

The Private Value of Open-Source Innovation

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 Institutional Background
- 3 Data and Methodology
- 4 Repository Value: Estimation & Summary
- 5 Determinants of Value & Firm Growth
- 6 Conclusion

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- Open-source innovation lacks legal excludability, yet corporate investment is growing.
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- Open-source innovation lacks legal excludability, yet corporate investment is growing.
 - 90% of Fortune 100 companies use GitHub (GitHub Report, 2022).
- The decision to voluntarily freely release valuable intellectual property to the public appears puzzling (Lerner et al., 2006).

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 - Competition concerns
- New data on open-source activities on GitHub creates new opportunities:
 - We compile a comprehensive project-level dataset of public firms' GitHub activity during 2015–2023.
 - Provide a new measure of the economic value of open-source innovations based on stock market reactions to project release (Kogan et al., 2017).

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- Competition and licensing excludability are important drivers of private value, but complementarity with commercialized products is not.
- Releasing valuable projects is associated with substantial firm growth but also creative destruction.

■ Valuing innovation

- R&D (Sougiannis, 1994; Lev and Sougiannis, 1996) Patents (Kogan et al., 2017; Chen et al., 2019); Drugs (Aryal et al., 2022); Trademarks (Desai et al., 2023); Open source (Greenstein and Nagle, 2014; Murciano-Goroff et al., 2021; Robbins et al., 2021; Blind et al., 2021; Hoffmann et al., 2024)

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■ Sources of private value generated by open-source innovation

- Lerner and Tirole (2002) discusses channels including complementarity, talent acquisition, reputation, cost reduction, and inherent excludability, while follow-up research empirically explores these incentives (e.g., Alexy et al. (2018), Nagle (2018), Lin and Maruping (2022))

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■ Technological innovation and growth

- Patents (Kogan et al. (2017); Acemoglu et al. (2018)); Trademarks (Desai et al. (2023)); Open source (Nagle, 2018)

This paper provides evidence that open source innovation is associated with creative destruction

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GitHub repositories

- Meta's PyTorch: ML framework for neural networks, under a permissive BSD license.

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository for PyTorch. At the top, the repository name 'pytorch/pytorch' is highlighted with a red dashed box. The page includes navigation tabs for Code, Issues (5k+), Pull requests (1.1k), Actions, Projects (12), Wiki, Security (1), and Insights. Below these, there's a section for branches and tags, showing 'main' as the selected branch with 4981 branches and 1160 tags. A search bar labeled 'Go to file' is present. The main content area displays a list of recent commits, each with a folder icon, commit message, commit hash, time ago, and commit count. The right sidebar contains an 'About' section with the repository description 'Tensors and Dynamic neural networks in Python with strong GPU acceleration', the website 'pytorch.org', and various tags like 'python', 'machine-learning', 'deep-learning', 'neural-network', 'gpu', 'numpy', 'autograd', and 'tensor'. Below this are links to Readme, View license, Code of conduct, Security policy, Cite this repository, Activity, Custom properties, 86.4k stars, 1.8k watching, 23.3k forks, and Report repository. At the bottom of the sidebar, the 'Releases' section shows 'PyTorch 2.6.0 Release' as the latest version, released 3 days ago.

Folder	Commit Message	Commit Hash	Time Ago	Commits
.ci	Update TorchBench commit to main (#145455)	a44a8a7	yesterday	83,940
.circleci	Binary upload checksum (#144887)		yesterday	
.ctags.d	Add a .ctags.d/ toplevel directory (#18827)		6 years ago	
.devcontainer	Support CUDA nightly package in tools/nightly.py (#131133)		7 months ago	
.github	[audio hash update] update the pinned audio hash (#145988)		31 minutes ago	
.vscode	Remove lint dependency of #132573		7 months ago	
android	PEP585 update - .ci android aten (#145177)		2 weeks ago	
aten	[mps] Move polygamma to special_math.h (#146253)		7 hours ago	
benchmarks	Update TorchBench commit to main (#145455)		yesterday	
binaries	[CMake] Delete Caffe2 inspect_gpu binary (#146105)		2 days ago	
c10	[mps/inductor] Implement support for polygamma0. (#1462...		3 hours ago	
caffe2	Add option to serialization config to reduce random reads fr...		yesterday	
cmake	Build RowwiseScaledMM.cu for SM89 (#145676)		17 hours ago	
docs	Revert "[CUDA][cuBLAS] Add fp16 accumulate option to cuB...		yesterday	

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pytorch / pytorch Public

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Code Issues 5k+ Pull requests 1.1k Actions Projects 12 Wiki Security 1 Insights

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Code

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About

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pytorch.org

python machine-learning deep-learning neural-network gpu numpy autograd tensor

Readme View license Code of conduct Security policy Cite this repository Activity Custom properties 86.4k stars 1.8k watching 23.3k forks Report repository

Releases 58

PyTorch 2.6.0 Release Latest 3 days ago

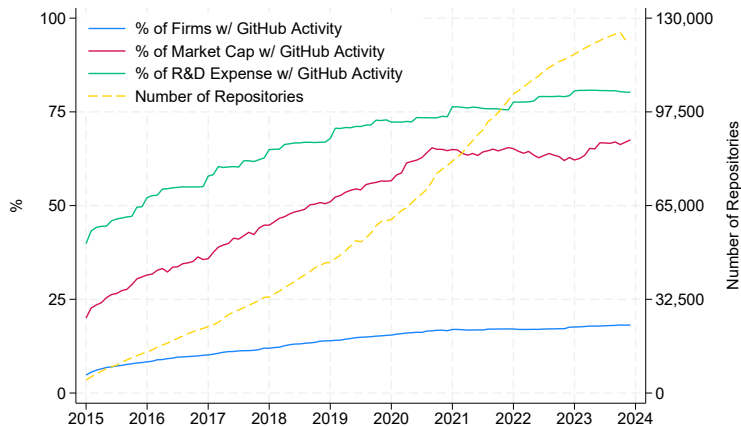
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- Match GitHub organization accounts (GHTorrent and GitHub API) to US public firms via website domains (Compustat and Orbis) and manual search.
 - 1,281 firms, 3,314 organization accounts, and 168,085 public repositories during 2015-2023.
- Timestamped public activity on GitHub from GHArchive
 - Identify the timestamps associated with the earliest activity, labeled as "Public Event."
- Static repository characteristics as of February, 2024, from the GitHub API, including licenses and number of stars.
- Large language models to classify or evaluate repositories based on topics, complementarity, and novelty (GPT-4o model).

► Examples

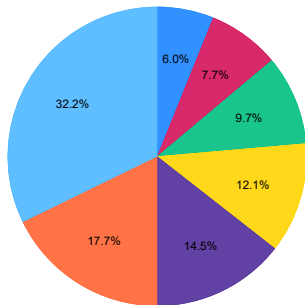
Trend of firms with GitHub activity



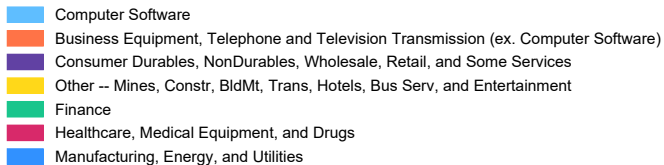
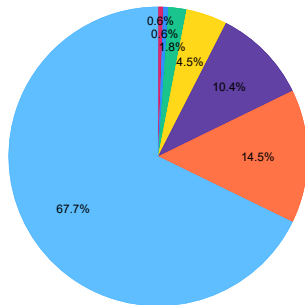
- GitHub firms are an important part of the US economy
- GitHub participation rate: 4.8% (2015) to 18.1% (2023)
- 122,107 repositories, 67.5% of market cap, 80.2% of total R&D expenditure

Industry distribution of open-source engagement

% of Firms w/ GitHub



% of Repositories



Characteristics of firms with/without GitHub activity

	GitHub Firms		Non-GitHub Firms	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Market Capitalization	32,220,913	3,743,408	1,418,477	71,523
Employees	32.5	4.7	7.9	1.1
Number of Patents	1,264	13	67	0
Investment	3.34%	2.06%	7.06%	4.30%
Market-to-Book	6.26	3.49	2.69	1.55
Return-on-Assets	-1.39%	2.26%	-1.35%	3.25%
Annual Returns	14.41%	6.50%	15.21%	5.74%
Sales Growth	14.93%	9.11%	17.27%	8.88%
Tangibility	14.87%	9.02%	27.35%	20.86%
R&D Exp / Total Assets	8.22%	4.79%	3.99%	0.00%
Market Power	3.13	2.21	2.29	1.64
Scope	11	10	8	7
Product Market Centrality	0.0043	0.0024	0.0086	0.0039
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- In regression, firm fixed effects absorb differences

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- Abnormal trading volume on repository announcements for large firms.

► Figure

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- Results are robust to using $[t - 2, t + 2]$, $[t]$, or R_i .

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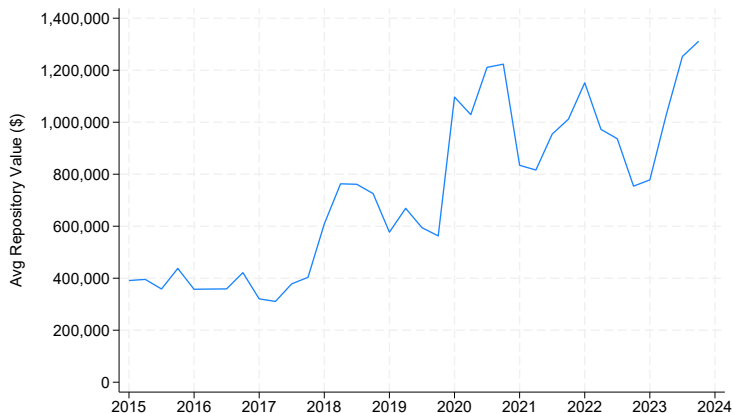
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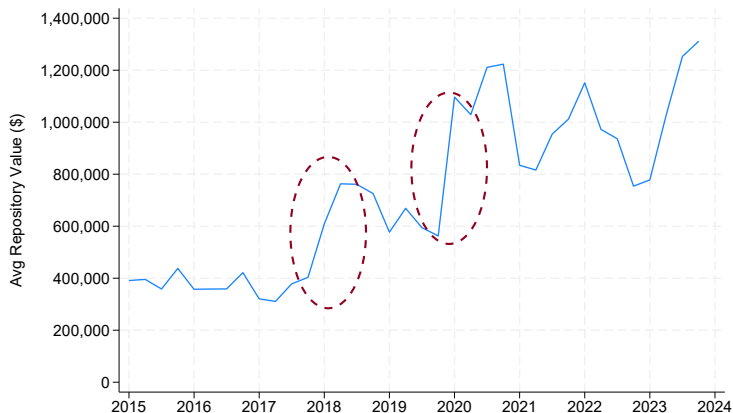
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- Using LLM for topic classification, ML & AI repositories produce most value.

Average estimated repository value by quarter



- The average value grew from \$400,000 (2015) to \$1,300,000 (2023)

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- Microsoft's acquisition of GitHub (2018) & COVID shutdown (2020)

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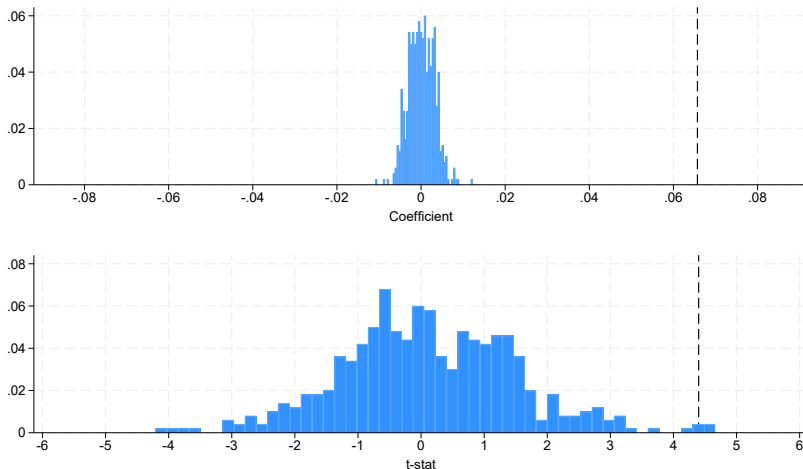
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 - ① Regress repository value on its future popularity
 - ▶ Measure popularity using the number of stars (bookmarks)
 - ▶ More-valuable repositories are significantly more popular in the future [▶ Table](#)

Validating our measure

- Do the value estimates contain actual information?
- Two validation tests to ensure that we capture v (investor reaction), not ϵ (noise):
 - ① Regress repository value on its future popularity
 - ▶ Measure popularity using the number of stars (bookmarks)
 - ▶ More-valuable repositories are significantly more popular in the future [▶ Table](#)
 - ② Placebo test using randomly generated repository announcement dates
 - ▶ 500 iterations, repeating the previous test each time
 - ▶ Compare the distribution of coefficients and t-stats to the true values

Placebo test



■ Randomly assigned release date in the same year (500 iterations)

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- 5 Determinants of Value & Firm Growth**
- 6 Conclusion

Determinants: Repository characteristics

Dep. var. = $\ln(\xi)$	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
$\ln(\text{Stars} + 1)$	0.090*** (0.017)	0.088*** (0.019)	0.054** (0.021)	0.099*** (0.022)	0.097** (0.033)
Copyleft License	0.089*** (0.019)				0.105** (0.038)
Other License	0.037 (0.027)				0.019 (0.025)
Complementarity		-0.302*** (0.071)			-0.221*** (0.048)
Novelty			0.499*** (0.093)		0.379*** (0.092)
$\ln(\text{Repo Size} + 1)$				-0.026** (0.008)	-0.014 (0.014)
Observations	28,690	28,690	28,690	28,690	28,690
Adj. R^2	0.819	0.821	0.820	0.819	0.825
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Industry x Year FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Controls: repository popularity, market capitalization, volatility, employees, and total patent value. Column (8) adds N Repos, Template, and N Issues Opened.

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Controls: repository popularity, market capitalization, volatility, employees, and total patent value. Column (8) adds N Repos, Template, and N Issues Opened.

Determinants: Product market characteristics

Dep. var. = $\ln(\xi)$	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
$\ln(\text{Stars} + 1)$	0.068*** (0.013)	0.078*** (0.014)	0.065*** (0.013)	0.070*** (0.013)	0.069*** (0.014)	0.064*** (0.014)
Market Power	0.102*** (0.018)					0.067*** (0.019)
Product Market Centrality		0.017 (0.011)				0.135*** (0.022)
Scope			-0.149*** (0.018)			-0.100*** (0.019)
Product Market Similarity				-0.088 (0.047)		-0.010 (0.032)
Product Market Fluidity					-0.158*** (0.022)	-0.131** (0.044)
Observations	23,735	23,735	23,735	23,735	23,735	23,735
Adj. R ²	0.824	0.821	0.825	0.822	0.824	0.827
Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Industry x Year FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Controls: repository popularity, market capitalization, volatility, employees, and total patent value

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Industry x Year FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Controls: repository popularity, market capitalization, volatility, employees, and total patent value

Repository values and firm output

$$\ln Y_{f,t+k} - \ln Y_{f,t} = \beta_k \text{Repo Output}_{f,t} + \gamma_k \text{Repo Output}_{I \setminus f,t} + \psi_k X_{f,t} + \epsilon_{f,t+k}$$

- Does open source innovation by a firm contribute to future growth for that firm?
 - Regress Y growth for year $t+1, t+2, t+3$ on repository value and patent value at t
 - Y : sales, profits, labor, proprietary innovation output (patents)
- Does open source innovation by a firm's competitors affect the future growth of that firm?
 - Open-source innovation by competitors is freely accessible
 - Open-source innovation by competitors may be difficult to implement (inherent excludability)

Repository values and firm output (firm)

	Firm (Horizon)		
	1	2	3
<i>Panel A: Sales</i>			
<i>Repo Output</i>	0.015*** (0.002)	0.033*** (0.006)	0.051** (0.018)
<i>Panel B: Profits</i>			
<i>Repo Output</i>	0.019*** (0.003)	0.036*** (0.007)	0.055*** (0.013)
<i>Panel C: Labor</i>			
<i>Repo Output</i>	0.015*** (0.002)	0.028*** (0.007)	0.041** (0.012)
<i>Panel D: Value of Patents</i>			
<i>Repo Output</i>	0.049*** (0.009)	0.102*** (0.018)	0.150*** (0.028)
<i>Panel E: Number of Patents</i>			
<i>Repo Output</i>	0.043*** (0.010)	0.072*** (0.013)	0.113*** (0.019)
Controls	✓	✓	✓
Industry FE	✓	✓	✓
Year FE	✓	✓	✓

Controls: one lag of dependent variable, firm capital, the number of employees, idiosyncratic volatility, patent outputs of both the firm/competitors

- Firms engaging in more-valuable open-source innovation have higher growth rates
- Patent outputs on growth: 5.4% (sales), 5.9% (Profits), 2.6% (Labor)

Repository values and firm output (competitors)

	Competitors (Horizon)		
	1	2	3
<i>Panel A: Sales</i>			
<i>Repo Output</i>	−0.002 (0.012)	−0.006 (0.018)	−0.027 (0.014)
<i>Panel B: Profits</i>			
<i>Repo Output</i>	−0.012 (0.008)	−0.029** (0.011)	−0.040*** (0.009)
<i>Panel C: Labor</i>			
<i>Repo Output</i>	−0.005 (0.003)	−0.011 (0.007)	−0.014** (0.005)
<i>Panel D: Value of Patents</i>			
<i>Repo Output</i>	−0.014 (0.015)	−0.036 (0.020)	−0.048* (0.020)
<i>Panel E: Number of Patents</i>			
<i>Repo Output</i>	−0.014** (0.006)	−0.037*** (0.006)	−0.049** (0.014)
Controls	✓	✓	✓
Industry FE	✓	✓	✓
Year FE	✓	✓	✓

Controls: one lag of dependent variable, firm capital, the number of employees, idiosyncratic volatility, patent outputs of both the firm/competitors

- Competitors' open-source innovation is associated with creative destruction
- Note: Our results do not consider the public value of open-source innovation

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- We compile a comprehensive dataset of open-source activities on GitHub, and estimate their **private** value based on stock market reaction.
- Private value generated by open-source innovation totals \$25B, with the computer software industry and AI-related innovation contributing the most.
- Key Determinants of Open-Source Project Value:
 - Inherent excludability and innovation novelty are valued more than permissiveness and complementarity to commercial products.
 - Firms generate less value from open-source projects in highly competitive markets.
- The private value of open-source innovation predicts long-term firm growth and is associated with creative destruction on average.

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An example of a GitHub repository: Meta's PyTorch

- Open-source ML framework under a permissive BSD license, widely used for deep learning applications.
- How PyTorch Benefits Meta:
 - **Industry Standard:** Adopted by AI leaders (e.g., Tesla, OpenAI, Microsoft), reinforcing Meta's influence in AI.
 - **AI Talent Pipeline:** Researchers and engineers trained on PyTorch reduce onboarding and training costs for Meta.
 - **Ecosystem Control:** Meta directs PyTorch's development, ensuring compatibility with its AI infrastructure (e.g., MTIA chips).
 - **Community Contributions:** External companies enhance PyTorch at no cost to Meta, driving innovation.
- Strategic Trade-off: Competitors benefit, but Meta gains AI standardization, research leadership, and talent acquisition.

Examples of complementarity and novelty

■ Complementarity

- WhatsApp StringPacks - 0
 - ▶ Stores translation strings in a more efficient binary format for Android applications.
- WhatsApp Stickers - 0.8
 - ▶ API for creating third-party sticker packs for WhatsApp.

■ Novelty

- LinkedInLearning - 0.1
 - ▶ Exercises associated with courses on the LinkedIn Learning platform.
- AlphaFold - 0.8
 - ▶ Google AI that predicts a protein's 3D structure, developed by 2024 Chemistry Nobel Prize winners.

GitHub activity across industries

	% GitHub	Number of Repositories								Total	N Firms
		Mean	Std	p25	p50	p75	p90	p95	p99		
Total	18.1%	30.9	430.1	0	0	0	17	62	425	122,971	3,982
Computer Software	62.6%	226.5	1298.7	0	13	82	340	657	4551	82,896	366
Consumer Products	19.0%	23.6	393.4	0	0	0	13	36	197	12,757	541
Manufacturing, Energy, and Utilities	7.5%	1.2	6.4	0	0	0	0	6	38	6961	575
Business Equipment (ex. Computer Software)	34.9%	49.1	229.6	0	0	8	87	156	1253	17,726	361
Other	20.6%	13.3	65.8	0	0	0	14	46	336	5,558	418
Finance	10.8%	3.4	17.3	0	0	0	2	18	93	2,173	636
Healthcare	6.4%	0.8	5.7	0	0	0	0	2	24	720	861

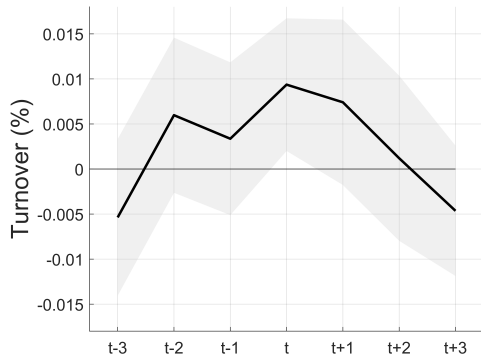
Determinants of open-source activity

	(1) GitHub	(2) GitHub	(3) Commits	(4) Commits
ln(Mkt Cap)	0.087*** (0.018)	0.016* (0.009)	1.127*** (0.272)	0.026 (0.223)
ln(Employees)	0.003 (0.011)	0.024 (0.019)	-0.092 (0.248)	0.532* (0.273)
ln(N Patents + 1)	0.043*** (0.012)	0.017 (0.042)	0.613*** (0.138)	0.035 (0.249)
Market-to-Book	0.014* (0.008)	0.002 (0.003)	-0.025 (0.050)	0.081* (0.047)
Return-on-Assets	-0.008* (0.004)	0.002 (0.002)	-0.178*** (0.060)	0.017 (0.049)
Investment	0.002 (0.004)	-0.000 (0.002)	0.014 (0.128)	0.101 (0.101)
Return (t-12 to t-1)	-0.007*** (0.002)	-0.003*** (0.001)	-0.072** (0.031)	-0.041** (0.017)
Sales Growth	-0.001 (0.004)	-0.001 (0.002)	0.065 (0.042)	-0.060* (0.036)
Tangibility	-0.003 (0.010)	-0.010 (0.007)	0.130 (0.174)	-0.015 (0.178)
R&D Exp/Total Assets	0.029** (0.012)	-0.003 (0.005)	0.280* (0.149)	0.056 (0.091)

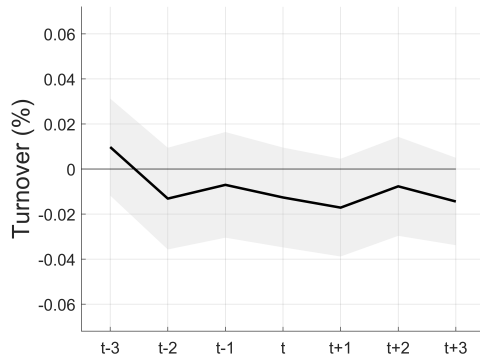
R&D Exp Missing	-0.041** (0.018)	-0.014 (0.016)	0.416* (0.234)	-0.777*** (0.218)
Market Power	0.009 (0.007)	0.001 (0.004)	0.215*** (0.044)	-0.117*** (0.030)
Scope	-0.005 (0.010)	0.003 (0.005)	0.066 (0.122)	-0.050 (0.085)
Product Market Centrality	-0.037** (0.016)	-0.001 (0.015)	-0.472** (0.213)	0.168* (0.092)
Product Market Similarity	0.002 (0.017)	-0.005 (0.011)	0.149 (0.239)	-0.078** (0.034)
Product Market Fluidity	0.009 (0.007)	-0.006* (0.003)	0.120** (0.052)	-0.079* (0.046)
Observations	208,528	208,513	26,422	26,413
Adj. R ²	0.331	0.866	0.327	0.781
Industry x Time FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Firm FE		✓		✓
Sample	All firms	All firms	GitHub = 1	GitHub = 1

► Back

Share turnover around repository announcements



(A) Large Firms



(B) Small Firms

- Measurable trading reaction to repository announcements for large firms.

Estimating repository value (continued)

- $E[v_i|R_i]$ is the expected return attributable to the repository announcement conditional on observing the three-day market-adjusted return.
- Assuming $v_i \sim \mathcal{N}^+(0, \sigma_{vft}^2)$ and $\varepsilon_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{\varepsilon ft}^2)$, the conditional expected return is

$$E[v_i|R_i] = \delta R_i + \sqrt{\delta} \sigma_{\varepsilon ft} \frac{\phi\left(-\sqrt{\delta} \frac{R_i}{\sigma_{\varepsilon ft}}\right)}{1 - \Phi\left(-\sqrt{\delta} \frac{R_i}{\sigma_{\varepsilon ft}}\right)},$$

- δ is the signal-to-noise ratio.

Estimating repository value (continued)

- We adopt the same simplifying assumption as Kogan et al. (2017) that δ is the same for all firms and all time periods.
 - This assumption still allows σ_{vft}^2 and $\sigma_{\varepsilon ft}^2$ to vary across firms and time, but only in constant proportion.
- To estimate δ , we compare the variance of returns in the announcement window to that of returns over other three-day periods for the same firm within the same year:

$$\ln(R_{fd}^2) = \gamma I_{fd} + \lambda_{dow} + \eta_{fy} + u_{fd},$$

where R_{fd} is the three-day cumulative market-adjusted return for firm f on day d , I_{fd} is an indicator variable that equals one if there is a repository announcement by firm f on day d .

Estimation of noise-to-signal ratio (continued)

- The estimated $\hat{\delta}$ can be calculated from the resulting estimate $\hat{\lambda}$ as $\hat{\delta} = 1 - e^{-\hat{\gamma}}$.
- Finally, we estimate $\sigma_{\varepsilon ft}^2$ for each firm within each year as

$$\sigma_{\varepsilon ft}^2 = \frac{3\sigma_{ft}^2}{1 + 3d_{ft}(e^{-\hat{\gamma}} - 1)},$$

where d_{ft} is the fraction of days in the given year that are announcement days for firm f and σ_{ft}^2 is the variance of daily market-adjusted returns calculated within each firm for each year.

Summary of repository values (continued)

	Mean	Std	p1	p5	p10	p25	p50	p75	p90	p95	p99	N
R	0.12%	3.49%	-9.17%	-4.59%	-3.06%	-1.31%	0.04%	1.48%	3.47%	5.03%	10.13%	29,543
E[r R]	0.27%	0.31%	0.01%	0.03%	0.04%	0.06%	0.14%	0.39%	0.68%	0.89%	1.36%	29,543
ξ	842,849	1,044,529	1,637	9,514	23,006	140,577	562,022	1,146,063	1,953,618	2,742,288	5,161,436	29,543
Stars	212.2	2,226.6	0	0	0	2	10	44	207	565	3,752	29,543
Complementarity	0.41	0.29	0	0	0	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	29,508
Novelty	0.26	0.14	0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	29,529
Repo Size	31,322.1	282,597.8	5	14	27	113	808	6,374	39,712	100,330	526,113	29,535
N Issues Opened	56.0	1,098.4	0	0	0	0	1	8	43	123	814	29,543

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Repository value by industry

	Total ξ	Mean ξ	Median ξ	N Repos	% Permissive
Computer Software	13,472,579,594	781,835	463,577	17,232	68.3%
Consumer Products	7,911,507,157	1,090,190	892,361	7,257	88.7%
Business Equipment (ex. Computer Software)	3,091,412,879	961,559	232,003	3,215	49.4%
Other	181,271,280	345,938	216,893	524	65.3%
Finance	89,538,721	255,825	140,748	350	77.7%
Healthcare	51,579,235	531,745	269,625	97	41.2%

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Firms with the most valuable GitHub portfolios

	Portfolio ξ	Mean ξ	Median ξ	N Repos	% Permissive
Amazon.com Inc	7,814,250,435	1,145,281	924,267	6,823	91.5%
Microsoft Corp	7,759,843,486	1,129,855	862,161	6,868	72.7%
Meta Platforms Inc	2,280,475,890	1,949,125	1,738,289	1,170	45.0%
Alphabet Inc	1,763,699,392	1,031,403	808,095	1,710	86.8%
NVIDIA Corporation	1,391,421,878	2,394,874	1,868,125	581	49.6%
Apple Inc	1,059,601,598	4,489,837	3,702,204	236	55.1%
Salesforce Inc	495,777,701	477,168	361,598	1,039	74.4%
Adobe Inc	225,007,179	646,572	578,176	348	77.6%
International Business Machines Corp	211,208,262	344,549	334,237	613	51.7%
Oracle Corp	206,261,704	661,095	612,226	312	71.2%
...
Total	24,900,292,747	842,849	562,022	29,543	70.7%

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Most valuable programming languages

	Total ξ	Mean ξ	Median ξ	N Repos	% Permissive
Python	6,853,266,877	1,154,526	826,076	5,936	75.1%
TypeScript	1,924,509,635	834,928	623,765	2,305	80.2%
JavaScript	1,738,402,866	552,927	272,963	3,144	72.2%
Jupyter Notebook	1,565,510,149	1,302,421	941,121	1,202	79.9%
C#	1,256,454,230	794,721	565,036	1,581	71.8%
Java	1,216,853,117	640,112	414,790	1,901	74.8%
C++	974,203,192	987,035	669,700	987	66.6%
Shell	782,874,993	794,797	555,364	985	73.4%
Go	754,409,476	517,428	228,037	1,458	80.0%
HTML	605,445,891	663,866	363,772	912	59.4%

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Repository value by topic (continued)

	Mean ξ	Median ξ	Total ξ	Mean Topic Score	N Repos	% Permissive
Core AI and ML	880,828	623,525	2,850,360,153	0.60	3,236	70.3%
AI Applications	824,267	584,499	2,853,612,365	0.58	3,462	70.4%
Digital Media	618,571	359,345	1,214,874,229	0.60	1,964	64.2%
Education and Learning	548,422	369,979	1,188,979,071	0.51	2,168	52.1%
Advanced Data Analysis	488,397	330,059	1,933,075,386	0.44	3,958	74.3%
Cloud Infrastructure and DevOps	482,957	360,650	5,319,776,510	0.56	11,015	82.9%
Security	425,193	261,813	1,436,727,161	0.53	3,379	77.2%
Configuration and Templates	370,301	258,140	856,135,980	0.45	2,312	81.8%
Development Tools	361,109	203,698	1,926,875,938	0.48	5,336	75.1%
OS and Platforms	356,741	180,554	682,089,698	0.47	1,912	58.3%
General Data Handling	325,652	211,294	2,492,538,843	0.38	7,654	76.2%
Software Engineering	322,105	206,260	5,649,729,492	0.40	17,540	73.7%
Back-End Web Development	308,481	171,495	587,655,412	0.46	1,905	66.6%
Front-End Web Development	303,391	141,752	700,226,773	0.48	2,308	64.5%
Documentation	277,836	156,394	1,188,581,911	0.39	4,278	67.9%
Community and Governance	275,448	126,018	91,173,314	0.33	331	65.9%

Repository value and future popularity

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
ln(Stars + 1)	0.123*** (0.023)	0.107*** (0.022)	0.089*** (0.015)	0.074*** (0.021)	0.066*** (0.015)
ln(Mkt Cap)	1.815*** (0.115)	1.803*** (0.117)	1.734*** (0.064)	1.827*** (0.070)	1.667*** (0.132)
ln(Volatility)	0.406*** (0.056)	0.596*** (0.049)	0.620*** (0.035)	0.463*** (0.022)	
ln(Employees)	-0.289* (0.151)	0.102 (0.146)	0.196*** (0.053)	-0.157*** (0.046)	
ln(Total Patent Value + 1)	0.113 (0.075)	0.050 (0.048)	0.078** (0.029)	0.211*** (0.028)	
Observations	28,388	28,388	28,388	28,388	28,388
Adj. R ²	0.782	0.800	0.813	0.850	0.858
Year FE	✓	✓			
Industry FE		✓			
Industry x Year FE			✓	✓	
Firm FE				✓	
Firm x Year FE					✓

- Valuable repositories are more popular in the future

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Robustness tests

	(1) Ex. Amazon, Microsoft, Alphabet	(2) Dep. = One-day ξ	(3) Dep. = R
ln(Stars + 1)	0.104*** (0.012)	0.088*** (0.015)	0.057* (0.027)
ln(Mkt Cap)	1.934*** (0.011)	1.781*** (0.065)	-0.200** (0.076)
ln(Volatility)	0.446*** (0.006)	0.608*** (0.036)	0.029 (0.036)
ln(Employees)	0.051** (0.017)	0.185** (0.058)	0.258*** (0.061)
ln(Total Patent Value + 1)	-0.009 (0.015)	0.067** (0.028)	-0.003 (0.050)
Observations	13,330	28,732	28,732
Adj. R ²	0.876	0.820	0.070
Industry x Year FE	✓	✓	✓