#### Systemic Risk: The Great Recession vs. The Great Depression

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#### Motivation

- Financial crises can have severe consequences, depressing living standards and lengthening the time of recovery from recessions (Reinhart and Rogoff, 2014)
- Crisis of 2007-8 suggests linkages among financial institutions may have played a role in propagating financial distress
- Recent work on the Great Depression (Mitchener and Richardson 2013, 2015) shows how network linkages transmit distress and amplify the decline in credit during a crisis

#### Systemic Risk (SR) materializes from:

- 1. Heightened default probabilities of financial institutions (FI) or the belief they will occur
- 2. Connections between FIs (credit quality, interbank deposits, etc.)
  - Allen and Gale (2000), Elliott, Golub, and Jackson
     (2014), Acemoglu, Ozdaglar, and Tahbaz-Salehi (2015)
- Systemic risk matters if the risks and perceived or actual negative externalities are large
  - e.g., large-scale credit disintermediation and/or amplification of business cycles when systemically important FIs suspend or fail

### Dodd-Frank Act (2010)

- Defined a systemically important financial institution (SIFI) as any FI that is:
- 1. Large
- 2. Complex
- 3. Connected to other FIs
- 4. "Critical" -- provides hard to substitute services to the financial system
- Assumption The suspension or failure of *particular* FIs matters for the financial system's health
- Implication Measuring institution i's contribution to systemic risk important for understanding potential for negative externalities

#### Our Research Agenda

- Examine *ex ante* systemic risk prior to the two largest American financial crises in (at least) the last 110 years
  - -How prone was each system to failure?
  - How do the networks compare in structure?
  - Where were the vulnerabilities?
- Consider counterfactual stressors and outcomes

# Disclaimer: comparisons across the two crises are interesting but challenging

- Changes in financial firms and reporting of them raise issues of comparability
- Measurement of networks
  - Market-based measures yield less data historically
  - More "banks" historically then presently
  - More shadow banks presently
- Reasons for linkages may have changed over 75 years

– e.g., formal correspondent linkages more important in the past?

#### Economic History research on banking networks grown in last 5 years

- Heitfield, Richardson & Wang (2013) correspondent relationships of all banks operating in Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama in 1930 to study the first banking panic.
- Mitchener and Richardson (2013, 2015) measure how interbank flows amplified credit downturn during Great Depression
- Carlson and Wheelock (2016) explore how founding of Fed influenced interbank network's ability to cope with solvency vs. liquidity shocks
- Paddrik, Park, Wang (2016) introduction of national banks, network concentration, and stability
- Lots of work still to be done, including links to the present ...

### Methodology

- Use a common, flexible approach based on Das (2016) and Das et. al. (2017) to quantify risk for each era's financial network
- Allows us to consider empirically estimate "exposure" despite not knowing everything we might want about each network
  - Unlike 1929, formal networks are unobservable today – regulators (e.g., Fed & FDIC) do not collect information
  - Data on balance-sheet linkages between FIs is often opaque or incomplete, both historically and today

#### Generalized Systemic Risk Measure

Our overall systemic risk measure takes the following functional form:

$$S = (C' EC)^{1/2}$$

where C is an  $n \ge 1$  vector of credit risk measures and E is a network adjacency matrix.

Risk to the system from institution *i* has two components: 1) Internal Risk ("Compromise Risk")

- The likelihood institution *i* fails or suspends and the impact that event has on the system
- e.g., could be defined as credit risk
- 2) External Risk ("Connectivity Risk")
  - The chance that a collapse of institution *i* increases the likelihood that other institutions then suspend or fail

# Example of a directed network with 18 nodes



#### **Adjacency Matrix**

	6.0	0.0	0.30	0-3	6.53	6.0	6.73	0.0	6.90	(	[.11]	[.12]	[.13]	[.14]	(.15)	[,16]	[.17]	[.18]
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(2.3		1	0	8	0	8			8		0		0				0	0
(3,3	1	1	1	1	0			1			0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
[4,3	1	1	1	1	0			1	8				0		0	1		0
[5,]	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1			0		0	0	0	1	0	0
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12,]	1	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	1	1	1	1	0	8	1	0	0
13,3	1	1	6	2	0	\$		\$	1	1	1	1	1		0	1		0
14,]	1	1	8	8	8	8	8	8	1	8	0		8	1	8	1	0	0
15,3	1	1	1		0	8		8	0		0				1	1	0	0
16, ]	8		8		0	8		8	8		8		8		8	1	8	8
17,3	1	1	1	\$	0	ê	1	1	8		0	0	0		0	1	1	0
18,]	1	1	1	0	9	8	6	8	8		6	0	6	0	8	1	0	1

One-way arrows means that risk flows in the direction of the arrow. Two-way arrows means risk flows in both directions. The network is summarized in the adjacency matrix.

#### 1929 Data

- Hand collected from Rand McNally Bankers' Directory
  - Balance sheet information, location, correspondents
- All banks in the United States operating in 1929
  - 28,522 institutions
  - 4,040 correspondents
  - 72,991 linkages

#### In honor of the RAs

4.3 Directory,	under the authority of Th	ae American Ban	ters Ass'n.	Alterial all and a second	State of States	1	LIABI	LITIES.		()********	RESOURCES.			PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENTS.
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Abbeville 1267 Henry M22	Abbeville State Bank @15'25 61-528 8159-107, par 100	R. K. Stokes	J. E. Price	J. B. Long, Jr.	A. C. Richards E. H. Hall	\$ 25,000	\$ 16,250	\$ 252,620	\$ 20,000	\$ 195.030	\$ 18,170	\$ 11,810	93,850	Cent, Han, EK, & Tr. Co., N. 1., Houss N., Dothan; 1st N., Birm.; Far, & Mere N., Troy.
Alabama City 5432	Alabama Oity Bank	2 C. B. Forman	M. H. Broom F. R. Thompson	J. B. Little	Mrs. Seydell Rope	c 25.000	12,750	250,000		194,000	18,000		58,000	Chem. Bk. & Tr. Co., N. Y.; 1st N., Ga den and Birm.
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200010 jes 1000100 jes	8% 61-169.	J. V. Park	C. B. Horton	J, A. Somerville, Jr	r. J. B. Darrett	40,007	65,580	448,09(	0 3,880	401,030	20,210	21,320	109,990	Chase N., N. Y.; 1st N., Birm.
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#### 1929 Bank-level Analysis

- Average number of correspondents = 2.6
- Median number of correspondents = Mode = 2



#### Histograms

#### 1929 Bank-level statistics

- For the 4,040 banks listed as correspondents
  - Average number of banks corresponding to = 18.1
  - Median number of banks corresponding to = 2, (Mode = 1)
  - Minimum = 1 and Maximum = 4,673 (guesses?)



#### Histograms

#### Banks with most relationships, 1929

Bank Name and Location	# corresponding to
1) Continental Illinois Bank and Trust Co. Chicago (in Chicago, IL)	4673
2) Chase National Bank (in New York City, NY)	3107
3) Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company (in New York City, NY)	2749
4) National City Bank (in Ney York City, NY)	1770
5) First National Bank Of Chicago (in Chicago, IL)	1750
6) Guaranty Trust Company of New York (in New York City, NY)	1729
7) National Park Bank (in New York City, NY)	1486
8) Irving Trust Company (in New York City, NY)	1133
9) The Philadelphia National Bank (in Philadelphia, PA)	1128
10) First National Bank (in Minneapolis, MN)	1081

#### 1929 Analysis at the city level

#### Credit Risk in 1929

•Our measure of *C* is defined as (Undivided profits + Surplus) / net worth

Where net worth = paid-in capital + Undivided profits + Surplus

Intuition: leverage ratio

### Basic Network Statistics for 1929

- We begin by defining a link as a connection between banks with HQs in two distinct cities
  - Not at the bank level gives a better depiction of network than single one-off transaction for each bank.
- Number of nodes (cities) = 15,697
- Number of links between cities = 43,237
- Largest connected cluster size = 15,617 (almost all cities are connected)
- Diameter is the longest shortest path between any two connected nodes –For our largest cluster (i.e., all cities) = 17
  - -Implications for contagion

#### 1929 All Nodes



# Minimum of 5 City Connections (connections defined at city level)



# Minimum of 10 City connections (connections defined at city level)



#### Minimum of 100 city connections (High Correspondence with Reserve Cities)



#### 1929 Network (Nodes with at least 10 connections)



#### 1929 Network (Nodes with at least 5 connections)



#### Interacting with the data

#### 1929 Bank Risk Networks: DMV (2017)

NPUTS	Bar	nk Data Net	work Links Data Netwo	rk Nodes Data	Network	Nodes Map	Degree Distribution	Notes			
Minimum Node Degree	Show	10 🗘 entries	i						Search:		
1 10 100		StateCity	Unique	State.Initial	State   🍦	TownName 🝦	TownPopulation	TownMapCoordinates	CountyName 🝦	NameofBank 🝦	RoutingNumber $\phi$
1 11 21 31 41 51 61 71 81 91 100		All	All	All	,	All	All	All	All	All	All
Minimum Edge Weight											
	1	AL	ALBank Of Louisville	AL	Alabama	-	504	L20	Barbour	Bank Of Louisville	61-319
1 6 11 16 21 26 31 36 41 46 50 DUTPUTS	2	AL_Abbeville	AL_Abbeville_Abbeville State Bank	AL	Alabama	Abbeville	1267	M22	Henry	Abbeville State Bank	61-528
Number of Nodes = 529 Number of Links = 3788 Diameter = 14	3	AL_Abbeville	AL_Abbeville_Henry National Bank	AL	Alabama	Abbeville	1267	M22	Henry	Henry National Bank	61-439
Largest Cluster Size = 490 Fragility/Concentration = 1976.64623374318	4	AL_Alabama City	AL_Alabama City_Alabama City Bank	AL	Alabama	Alabama City	5432	D17	Etowah	Alabama City Bank	61-508
	5	AL_Albertville	AL_Albertville_First National Bank	AL	Alabama	Albertville	1666	C16	Marshall	First National Bank	61-500
	6	AL_Albertville	AL_Albertville_Albertville National Bank	AL	Alabama	Albertville	1666	C16	Marshall	Albertville National Bank	61-176
	7	AL_Albertville	AL_Albertville_Marion Junction State Bank	AL	Alabama	Albertville	1666	C16	Marshall	Marion Junction State Bank	61-175
	8	AL_Alexander City	AL_Alexander City_First National Bank	AL	Alabama	Alexander City	4190	H18	Tallapoosa	First National Bank	61-169
	9	AL_Alexander City	AL_Alexander City_Alexander City Bank	AL	Alabama	Alexander City	4190	H18	Tallapoosa	Alexander City Bank	61-168
	10	AL_Aliceville	AL_Aliceville_Peoples Bank	AL	Alabama	Aliceville	944	Н5	Pickens	Peoples Bank	61-545

#### **Network Structure**

- Random network theory predicts most nodes will have roughly the same number of links
  - Nodes typically follow a Poisson distribution with a bell shape
- Social & economic networks tend to follow power laws (Barabasi and Bonabeau, 2003; Gabaix, 2003)
  - The probability that any node was connected to j other nodes was proportional to 1/j<sup>α</sup>
  - So, if α~2, any node was roughly four times as likely to have just half the number of incoming links as another node.

-Characterized by continuously decreasing function

#### **Distribution of Linkages**



#### Right tail of linkage distribution



#### **Power Law Coefficient**

alpha = -0.4372



#### **Centrality of Nodes**

- The node that is most important in terms of connectivity
- Influence of any node, x<sub>i</sub>, in a network comes from connections to other nodes j. These nodes are impacted by the nodes they are connected to and so on, such that

$$x_i = \sum_{j=1}^n E_{ij} x_j$$

• LHS of system of equations is a n-vector x which provides a score for the influence or centrality of each node in the network.

#### Centrality in 1929



#### Criticality in 1929

- Ordering depends on credit quality of banks as well as centrality
- Criticality = Centrality x Leverage (proxy for credit risk)



#### Systemic Risk

We implement the simple systemic risk measure

$$S = (C' EC)^{1/2}$$

Where C is the risk vector, i.e., leverage, and E is the network (0,1) adjacency matrix (linkages).

S = 826.13 -- hard to interpret as there is no time series of these values

# Risk Decomposition: Impact of each institution on S

Decompose S into the sum of n components by differentiating with respect to C

Using Euler's theorem, the decomposition is:

$$S = \frac{\partial S}{\partial C}C = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\partial S}{\partial C_i}C_i = \frac{C}{2S}(E'C + EC) \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

Therefore, each component,  $\frac{\partial S}{\partial C_i}C_i$ , defines the corresponding institution risk measure of institution *i*.

#### **Risk Decomposition Plot**



#### **Risk Increment**

The effect of a one-unit worsening in risk score for the city's average bank leverage on systemic risk



# Fragility

- •Networks with focal points are ones that are highly concentrated
- Implication: A highly concentrated network tends to spread distress more quickly



## Fragility

- A measure that increases as the concentration in the network increases.
- Concentration results in a greater likelihood that bank-specific risk will lead to systemic risk.  $E(d^2)$
- Fragility, R, is computed as  $R = \frac{E(d^2)}{E(d)}$ where d is the number of connections to other nodes and E(.) is the expectations operator
  - Fragility in the 1929 network was = 1031
    - This is very high: the network is super concentrated
    - Herfindahl=0.0119

#### The 2007 Network

#### Construction of the network

- We begin by defining a link between banks using a Granger causality regression between two banks to build a *directed network*.
- A directed link in the network is projected from node i to node j if a regression of stock returns r(j,t) on r(i,t-1) and r(j,t-1) evidences a significant coefficient on r(i,t-1).
- Methodology based on:



### Econometric measures of connectedness and systemic risk in the finance and insurance sectors $\overset{\bigstar}{\Rightarrow}$

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MIT Clean School of Management 100 Main Street EC2 C10 Combridge MA 02142 United States

#### 2007 Data

- •We use 581 publicly traded financial institutions
- Data obtained from CRISP
- •Listed under the following major Standard Industrial Classification Codes (SIC):
  - -Group 60: Depository institutions
  - -Group 61: Non-depository credit institutions
  - –Group 62: Security and commodity brokers, dealers, exchanges, and services

## Building 2007 Network

- Using Merton (1974), we calculate daily asset values and their volatilities to derive daily asset returns where the former are generated from measures of:
  - Market capitalization
  - Annualized equity return volatilities
  - Total face value of debt
  - Annualized risk free rate of return (based on constant maturity US Treasuries)
  - Using the daily asset returns, we then compute Granger causality regressions that examine whether the returns between institutions *i* and *j* are "causally" linked which gives us the adjacency matrix *E*

#### 2007 Credit Risk

- From the daily asset returns, we compute asset betas on a rolling basis and then calculate expected asset returns using CAPM
- The expected asset returns are used to determine the annualized probability of *default* (*c*<sub>i</sub>) for a given institution *i* 
  - i.e., the probability of the market value of the
     FI's assets > FI's debt

#### Basic Network Stats for 2007

- Number of nodes = 581
- We run 336,980 regressions to create the network.
- Number of Links = 32,979
- Largest connected cluster size = 581 (all banks are connected)
- Diameter (maximal shortest path between any two connected nodes) of large cluster = 3

   Implications for contagion

#### Adjacency Matrix Contour Plot (581 x 581)



#### Distribution of Linkages: 2007



#### Centrality 2007



Top 50 banks

#### **Risk Decomposition Plot 2007**



#### Fragility of System: 2007

- Fragility in the 2007 network = 134
- This is still very high, but less than 1929 = 1031
  - Herfindahl (2007)=0.002
  - Herfindahl (1929)=0.0119

### **Preliminary Findings**

- 1929 is a dense network
  - Perhaps related to geography/technology and institutions
- Ex ante system fragility was higher in 1929
- Pyramid reserve system concentrates risk in the city centers -- fatter tail

Hub and spoke

#### **Future Directions**

- What features explain the higher ex ante risk of 1929 network?
  - -Pyramid system
  - -Branch and group banking
  - -Size of banks
- Examine how bank suspensions and failures changed systemic risk
- Examine counterfactuals to key known entities
  - –Lehman in 2007
  - –Bank of U.S. vs. Caldwell in 1930
- More data
  - -All banks in U.S., not just publicly traded
  - –Formal linkages for 2007?

#### Bank of United States



#### Caldwell and Company features prominently in the First Banking Panic of the Great Depression

Consider just 5 of the Affiliates

National Bank of Kentucky (Louisville, KY)

Holston-Union National Bank (Knoxville, TN)

Holston Trust Company (Knoxville, TN)

Central Bank and Trust Co. (Asheville, NC)

Louisville Trust Company (Louisville, KY)

#### Caldwell and Company: linkages to sample of affiliates



Atlanta and Lowery National Bank (Atlanta)

> Continental Illinois (Chicago)

> > American Trust (Charlotte)

National Park Bank (NYC)

Fifth Third Union (Cincinnati)

Forth and First Bank (Nashville)

Affiliates

National Bank of Kentucky (Louisville, KY)

Holston-Union National Bank (Knoxville, TN)

Holston Trust Company (Knoxville, TN)

Central Bank and Trust Co. (Asheville, NC)

Louisville Trust Company (Louisville, KY)

Peoples Bank (Ewing, VA)

First National Bank (Jonesboro, TN)

South Knoxville Bank (Knoxville, TN) —

First National Bank (Lafollette, TN)

Bank of Maryville (Maryville, TN)

Citizens Bank (New Tazewell, TN)

First National Bank (Sevierville, TN)

Citizens Bank and / Trust (Wartburg, TN) Affiliates

National Bank of Kentucky (Louisville, KY)

Holston-Union National Bank (Knoxville, TN)

Holston Trust Company (Knoxville, TN)

Central Bank and Trust Co. (Asheville, NC)

Louisville Trust Company (Louisville, KY) Farmers Bank and Trust / (Williamsburg, KY)

First State Bank (Caryville, TN)

> Union Bank (Clinton, TN)

First National Bank (Coal Creek, TN)

First National Bank (Greenville, TN)

Harriman National Bank (Harriman, TN)

Cambell County Bank (Jackboro, TN)

ALL NC

Affiliates

National Bank of Kentucky (Louisville, KY)

Central Hanover Bank (NYC)

Fifth Third Union (Cincinnati)

Chemical Bank & Trust Co. (NYC)

Holston-Union National Bank (Knoxville, TN)

Holston Trust Company (Knoxville, TN)

Central Bank and Trust Co. (Asheville, NC)

Louisville Trust Company (Louisville, KY)

Commonwealth Bank & Trust Bank of West Asheville Biltmore-Oteen Bank Merchants & Farmers **Citizens Bank** Bank of Clyde Polk County Bank & Trust Clay County Bank American Bank & Trust Bank of Leicester Citizens Bank Bank of Mars Hill Biltmore-Oteen Bank

Citizens Bank and Trust Co.

First National Bank (NYC)

Continental Illinois (Chicago)

First National Bank (STL)

Central Hanover (NYC)

Chemical Bank and Trust (NYC)

Guaranty Trust Co. (NYC)

National City Bank (NYC)

The Seaboard 🛩 Bank (NYC) Affiliates

National Bank of Kentucky (Louisville, KY)

Holston-Union National Bank (Knoxville, TN)

Holston Trust Company (Knoxville, TN)

Central Bank and Trust Co. (Asheville, NC)

Louisville Trust Company (Louisville, KY) Monroe County State Bank (IN)

Farmers State Bank (IN)

Seymour National Bank (IN)

Citizens Bank (KY)

Canmer Deposit Bank (KY)

Greenburg Deposit (KY)

Lewisburg Banking (KY)

Fayette National Bank (KY)

Union Central Bank (KY)

Morganfield National Bank (KY)

Bank of Murray (KY)

Farmers Bank (KY)