# Global Financial Crisis and China's Policy Response

Kar-yiu Wong

University of Washington and University of International Business and Economics

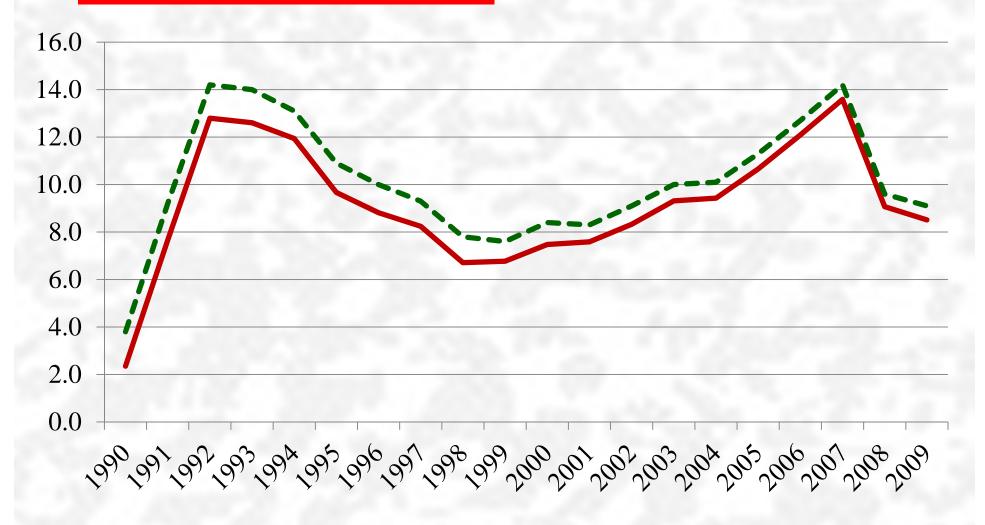
### **Global Financial Crisis**

- the worst economic hard time since the Great Depression in the 1930s
  - ✓ in terms of the size of the impacts
  - ✓ in terms of the number of countries involved

# **The China Story:**

• only mildly affected, with a drop in its growth rates

#### **Growth Rates of China**



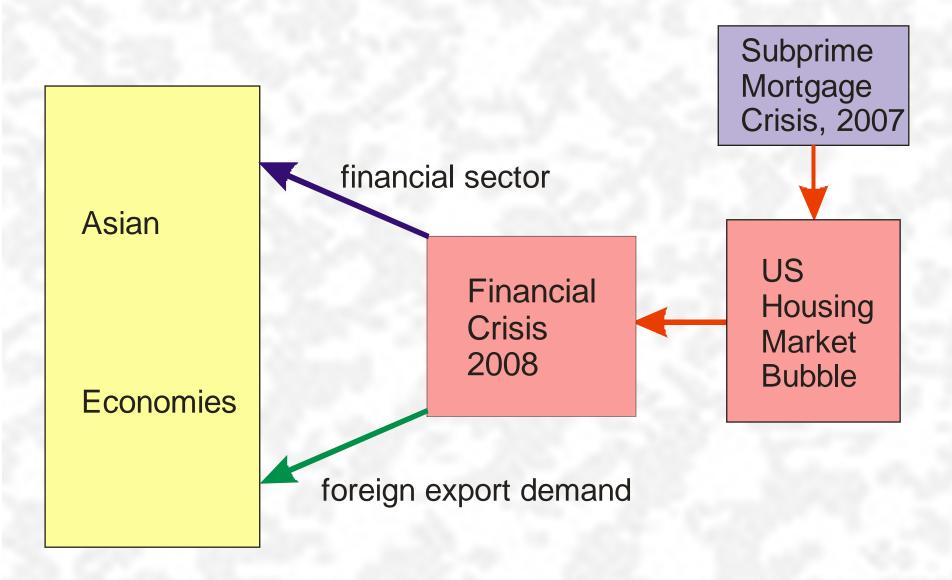
—per capita GDP --GDP

Year

## **Objectives of this paper**

- to examine how the Chinese economy was affected;
- to analyze the policy responses of China
- to compare the effects of different policies

#### **Origin and Transmission**

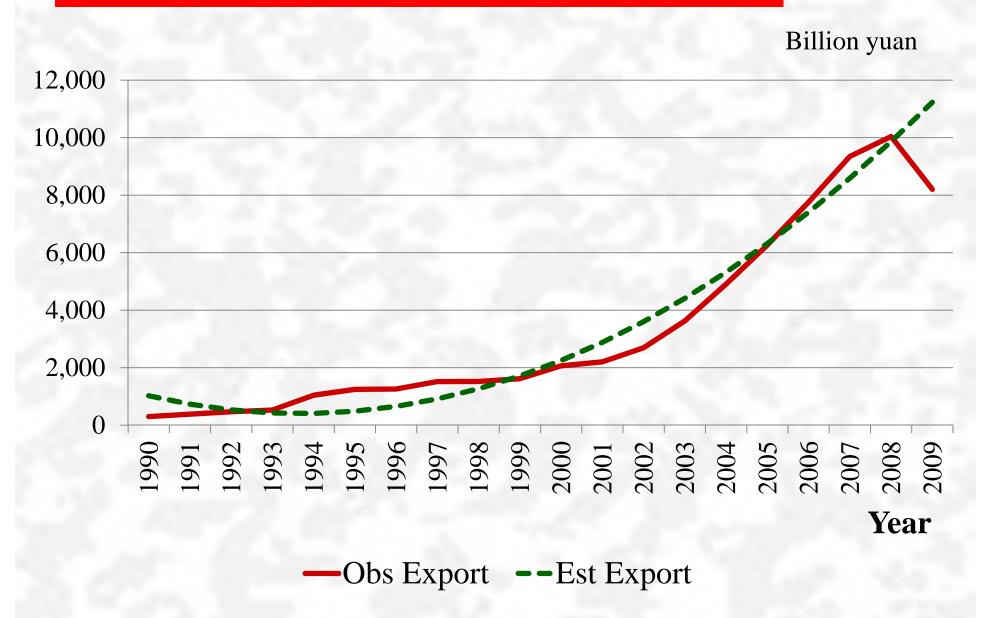


#### **Main Channel of Transmission to Asia**

• financial sector in most Asian economies is quite stable, and some are not very open

 main channel is foreign trade, i.e., changes in foreign export demand

#### **Observed and Estimated Exports of China**



## **Drop in Export in 2009**

• as compared with the level in 2008:

¥1,837 billion, or 18 percent

• as compared with the projected level in 2009:

¥3,029 billion, or a 27 percent drop

## **Macroeconomic Equilibrium**

$$Y = C + I + G + E - M$$

$$C = C_0 + c(Y - T)$$

$$I = I_0$$

$$G = G_0$$

$$E = E_0$$

$$M = M_0 + m(Y - T)$$

# **Multiplier**

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{1 - c(1 - t) + m}.$$

## Main Objective of Policy Response

 to counter-act the negative impact of a drop in the foreign export demand

 Long-run and short-run effects should be considered.

## Policy 1: G

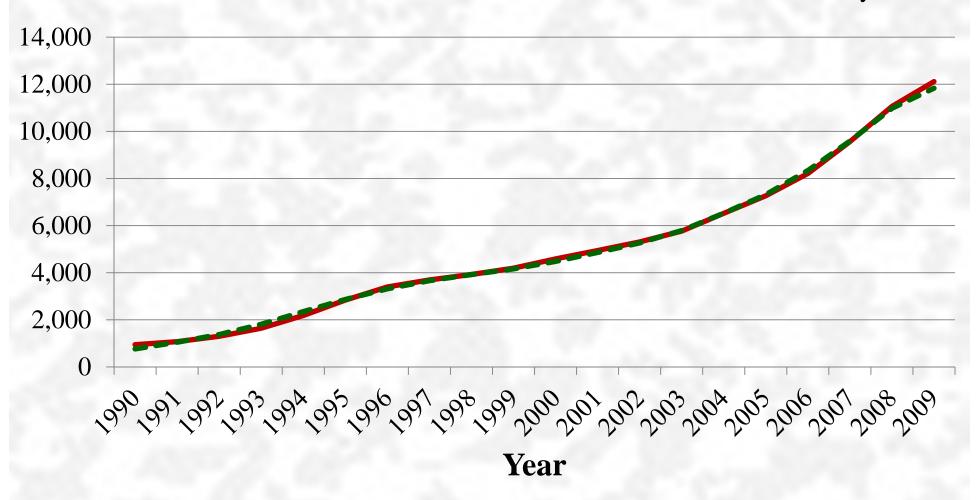
- to increase the government expenditure, or to lower the taxes, or both
- effect: not good, as the drop in *E* was quite substantial: 44 percent of the government expenditure if the 2008 export level is to be maintained (or 73 percent if the 2009 estimated export level is to be maintained).

## Policy 2: C

- to increase the household consumption expenditure, either the autonomous part or the marginal propensity to consume
- focusing on the change in autonomous part
- result, 2009: estimated consumption =
   ¥11,833 billion; observed consumption =
   ¥12,113 billion; rise by ¥281 billion, less than 10 % of the export gap

#### **Obs and Est Household Consumption of China**

Billion yuan



—Obs HH Consumption

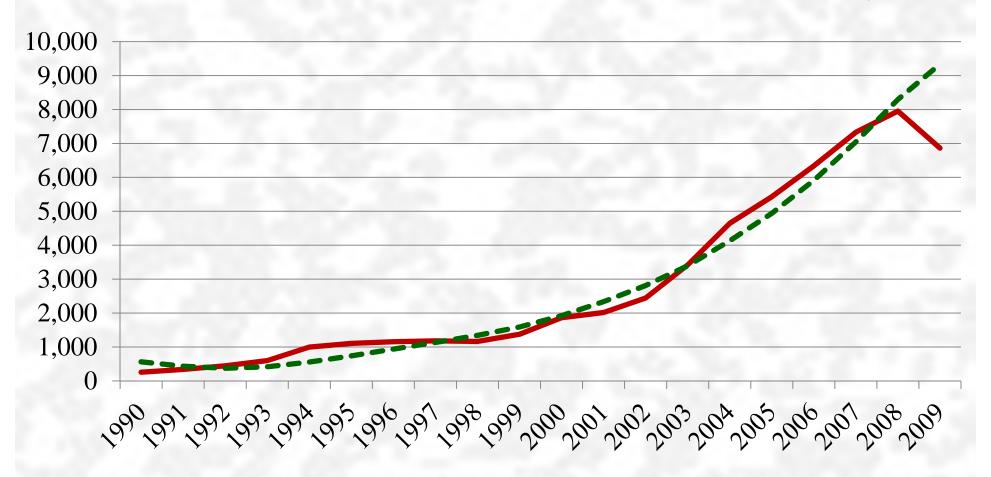
-- Est HH Consumption

## Policy 3: M

- to decrease the import demand, either the autonomous part or the marginal propensity to import
- focusing on the change in autonomous part
- result, 2009: estimated import = \$9,336.3 billion; observed import = \$6,861.8 billion; a drop by \$2,474.5 billion, or about 82% of the export gap

#### **Observed and Estimated Imports of China**

Billion yuan



—Obs Import —Est Import

Year

## **Policy Comparison**

• G: not effective to cover the big export gap

• C: change is not easy and not quickly

• M: more effective, more quickly; cost: hurt trade and lower the gains from trade

# The End

Thank You Very Much.