

# CHINA INSIDE OUT; EXPLAINING THE FLOWS OF SILVER IN AND OUT OF CHINA 1820S-1870S

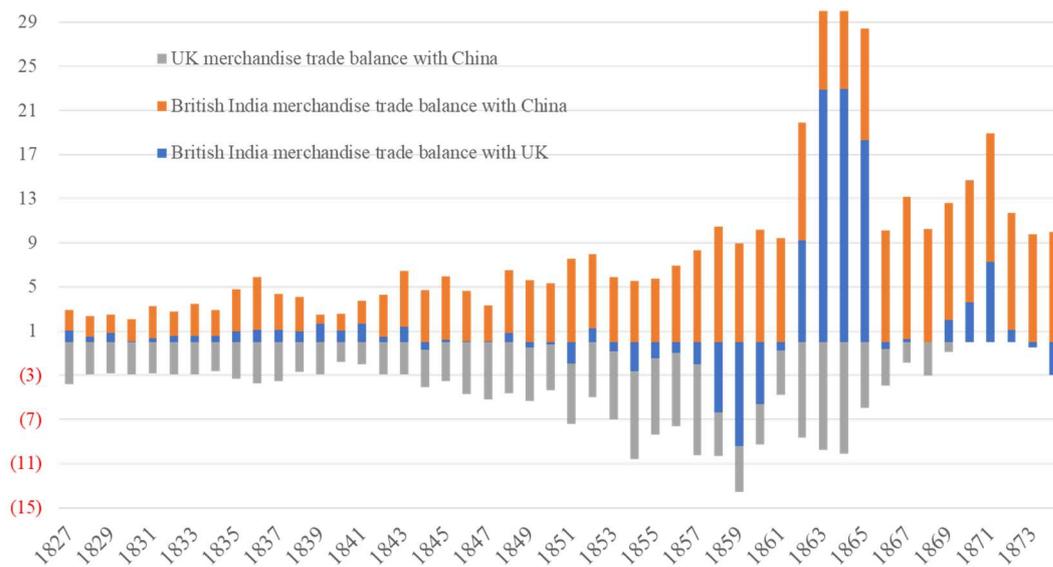
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Columbia University Economic History Seminar

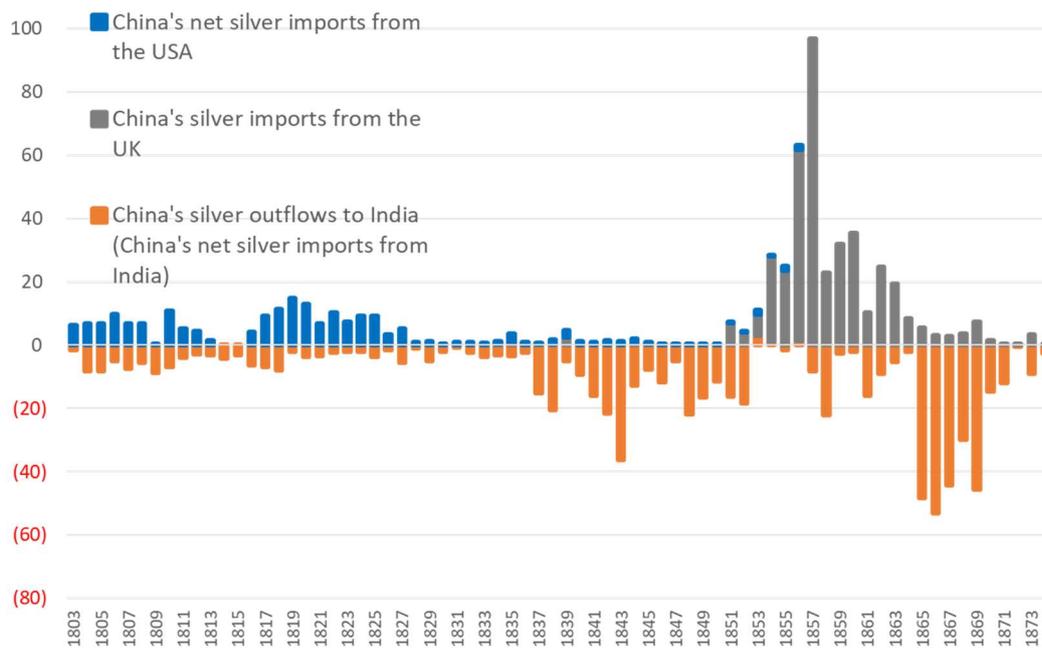
January 2023

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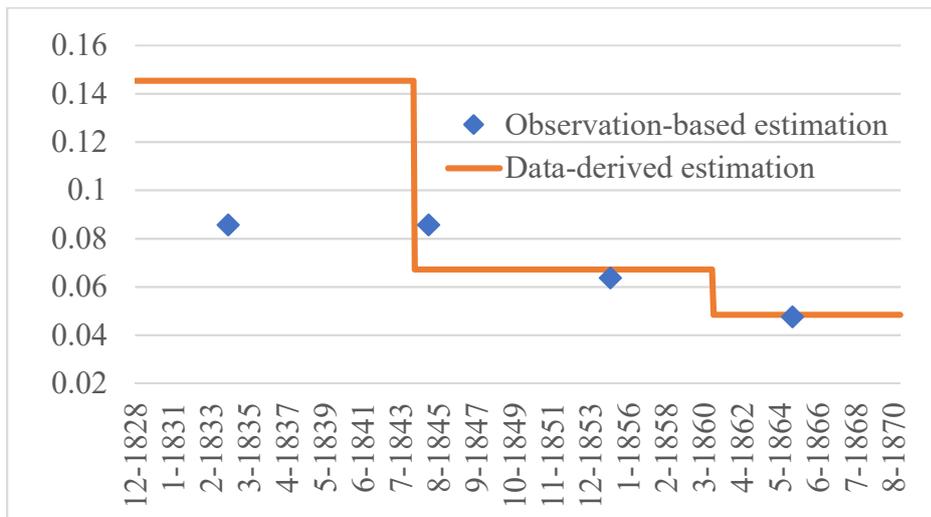
**Figure 1: China balance of merchandise trade with India and the UK, 1820-1870 in million rupees**



**Figure 2: China balance of silver trade with UK & US, 1803-1874 (in million rupees)**



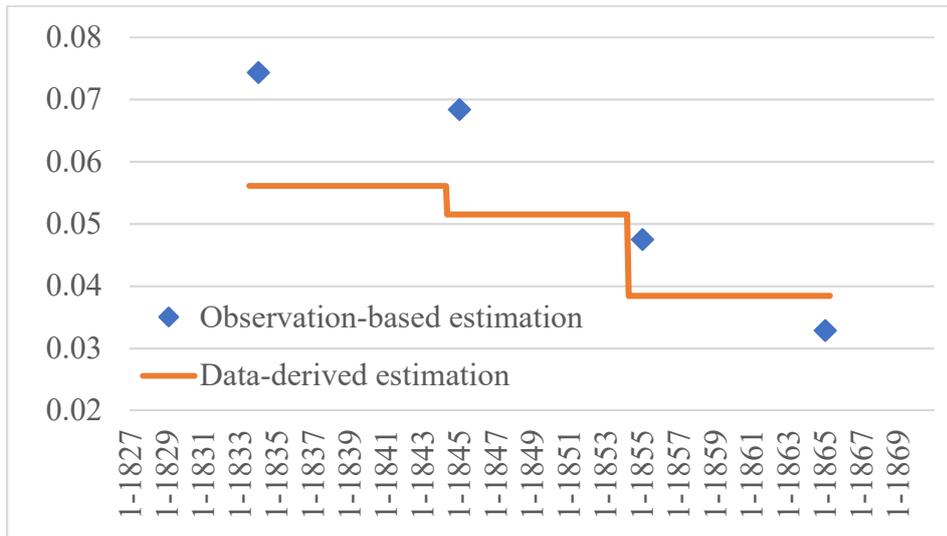
**Figure 3a Arbitrage cost estimations between Canton/HK and London**



Notes: The observation-based estimation over 1828-1389 is plotted around the mid-month of January 1834.

Sources: See Table ?? and Figure ??

Figure 3b Arbitrage cost estimations between Canton/HK and Indian cities



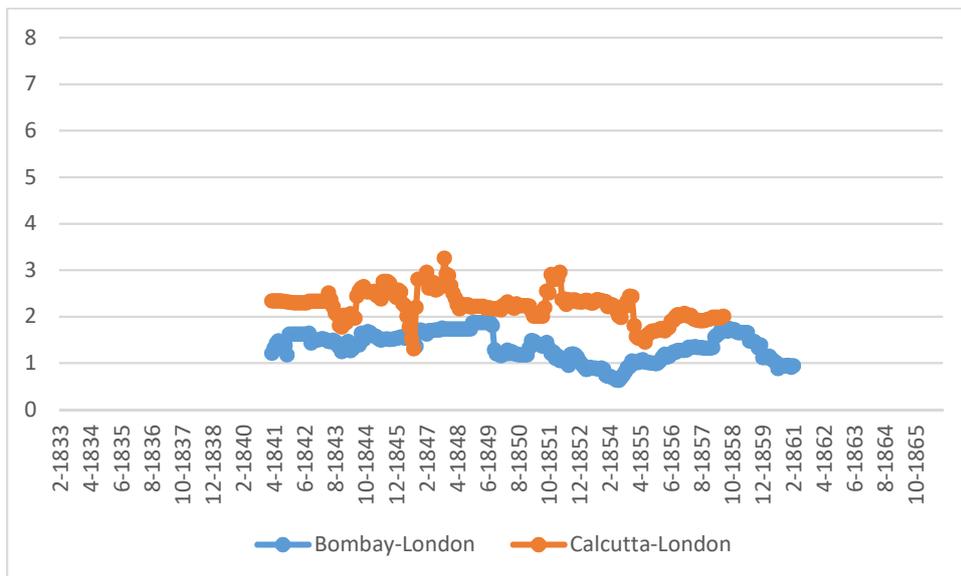
Notes: The observation-based estimation over 1828-1389 is plotted around the mid-month of January 1834.

Sources: See Table ?? and Figure ??

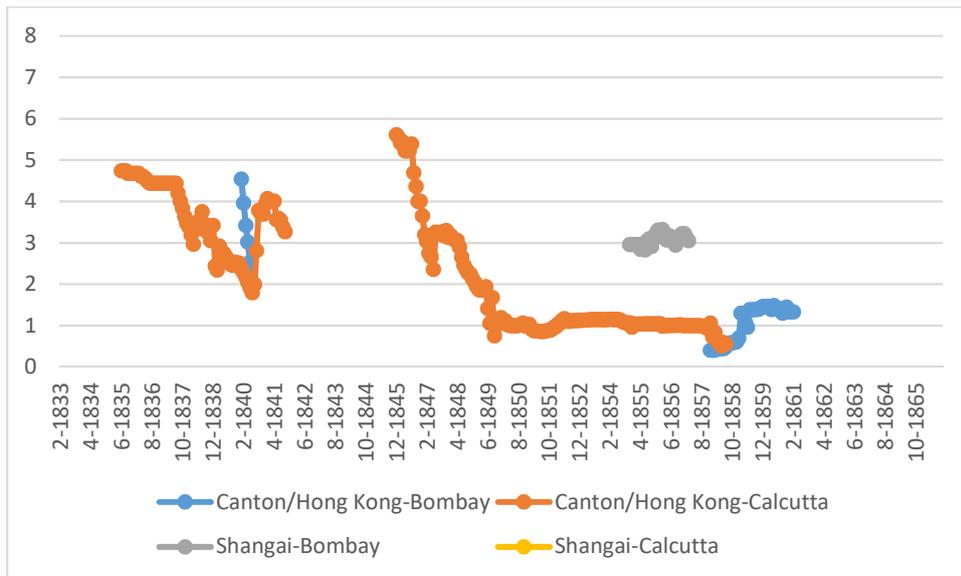
Figure 4

Half-lives (in months) between pairs of cities, January 1827 to December 1870

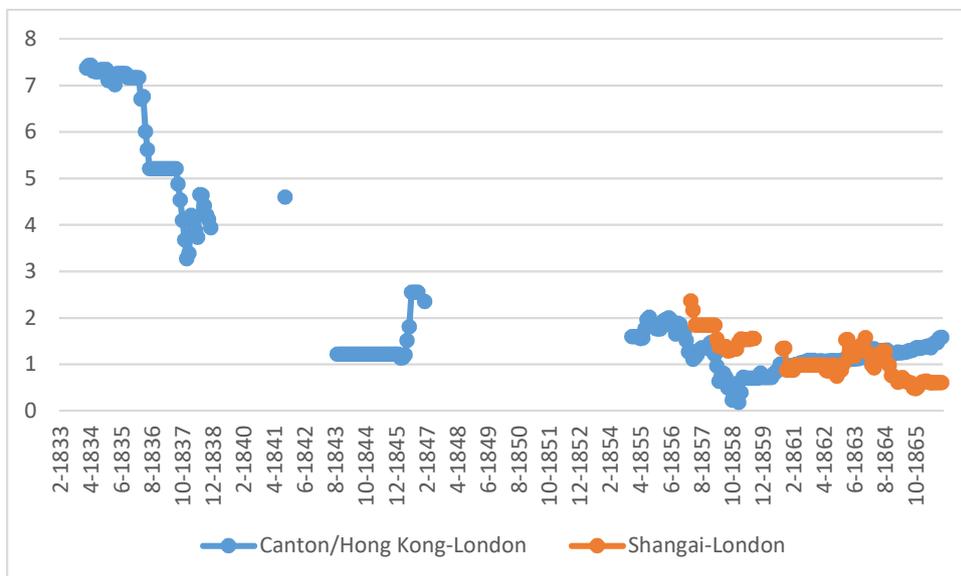
a) India-UK



b) China-India



c) China-UK



Notes: half-life refers to the time it takes for a price dis-equilibrium to be reduced by half. They have been estimated with Equation XX applied to rolling windows of 101 months. The dates on the x-axis refer to the 51st month of the window (the mid-month). Only results significant at the 5% level are shown.

Sources: see the text and appendix.

**Figure 5 Summary of results Silver Specie points in China – UK and Indian cities**

City pairs	Specie/Bullion	Arbitrage Pattern	
		The 1830s-40s	The 1850s-60s
Canton/HK-London	Mexican dollar	Within Band/IM	IM
	Silver bar	NA	IM
Canton/HK-Calcutta	Spanish dollar	IM	NA
	Mexican dollar	Within Band/EX	IM
	Sycee	EX	EX
Canton/HK-Bombay	Spanish dollar	IM	NA
	Mexican dollar	Within Band/EX	IM
	Sycee	EX	EX
Shanghai-London	Mexican dollar	NA	IM
	Silver bar	NA	IM
Shanghai-Calcutta	Mexican dollar	NA	Within Band/IM
	Sycee	NA	IM
Shanghai-Bombay	Mexican dollar	NA	Within Band/IM
	Sycee	NA	IM

Import orientation    Export orientation    Within Band = no arbitrage  
 /ithin Band/IM = no arbitrage but closer to impo    Within Band/EX = no arbitrage but closer to export

**Figure 6 Calcutta specie and bullion imports from China, 1828-1851 (sicca rupee up to 1835, Company rupee thereafter)**

