

Economic Depreciation of Property Rents and Prices

Jiro Yoshida^{1 2}

¹Smeal College of Business
The Pennsylvania State University

³CREI & CREPE
The University of Tokyo

February 14, 2022

My depreciation studies

- Yoshida and Sugiura (2015) find more rapid price depreciation for non-green condominiums in Japan
- Yoshida (2020) finds large variation in property price depreciation rates by country, city, property type, age and size
 - It also proposes a method to correct for a survivorship bias
 - It uses both transaction and demolition data
- Lopez and Yoshida (2021) suggest a large aging adjustment in inflation rates for Las Vegas partly due to fast functional obsolescence of housing
 - It separates functional obsolescence from physical deterioration
 - It demonstrates depreciation heterogeneity by neighborhood
- **My ongoing projects focus on functional obsolescence for residential and commercial property rents and prices**
- **A study on the production function for housing services**

Capital depreciation is

important for

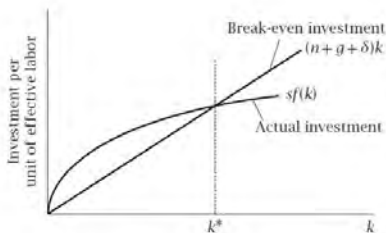
- Taxes (accounting depreciation)
- Financial investment (income and appreciation returns)
- Capital investment (irreversibility, replacement)
- Sustainability (demolition frequency)
- Macroeconomics (real interest rate)
- Economic statistics (inflation and TFP measurement)
- Consumption expenditures (user cost of durables)

interesting because

- it provides a “shadow rate of technological progress”
- it creates variations in factor composition for housing service production

Solow model with exogenous savings

- Capital growth: $\dot{k}(t) = sk(t)^\alpha - (n + g + \delta)k(t)$.
- Steady-state capital: $k(t)^* = [s/(n + g + \delta)]^{1/(1-\alpha)}$.



Greater δ lowers $\dot{k}(t)$ and $k(t)^*$, ceteris paribus.

In growth accounting, the wrong δ distorts the TFP measurement.

Estimated depreciation rates vary

- Early studies support a constant depreciation (e.g., Hulten and Wykoff, 1981b,a; Mankiw et al., 1992), but the estimated single rate varies significantly from 6% (Nadiri and Prucha, 1996) to 13% (Epstein and Denny, 1980).
- Depreciation rates do **vary over time and across types** (Epstein and Denny, 1980; Ambler and Paquet, 1994; Hulten and Wykoff, 1996; Jorgenson, 1996; Tevlin and Whelan, 2003).
- Depreciation is **pro-cyclical due to utilization and maintenance** (Greenwood et al., 1988; Albonico et al., 2014; Deli, 2016).
- Economic depreciation includes **obsolescence due to technological progress** (Greenwood et al., 1997; Whelan, 2002; Boucekine et al., 2008; Gertler and Kiyotaki, 2010).

Technological change and economic depreciation

The rate of economic depreciation will exceed the rate of physical depreciation because investment-specific technological change obsolesces the old capital stock (Greenwood et al., 1997).

When a unit of new capital is q/q_{-1} times more productive than a unit of old capital, q is the investment-specific technology as well as the price deflator.

$\tilde{z}\tilde{k}^\alpha \ell^{1-\alpha} = c + i$, and $\tilde{k}' = (1 - \tilde{\delta})\tilde{k} + i$,
 where $\tilde{k}' = k'/q$, $1 - \tilde{\delta} = (1 - \delta)(q_{-1}/q)$, and $\tilde{z} = z(q_{-1})^\alpha$.

The difference between economic and physical depreciation rates gives the rate of investment-specific technological change: $(1 - \delta)/(1 - \tilde{\delta}) = q/q_{-1}$.

Housing Depreciation is particularly important for Japan

- Hayashi (1986, 1989) attributed **Japan's high post-war saving rate to a large housing depreciation rate** evaluated at replacement cost instead of book value.
- Dekle and Summers (1991) cast a doubt about Hayashi's large depreciation estimate.
- Hayashi (1991) replied by emphasizing that housing depreciation rates are approximately 9% in Japan.
- Hayashi and Prescott (2002) also used large depreciation in explaining the stagnant Japanese economy in the 1990s.
- More recently, Chen et al. (2006) find that **large and changing depreciation rates and TFP explain saving rates in Japan.**

Today's talk about depreciation

	Prices		Rents	
	Residential	Commercial	Residential	Commercial
Japan			⇒	
Depreciation	Y (2020)	Y (2020)	◀ NEW	◀ Y etal (2018)
Deterioration			◀ NEW	◀ Y etal (2018)
Obsolescence			◀ NEW	◀ Y etal (2018)
			↑↑	↓↓
USA				
Depreciation	Y (2020)	◀ NEW	◀ L&Y (2021)	◀ NEW
Deterioration	◀ NEW	◀ NEW	◀ L&Y (2021)	◀ NEW
Obsolescence	◀ NEW	◀ NEW	◀ L&Y (2021)	◀ NEW
	⇐		⇐	

Land-structure share and housing service production

Japan	◀ NEW
USA	◀ NEW

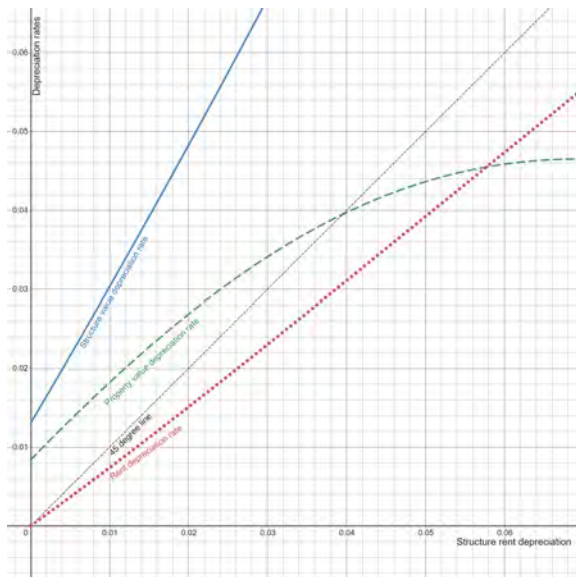
US Residential Rents

Summary of Lopez and Yoshida (2021)

We estimate housing rent depreciation rates with two objectives

1. To improve inflation measurement
 - To estimate constant-quality CPI inflation, BLS adds a separately estimated rent depreciation rate to rent changes (Lane et al., 1988; Randolph, 1988; Campbell, 2006)
 - 0.11% for Houston
 - 0.36% for New York and Boston
 - We find 0.90% (new single family) and 1.50% (new condominiums) for Las Vegas partly due to functional obsolescence.
2. To obtain the basis for a capital value depreciation rate
 - Next slide

Relationship between rent and price depreciation



x: structure dep.
(δ)

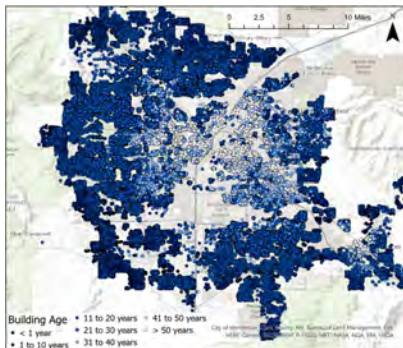
red: rent dep.
($\delta_C < \delta$)

blue: structure
value dep. ($\delta_S > \delta$)

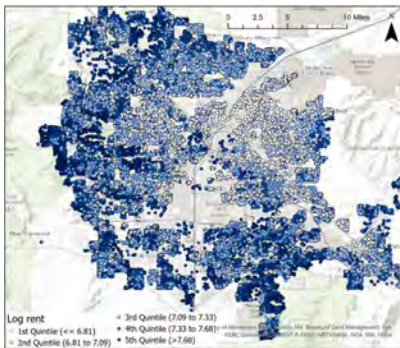
green: prop. value
dep. ($\delta_V \lesseqgtr \delta$)

Data: Las Vegas MLS merged with Tax Assessor Records

283,818 leased and 45,976 withdrawn/expired listings for 2009Q1 – 2019Q1 (compared to 32K rental units in the CPI Housing Survey)



Building age



Log rents

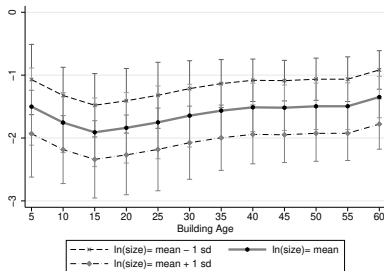
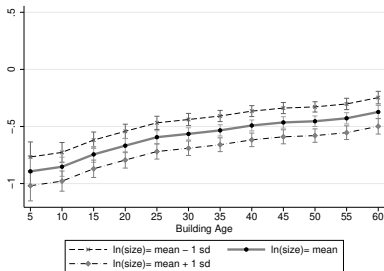
Estimation

We use cross-sectional variation in log rents by age:

$$\ln Y_{it} = A_i C_i \delta + X_i \beta + \alpha_j + \tau_t + \epsilon_{it},$$

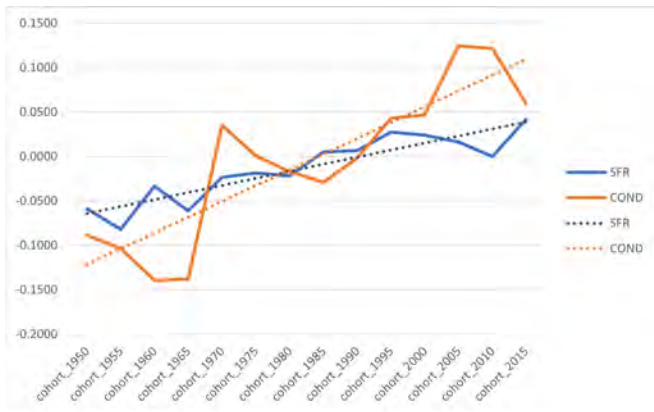
- Y_{it} : contract rent of property i at time t
- A_i : building age A_i
- C_i : interaction terms C_i
 - $C_i^1 = [1 \ A_i \ Size_i]$, ($Size_i$: demeaned log square-footage)
 - $C_i^2 = [G_g \ Size_i]$, (G_g : indicators for 5-year age groups)
 - $C_i^{3,1} = [C_i^1 \ CensusTract_j]$,
 - $C_i^{3,2} = [C_i^2 \ CensusTract_j]$
- δ : vector of age coefficients
- X_i : observable characteristics
- α_j : location (census tract) fixed effects
- τ_t : time (listing year-quarter) fixed effects.

Age coefficients without controlling for cohort effects



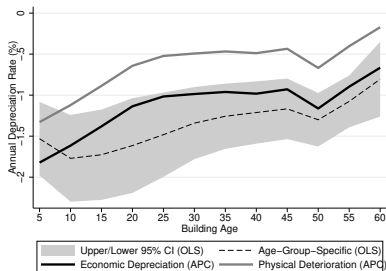
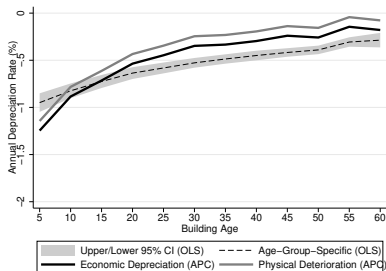
Depreciation rates are larger for newer and larger structures

Cohort effects on housing rents



Cohort effects include both a trend (average functional obsolescence) and cycles (vintage effects).

Decomposition of rent depreciation rates



Single Family

Physical: (0.1-1.1%)
 Obsolescence: (0.1%)
 Economic: (0.2-1.2%)

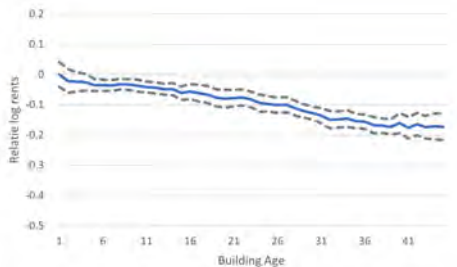
Condominiums

(0.2-1.3%)
 (0.5%)
 (0.7-1.8%)

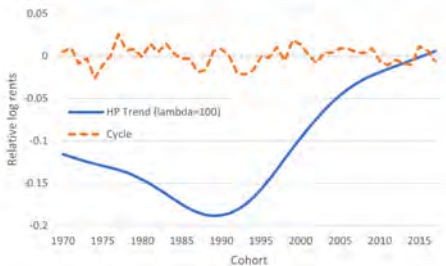
Physical deterioration is comparable but obsolescence is larger for condos than for SFR

Japan's Residential Rents

Age and cohort effects on Tokyo residential rents



Smoothed effects on Tokyo residential rents

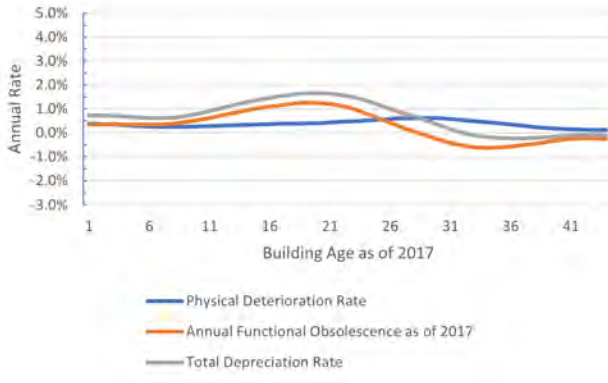


Decomposed depreciation (Tokyo residential rents)

Physical depreciation rate: 0.1 to 0.6% per year

Functional obsolescence rates: -0.6 to 1.3%

Economic depreciation rates: -0.2 to 1.7%



Structure depreciation (Tokyo residential rents)

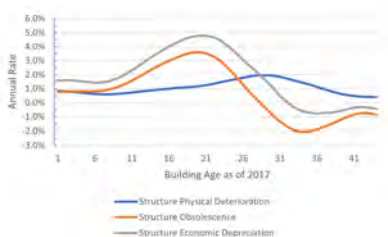
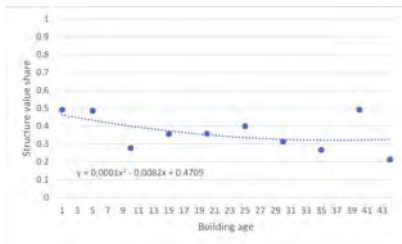
Structure value share for small commercial properties: 0.2–0.5

Structure physical deterioration: 0.4 to 2.0% per year

Structure obsolescence: –2.0 to 3.6% per year

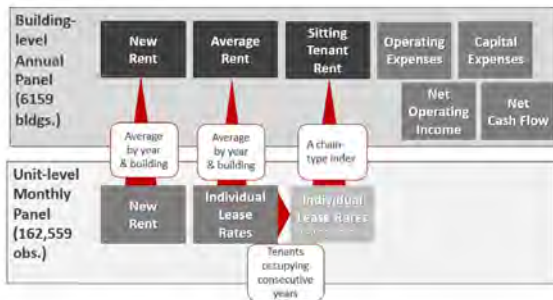
Structure economic depreciation: –0.8 to 4.8% per year

Caveat: Need a better estimate of structure rent share



Japan Office Rents (Yoshida et al., 2018)

- Data: Xymax, a major property management firm
- Sample size: 6,159 office buildings in Tokyo
- Sample period: 2005-2016
- Variables: new rent, average rent, operating expenses, capital expenditures, height, distance, age, year built, renewal



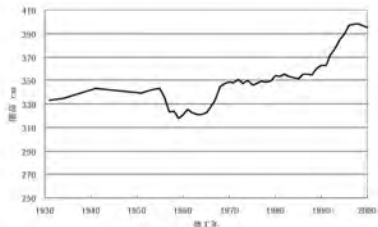
Cohort effects on new rents



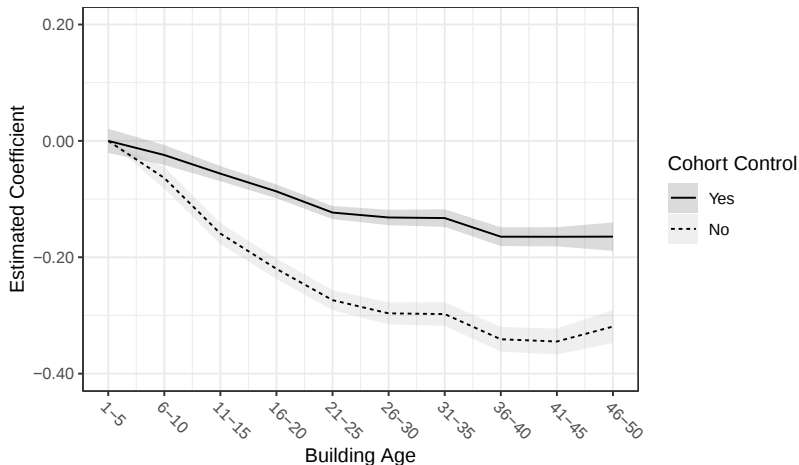
Top: Cohort effects are large since 1990s.

Bottom: Office ceiling heights (Hara, 2006)

- -1950's: ≈ 345 cm
- 1950s-1960s: 320 cm by a 31 m maximum building height
- 1970s-1980s: 350 cm
- 1990s-: Increase by 50 cm due to double floor



New rent depreciation



Average depreciation rates

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
		New Rents			Average Rents	
	Economic	Physical	Obsolescence	Economic	Physical	Obsolescence
From 1 to 10	1.28	0.49	0.79	-0.75	-0.93	0.18
From 1 to 15	1.59	0.56	1.03	0.25	-0.28	0.53
From 1 to 20	1.47	0.58	0.89	0.92	0.05	0.87
From 1 to 25	1.37	0.62	0.75	0.85	0.15	0.70
From 1 to 30	1.19	0.53	0.66	0.68	0.13	0.55
From 1 to 35	0.99	0.44	0.55	0.46	0.04	0.42
From 1 to 40	0.97	0.47	0.50	0.3	0.08	0.22
From 1 to 45	0.86	0.41	0.45	0.37	0.18	0.19
From 1 to 50	0.71	0.37	0.34	0.55	0.32	0.23

The 40-year average rent depreciation rate is 1%/year, half of which is due to obsolescence.

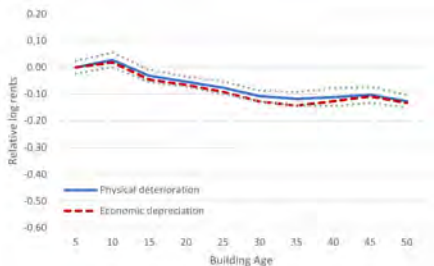
Navigation

US Commercial Property Rents

US commercial rent data

- Data: Compstak
- Markets and Sample size
 - DC: 22,809 leases
 - NY: 30,369 leases
 - LA: 34,475 leases
 - SF: 18,667 leases
- Sample period: 2006-2021
- Variables: gross lease, leasing floor, building class, building size, direction from CBD, distance to CBD, ten submarket dummies

Washington DC office rents



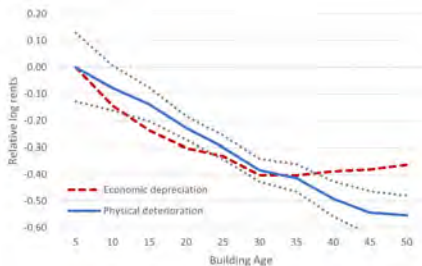
Physical and economic depreciation (5–45 years)

- Physical: 0.3%/year
- Obsolescence: 0.0%/year
- Economic: 0.3%/year

Cohort effects

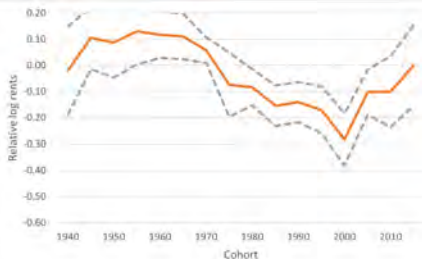
- Obsolescence is negligible.

New York office rents



Physical and economic depreciation (5–45 years)

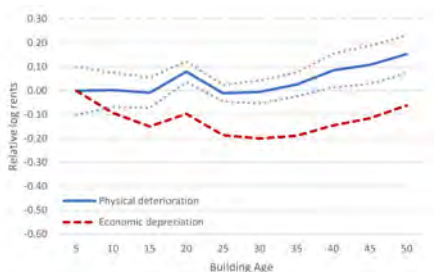
- Physical: 1.4%/year
- Obsolescence: –0.4%/year
- Economic: 1.0%/year



Cohort effects

- 1980s-1990s vintages have low rents.

Los Angeles office rents



Physical and economic depreciation (5–45 years)

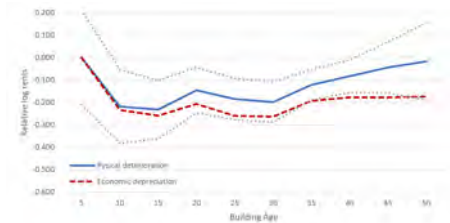
- Physical: $-0.3\%/year$
- Obsolescence: $0.6\%/year$
- Economic: $0.3\%/year$

Cohort effects

- Obsolescence is accelerating since 2000s.



San Francisco office rents



Physical and economic depreciation (5–45 years)

- Physical: 0.4%/year
- Obsolescence: 0.3%/year
- Economic: 0.1%/year



Cohort effects

- Obsolescence is continuous and gradual.

US Commercial Property Prices

US office price data

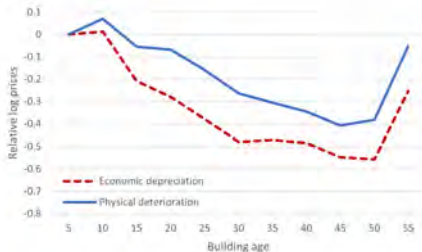
Real Capital Analytics transaction data

Sample size:

- DC (1,973 transactions)
- LA (3,369 transactions)
- NY (1,947 transactions)
- Miami (1,882 transactions)
- SF (1,221 transactions)

Variables: floor area, I(average number of floors > 6), I(main city), I(north of CBD), I(east of CBD), Distance to CBD

New York office property prices



Physical and economic depreciation (5–45 years)

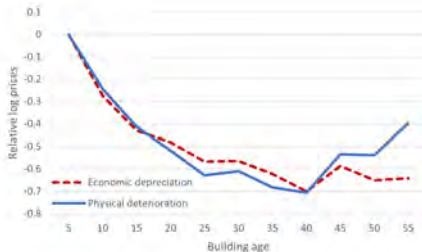
- Physical: 1.0%/year
- Obsolescence: 0.4%/year
- Economic: 1.4%/year

Cohort effects

- Obsolescence is small until early 1980s but large since 1990s



San Francisco office property prices



Physical and economic depreciation (5–45 years)

- Physical: 1.3%/year
- Obsolescence: 0.2%/year
- Economic: 1.5%/year

Cohort effects

- Obsolescence is small except 1950-1960 and 2010



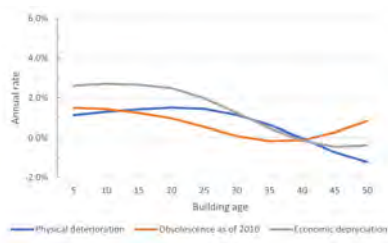
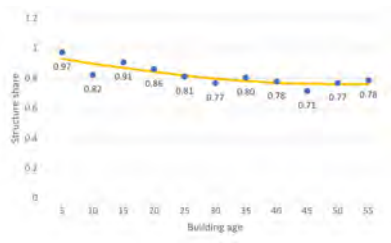
Structure value depreciation (New York offices)

Structure value share is 0.71–0.97

Structure physical deterioration: −1.2 to 1.5% per year

Structure obsolescence: −0.2 to 1.5% per year

Structure economic depreciation: −0.5 to 2.7% per year



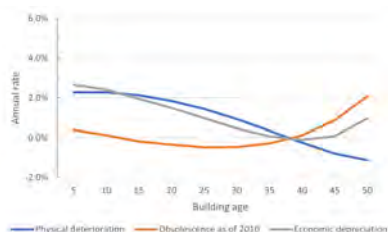
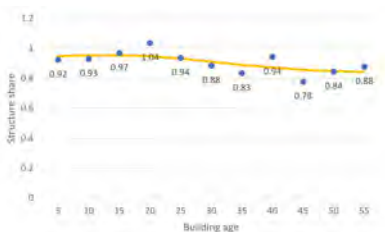
Structure value depreciation (Washington DC offices)

Structure value share is 0.78–1.04

Structure physical deterioration: −1.1 to 2.3% per year

Structure obsolescence: −0.5 to 2.1% per year

Structure economic depreciation: −0.1 to 2.7% per year



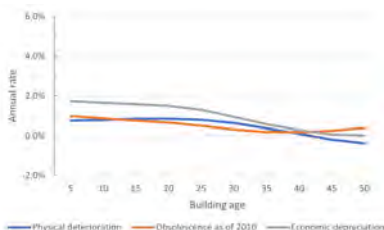
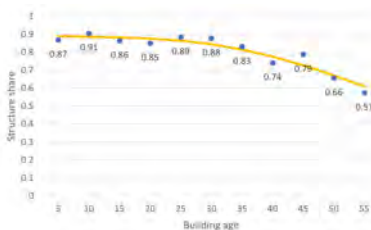
Structure value depreciation (Los Angeles offices)

Structure value share is 0.57–0.91

Structure physical deterioration: -0.4 to 0.8% per year

Structure obsolescence: 0.2 to 1.0% per year

Structure economic depreciation: 0.0 to 1.7% per year



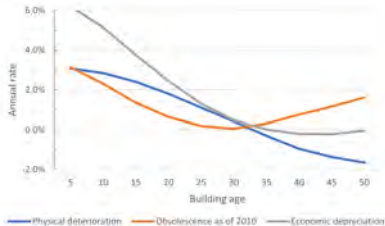
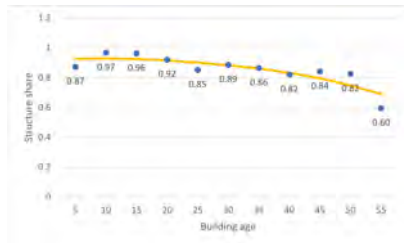
Structure value depreciation (San Francisco offices)

Structure value share is 0.60–0.97

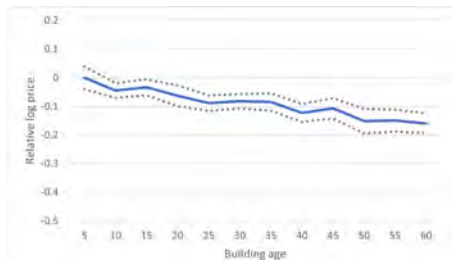
Structure physical deterioration: −1.7 to 3.0% per year

Structure obsolescence: 0.1 to 3.1% per year

Structure economic depreciation: −0.2 to 6.2% per year



Philadelphia housing prices

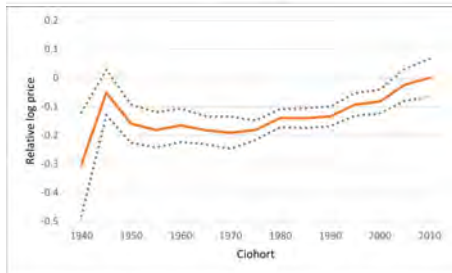


Physical and economic depreciation (5–45 years)

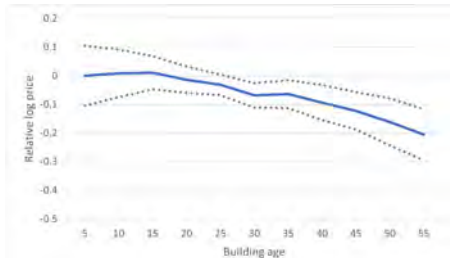
- Physical: 0.3%/year
- Obsolescence: 0.4%/year
- Economic: 0.7%/year

Cohort effects

- Obsolescence has been accelerating since 1980s.



Pittsburgh housing prices



Physical and economic depreciation (5–45 years)

- Physical: 0.5%/year
- Obsolescence: 0.5%/year
- Economic: 1.0%/year

Cohort effects

- Obsolescence has been accelerating since 1980s.



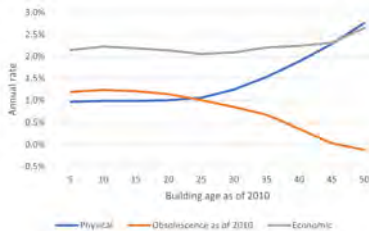
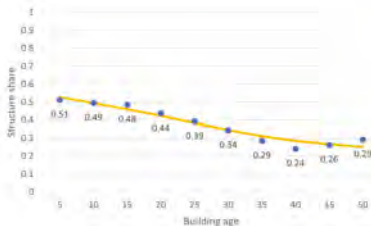
Structure value depreciation (Philadelphia housing)

Structure value share is 0.24–0.51

Structure physical deterioration: 1.0 to 2.8% per year

Structure obsolescence: −0.1 to 1.2% per year

Structure economic depreciation: 2.1 to 2.6% per year



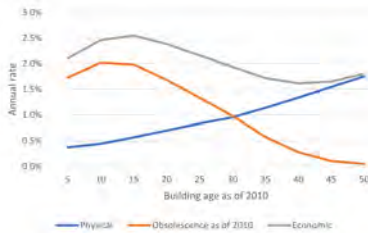
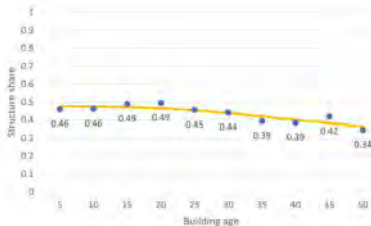
Structure value depreciation (Pittsburgh housing)

Structure value share is 0.34–0.49

Structure physical deterioration: 0.4 to 1.8% per year

Structure obsolescence: 0.1 to 2.0% per year

Structure economic depreciation: 1.6 to 2.6% per year



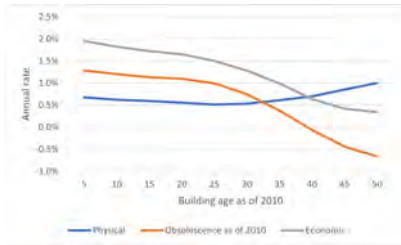
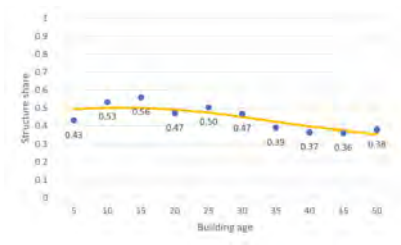
Structure value depreciation (Allentown-Bethlehem housing)

Structure value share is 0.36–0.56

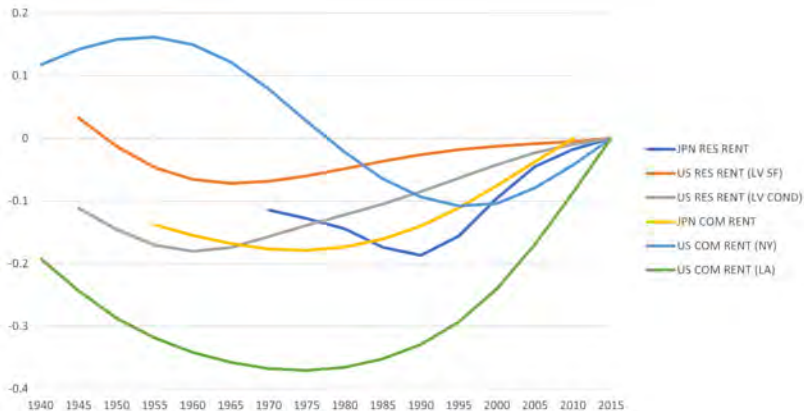
Structure physical deterioration: 0.5 to 1.0% per year

Structure obsolescence: −0.7 to 1.3% per year

Structure economic depreciation: 0.3 to 2.0% per year



Summary of cohort effects on rents



- Lower rents for past cohorts (obsolescence)
- The bottom year varies by market
 - JPN Res at 1990 vs US Res at 1960
 - JPM Com at 1975 vs LA Com at 1975 and NY Com at 1995

Depreciation and Housing Service Production

We observe only property value

$$V_{t,u} = P_t^H H_u = P_t^H \left[\alpha (E_u S)^{\frac{\theta-1}{\theta}} + (1-\alpha) L^{\frac{\theta-1}{\theta}} \right]^{\frac{\eta\theta}{\theta-1}},$$

P_t^H : Unit price (**latent variable**)

H_u : Effective quantity of property (**latent variable**)

S : Quantity of structure (floor s.f.)

E_u : Effectiveness of structure at age u

- Depreciation: $d \ln E_u / du < 0$

L : Quantity of homogeneous land (lot s.f.)

α : Relative weight on the effective structure

θ : Elasticity of substitution between structure and land

η : Returns to scale

Results

Result 1

$$s_{t,u} + l_{t,u} = \eta \text{ (Returns to scale)}$$

CRS if $s_{t,u} + l_{t,u} = 1$ and $\Pi_{t,u} = 0$,

DRS if $s_{t,u} + l_{t,u} < 1$ and $\Pi_{t,u} > 0$,

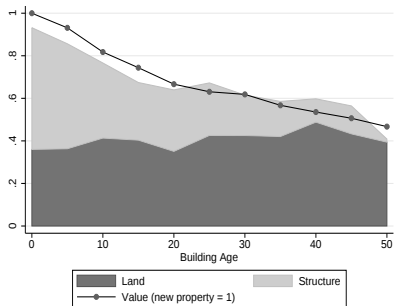
IRS if $s_{t,u} + l_{t,u} > 1$ and $\Pi_{t,u} < 0$,

Result 2

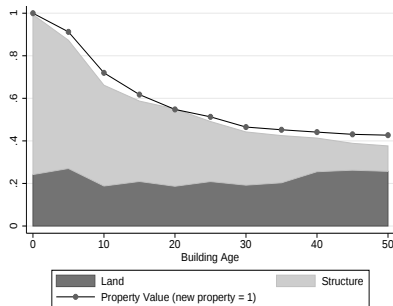
$$\frac{\partial s_{t,u}}{\partial u} = \frac{(1 - \theta) \delta_u s_{t,u} l_{t,u}}{\theta \eta}$$

The value share of structure is decreasing if $(1 - \theta) \delta_u < 0$.

Decomposition of Property Value (Residential, Japan)



(a) Tokyo

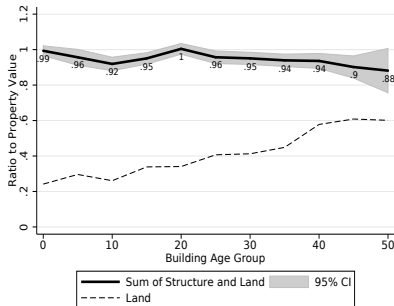


(b) Outside Tokyo

Results by Age (Residential, Japan)



(a) Tokyo



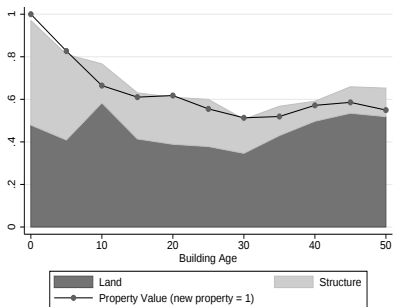
(b) Outside Tokyo

Finding 1: $s_{t,u} + l_{t,u} = \eta \approx 1$ (constant returns)

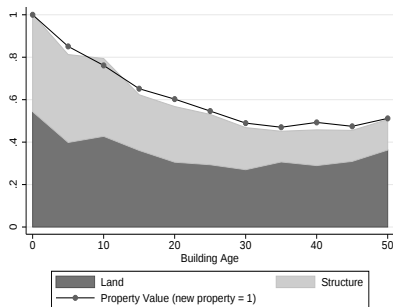
Finding 2: $\frac{\partial s_{t,u}}{\partial u} < 0 \Rightarrow \theta > 1$ (gross substitutes)

Finding 3: Value share of land is larger for old properties in a larger city

Decomposition of Property Value (Commercial, Japan)

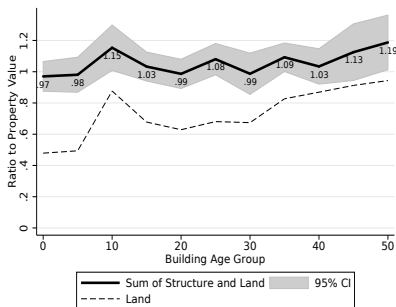


(a) Tokyo

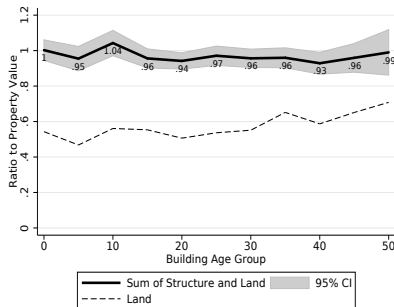


(b) Outside Tokyo

Results by Age (Commercial, Japan)



(a) Tokyo



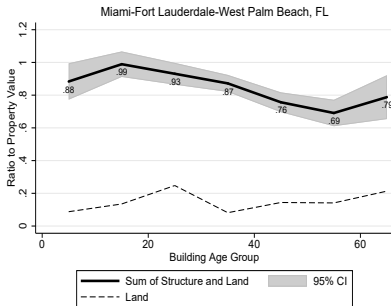
(b) Outside Tokyo

Finding 1: $s_{t,u} + l_{t,u} = \eta \approx 1$ (constant returns)

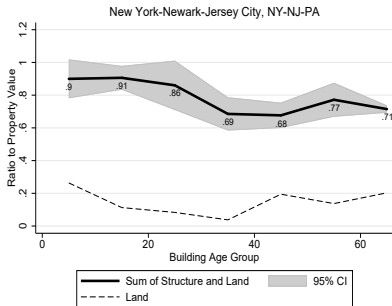
Finding 2: $\frac{\partial s_{t,u}}{\partial u} < 0 \Rightarrow \theta > 1$ (gross substitutes)

Finding 3: Land value share is larger for commercial real estate than housing

Results by Age (Apartment, Supply-Inelastic US Cities)



(c) Miami

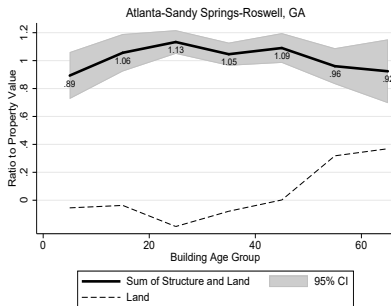


(d) New York

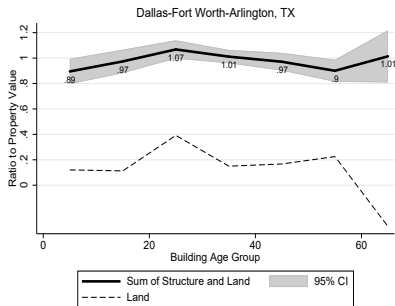
Finding 1: $s_{t,u} + l_{t,u} = \eta < 1$ (decreasing returns) for older properties

Finding 2: Land value share is very small

Results by Age (Apartment, Supply-Elastic US Cities)



(a) Atlanta



(b) Dallas

Finding 1: $s_{t,u} + l_{t,u} = \eta \approx 1$ (constant returns)

Finding 2: Land value share is very small

Summary

Depreciation sounds dismal but is important and interesting.

In particular, functional obsolescence of capital provides insights into past technological progress.

Depreciation rates vary significantly by market due to different technological environments.

Real estate depreciation also gives additional insight into real estate service production.

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