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Switching Costs and Network Compatibility

Jiawei Chen

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Highlights

- This paper studies how switching costs affect network compatibility and welfare.
- Switching costs tend to induce firms to make their networks compatible.
- There is a tradeoff between consumer mobility and network compatibility.
- A switching costs reduction policy alone results in small efficiency gains at best.
- Combining the policy with mandatory compatibility can lead to sizable efficiency gains.

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