1 CNY (US\$ 15 cent) per
 176 litter from 2009. While for the continuous high level of oil price, it is argued that even the
 177 gasoline was under priced.²

178
 179

Figure 1 The Price Distortion in China



180
 181

Source: The authors' calculation with data sourced from the CEIC database, EIA, and IMF

² 油价上涨六问油价 中国油价为何比美国贵? , <http://auto.people.com.cn/GB/14038392.html>

182 3. The model

183 Price controls are the main reason for the price distortion in the energy market.
184 Nevertheless, they are often justified on the ground that they can shield domestic economy
185 from undesired oil price shocks in the world market. Such oil price shocks can lead to
186 inflation and recession in domestic economy (Darby, 1982; Barsky & Kilian, 2004). This
187 negative impact, however, is questioned in the later studies (Bernanke *et al.*, 1997) and a
188 number of recent studies suggest that the negative impact does not derive from the oil price
189 shocks themselves, instead from the policy response to the oil price shocks (Kilian, 2008).

190 In addition, price controls, such as subsidies, themselves negatively affect domestic
191 economy. A number of studies show that price distortion hurts economic growth (Tang *et al.*,
192 2010; Wu *et al.*, 2012). Conceptually, the regulated energy prices can affect domestic
193 economy in the following three ways:

194 First, the subsidies, or in the way of surrendering profits of state owned oil companies,
195 essentially transfer government revenue to consumers in a way that is not necessarily efficient.
196 Not surprisingly, we can expect welfare loss from such subsidies.

197 Second, the price distortion leads to inefficient allocation of energy among industrial
198 users. A price lower than the perfectly competitive market price induces firms to substitute
199 away from other factors into energy, and in turn leads to a low energy productivity and
200 efficiency loss. In addition, given a low energy price, firms have little incentive to upgrade
201 their energy technology.

202 Third, for retail consumers, the low energy price can also lead to inefficient consumption,
203 and even waste, of energy (GSI,2011). For example, faced with cheaper fuel prices,
204 consumers are more likely to use vehicles more intensively, and have less incentive switch to
205 more energy efficient vehicles.

206 Therefore, we expect price distortion to affect domestic economy negatively. Below we
207 explore the impacts of oil price distortion, measured as the price deviation between domestic
208 and world markets, on domestic economy in a two sector growth model.

209 3.1 A two sector growth model

210 With an endowment of labour L , the economy consists of two sectors, namely the oil
211 sector and final goods sector. A representative consumer chooses a sequence of consumption
212 of final goods to maximize her life time utility, as follows:

$$\max_{\{c_t\}} U = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \rho^t \ln(c_t)$$

213 where t denotes time, ρ is the discount rate and c denotes quantity of consumption. At each
 214 period, the consumer is faced with the following budget constraint:

$$c_t + k_{t+1} = w_t + r_t k_t + (1 - \delta)k_t$$

215 where k denotes capital she owns, w is her wage income, and r and δ are rental and
 216 depreciation rates of capital respectively. Solving the utility maximization problem, we obtain
 217 an Euler equation as follows:

$$218 \quad \frac{c_{t+1}}{\rho c_t} = r_{t+1} + 1 - \delta \quad (1)$$

219 In the final goods sector, capital, labour, and oil are used to produce final goods in a
 220 constant return to scale Cobb-Douglas function:

$$221 \quad Y_t = AL_t^{1-\alpha-\beta} K_{yt}^\alpha O_t^\beta \quad (2)$$

222 where Y , A , L , K_y , and O denote the output, technology, labour, capital used in the final goods
 223 sector, and oil inputs respectively, and α and β are two parameters where $\alpha \in (0,1)$, $\beta \in$
 224 $(0,1)$, $\alpha + \beta \in (0,1)$. The oil inputs are sourced from either domestic or world markets. Let
 225 p_t denote the oil price in the world market and $\sigma_t p_t$ denote domestic oil price. Thus σ_t
 226 measures the distortion in domestic oil price.

227 Firms in the final goods sector choose employment of labour, capital, and oil to maximize
 228 their profits:

$$\max_{\{L_t, K_{yt}, O_t\}} Y_t - w_t L_t - r_t K_{yt} - \gamma_t O_t \sigma_t p_t - (1 - \gamma_t) O_t p_t$$

229 where $1-\gamma$ denotes oil dependence, namely the share of oil consumption that is sourced from
 230 world market. The profit maximization yields the following first order conditions:

$$231 \quad w_t = (1 - \alpha - \beta)AL_t^{-\alpha-\beta} K_{yt}^\alpha O_t^\beta \quad (3)$$

$$232 \quad r_t = \alpha AL_t^{1-\alpha-\beta} K_{yt}^{\alpha-1} O_t^\beta \quad (4)$$

$$233 \quad \beta AL_t^{1-\alpha-\beta} K_{yt}^\alpha O_t^{\beta-1} - (\gamma_t \sigma_t + 1 - \gamma_t) p_t = 0 \quad (5)$$

234 Equation (5) defines the demand for oil, from which we can derive the corresponding demand
 235 for domestic oil as:

$$236 \quad \gamma_t O_t = \gamma_t \left[\frac{\beta AL_t^{1-\alpha-\beta} K_{yt}^\alpha}{(\gamma_t \sigma_t + 1 - \gamma_t) p_t} \right]^{1/(1-\beta)} \quad (6)$$

237 In the oil sector, the production function is also Cobb-Douglas, as follows:

$$238 \quad X_t = S_t K_{xt}^\eta \quad (7)$$

239 where X , S , and K_x denote the oil output, oil reserve, and capital used in the oil sector
 240 ($K_{xt} \in [0,1]$), and η is the parameter that takes a value between zero and one. The economy is
 241 initially endowed with an oil reserve of S_0 , and subsequently the oil reserve evolves in the

242 following manner:

$$243 \quad S_{t+1} = S_t(1 - K_{xt}^\eta) \quad (8)$$

244 Subject to the transition of state variable S (Equation 8), firms in the oil sector choose the
245 level of capital to maximize their life time profits, with the Bellman equation as follows:

$$V(S_t) = \max_{\{K_{xt}\}} \{X_t \sigma_t p_t - r_t K_{xt} + \rho V(S_{t+1})\} = \max_{\{K_{xt}\}} \{M_t S_t^\beta K_{xt}^{\beta\eta} - r_t K_{xt} + \rho V(S_{t+1})\}$$

246 where $V()$ denotes the value function and $M_t \equiv \frac{\beta A L_t^{1-\alpha-\beta} K_{yt}^\alpha \gamma_t^{1-\beta} \sigma_t}{\gamma_t \sigma_{t+1} - \gamma_t}$. The second equality is
247 obtained by plugging in the demand for domestic oil (Equation 6) and oil production function
248 (Equation 7) into the first equality.

249 Differentiate the value function with respect to K_{xt} , we obtain the first order condition as

$$250 \quad \beta \eta M_t S_t^\beta K_{xt}^{\beta\eta-1} - r_t - \rho \eta S_t K_{xt}^{\eta-1} \frac{\partial V}{\partial S_{t+1}} = 0. \text{ Using the Envelope Theorem, we can obtain}$$

$$251 \quad \frac{\partial V}{\partial S_t} = \beta M_t S_t^{\beta-1} K_{xt}^{(\beta-1)\eta} - \frac{r_t(1-K_{xt}^\eta)}{\eta S_t K_{xt}^{\eta-1}}, \text{ which is then shifted one period forward } \left(\frac{\partial V}{\partial S_{t+1}} = \right.$$

$$252 \quad \left. \beta M_{t+1} S_{t+1}^{\beta-1} K_{xt+1}^{(\beta-1)\eta} - \frac{r_{t+1}(1-K_{xt+1}^\eta)}{\eta S_{t+1} K_{xt+1}^{\eta-1}} \right) \text{ and plugged into the above first order condition to}$$

253 obtain the following equation:

$$254 \quad \beta \eta M_t S_t^\beta K_{xt}^{\beta\eta-1} = r_t + \rho \eta S_t K_{xt}^{\eta-1} \left[\beta M_{t+1} S_{t+1}^{\beta-1} K_{xt+1}^{(\beta-1)\eta} - \frac{r_{t+1}(1-K_{xt+1}^\eta)}{\eta S_{t+1} K_{xt+1}^{\eta-1}} \right] \quad (9)$$

255 which characterizes the optimal level of capital in the oil sector. Equation (9) indicates that
256 the optimal level of capital in the oil sector shall be such that its marginal revenue (the right
257 hand side of Equation 9) is equal to marginal cost (the left hand side of Equation 9). Note that
258 since current oil extraction affects future oil extraction through the reduction of oil reserve,
259 the marginal cost is the rental rate plus a term that accounts for the cost of reduction in oil
260 reserve.

261 The resource constraint in the economy (namely final goods market clears) implies that:

$$262 \quad C_t + K_{yt+1} - (1 - \delta)K_{yt} + K_{xt+1} - (1 - \delta)K_{xt} + (1 - \gamma_t)O_t p_t = Y_t \quad (10)$$

263 where $C_t = Lc_t$ and $K_{xt} + K_{yt} = Lk_t$. An equilibrium in the economy is then characterized by

$$264 \quad \{C_t, K_{yt}, K_{xt}, w_t, r_t, \gamma_t\}_{t=0}^\infty \text{ such that Equations (1), (3), (4), (5), (8), (9), and (10) are satisfied.}$$

265 **3.2 Impacts of price distortion (σ) at steady state**

266 We now focus on a steady state where consumption, output in the final goods sector, and
267 domestic oil price distortion are constant, namely $C_t = C$, $Y_t = Y$, and $\sigma_t = \sigma$. Since $C_t = C$, the
268 equilibrium interest rate in the steady state is constant, $r = \frac{1}{\rho} + \delta - 1$. From Equations (2)

269 and (4), we can rewrite the interest rate as $r_t = \alpha Y_t / K_{yt}$. Therefore constant Y and r imply
 270 that K_{yt} is constant as well, namely $K_{yt} = K_y$. Similarly, from Equation 2, we can find that the
 271 oil demand is constant as well ($O_t = O$). At steady state, the resource constraint is transformed
 272 into:

$$273 \quad C + \delta K_y + K_{xt+1} - (1 - \delta)K_{xt} + (1 - \gamma_t)Op = Y \quad (11)$$

274 where we assume the world oil price (p) is constant in the steady state. Allowing p to change
 275 across time will not affect the subsequent results since p is exogenous to the model. From the
 276 production function in the oil sector (Equation 7), we can obtain the following relationship
 277 among γ , S , and K_x :

$$278 \quad \gamma_t = \frac{S_t K_{xt}^\eta}{O} \quad (12)$$

279 Then at steady state the economy is characterized by Equations (8), (9), and (11), together
 280 with Equation (12).

281 At steady state, K_{xt} cannot be constant. If not, Equation (8) implies that oil reserve is
 282 depleting at a constant rate. Then from Equation (12), γ_t is decreasing at a constant rate. A
 283 constantly decreasing γ_t and a constant K_{xt} then violate the resource constraint (Equation 11).
 284 Similarly, γ_t cannot be constant as well. If γ_t is instead constant (namely $\gamma_t = \gamma$), Equation (12)
 285 indicates that to maintain a constant level of oil production, K_{xt} must be increasing as the oil
 286 reserve (S_t) depletes. Equation (12) also implies $S_t K_{xt}^\eta = S_{t+1} K_{xt+1}^\eta$, which together with
 287 Equation (8) leads to $K_{xt+1} = \frac{K_{xt}}{(1 + K_{xt}^\eta)^{1/\eta}}$. Plug this equation into the resource constraint
 288 (Equation 11), we obtain:

$$\frac{K_{xt}}{(1 + K_{xt}^\eta)^{1/\eta}} - (1 - \delta)K_{xt} = Y - C - \delta K_y - (1 - \gamma)Op$$

289 which suggests that K_{xt} is constant and thus contradicts with the requirement that K_{xt} must be
 290 increasing across time such that the level of oil production is constant.

291 Therefore, we explore the dynamics of K_{xt} and γ_t at the steady state where the
 292 consumption and output are constant, and in particular focus on the impacts of domestic oil
 293 price distortion (σ) on the dynamics. Plug Equation (12) into Equation (11), we obtain:

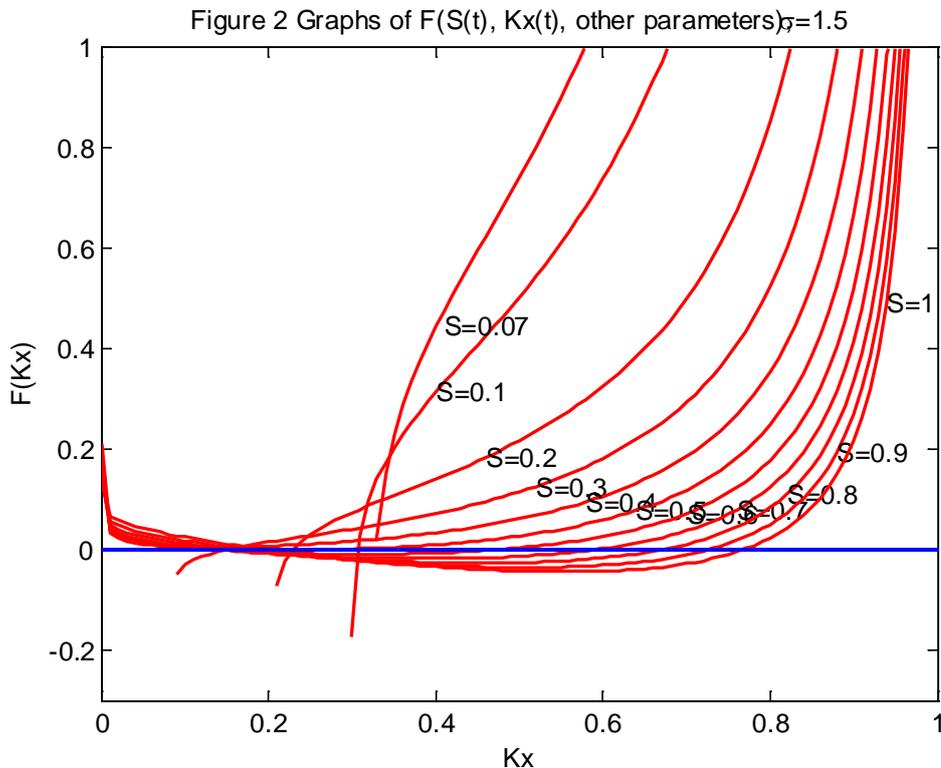
$$294 \quad K_{xt+1} = (1 - S_t p - \delta)K_{xt} + S_t p + N \quad (13)$$

295 where $N \equiv Y - C - \delta K_y - Op$. Plug Equations (12) and (13) and the steady state values,
 296 such as $Y_t = Y$, into Equation (9), and after a series of algebraic manipulations, we can obtain
 297 the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned}
298 \quad F(K_{xt}, S_t, \sigma) &\equiv \frac{\beta Z O^\beta \sigma}{S_t K_{xt}^\eta (\sigma-1) + O} - \frac{\rho \beta Z O^\beta \sigma}{S_t (1-K_{xt}^\eta) [(1-S_t p - \delta) K_{xt} + S_t p + N]^\eta (\sigma-1) + O} - \frac{r(K_{xt}^\eta - K_{xt})}{\eta S_t (1-K_{xt}^\eta)} \\
299 \quad \frac{\rho r \{ [(1-S_t p - \delta) K_{xt} + S_t p + N]^{1-\eta} - [(1-S_t p - \delta) K_{xt} + S_t p + N] \}}{\eta S_t (1-K_{xt}^\eta)} &= 0 \tag{14}
\end{aligned}$$

300 where $Z \equiv \beta A L^{1-\alpha-\beta} K_y^\alpha$. Equation (14) defines K_{xt} as a function of S_t and σ , namely $K_{xt} =$
301 $f(S_t, \sigma)$. Given the initial endowment of oil reserve (S_0), Equations (14), (8), and (12) describe
302 the dynamics of K_{xt} and γ_t recursively.

303 To further illustrate the impacts of domestic oil price distortion, we then carry out a
304 numerical exercise, where we set $\alpha = 0.1, \beta = 0.5, \eta = 0.9, \delta = 0.05, \rho = 0.95, S_0 = 1, L = 1, A$
305 $= 1, Y = 1, C = 0.3, p = 1$, and $\sigma \in \{0.5, 0.8, 1.5, 2\}$. Note that given S_t , the equation $F(K_{xt}, S_t,$
306 $\sigma) = 0$ may have no real solution, one real solution, or more than one real solution. If the
307 equation has no real solution, it suggests that the domestic oil sector has been shut down and
308 the economy completely rely on oil imports (namely $\gamma = 0$). If the equation has more than one
309 solution, then K_{xt} has multiple dynamics. Figure 2 depicts the graphs of $F(K_{xt}, S_t, \sigma)$ at 11
310 levels of oil reserve where $\sigma = 1.5$. It can be observed that if $S = 0.07$, the equation $F(K_{xt}, S_t, \sigma)$
311 $= 0$ does not have any real solution.

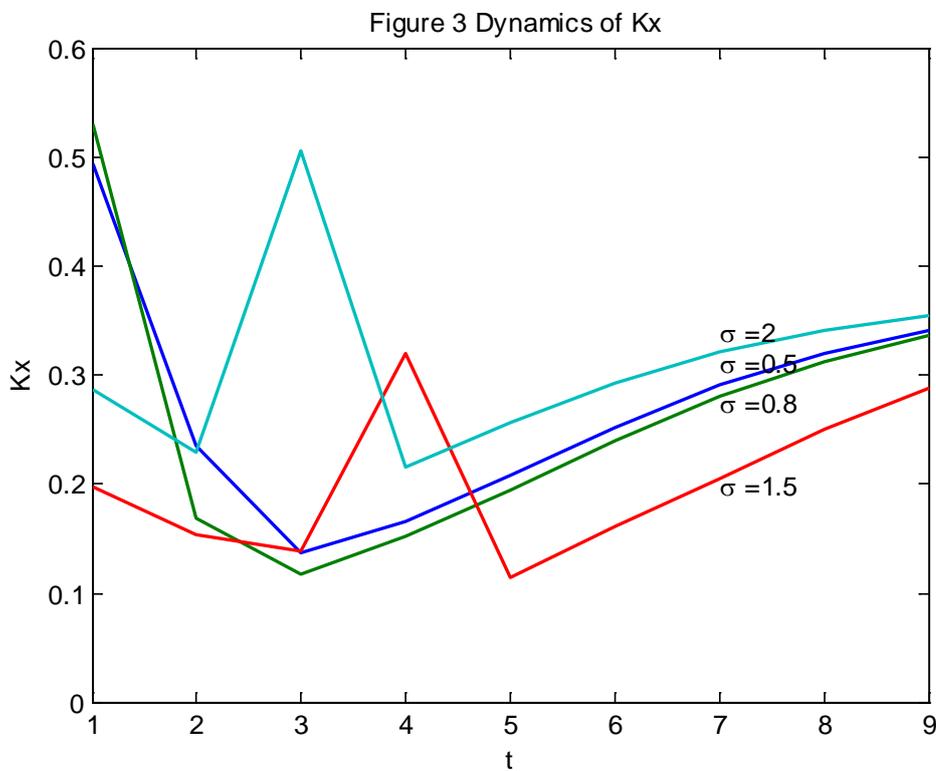


312
313 Figures 3, 4, and 5 report the possible dynamics of K_{xt}, S_t , and $1-\gamma_t$ (namely oil
314 dependency) respectively. The dynamics are calculated in the following way: (1) first plug S_0
315 $= 1$ into Equation (14) to solve for K_{x0} , which we randomly pick one solution if multiple

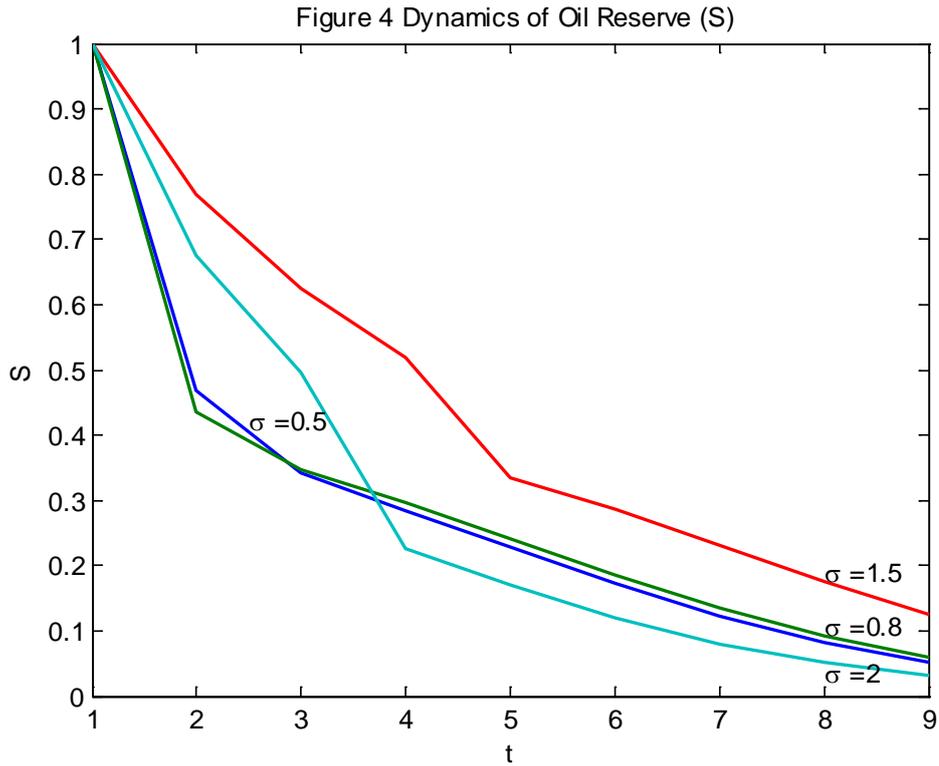
316 solutions exist; (2) then given S_0 and K_{x0} , we solve for γ_0 from Equation (12) and S_t from
 317 Equation (9). These two steps are repeated to compute the values of next period K_x , S , and γ .

318 Not surprisingly, Figure 4 indicates that the oil reserves depletes across time. Even though
 319 capital stock in the domestic oil sector appears to increase eventually (Figure 3), the oil
 320 reserve is so low that domestic economy increasingly relies on oil imports in the end. The oil
 321 dependency rate approaches 1 (Figure 5), suggesting that the economy eventually shut down
 322 the domestic oil sector.

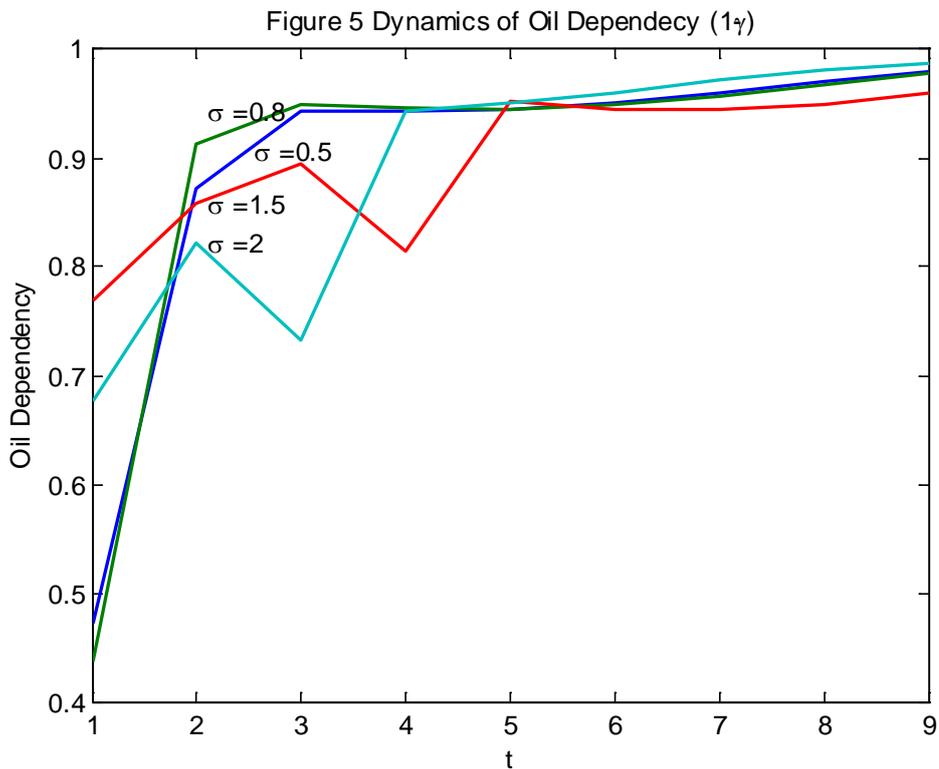
323 Regarding the impacts of domestic oil price distortion (σ), Figures 3, 4, and 5 suggests
 324 that there exist impacts from the oil price distortion on the dynamics of oil sector capital
 325 stock (K_{xt}), oil reserve (S_t), and oil dependency rate ($1 - \gamma_t$). Nevertheless, there appears no
 326 systematic pattern of such impacts in the three figures.



327



328



329

330 **4. Empirical estimations**

331 In Section 3, we investigate the impact of oil price distortion in a two-sector growth

332 model. We now turn to an empirical exercise, using time series data from China.

333 **4.1 Empirical specification**

334 Equations (8) and (9) define the optimal level of capital stock in the oil sector as a
 335 function of its one period lag, labour, capital stock in the final goods sector, real interest rate,
 336 oil reserve, and oil dependency, as follows:

$$337 \quad K_{xt} = g(K_{xt-1}, S_t, L_t, K_{yt}, \gamma_t, \sigma_t, r_t, L_{t-1}, K_{yt-1}, \gamma_{t-1}, \sigma_{t-1}, r_{t-1}) \quad (15)$$

338 where $g()$ denotes the associated functional form derived from Equations (8) and (9). Plug
 339 Equation (15) into Equation (7) and use the fact that domestic production of oil must be equal
 340 to domestic demand minus oil imports, we can obtain the following equation:

$$341 \quad O_t = \frac{1}{\gamma_t} S_t g(K_{xt-1}, S_t, L_t, K_{yt}, \gamma_t, \sigma_t, r_t, L_{t-1}, K_{yt-1}, \gamma_{t-1}, \sigma_{t-1}, r_{t-1})^\eta \quad (16)$$

342 which can be plugged into Equation (2) to obtain the following equation:

$$343 \quad Y_t = AL_t^{1-\alpha-\beta} K_{yt}^\alpha \frac{1}{\gamma_t} S_t^\beta g(K_{xt-1}, S_t, L_t, K_{yt}, \gamma_t, \sigma_t, r_t, L_{t-1}, K_{yt-1}, \gamma_{t-1}, \sigma_{t-1}, r_{t-1})^{\beta\eta} \quad (17)$$

344 We then use the following logarithm linear specification to approximate Equation (17):

$$345 \quad \ln(Y_t) = \phi \ln(Y_{t-1}) + \lambda_0 + \lambda_1 t + \boldsymbol{\theta}' \mathbf{Z}_t + u_t \quad (18)$$

346 where λ_0 , λ_1 , ϕ , and $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ are short-run parameters, with the long-run parameters being $\lambda_0/(1-\phi)$,
 347 $\lambda_1/(1-\phi)$, and $\boldsymbol{\theta}/(1-\phi)$, and $\mathbf{Z}_t = (L_t, K_{yt}, 1-\gamma_t, \sigma_t, r_t)'$, and u_t is an i.i.d. error term. We use Y_{t-1}
 348 to capture the impact of lagged variables, such as L_{t-1} , in Equation (17), and $\lambda_0 + \lambda_1 t + u_t$ to
 349 capture the rest factors, such as S_t and A . Note that Equation (18) is an autoregressive
 350 distributed lag model (ARDL(1,0)), and we can generalize it by allowing for lags in \mathbf{Z}_t and
 351 longer lags in Y_t , as follows:

$$352 \quad \phi(L) \ln(Y_t) = \lambda_0 + \lambda_1 t + \boldsymbol{\theta}'(L) \mathbf{Z}_t + u_t \quad (19)$$

353 where $\phi(L) = 1 - \sum_{j=1}^p \phi_j L^j$, and $\boldsymbol{\theta}(L) = \sum_{j=1}^q \boldsymbol{\theta}_j L^j$, and p and q denote lag length. Since
 354 our data are time series, it is not surprising that \mathbf{Z}_t s can be nonstationary. Pesaran and Shin
 355 (1999) show that the ordinary least square estimator of the short-run parameters and the
 356 corresponding long-run parameters estimates are consistent even if the regressors (\mathbf{Z}_t) are I(1).

357 It can also be argued that \mathbf{Z}_t can be endogenous, namely $E(u_t | \mathbf{Z}_t) \neq 0$. For example, on
 358 the one hand the oil imports positively contribute to domestic economic growth, while on the
 359 other hand as the economy grows, it may become more and more dependent on oil imports,
 360 namely a higher level of Y leads to a higher level of γ . This endogeneity can be controlled by
 361 including a number of leads and lags of the regressors in differences, which absorb the
 362 correlation between regressors and the error term (Stock & Watson, 1993). Therefore, we
 363 augment Equation (19) by including the leads and lags of differenced Z and re-write the right

364 hand side variables, as follows:

$$365 \quad \Delta \ln(Y_t) = \lambda_0 + \lambda_1 t + \phi^*(L) \ln(Y_t) + \theta' \mathbf{Z}_t + \sum_{j=-m}^m \Delta \mathbf{Z}_{t-j} + u_t \quad (20)$$

366 where $\phi^*(L) = \sum_{j=1}^p \phi_j L^j - L$, Δ denotes the difference operator (namely $\Delta = 1 - L$), and m
367 denotes the length of lags. Note that the summation in Equation (20) is made from $-m$ to m ,
368 and thus leads of differenced \mathbf{Z} are included as well.

369 **4.2 Variable construction and data**

370 The dataset is monthly time series from 2004M8 to 2012M8 in China. We obtain the data
371 from the CEIC database, which in turn collects data from different sources. We use two series
372 to measure the output (y). The first one is industrial production index, which is calculated
373 from a series (percentage change of industrial production index over the corresponding month
374 of previous year) sourced from International Monetary Fund (IMF), assuming year 1993 is
375 100. The other is industrial sales in billion Chinese yuan sourced from National Bureau of
376 Statistics (NBS). We use the producer price index for industrial products, which is sourced
377 from NBS and has a base year of 1997, to deflate the industrial sales. The labour (L) is also
378 sourced from NBS, and is measured as the number of employees in industrial enterprises with
379 the unit being thousand persons. The labour series has missing values which are replaced by
380 an interpolation.

381 The capital (K_y , in billion yuan) is constructed from fixed asset investment. First, we
382 calculate the monthly increment of fixed asset investment in secondary industry from year-to-
383 date fixed asset investment data, and deflated it using the fixed asset price index with a base
384 year of 2003. Second, we assume a monthly capital depreciation rate of 0.4 per cent, which
385 translates to a 4.9 per cent per annum depreciate rate, and take 2004M1 fixed asset
386 investment as the initial capital stock. The capital stock in subsequent periods is then
387 calculated as: $K_{yt} = I_t + (1 - 0.004) \times K_{yt-1}$, where I_t denotes newly increased fixed asset
388 investment in period t and $K_{y0} = I_0$.

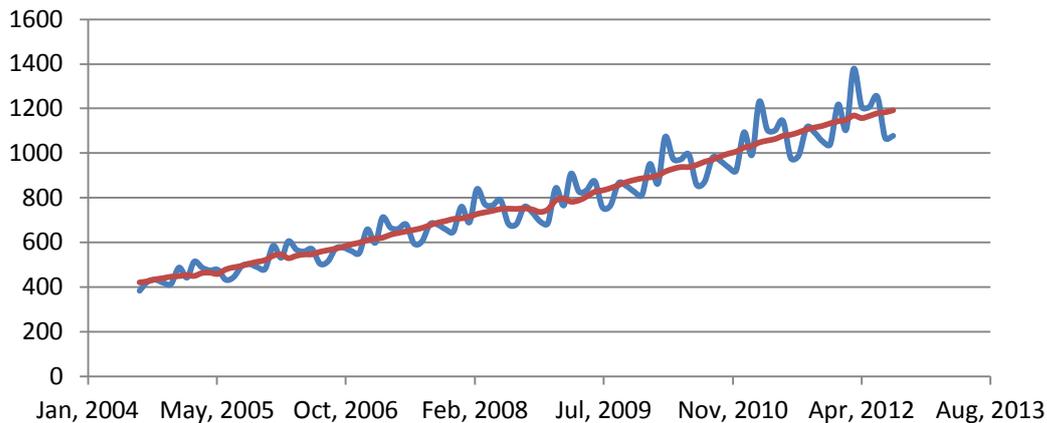
389 The oil dependency ($1 - \gamma$) is measured as the share of oil imports in domestic oil
390 consumption, and is constructed as follows: first we extract the imports and exports of crude
391 oil (in million US dollars) and the import and export prices (in US dollars per ton), which are
392 sourced from General Administration of Customs, from the CEIC database. From the value
393 and price of imports and exports, we then calculate the quantity of exports and imports.
394 Second, we extract the domestic production of crude oil, which is sourced from NBS. The oil
395 dependency ratio is then calculated as: $1 - \gamma = Q_{imports} / (Q_{imports} + Q_{production} - Q_{exports})$, where Q
396 denotes quantity.

397 The real interest rate (r) is calculated as $r = i - \pi$, where i denotes the short term discount
398 rate sourced from IMF and π denotes the monthly inflation rate. The monthly inflation rate is
399 in turn calculated from the consumer price index which is sourced from International
400 Financial Statistics (IFS) of IMF and has a base year of 2005. The measures of oil price
401 distortion are constructed as discussed in Section 2.

402 Since the data are monthly time series, it is not surprising that they exhibit seasonality.
403 We thus adjust the data series by using the X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Program to
404 eliminate the influence of seasonal fluctuation³. The X-12-ARIMA is a standard approach
405 used by the US Census Bureau for seasonal adjustment of time series data. Figure 6 presents
406 the series of industrial production index before and after de-seasonalization. The blue curve is
407 the original series, and it is clear that it contains seasonality in addition to an upward trending.
408 The de-seasonalized series (red curve) appears to eliminate the seasonality while maintain the
409 same upward trending.

410
411

Figure 6 Industrial Production Index, 1993=100



412
413

Source: CEIC Database.

414 4.3 Unit root tests

415 We first carry out unit root tests to check the stationarity of the time series. Table 1 reports
416 the results, where both the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) unit root test (Dickey & Fuller,
417 1979) and Phillips–Perron (PP) unit root test (Phillips & Perron, 1988) are used. Not
418 surprisingly, it can be observed that some variables are I(1), while the others are I(0). The
419 capital stock, real interest rate, and oil dependency ratio are all I(0), where the null hypothesis
420 of unit root is rejected at the 1 per cent level.

³ Details of the X-12-ARIMA can be found at <http://www.census.gov/srd/www/x12a/>.

421 For the three measures of domestic oil price distortion, since Figure 1 suggests that there
422 exists structural break, we carry out the Andrews and Zivot (1992) unit root test that allows
423 for a structural break. Although results in Table 1 indicate that these three measures are I(1),
424 the Andrews and Zivot test suggests that they are I(0), with the test statistic being -5.68, -6.05,
425 and -5.32 for $\ln\sigma_1$, σ_2 , σ_3 respectively which are all significant at the 1 per cent level.

426 The industrial production index and industrial sales are I(1). For the industrial sales, the
427 ADF test with time trend obtains a test statistic of -3.8 with a p -value of 0.016, and the PP
428 test with time trend obtains a test statistic of -3.44 with a p -value of 0.046. The test statistics
429 for level variables with no time trend are insignificant and test statistics for differenced
430 variables are all significant at 1 per cent level. Therefore at the 1 per cent significance level,
431 industrial sales is I(1). The labour series is also considered to be I(1) at the 1 per cent level
432 since the test statistics of both ADF and PP with time trend for level variable are only
433 significant at the 10 per cent level and the test statistics for first differenced variable are
434 significant at the 1 per cent level. Given that variables are a mixture of I(1) and I(0), the
435 ARDL modelling is an appropriate approach in the sense that it can be applied when variables
436 are of different order of integration, which is considered to be the main advantage of ARDL
437 modelling (Pesaran & Pesaran, 1997).

438 <Table 1 about here>

439 **4.4 Regression results**

440 To estimate Equation (20), we have two measures of industrial output (namely industrial
441 sales and industrial production index) and three measures of domestic oil price distortions,
442 which leads to six regressions. In the following, we describe the empirical exercise using
443 industrial sales as the measure of industrial output and the ratio of China gasoline price
444 against US gasoline price ($\ln\sigma_1$) as a measure of oil price distortions, and the rest regressions
445 will follow a same specification and serve as sensitivity analysis. The first step in the exercise
446 is to determine the length of lags. We use both the Akaike Information Criteria (AIC) and
447 Schwartz-Bayesian Criteria (SBC) in determining lag length, and choose the length of lags
448 that yields a minimal AIC and SBC. The maximum length of lags is set to be five⁴. Both AIC
449 and SBC suggest an optimal lag length of one for both the dependent and explanatory
450 variables in Equation (20).

451 Table 2 reports the regression results, where the left panel is the estimated results of short-

⁴ Longer length leads to estimation problem due to multicollinearity.

452 run coefficients as in Equation (20) and the right panel is the associated long-run coefficients.
453 After the regression, we also carry out a set of diagnostic tests. The Breusch-Godfrey test for
454 serial correlation finds no evidence of first, second, third, fourth, and fifth order
455 autocorrelation. A LM test for autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity (ARCH) also
456 fails to reject the null hypothesis of no ARCH effects at the 1 per cent level. The Breusch-
457 Pagan / Cook-Weisberg test for heteroskedasticity obtains a test statistic of 22.11, which fails
458 to reject the null of homoskedasticity at the 1 per cent level. The Ramsey RESET test obtains
459 a test statistic of 3.63, and fails to reject the null of no omitted variables at the 1 per cent level.
460 We also examine the stationarity of the residual by conducting both ADF and PP tests, which
461 both rejects the null hypothesis of unit root at 1 per cent level. Therefore the regression is
462 appropriate.
463

Table 2 Regression Results with Industrial Sales and Gasoline Price Ratio

	Short-run coefficients			Long-run coefficients		
	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	Coef.	Std. Err.	t
$\ln y_{t-1}$	-0.8116***	0.1050	-7.73			
t	0.0067***	0.0012	5.79	0.0082***	0.0010	7.89
$\ln l_t$	0.3565**	0.1368	2.61	0.4393**	0.1554	2.83
$\ln k_t$	0.0848**	0.0368	2.31	0.1045**	0.0419	2.50
r_t	-3.3120***	0.8069	-4.1	-4.081***	0.8842	-4.62
oil dependency ($1 - \gamma_t$)	0.4848**	0.2241	2.16	0.5974**	0.2597	2.30
distortion ($\ln \sigma_{It}$)	-0.0890***	0.0241	-3.69	-0.1097***	0.0233	-4.71
constant	1.3582	1.3785	0.99	1.6735	1.7048	0.98
No. of obs.	94					
F	9.5					
Adjusted R^2	0.67					

Note: the dependent variable is $\Delta \ln(y_t)$; the estimated coefficients of ΔZ_t are not reported to save space; ***, **, and * denote significance at the 1, 5, and 10 per cent respectively.

464
465 The long-run (steady state) coefficients in Table 2 are computed as the short-run
466 coefficients divided by the negative of the coefficient of $\ln y_{t-1}$, and the associated standard
467 errors are computed using the delta method. For example, let φ and θ_l (one element of θ in
468 Equation 20) denote the long-run and short-run coefficients of the labour ($\ln l_t$) respectively,
469 and ϕ_y denote the coefficient of lagged industrial output ($\ln y_{t-1}$). Let $\phi_y = \phi - 1$ in Equation 20,
470 then $\varphi = -\theta_l / \phi_y$. To obtain the associated standard error, we first linearize φ by the first order
471 Taylor approximation at the point estimates of θ_l and ϕ_y , namely $\varphi \cong -\hat{\theta}_l / \hat{\phi}_y -$

472 $(\theta_l - \hat{\theta}_l)/\hat{\phi}_y + \hat{\theta}_l(\phi_y - \hat{\phi}_y)/\hat{\phi}_y^2$, where the hat denotes point estimate. Then $\widehat{var}(\varphi) =$
 473 $\widehat{var}(\theta_l)/\hat{\phi}_y^2 + \hat{\theta}_l^2 \widehat{var}(\phi_y)/\hat{\phi}_y^4 - 2\hat{\theta}_l \widehat{cov}(\theta_l, \phi_y)/\hat{\phi}_y^3$, and $se = \sqrt{\widehat{var}(\varphi)}$, where *var*, *cov*
 474 and *se* denote variance, covariance and standard error respectively.

475 In Table 2, the significantly negative coefficient of lagged industrial sales suggests that
 476 industrial growth rate decreases as it grows bigger⁵. This regressive development is consistent
 477 with the finding of Sheng and Shi (Sheng & Shi, 2013) that economic growth across
 478 countries converges unconditionally. The growth rate exhibits a significant increasing trend,
 479 possibly owing to technological progress. Not surprisingly, the labour and capital positively
 480 contribute to the industrial growth. The real interest rate exerts a significantly negative impact
 481 on the industrial growth rate. A higher real interest rate means a higher investment cost,
 482 which decreases investment in both the goods sector and oil sector, *ceteris paribus*, and
 483 subsequently hurts the industrial growth. This support some argument in the literature that the
 484 true reason for slowing down of economy growth after oil price shocks is like a tighten of
 485 monetary policy (Bernanke *et al.*, 1997). The oil dependency $(1 - \gamma_i)$ appears to positively
 486 affect industrial growth in the short run, reflecting the importance of oil imports in domestic
 487 industrial development.

488 The coefficient of domestic oil price distortion, measured as the ratio of domestic
 489 gasoline price against US gasoline price, is negative and significant at the 1 per cent level,
 490 suggesting that the oil price distortion indeed hurts industrial growth. A 10 per cent increase
 491 in the distortion leads to a reduction of 0.89 per cent in the industrial growth rate.

492 In the long run (steady state), the coefficients of all the variables are significant and
 493 maintain the same sign as in the short run. The steady state industrial sales exhibit an
 494 increasing time trend, driven by technological progress. The labour and capital contribute
 495 43.9 and 10.5 per cent to the industrial sales respectively, which not surprisingly sums up to
 496 less than one in that there are other factors, such as oil, that contribute the industrial sales.
 497 The real interest rate exerts a significantly negative impact on the industrial sales, similar to
 498 the short run, due to its negative impact on investment. The oil dependency rate also
 499 significantly and positively affects industrial sales in the long run, same as in the short run.
 500 The negative impact from domestic oil price distortion persists to the long run, and with a 10
 501 per cent increase in the distortion, the steady state industrial output decreases by around 1.1
 502 per cent.

⁵ Note $\Delta \ln(y_t)$ is approximately growth rate of industrial output.

503 Table 3 reports the results where the dependent variable is industrial production index.
504 Due to the way that the original data are reported, namely the original series is the percentage
505 change of industrial production index over the corresponding month of previous year, we
506 have to assume that in each month of 1993 the production index is 100 in order to calculate
507 the index from 2004M8 to 2012M8. Owing to this assumption, results in Table 3 serve only
508 as a comparison to those in Table 2. Comparing with Table 2, the negative impacts of oil
509 price distortion continue to hold in both the short and long run, even though the magnitude is
510 smaller. The coefficients of lagged industrial production index, time, and capital have the
511 same sign as those of Table 2, while their magnitude is different. Besides, the coefficients of
512 labour, real interest rate, oil dependency rate are now not significant at the 1 per cent level.
513 Therefore, even though we observe some variations in the coefficient estimate between
514 Tables 2 and 3, the negative impact of oil price distortion appears to be robust to different
515 measures of industrial production.

516

517 Table 3 Regression Results with Industrial Production Index and Gasoline Price Ratio

	Short-run coefficients			Long-run coefficients		
	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	Coef.	Std. Err.	t
$\ln y_{t-1}$	-0.3880***	0.0848	-4.57			
t	0.0023***	0.0007	3.18	0.0059***	0.0009	6.40
$\ln l_t$	0.0690	0.0520	1.33	0.1779	0.1273	1.40
$\ln k_t$	0.0637***	0.0159	4	0.1641***	0.0366	4.48
r_t	-0.4185	0.2881	-1.45	-1.0787	0.7263	-1.49
$1 - \gamma_t$	0.0391	0.0829	0.47	0.1007	0.2125	0.47
$\ln \sigma_{1t}$	-0.0254**	0.0097	-2.61	-0.0654***	0.0188	-3.47
constant	1.0640*	0.5996	1.77	2.7426*	1.3945	1.97
No. of obs.	94					
F	4.47					
Adjusted R^2	0.45					

518 Note: the dependent variable is $\Delta \ln(y_t)$; the estimated coefficients of ΔZ_t are not reported
519 to save space; ***, **, and * denote significance at the 1, 5, and 10 per cent respectively.

520 4.5 Robustness

521 The previous exercise finds that the oil price distortion exerts a significantly negative
522 impact on industrial production in both the short and long run, which is robust to different
523 measures of industrial production. However, is this finding robust to different measures of oil
524 price distortion? In this section, we explore such impacts using alternative measures of oil

525 price distortion.

526 The alternative two measures we use are described in the above. We re-estimate Equation
527 (20) using these two measures, where the length of lag is one. Table 4 reports the results.
528 Comparing the estimated coefficient of oil price distortion, the sign is all negative in both
529 regressions, consistent with the finding of Table 2, although there exist variations in the
530 magnitude. The coefficients of the other variables are also approximately in line with those of
531 Table 2. Therefore the negative impact of oil price distortion in both the short and long run is
532 robust to these two alternative measures of oil price distortion.

533 *<Table 4 about here>*

534 Figure 1 suggests that there exists a structural break for oil price distortion in 2009m1. So
535 in the above exercise, we also include a dummy variable that takes a value of one in the time
536 after 2009m1 into the regression. The estimation finds that the coefficient of the dummy
537 variable is insignificant at the 1 per cent level, and there is only little variation in the
538 coefficients of the other variables. Thus, this structural break appears not to significantly
539 affect the regression results.

540 **5. Policy implications**

541 **6. Concluding remarks**

542 This paper explores the impact of oil price distortion on domestic economy both
543 theoretically in a two-sector growth model and empirically in China. In the theoretical model,
544 we illustrate the impacts of price distortion on the steady state oil sector capital accumulation
545 and oil dependency. Empirically, using a specification derived from the theoretical model, we
546 apply the ARDL modeling technique to a monthly time series dataset in China from 2004M8
547 to 2012M8, and find that oil price distortion hurts industrial growth in the short run, and
548 furthermore this negative impact persists to the long run. The negative impact of oil price
549 distortion appears to be robust to different measures of industrial production and oil price
550 distortion.

551 As the price distortion, which occurs mainly due to price regulation, does harm to
552 economic growth, this finding contradicts with a common argument of energy price
553 regulation, namely the price regulation can shield domestic economy from negative oil price
554 shocks in the world market. Thus, this study lends its support to the energy price deregulation,
555 namely the policies and interventions, such as subsidies, that may distort domestic energy

556 prices, are justified to be removed on the ground that they hurt domestic economy. A market
557 oriented energy price regime may improve the resilience of domestic economy to the global
558 oil price shocks. This study also implies that monetary policy, which may be tighten after
559 concern on inflation coming with international price shocks, should be finely turned to avoid
560 hurt economic growth.

561 This study also sheds light on a better understanding of energy market integration. Price
562 regulations are main obstacles to the energy market integration. Given that price regulations
563 lead to undesired price distortion, it is worthwhile to promote the integration of energy
564 market between net energy exporter and importer, which helps to eliminate price distortions.
565 This message is particularly relevant to East Asia since many East Asian countries still have
566 tight regulations on energy pricing. Brunei, Indonesia, and Malaysia are outstanding
567 examples with almost fixed gasoline prices.

568

569

Table 1 Unit Root Tests

Variables	Levels				First Difference				Results
	ADF		PP		ADF		PP		
	Constant	Constant + Trend	Constant	Constant + Trend	Constant	Constant + Trend	Constant	Constant + Trend	
Industrial sales (lnY)	-1.37	-3.8**	-1.85	-3.44**	-16.85***	-17.08***	-17.81***	-18.63***	I(1)
Industrial production index (lnY)	-1.51	-2.1	-1.78	-1.9	-9.56***	-9.68***	-9.63***	-9.83***	I(1)
Labour (lnL)	-1.52	-3.41*	-1.62	-3.17*	-12.76***	-12.9***	-13.3***	-13.42***	I(1)
Capital (lnK)	-16.82***	-18.31***	-10.67***	-15.34***	-5.17***	-5.77***	-6.29***	-6.44***	I(0)
Real interest rate (r)	-6.11***	-6.33***	-6.23***	-6.45***	-17.77***	-17.69***	-20.21***	-20.09***	I(0)
Oil dependency (1- γ)	-3.17**	-9.91***	-2.68*	-9.98***	-19.16***	-19.08***	-24.29***	-24.17***	I(0)
Oil price distortion (ln σ_1)	-1.81	-2.35	-1.88	-2.54	-7.77***	-7.74***	-7.59***	-7.55***	I(1)
Oil price distortion (σ_2)	-2.03	-2.57	-2.11	-2.76	-7.65***	-7.62***	-7.45***	-7.4***	I(1)
Oil price distortion (σ_3)	-2.28	-2.79	-2.22	-2.79	-8.81***	-8.77***	-8.78***	-8.73***	I(1)

Note: The null hypothesis is that the series contain a unit root. ***, **, and * denote significance at the 1, 5, and 10 per cent respectively.

Table 4 Regression Results with Alternative Measure of Oil Price distortion

	[1]						[2]					
	Short-run coefficients			Long-run coefficients			Short-run coefficients			Long-run coefficients		
	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	Coef.	Std. Err.	t
$\ln y_{t-1}$	-	0.1051	-7.97				-	0.1097	-6.93			
t	0.0067***	0.0011	6.04	0.0080***	0.0010	8.28	0.0058***	0.0012	4.83	0.0076	0.0012***	6.27
$\ln l$	0.4317***	0.1349	3.2	0.5158***	0.1447	3.56	0.3944**	0.1541	2.56	0.5190	0.1820**	2.85
$\ln k$	0.0966***	0.0362	2.67	0.1154**	0.0389	2.96	0.1052***	0.0394	2.67	0.1384	0.0475***	2.92
r	-	0.7830	-3.88	-	0.8160	-4.45	-	0.7625	-4.04	-	0.9285***	-4.37
$1 - \gamma$	0.3735*	0.2130	1.75	0.4463*	0.2463	1.81	0.2689	0.2396	1.12	0.3538	0.3038	1.16
$\ln \sigma_l$	-	0.0172	-4.18	-	0.0153	-5.60	-	0.0198	-3.31	-	0.0207***	-4.17
constant	0.6472	1.3292	0.49	0.7733	1.5930	0.49	0.4476	1.5310	0.29	0.5890	2.0219	0.29
Number of obs	94						94					
F	10.79						7.87					
Adjusted R2	0.7						0.62					

Note: the dependent variable is $\Delta \ln(y_t)$, where y is industrial sales; [1] uses the percentage difference of gasoline price between China and US as a measure of oil price distortion; [2] uses the absolute value of such difference as a measure of oil price distortion; the estimated coefficients of ΔZ_t are not reported to save space; ***, **, and * denote significance at the 1, 5, and 10 per cent respectively.

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