

202C HW1

John Friedman

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Question 1: In this question, we consider a 4-country version of the Armington model. Consider the following parameter values: $\sigma = 3$, $a_{i,j} = 2$ for all $i = j$, $a_{i,j} = 1$ for all $i \neq j$, $L_1 = 2$, $L_2 = L_3 = L_4 = 1$, $A_1 = A_2 = A_3 = A_4 = 0.6$, and trade cost $\tau_{i,j}$ corresponds to the element i, j in the following matrix:

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1.1 & 1.2 & 1.3 \\ 1.3 & 1 & 1.3 & 1.4 \\ 1.2 & 1.2 & 1 & 1.1 \\ 1.1 & 1.1 & 1.1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

1. Solve for equilibrium wages in countries 2, 3 and 4 relative to country 1.

Solution:

1. We will use the good of country 1 as the numeraire ($p_1 = 1$)
2. The excess demand function of the Armington Model is:

$$Z_i(w) = \left\{ \sum_{j \in S} \left(\frac{a_{ij} \tau_{ij}^{1-\sigma} \left(\frac{w_i}{A_i} \right)^{1-\sigma}}{\sum_{k \in S} a_{kj} \tau_{kj}^{1-\sigma} \left(\frac{w_k}{A_k} \right)^{1-\sigma}} \right) \frac{w_j L_j}{w_i} \right\} - L_i$$

3. We solve by guessing a vector of wages, and iterating until the excess demand function is zero.

Using the code attached in the appendix: $\frac{w_2}{w_1} = 1.1458$, $\frac{w_3}{w_1} = 1.2238$, $\frac{w_4}{w_1} = 1.2614$

2. Solve for bilateral trade shares, λ_{ij} for $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ and $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$

Solution: Since we have already solved for wages, we can use the formula $\lambda_{ij} = \frac{X_{ij}}{Y_j}$. To solve for bilateral trade shares we use the code attached in the appendix. We get:

$$\lambda = \begin{pmatrix} 0.5825 & 0.248 & 0.2315 & 0.2122 \\ 0.1313 & 0.4571 & 0.1502 & 0.1393 \\ 0.135 & 0.1391 & 0.4451 & 0.1978 \\ 0.1513 & 0.1558 & 0.1731 & 0.4507 \end{pmatrix}$$

3. Consider (only in this question) that country 2's productivity increases by a factor of 2, from $A_2 = 0.6$ to $A'_2 = 1.2$, while the others remain unchanged.

a) What's the change in welfare for country 2 from the productivity shock?

Solution: The formula for welfare is $W_i = \lambda_i i^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma}} a_{ii}^{\frac{1}{\sigma-1}} A_i$ So using our code:

$$W_i^{new}/W_i^{old} = \frac{2.2863}{1.2551} = 1.82$$

- b) What's the change in welfare for country 2 from the productivity shock under autarky ? (hint: you simply need to use an equation from the lecture and no need to solve the model)

Solution: From Sunny's first section, we know that

$$W_i = \lambda_{ii}^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma}} \alpha_{ii}^{\frac{1}{\sigma-1}} A_i$$

The change in welfare is:

$$\frac{W_i^{new}}{W_i^{old}} = \frac{\lambda_{ii}^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma}} \alpha_{ii}^{\frac{1}{\sigma-1}} A'_i}{\lambda_{ii}^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma}} \alpha_{ii}^{\frac{1}{\sigma-1}} A_i} = \frac{A'_i}{A_i} = \frac{1.2}{0.6} = 2$$

- c) Provide intuition for the difference in your answers in (a) and (b)

Solution: In part (a) and (b), we showed that the increase in welfare from a home productivity shock is bigger under autarky than in an open economy for the affected country. The intuition for this is that in an open economy, as country 2 becomes more productive it increases the supply of goods to the rest of the world, which pushes down its relative price and import share. e.g. Country 2's terms of trade decrease. In autarky, the country fully absorbs the benefits of its productivity shock, as it is not trading with the rest of the world.

4.

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1.2 & 1.2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1.2 & 1.2 \\ 1 & 1.2 & 1 & 1.3 \\ 1 & 1.2 & 1.2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

1. Solve for equilibrium wages in countries 2, 3 and 4 relative to country 1.

Solution: $\frac{w_2}{w_1} = 1.2337 \frac{w_3}{w_1} = 1.2356 \frac{w_4}{w_1} = 1.2506$

2. Solve for bilateral trade shares, λ_{ij} for $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ and $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$

Solution:

$$\lambda = \begin{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0.5062 & 0.3112 & 0.2391 & 0.2465 \\ 0.1663 & 0.409 & 0.1571 & 0.162 \\ 0.1658 & 0.1416 & 0.451 & 0.1376 \\ 0.1618 & 0.1382 & 0.1528 & 0.4539 \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix}$$

5. Solve for the change in wage in each country (relative to country 1's wage) using the system in changes discussed in Section 5 in the Lecture Notes. Verify that you get the same result as in 4. What is the advantage of solving the system in changes rather than in levels (two times)?

Solution: The hat-algebra produces the same result. The advantage of solving the system in changes is that it requires less data: Elasticity of substitution, consumption shares, output shares, and iceberg costs in both cases.

Question 2: In this question, we consider a specification of the armington model in which each country produces output using labor and intermediate inputs (rather than just labor). Intermediate inputs are made of the same final good as consumption. That is, intermediate outputs contain the same import content as consumption.

Specifically, output in country i is produced according to:

$$Q_i = A_i L_i^\alpha M_i^{1-\alpha}$$

where L_i denotes labor (in fixed supply) and M_i denotes the use of intermediate input. In our baseline model, we have assumed $\alpha = 1$.

The intermediate input is made of the same final good that is used for consumption (welfare). Specifically, we assume that a final good is produced in each country j according to the armington aggregator: $(\sum_{i \in S} a_{ij}^{\frac{1}{\sigma}} q_{ij}^{\frac{\sigma-1}{\sigma}})^{\frac{\sigma}{\sigma-1}}$. Given this technology, competitive final good firms purchase individual goods q_{ij} to produce the final good. Profit maximization by these final good producers results in the standard CES demand that we derived in the Armington model. The final good is then used for production (M_j) and for consumption by households (C_j). Households derive utility from consumption of the final good, $u(C_j)$. Therefore, the resource constraint for the final good is given by:

$$(\sum_{i \in S} a_{ij}^{\frac{1}{\sigma}} q_{ij}^{\frac{\sigma-1}{\sigma}})^{\frac{\sigma}{\sigma-1}} = M_j + C_j$$

Note that, in our baseline model, $M_j = 0$.

The resource constraint for output produced in country i is:

$$Q_i = \sum_j \tau_{ij} q_{ij}$$

1. Show that the output price at the factory door, p_i , is given by:

$$p_i = \kappa \frac{w_i^\alpha P_i^{1-\alpha}}{A_i}$$

where $\kappa = \frac{1}{\alpha^\alpha (1-\alpha)^{1-\alpha}}$

and $P_j = (\sum_{i' \in S} a_{i'j} p_{i'j}^{1-\sigma})^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma}}$

and $p_{ij} = \tau_{ij} p_j$

2. Show that the value of use of the intermediate inputs and the wage bill in country i must satisfy:

$$P_i M_i = (1-\alpha) p_i Q_i \tag{1}$$

$$w_i L_i = \alpha p_i Q_i \tag{2}$$

where p_i is the “factory door” price (e.g. without shipping costs) of the good produced in country i , and P_i is the price of the final good (and hence intermediate inputs).

3. The general equilibrium conditions of the model are now given by:

$$P_i C_i = w_i L_i \text{ where } w_i L_i \text{ is GDP in country } i, \tag{3}$$

$$p_i Q_i = \sum_{j \in S} X_{ij} \tag{4}$$

$$\tag{5}$$

Equation (3) is the budget constraint indicating the consumption expenditures must be equal to income. Equation (4) indicates that the value of production must be equal to total sales. Show that:

$$P_i(C_i + M_i) = \frac{1}{\alpha} w_i L_i$$

4. Show that the ratio of sales from country i to j relative to country j 's GDP is

$$\lambda_{ij} = \frac{X_{ij}}{w_j L_j} = a_{ij} \tau_{ij}^{1-\sigma} \left(\kappa \frac{w_i^\alpha P_i^{1-\alpha}}{A_i} \right)^{1-\sigma} \frac{1}{\alpha} P_j^{\sigma-1}$$

and that the ratio of sales from country i relative to i 's GDP is

$$\lambda_{ii} = \frac{a_{ii}}{\alpha} \left(\frac{\kappa}{A_i} \right)^{1-\sigma} \left(\frac{w_i}{P_i} \right)^{\alpha(1-\sigma)}$$

5. How do the gains from trade (for a given change in λ_{ii}) depend on α ? Provide intuition for your answer.
6. How does the answer to the previous question change if the intermediate input in each country is made of domestic labor rather than made of the final consumption good.