# The Inequality of Climate Change and Optimal Energy Policy

Thomas Bourany
The University of Chicago

Yiran Fan Memorial Conference

April 2024

➤ To fight climate change the preferred policy instrument of economists is the Pigouvian taxation of carbon and therefore, fossil fuel energy.

- ➤ To fight climate change the preferred policy instrument of economists is the Pigouvian taxation of carbon and therefore, fossil fuel energy.
- ► However, energy taxation and climate policy redistribute across countries through
  - (i) energy markets, between importer and exporters
  - (ii) change in climate, benefit from warming vs. catastrophic condition
  - (iii) reallocation of activity through trade, the leakage effect
  - (+) higher income countries not exposed as much as developing economies.

- ➤ To fight climate change the preferred policy instrument of economists is the Pigouvian taxation of carbon and therefore, fossil fuel energy.
- ► However, energy taxation and climate policy redistribute across countries through
  - (i) energy markets, between importer and exporters
  - (ii) change in climate, benefit from warming vs. catastrophic condition
  - (iii) reallocation of activity through trade, the leakage effect
  - (+) higher income countries not exposed as much as developing economies.
- As a result, different countries are affected differently by carbon taxation,
  - ⇒ What is the optimal carbon policy in the presence of climate externality and inequality?
  - Optimal taxation design depends crucially on redistribution instruments i.e. lump-sum transfers across countries

- ▶ What is the optimal carbon policy in the presence of climate externality and inequality?
- ► Study an Integrated Assessment Model (IAM) with heterogeneous countries to:
  - Evaluate the welfare costs of global warming (Social Cost of Carbon)
  - Solve for the optimal Ramsey policy for carbon taxation
  - Analyze the strategic implications of joining/designing climate agreements
  - o Provide a numerical methodology for this Het. Agents model

- ▶ What is the optimal carbon policy in the presence of climate externality and inequality?
- ► Study an Integrated Assessment Model (IAM) with heterogeneous countries to:
  - Evaluate the welfare costs of global warming (Social Cost of Carbon)
  - Solve for the optimal Ramsey policy for carbon taxation
  - Analyze the strategic implications of joining/designing climate agreements
  - Provide a numerical methodology for this Het. Agents model
- Preview of the results:
  - Social Cost of Carbon need to be adjusted for inequality level
  - Taxation of energy also account for supply and demand elasticity
  - Country-specific taxes: poorer countries will pay relatively lower taxes

#### Literature

- Climate change & optimal carbon taxation
  - RA model: Nordhaus DICE (1996-), Weitzman (2014), Golosov et al (2014)
  - HA model: Krusell Smith (2022), Kotlikoff, Kubler, Polbin, Scheidegger (2021)
  - Spatial models: Cruz, Rossi-Hansberg (2022, 2023) among others
  - ⇒ Optimal and constrained policy with heterogeneous countries & trade
- ▶ Unilateral vs. climate club policies:
  - Climate clubs: Nordhaus (2015), Non-cooperative taxation: Chari, Kehoe (1990), Suboptimal policy: Hassler, Krusell, Olovsson (2019)
  - Trade policy: Kortum, Weisbach (2023), Farrokhi, Lashkaripour (2021), Hsiao (2022), Costinot, Donalson, Vogel, Werning (2015), Adao, Costinot (2022), Antras, Fort, Gutierrez, Tintelnot (2022)
  - ⇒ Climate cooperation and optimal design of climate club
- Optimal policy in heterogeneous agents models
  - Policy with limited instruments: Diamond (1973), Davila, Walther (2022)
  - Bhandari et al (2021), Le Grand, Ragot (2022), Davila, Schaab (2022) ...
  - ⇒ Application to climate and carbon taxation policy

#### Model – Household & Firms

- ► Static deterministic Neoclassical economy (for today)
  - countries  $i \in \mathbb{I}$ , heterogeneous in productivity  $z_i$ , temperature  $T_i$ , energy extraction cost  $C_i$

April 2024

5/21

- In each country, 3 agents:
  - (i) HtM household, (ii) homogeneous good firm, (iii) (fossil) energy producer

#### Model – Household & Firms

- ► Static deterministic Neoclassical economy (for today)
  - countries  $i \in \mathbb{I}$ , heterogeneous in productivity  $z_i$ , temperature  $T_i$ , energy extraction cost  $C_i$
  - In each country, 3 agents:
    - (i) HtM household, (ii) homogeneous good firm, (iii) (fossil) energy producer
- ▶ Representative household problem in each country *i* (passive):

$$\mathcal{V}_i = u(c_i)$$
  $c_i = w_i \ell_i + \pi_i^f + \mathbf{t}_i^{ls}$ 

• Labor income  $w_i \ell_i$  from final good firm (labor supply fixed to  $\bar{\ell}_i$ ), profit  $\pi_i^f$  from fossil firm

#### Model – Household & Firms

- ► Static deterministic Neoclassical economy (for today)
  - countries  $i \in \mathbb{I}$ , heterogeneous in productivity  $z_i$ , temperature  $T_i$ , energy extraction cost  $C_i$
  - In each country, 3 agents:
    - (i) HtM household, (ii) homogeneous good firm, (iii) (fossil) energy producer
- ► Representative household problem in each country *i* (passive):

$$\mathcal{V}_i = u(c_i)$$
  $c_i = w_i \ell_i + \pi_i^f + t_i^{ls}$ 

• Labor income  $w_i \ell_i$  from final good firm (labor supply fixed to  $\bar{\ell}_i$ ), profit  $\pi_i^f$  from fossil firm

April 2024

5/21

Competitive homogeneous good producer in country i

$$\max_{\boldsymbol{e}_{i}^{f}} \mathcal{D}(T_{i}) z_{i} f(\boldsymbol{e}_{i}^{f}, \ell_{i}) - w_{i} \ell_{i} - (q^{f} + \boldsymbol{t}_{i}^{f}) \boldsymbol{e}_{i}^{f}$$

- Fossil energy demand  $e_i^f$  emitting carbon subject to price  $q^f$  and tax/subsidy  $t^f$ .
- Climate externality: effect of temperature on damage/TFP,  $\mathcal{D}(T) \in (0,1)$

#### Model – Energy markets & Emissions

- Competitive fossil fuels energy producer:
  - Supply fossil energy  $e_i^x$  by extraction at cost  $C_i^f$

$$\pi_i^f = \max_{e_i^x} q^f e_i^x - \mathcal{C}_i^f(e_i^x)$$

Energy traded in international markets, at price q<sup>f</sup>

$$E = \sum_{\mathbb{T}} e_i^f = \sum_{\mathbb{T}} e_i^x$$

#### Model – Energy markets & Emissions

- Competitive fossil fuels energy producer:
  - Supply fossil energy  $e_i^x$  by extraction at cost  $C_i^f$

$$\pi_i^f = \max_{e_i^x} q^f e_i^x - \mathcal{C}_i^f(e_i^x)$$

Energy traded in international markets, at price q<sup>f</sup>

$$E = \sum_{\scriptscriptstyle \mathrm{T}} {\color{red} e_i^f} = \sum_{\scriptscriptstyle \mathrm{T}} {\color{red} e_i^x}$$

- Climate system
  - Fossil energy  $e^f$  releases GHGs in the atmosphere

$$\mathcal{E} = \sum_{\scriptscriptstyle \mathrm{T}} e_i^f$$

• Country's local temperature:

$$T_i = \bar{T}_{i0} + \Delta_i \mathcal{E}$$

- Linear model + Climate sensitivity/pattern scaling factor  $\Delta_i$ 

# Model – Equilibrium

#### ► Equilibrium

- Given policies  $\{t_i^f, t_i^{ls}\}_i$ , a **competitive equilibrium** is a set of decisions  $\{c_i, e_i^f, e_i^x\}_i$ , states  $\{T_i\}_i$  and prices  $\{q^f, w_i\}_i$  such that:
- Households choose  $\{c_i\}_i$  to max. utility s.t. budget constraint
- Firm choose policies  $\{e_i^f\}_i$  to max. profit
- Fossil firms extract/produce  $\{e_i^x\}_i$  to max. profit.
- Emissions  $\mathcal{E}_t$  affects climate  $\{T_i\}_i$ .
- Government budget clear  $\sum_{i} t_{i}^{ls} = \sum_{i} t_{i}^{f} e_{i}^{f}$
- Prices  $q^f$  adjust to clear the markets for energy  $\sum_{\mathbb{I}} e_i^x = \sum_{\mathbb{I}} e_i^f$  The good market clearing holds by Walras law

#### Model – Dynamics & extensions

- 1. Firm
  - Use capital as well to produce
  - Use an energy bundle of renewable and fossil energy
- 2. Energy market
  - Renewable energy firm in each country
  - Price of clean energy trending down
  - Fossil energy extraction/depleting reserves ⇒ Hotelling problem
- 3. Households
  - Consumption / saving in bonds / in capital ⇒ Keynes-Ramsey rule
  - International markets to borrow bonds (in zero net supply)
- 4. Climate system with inertia / closer to standard IAMs
- 5. Population growth dynamics (for each country)
- 6. (Exogenous) growth: TFP change and Energy-augmenting Directed TC.

8/21

#### Optimal world policy – Summary of results

- **Equilibrium 0:** Competitive equilibrium Details eq 0
  - Passive policies  $t^f = 0$ , and large cost of climate change
- ► Equilibrium 1: First-Best, with unlimited instruments Details eq 1
  - Welfare:  $W = \max_{\{\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{e}\}_i} \sum_{i \in \mathbb{I}} \omega_i \ u(c_i) = \sum_{\mathbb{I}} W_i$
  - Social Planner redistribute across countries with lump-sum transfers  $t_i^{ls}$
  - Set the optimal Pigouvian carbon tax to  $t^f = SCC$
- ► Equilibrium 2: Second-best Ramsey policy, with limited instruments Details eq 2
  - Optimal carbon tax accounts for (i) inequality and local climate damage, (ii) energy supply elasticities, (iv) energy demand distortions
- ► Equilibrium 3: Countries can exit climate agreements Details eq 3
  - All formulas corrected for participation constraints (multipliers affect distribution weights)
  - Optimal design of climate agreement ⇒ JMP

#### Quantification

- ► Quantification and calibration More details
  - Quadratic damage as in Nordhaus DICE

$$y_i = \mathcal{D}_i(T)\bar{y}$$
 with  $\mathcal{D}_i(T) = e^{-\gamma_i(T-T_{i0})^2}$ 

Energy parameters to match production/reserves, Isoelastic cost function

$$C_i(e_i^x) = \bar{\nu}_i (e_i^x/\mathcal{R}_i)^{1+\nu} \mathcal{R}_i$$

- Cost  $\bar{\nu}_i$  and Reserves  $\mathcal{R}_i$  to match BP data for production and reserve
- Production  $\bar{y} = zf(\ell_i, k_i, e_i^f, e_i^r)$ , labor, capital, fossil, renewable
  - Nested CES energy vs. labor-capital Cobb-Douglas bundle (elasticity  $\sigma_y < 1$ ), and fossil/renewable  $\sigma_e > 1$ .
  - TFP, and DTC,  $z_i, z_i^e$ , calibrated to match GDP / energy shares data.
- Population, from WDI data

# Competitive equilibrium

- ► Key objects:
  - Marginal value of wealth  $\lambda_i^w = u'(c_i)$
  - Marginal value of carbon  $\psi_i^S$  for country i
  - "Local social cost of carbon" (LCC) for region *i*:

$$LCC_{i} := -\frac{\partial \mathcal{V}_{i}/\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial \mathcal{V}_{i}/\partial c_{i}} = \frac{\psi_{i}^{\mathcal{S}}}{\lambda_{i}^{w}} = -\Delta_{i}\mathcal{D}'(T_{i})z_{i}f(e_{i}^{f}) > 0$$

Stationary equilibrium closed-form formula, analogous to GHKT (2014) Closed Form Solution Here

Thomas Bourany (UChicago) Inequality and Climate Policy April 2024

11/21

# First-Best, Optimal policy with transfers

First-Best, Maximizing welfare of the Social Planner:

$$\mathcal{W} = \max_{\{\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{q}\}_i} \sum_{\mathbb{T}} \omega_i \ u(c_i) = \sum_{\mathbb{T}} \mathcal{W}_i$$

• Full set of instruments  $\mathbf{t} = \{t_i^f, t_i^{ls}\}$ , including transfers across countries

12/21

# First-Best, Optimal policy with transfers

First-Best, Maximizing welfare of the Social Planner:

$$\mathcal{W} = \max_{\{\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{q}\}_i} \sum_{\mathbb{T}} \omega_i \ u(c_i) = \sum_{\mathbb{T}} \mathcal{W}_i$$

- Full set of instruments  $\mathbf{t} = \{t_i^f, t_i^{ls}\}$ , including transfers across countries
- Key objects: Local vs. Global Social Cost of Carbon,

$$SCC^{\bar{b}} := -\frac{\partial \mathcal{W}/\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial \mathcal{W}/\partial \bar{c}} = \frac{\psi_t^S}{\lambda_t^w} = \frac{\sum_{\mathbb{I}} \psi_i^S}{\frac{1}{I} \sum_{\mathbb{I}} \lambda_i^w} \qquad \qquad LCC_i := \frac{\partial \mathcal{W}_i/\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial \mathcal{W}_i/\partial c_i} = \frac{\psi_i^S}{\lambda_i^w}$$

#### First-Best, Optimal policy with transfers

► *Proposition 1:* Optimal carbon tax:

$$\mathbf{t}^f = SCC^{fb}$$

• Result as in Representative Agent economy, c.f. Nordhaus DICE (1996), GHKT (2014)

$$SCC^{fb} = \frac{\psi^{S}}{\lambda^{w}} = -\sum_{\mathbb{T}} \frac{\psi_{i}^{S}}{\lambda_{i}^{w}} = \sum_{\mathbb{T}} LCC_{i}$$

Lump-sum transfers redistribute across countries, s.t.

$$\omega_i u'(c_i) = \lambda_i^w = \bar{\lambda}^w = \lambda_i^w = \omega_j u'(c_j) \quad \forall i, j \in \mathbb{I}$$

• Imply cross-countries lump-sum transfers  $\exists i \ s.t. \ t_i^{ls} \ge 0 \ \text{or} \ \exists j \ s.t. \ t_i^{ls} \le 0$ 

# Ramsey policy with limited transfers

- $\triangleright$  Second best without access to lump-sum transfers: choice of a carbon tax  $\{t^f, t^r\}$ 
  - Tax receipts redistributed lump-sum:  $t_i^{ls} = t^f e_i^f$
  - Inequality across regions:

$$\widehat{\lambda}_i^w = \frac{\omega_i \lambda_i^w}{\bar{\lambda}^w} = \frac{\omega_i u'(c_i)}{\frac{1}{I} \sum_{\mathbb{T}} \omega_j u'(c_j)} \leq 1$$

- $\Rightarrow$  ceteris paribus, poorer countries have higher  $\hat{\lambda}_i^w$
- Social Cost of Carbon integrates these inequalities:

$$SCC^{sb} = \sum_{\mathbb{I}} \widehat{\lambda}_{i}^{w} LCC_{i}$$
$$SCC^{sb} = \sum_{\mathbb{I}} LCC_{i} + \mathbb{C}ov_{i}(\widehat{\lambda}_{i}^{w}, LCC_{i})$$

#### Ramsey Problem – Optimal Carbon and Energy Policy

- ► Taxing fossil energy has additional redistributive effects:
  - 1. Through energy markets: distort supply, lowers eq. fossil price, benefit net importers
  - 2. Distort energy demand, of countries that need more or less energy

Supply Distortion<sup>sb</sup> + Demand Distortion<sup>sb</sup> = 
$$C_{EE}^f \mathbb{C}ov_i(\widehat{\lambda}_i, e_i^f - e_i^x) - \mathbb{C}ov_i(\widehat{v}_i, \frac{q^f(1 - s_i^f)}{\sigma e_i})$$

 $\circ$  Params:  $\mathcal{C}_{EF}^f$  agg. fossil supply elasticity,  $s_i^f$  energy cost share and  $\sigma$  energy demand elasticity

Thomas Bourany (UChicago) Inequality and Climate Policy April 2024 15 / 21

#### Ramsey Problem – Optimal Carbon and Energy Policy

- ► Taxing fossil energy has additional redistributive effects:
  - 1. Through energy markets: distort supply, lowers eq. fossil price, benefit net importers
  - 2. Distort energy demand, of countries that need more or less energy

Supply Distortion<sup>sb</sup> + Demand Distortion<sup>sb</sup> = 
$$\underbrace{\mathcal{C}_{EE}^f}_{\text{agg. supply}}\underbrace{\mathbb{C}\text{ov}_i(\widehat{\lambda}_i, \boldsymbol{e}_i^f - \boldsymbol{e}_i^x)}_{\text{terms-of-trade redistribution}} - \underbrace{\mathbb{C}\text{ov}_i(\widehat{v}_i, \frac{q^f(1-s_i^f)}{\sigma e_i})}_{\text{demand distortion}}$$

- $\circ$  Params:  $\mathcal{C}_{EE}^f$  agg. fossil supply elasticity,  $s_i^f$  energy cost share and  $\sigma$  energy demand elasticity
- ▶ *Proposition 2*: Optimal fossil energy tax:

$$\Rightarrow$$
  $t^f = SCC^{sb} + \text{Supply Distortion}^{sb} + \text{Demand Distortion}^{sb}$ 

- Social cost of carbon:  $SCC^{sb} = \sum_{\mathbb{I}} \widehat{\lambda}_{i}^{w} LCC_{i}$ 

15/21

# Step 2: Ramsey Problem – Country-specific energy tax

- ▶ Suppose the planner has access to a *distribution* of carbon price.
- ▶ *Proposition 3:* Optimal country-specific fossil energy tax:

$$\Rightarrow \quad \mathfrak{t}^f = \frac{1}{\widehat{\lambda}_i^w} \left[ SCC^{sb} + \text{Supply Distortion}^{sb} \right]$$

- Social cost of carbon:  $SCC^{sb} = \sum_{\mathbb{I}} \widehat{\lambda}_{i}^{w} LCC_{i}$
- ⇒ Reduce the tax burden for poorer/more "valuable" countries

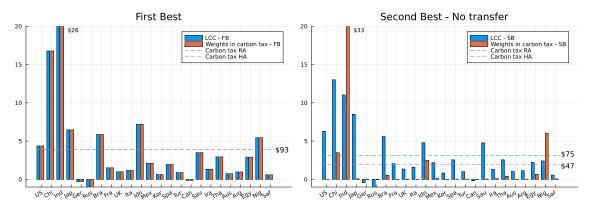
# Step 2: Ramsey Problem – Extensions

- ► Trade block à la Armington Details eq 2
  - Additional trade-off/distortion on goods important for the trade network
- Dynamic consideration (in the paper)
  - Valuation of reserves (Hotelling rent), carbon tax serves as an instrument for intertemporal substitution of fossil production
    - Heal, Schlenker (2019), Cruz, Rossi-Hansberg (2022)
  - Curb capital demand and distort consumption/saving decision, c.f. H.A. models

Thomas Bourany (UChicago) Inequality and Climate Policy April 2024 17/21

#### Local Cost of Carbon & Carbon Tax – First and Second Best

▶ Difference  $LCC_i = \frac{\psi_i^S}{\lambda_i^w}$  vs.  $\widehat{\lambda}_i^w LCC_i = \frac{\psi_i^S}{\lambda_i^w}$  since  $SCC = \sum_{\mathbb{I}} \widehat{\lambda}_i^w LCC_i$ 



Thomas Bourany (UChicago) Inequality and Climate Policy April 2024 18 / 21

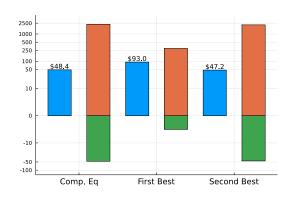
#### Comparison - Value of wealth vs. Social Cost of Carbon

Social Cost of Carbon can be decomposed:

$$SCC := -\frac{\partial \mathcal{W}/\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial \mathcal{W}/\partial c} = \frac{\psi^{\mathcal{S}}}{\bar{\lambda}^{w}} = \frac{\sum_{\mathbb{I}} \psi_{i}^{\mathcal{S}}}{\frac{1}{I} \sum_{\mathbb{I}} \lambda_{i}^{w}}$$

► Here plot that decomposition:

$$\log(SCC_t) = \log(\psi^S) - \log(\lambda^w)$$



Thomas Bourany (UChicago) Inequality and Climate Policy April 2024 19 / 21

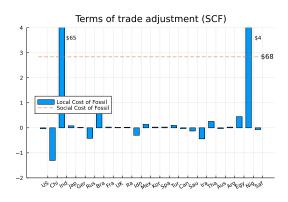
# Local Cost of Fossil and Terms of Trade Adjustment

Social Cost of Fossil Energy:

$$SCF_{t} = \mathcal{C}_{EE}^{f} \sum_{i} \widehat{\lambda}_{it}^{w} \left( e_{it}^{f} - e_{it}^{x} \right) 
\mathcal{C}_{EE}^{f-1} = \sum_{i} \mathcal{C}_{i,e^{x}e^{x}}^{f-1} = \nu \frac{q^{f}}{F}$$

► Here plotting local cost of fossil:

$$LCF_{it} = \widehat{\lambda}_{it}^{w} (e_{it}^{f} - e_{it}^{x})$$



Thomas Bourany (UChicago) Inequality and Climate Policy April 2024 20 / 21

#### Conclusion

- ▶ In this project, I solve for the optimal climate policy
  - Accounting for inequality as it depends on the availability of transfer mechanisms
  - Redistributing through GE effects on energy and good markets ⇒ terms-of-trade effects
  - Additional trade-related and dynamic motives co-funded in energy taxation
- ► Incentives and implementability
  - What if some countries deviate from apply the appropriate energy tax?
  - Game theoretical consideration due to participation constraints
  - Implementation of a "climate club": penalty tariffs for non-participants crucial for enforcing carbon policy
  - ⇒ Job Market Paper: "The Optimal Design of Climate Agreements"

# **Appendices**

#### Step 0: Competitive equilibrium & Trade

- Each household in country i maximize utility and firms maximize profit
- Standard trade model results:
  - Consumption and trade:

$$s_{ij} = \frac{c_{ij}p_{ij}}{c_{i}\mathbb{P}_{i}} = a_{ij}\frac{(d_{ij}(1+t_{ij}^{b})p_{j})^{1-\theta}}{\sum_{k} a_{ik}(d_{ik}(1+t_{ik}^{b})p_{k})^{1-\theta}} \qquad \qquad \& \qquad \mathbb{P}_{i} = \left(\sum_{j} a_{ij}(d_{ij}p_{j})^{1-\theta}\right)^{\frac{1}{1-\theta}}$$

Energy consumption doesn't internalize climate damage:

$$p_iMPe_i=q^e$$

• Inequality, as measured in local welfare units:

$$\lambda_i = u'(c_i)$$

"Local Social Cost of Carbon", for region i

$$LCC_{i} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{W}_{i}/\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial \mathcal{W}_{i}/\partial w_{i}} = \frac{\psi_{i}^{\mathcal{E}}}{\lambda_{i}} = -\Delta_{i}\mathcal{D}'(T_{i})z_{i}f(e_{i}^{f})\frac{\mathbf{p}_{i}}{\mathbb{P}_{i}}$$
 (> 0 if heat causes losses)



Thomas Bourany (UChicago)

# Step 1: World First-best policy

► Maximizing welfare of the world Social Planner:

$$\mathcal{W} = \max_{\{\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{q}\}_i} \sum_{i \in \mathbb{I}} \omega_i \ u(c_i) = \sum_{\mathbb{I}} \mathcal{W}_i$$

- Full array of instruments: cross-countries lump-sum transfers  $\mathbf{t}_i^{ls}$ , individual carbon taxes  $\mathbf{t}_i^f$  on energy  $e_i^f$ , bilateral tariffs  $\mathbf{t}_{ii}^b$
- Budget constraint:  $\sum_i t_i^{ls} = \sum_i t_i^f e_i^f + \sum_{i,j} t_{ij}^b c_{ij} d_{ij} p_j$
- ► Maximize welfare subject to
  - Market clearing for good  $[\mu_i]$ , market clearing for energy  $\mu^e$

back

Thomas Bourany (UChicago) Inequality and Climate Policy April 2024

3 / 15

# Step 1: World First-best policy

- Social planner results:
  - Consumption:

$$\omega_i u'(c_i) = \left[\sum_j a_{ij} (d_{ij}\omega_j \mu_j)^{1-\theta}\right]^{\frac{1}{1-\theta}}$$

• Energy use:

$$\omega_i \mu_i MPe_i = \mu^e + SCC$$

Social cost of carbon:

$$SCC = -\frac{\sum_{j} \Delta_{j} \omega_{j} \mu_{j} \mathcal{D}'_{j}(T_{j}) \bar{y}_{j}}{\frac{1}{I} \sum_{j} \omega_{j} \mu_{j}}$$

back

# Step 2: World optimal Ramsey policy

► Maximizing welfare of the world Social Planner:

$$\mathcal{W} = \max_{\{\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{q}\}_i} \sum_{i \in \mathbb{I}} \omega_i \ u(c_i) = \sum_{\mathbb{I}} \mathcal{W}_i$$

- One single instrument: uniform carbon tax  $t^f$  on energy  $e_i^f$
- Rebate tax lump-sum to HHs  $t_i^{ls} = t^f e_i^f$
- ▶ Ramsey policy: Primal approach, maximize welfare subject to
  - Budget constraint  $[\lambda_i]$ , Market clearing for good  $[\mu_i]$ , market clearing for energy
  - Optimality (FOC) conditions for good demands  $[\eta_{ij}]$ , energy demand & supply, etc.
  - Trade-off faced by the planner:
    - (i) Correcting externality, (ii) Redistributive effect, (iii) Distort energy demand and supply

back

# Step 2: World optimal Ramsey policy

- ► The planner takes into account
  - (i) the marginal value of wealth  $\lambda_i$
  - (ii) the shadow value of good i, from market clearing,  $\mu_i$ :

w/o trade 
$$\omega_i u'(c_i) = \omega_i \lambda_i$$
 vs. w/ trade in goods: 
$$\omega_i u'(c_i) = \Big(\sum_{i \in \mathbb{T}} a_{ij} (d_{ij} \mathbf{p}_j)^{1-\theta} \Big[\omega_i \lambda_i + \omega_j \mu_j + \eta_{ij} (1-s_{ij})\Big]^{1-\theta}\Big)^{\frac{1}{1-\theta}}$$

Relative welfare weights, representing inequality

w/o trade: 
$$\widehat{\lambda}_i = \frac{\omega_i \lambda_i}{\overline{\lambda}} = \frac{\omega_i u'(c_i)}{\frac{1}{I} \sum_{\mathbb{I}} \omega_j u'(c_j)} \leq 1 \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad \text{ceteris paribus, poorer}$$
vs. w/ trade: 
$$\widehat{\lambda}_i = \frac{\omega_i (\lambda_i + \mu_i)}{\frac{1}{I} \sum_{\mathbb{I}} \omega_i (\lambda_i + \mu_i)} \leq 1$$

#### Step 2: Optimal policy – Social Cost of Carbon

- ► Key objects: Local vs. Global Social Cost of Carbon:
  - Marginal cost of carbon  $\psi_i^{\mathcal{E}}$  for country i
  - "Local social cost of carbon" (LCC) for region i:

$$LCC_i := \frac{\partial \mathcal{W}_i / \partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial \mathcal{W}_i / \partial w_i} = \frac{\psi_i^{\mathcal{E}}}{\lambda_i} = -\Delta_i \mathcal{D}'(T_i) z_i f(e_i^f) p_i \qquad (> 0 \text{ if heat causes losses})$$

#### Step 2: Optimal policy – Social Cost of Carbon

- ► Key objects: Local vs. Global Social Cost of Carbon:
  - Marginal cost of carbon  $\psi_i^{\mathcal{E}}$  for country i
  - "Local social cost of carbon" (LCC) for region *i*:

$$LCC_i := \frac{\partial \mathcal{W}_i / \partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial \mathcal{W}_i / \partial w_i} = \frac{\psi_i^{\mathcal{E}}}{\lambda_i} = -\Delta_i \mathcal{D}'(T_i) z_i f(e_i^f) p_i \qquad (> 0 \text{ if heat causes losses})$$

Social Cost of Carbon for the planner:

$$SCC := \frac{\partial \mathcal{W}/\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial \mathcal{W}/\partial w} = \frac{\sum_{\mathbb{I}} \omega_i \psi_i^{\mathcal{E}}}{\frac{1}{I} \sum_{\mathbb{I}} \omega_i (\lambda_i + \mu_i)}$$

• Social Cost of Carbon integrates these inequalities:

$$SCC = \sum_{\mathbb{T}} \widehat{\lambda}_i LCC_i = \sum_{\mathbb{T}} LCC_i + \mathbb{C}ov_i (\widehat{\lambda}_i, LCC_i)$$

### Step 2: Optimal policy – Other motives

- ► Taxing fossil energy has additional redistributive effects:
  - 1. Through energy markets: distort supply, lowers eq. fossil price, benefit net importers
  - 2. Distort energy demand, of countries that need more or less energy
- ► New measure: Social Value of Fossil (SVF)

$$SVF := \frac{\partial \mathcal{W}/\partial E}{\partial \mathcal{W}/\partial w} = \mathcal{C}_{EE}^f \mathbb{C}ov_i \left(\widehat{\lambda}_i, \mathbf{e}_i^f - \mathbf{e}_i^x\right) - \mathbb{C}ov_i \left(\widehat{\lambda}_i, \frac{q^f (1 - s_i^f)}{\sigma}\right)$$

 $\circ$  Params:  $\mathcal{C}_{EE}^f$  agg. fossil supply elasticity,  $s_i^f$  energy cost share and  $\sigma$  energy demand elasticity

### Step 2: Optimal policy – Other motives

- ► Taxing fossil energy has additional redistributive effects:
  - 1. Through energy markets: distort supply, lowers eq. fossil price, benefit net importers
  - 2. Distort energy demand, of countries that need more or less energy
- ► New measure: Social Value of Fossil (SVF)

$$SVF := \frac{\partial \mathcal{W}/\partial E}{\partial \mathcal{W}/\partial w} = \underbrace{\mathcal{C}_{EE}^{f}}_{\substack{\text{agg. supply} \\ \text{distortion}}} \underbrace{\mathbb{C}\text{ov}_{i}\left(\widehat{\lambda}_{i}, \underline{e_{i}^{f}} - \underline{e_{i}^{x}}\right)}_{\substack{\text{terms-of-trade} \\ \text{redistribution}}} - \underbrace{\mathbb{C}\text{ov}_{i}\left(\widehat{\lambda}_{i}, \frac{q^{f}(1-s_{i}^{f})}{\sigma}\right)}_{\substack{\text{demand} \\ \text{distortion}}}$$

 $\circ$  Params:  $\mathcal{C}_{EE}^f$  agg. fossil supply elasticity,  $s_i^f$  energy cost share and  $\sigma$  energy demand elasticity

8 / 15

#### Step 2: Optimal policy – Other motives

- ► Taxing fossil energy has additional redistributive effects:
  - 1. Through energy markets: distort supply, lowers eq. fossil price, benefit net importers
  - 2. Distort energy demand, of countries that need more or less energy
- ► New measure: Social Value of Fossil (SVF)

$$SVF := \frac{\partial W/\partial E}{\partial W/\partial w} = \mathcal{C}_{EE}^f \mathbb{C}ov_i \left(\widehat{\lambda}_i, \mathbf{e}_i^f - \mathbf{e}_i^x\right) - \mathbb{C}ov_i \left(\widehat{\lambda}_i, \frac{q^f (1 - s_i^f)}{\sigma}\right)$$

- $\circ$  Params:  $\mathcal{C}_{EE}^f$  agg. fossil supply elasticity,  $s_i^f$  energy cost share and  $\sigma$  energy demand elasticity
- ▶ *Proposition 2:* Optimal fossil energy tax:

$$\Rightarrow$$
  $t^f = SCC + SVF$ 

– Social cost of carbon:  $SCC = \sum_{\mathbb{I}} \widehat{\lambda}_i LCC_i$ 



## Step 3: Ramsey Problem with participation constraints

- Consider that countries can "exit" climate agreement.
- ▶ For a climate "club" of  $\mathbb{J} \subset \mathbb{I}$  countries:
  - Countries  $i \in \mathbb{J}$  are subject to a carbon tax  $t^f$
  - Countries  $i \in \mathbb{J}$  can unilaterally leave, subject to retaliation tariff  $t^{b,r}$  on goods and get consumption  $\tilde{c}_i$
  - Countries  $i \notin \mathbb{J}$  trade in goods subject to tariff  $t^b$  with club members and countries outside the club. They still trade with the club members in energy at price  $q^f$

# Step 3: Ramsey Problem with participation constraints

- ► Consider that countries can "exit" climate agreement.
- ▶ For a climate "club" of  $\mathbb{J} \subset \mathbb{I}$  countries:
  - Countries  $i \in \mathbb{J}$  are subject to a carbon tax  $t^f$
  - Countries  $i \in \mathbb{J}$  can unilaterally leave, subject to retaliation tariff  $t^{b,r}$  on goods and get consumption  $\tilde{c}_i$
  - Countries  $i \notin \mathbb{J}$  trade in goods subject to tariff  $t^b$  with club members and countries outside the club. They still trade with the club members in energy at price  $q^f$
- ► Participation constraints:

$$u(c_i) \geq u(\tilde{c}_i)$$
  $[\nu_i]$ 

Welfare:

$$\mathcal{W} = \max_{\{\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{q}\}_i} \sum_{\mathbb{J}} \omega_i \ u(c_i) + \sum_{\mathbb{J}^c} \alpha \omega_i \ u(c_i)$$

## Step 3: Ramsey Problem with participation constraints

► Participation constraints

$$u(c_i) \geq u(\tilde{c}_i)$$
  $[\nu_i]$ 

- ▶ Proposition 3.1: Second-Best social valuation with participation constraints
  - Participation incentives change our measure of inequality

w/ trade: 
$$\omega_{i}(1+\nu_{i})u'(c_{i}) = \left(\sum_{j\in\mathbb{I}}a_{ij}(d_{ij}\mathbf{p}_{j})^{1-\theta}\left[\omega_{i}\widetilde{\lambda}_{i}+\omega_{j}\widetilde{\mu}_{j}+\widetilde{\eta}_{ij}(1-s_{ij})\right]^{1-\theta}\right)^{\frac{1}{1-\theta}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \qquad \widehat{\widehat{\lambda}}_{i} = \frac{\omega_{i}(\widetilde{\lambda}_{i}+\widetilde{\mu}_{i})}{\frac{1}{J}\sum_{\mathbb{J}}\omega_{i}(\widetilde{\lambda}_{i}+\widetilde{\mu}_{i})} \neq \widehat{\lambda}_{i}$$
vs. w/o trade 
$$\widehat{\widehat{\lambda}}_{i} = \frac{\omega_{i}(1+\nu_{i})u'(c_{i})}{\frac{1}{J}\sum_{\mathbb{J}}\omega_{j}(1+\nu_{j})u'(c_{j})} \neq \widehat{\lambda}_{i}$$

• Similarly, the "effective Pareto weights" are  $\alpha \omega_i$  for countries outside the club  $i \notin \mathbb{J}$  and  $\omega_i(\alpha - \nu_i)$  for retaliation policy on  $i \in \mathbb{J}$ 

## Step 3: Participation constraints & Optimal policy

- Proposition 3.2: Second-Best taxes:
  - Taxation with imperfect instruments:
    - Climate change & general equilibrium effects on fossil market affects all countries  $i \in \mathbb{I}$
    - Need to adjust for the "outside" countries  $i \notin \mathbb{J}$  not subject to the tax, which weight on the energy market as  $\vartheta_{\mathbb{J}^c} \approx \frac{E_{\mathbb{J}^c}}{E_{\mathbb{I}}} \frac{\nu \sigma}{q^f(1-s^f)}$  with  $\nu$  fossil supply elasticity,  $\sigma$  energy demand elasticity and  $s^f$  energy cost share.
  - Optimal fossil energy tax  $t^f(\mathbb{J})$ :

$$\Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{t}^{f}(\mathbb{J}) = SCC + \underline{SVF}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 - \vartheta_{\mathbb{J}^{c}}} \sum_{i \in \mathbb{I}} \widetilde{\lambda}_{i} LCC_{i} + \frac{1}{1 - \vartheta_{\mathbb{J}^{c}}} \mathcal{C}_{EE}^{f} \sum_{i \in \mathbb{I}} \widetilde{\lambda}_{i} (\underline{e_{i}^{f}} - \underline{e_{i}^{x}}) - \sum_{i \in \mathbb{J}} \widetilde{\lambda}_{i} \frac{\underline{q^{f}(1 - \underline{s_{i}^{f}})}}{\sigma}$$

• Optimal tariffs/export taxes  $t^{b,r}(\mathbb{J})$  and  $t^b(\mathbb{J})$ : In search for a closed-form expression As of now, only opaque system of equations (fixed point w/ demand/multipliers)



# Sequential solution method

- ► Summary of the dynamic model:
  - ODEs for states  $\{x\} = \{w_{it}, \tau_{it}, \mathcal{R}_{it}, \mathcal{S}_t\}_{it}$
  - Backward ODE for the costates  $\{\lambda\} = \{\lambda_{it}^w, \lambda_{it}^\tau, \lambda_t^S, \lambda_{it}^R\}_{it}$
  - Non-linear equations (FOCs) for household controls  $\{c_1\} = \{c_{it}, b_{it}, k_{it}\}_{it}$  and static demands for energy/capital  $\{c_2\} = \{e_{it}^f, e_{it}^r, k_{it}\}_{it}$  and static supplies  $\{c_3\} = \{e_{it}^x, \bar{e}_{it}^r\}_{it}$ .
  - Market clearing as equation for prices  $\{q\} = \{q_t^f, r_t^*\}_t$
  - Existence and Uniqueness, c.f. Mean Field Game theory (Carmona-Delarue)

## Sequential solution method

- ► Summary of the dynamic model:
  - ODEs for states  $\{x\} = \{w_{it}, \tau_{it}, \mathcal{R}_{it}, \mathcal{S}_t\}_{it}$
  - Backward ODE for the costates  $\{\lambda\} = \{\lambda_{it}^w, \lambda_{it}^\tau, \lambda_t^S, \lambda_{it}^R\}_{it}$
  - Non-linear equations (FOCs) for household controls  $\{c_1\} = \{c_{it}, b_{it}, k_{it}\}_{it}$  and static demands for energy/capital  $\{c_2\} = \{e_{it}^f, e_{it}^r, k_{it}\}_{it}$  and static supplies  $\{c_3\} = \{e_{it}^x, \bar{e}_{it}^r\}_{it}$ .
  - Market clearing as equation for prices  $\{q\} = \{q_t^f, r_t^*\}_t$
  - Existence and Uniqueness, c.f. Mean Field Game theory (Carmona-Delarue)
- Global Numerical solution:
  - Discretize agents (countries) space  $i \in \mathbb{I}$  with M and time-space  $t \in [t_0, t_T]$  with T periods
  - Express as a large vector  $\mathbf{y} = \{x, \lambda, c, q\}$  in a large non-linear function

$$F(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{0}$$

• Solve for the large system with  $N = (N_{ind,vars} \times M + N_{agg,vars}) \times T$  unknowns and N equations with gradient-descent – Newton-Raphson methods.

## Impact of increase in temperature

Marginal values of the climate variables:  $\lambda_{it}^{s}$  and  $\lambda_{it}^{\tau}$ 

$$\dot{\lambda}_{it}^{\tau} = \lambda_{it}^{\tau}(\rho + \zeta) + \overbrace{\gamma_{i}(\tau_{it} - \tau_{i}^{\star})\mathcal{D}^{y}(\tau_{it})}^{-\partial_{\tau}\mathcal{D}^{y}(\tau_{it})} f(k_{it}, e_{it}) \lambda_{it}^{k} + \overbrace{\phi_{i}(\tau_{it} - \tau_{i}^{\star})\mathcal{D}^{u}(\tau_{it})^{1-\eta} c_{it}^{1-\eta}}^{\partial_{\tau}u(c,\tau)}$$

$$\dot{\lambda}_{it}^{S} = \lambda_{it}^{S}(\rho + \delta^{s}) - \zeta \chi \Delta_{i} \lambda_{it}^{\tau}$$

- Costate  $\lambda_{it}^S$ : marg. cost of 1Mt carbon in atmosphere, for country i. Increases with:
  - Temperature gaps  $\tau_{it} \tau_i^*$  & damage sensitivity of TFP  $\gamma_i^y$  and utility  $\gamma_i^u$
  - Development level  $f(k_{it}, e_{it})$  and  $c_{it}$
  - Climate params:  $\chi$  climate sensitivity,  $\Delta_i$  "catching up" of  $\tau_i$  and  $\zeta$  reaction speed

• back

Thomas Bourany (UChicago) Inequality and Climate Policy April 2024 13 / 15

#### Cost of carbon / Marginal value of temperature

► Solving for the cost of carbon and temperature ⇔ solving ODE

$$\dot{\lambda}_{it}^{\tau} = \lambda_{t}^{\tau}(\widetilde{\rho} + \Delta\zeta) + \gamma(\tau - \tau^{\star})\mathcal{D}^{y}(\tau)f(k, e)\lambda_{t}^{k} + \phi(\tau - \tau^{\star})\mathcal{D}^{u}(\tau)u(c) 
\dot{\lambda}_{t}^{S} = \lambda_{t}^{S}(\widetilde{\rho} + \delta^{s}) - \int_{\mathbb{T}} \Delta_{i}\zeta\chi\lambda_{it}^{\tau}$$

Solving for  $\lambda_t^{\tau}$  and  $\lambda_t^{\mathcal{S}}$ , in stationary equilibrium  $\dot{\lambda}_t^{\mathcal{S}} = \dot{\lambda}_t^{\tau} = 0$ 

$$\begin{split} \lambda_{it}^{\tau} &= -\int_{t}^{\infty} e^{-\left(\widetilde{\rho} + \zeta\right) u} (\tau_{u} - \tau^{\star}) \Big( \gamma \mathcal{D}^{y}(\tau_{u}) y_{\tau} \lambda_{u}^{k} + \phi \mathcal{D}^{u}(\tau_{u}) u(c_{u}) \Big) du \\ \lambda_{it}^{\tau} &= -\frac{1}{\widetilde{\rho} + \Delta \zeta} (\tau_{\infty} - \tau^{\star}) \Big( \gamma \mathcal{D}^{y}(\tau_{\infty}) y_{\infty} \lambda_{\infty}^{k} + \phi \mathcal{D}^{u}(\tau_{\infty}) u(c_{\infty}) \Big) \\ \lambda_{t}^{S} &= -\int_{t}^{\infty} e^{-\left(\widetilde{\rho} + \delta^{S}\right) u} \zeta \chi \int_{\mathbb{I}} \Delta_{j} \lambda_{j,u}^{\tau} dj du \\ &= \frac{1}{\widetilde{\rho} + \delta^{S}} \zeta \chi \int_{\mathbb{I}} \Delta_{j} \lambda_{j,\infty}^{\tau} \\ &= -\frac{\chi}{\widetilde{\rho} + \delta^{S}} \frac{\zeta}{\widetilde{\rho} + \zeta} \int_{\mathbb{I}} \Delta_{j} (\tau_{j,\infty} - \tau^{\star}) \Big( \gamma \mathcal{D}^{y}(\tau_{j,\infty}) y_{\infty} \lambda_{j,\infty}^{k} + \phi \mathcal{D}^{u}(\tau_{j,\infty}) u(c_{j,\infty}) \Big) dj \\ \lambda_{t}^{S} \xrightarrow{\zeta \to \infty} -\frac{\chi}{\widetilde{\rho} + \delta^{S}} \int_{\mathbb{I}} \Delta_{j} (\tau_{j,\infty} - \tau^{\star}) \Big( \gamma \mathcal{D}^{y}(\tau_{j,\infty}) y_{j,\infty} \lambda_{j,\infty}^{k} + \mathcal{D}^{u}(\tau_{j,\infty}) u(c_{j,\infty}) \Big) dj \end{split}$$

### Cost of carbon / Marginal value of temperature

► Proposition (Stationary LSCC):

When  $t \to \infty$  and for a BGP with  $\mathcal{E}_t = \delta_s \mathcal{E}_t$  and  $\tau_t \to \tau_\infty$ , the LSCC is *proportional* to climate sensitivity  $\chi$ , marg. damage  $\gamma_i^y$ ,  $\gamma_i^u$ , temperature, and output, consumption.

$$LSCC_{it} \equiv \frac{\Delta_i \chi}{\rho - n + \bar{g}(\eta - 1) + \delta^s} (\tau_{\infty} - \tau^{\star}) \Big( \gamma \mathcal{D}^y(\tau_{\infty}) y_{\infty} + \phi \mathcal{D}^u(\tau_{\infty}) c_{\infty} \Big)$$

- Stationary equilibrium:  $\dot{\lambda}_t^S = \dot{\lambda}_t^T = 0$
- Fast temperature adjustment  $\zeta \to \infty$
- Back