

Economics 266: International Trade  
— Lecture 4: Ricardian Theory (II)—

# “Putting Ricardo to Work”

(Title of nice survey by Eaton and Kortum (JEP, 2012))

- Ricardian model has long been perceived as a useful pedagogic tool, with little empirical content...
  - Great to explain undergrads why there are gains from trade
  - But grad students should study richer models (e.g. Feenstra’s graduate textbook—edition 1, from 2003—had a total of 3 pages on the Ricardian model!)
- Eaton and Kortum (Ecta, 2002) has lead to “Ricardian revival”
  - Same basic idea as in Wilson (1980): Is it necessary to know about the pattern of trade to do certain types of counterfactual analysis?
  - But more structure: Small number of parameters, so well-suited for quantitative work.
- **Goals of this lecture:**
  - 1 Present EK model
  - 2 Discuss estimation of its key parameters
  - 3 Introduce tools for welfare and counterfactual analysis

# Basic Assumptions

- $N$  countries,  $i = 1, \dots, N$
- Continuum of goods  $u \in [0, 1]$
- Preferences are CES with elasticity of substitution  $\sigma$ :

$$U_i = \left( \int_0^1 q_i(u)^{(\sigma-1)/\sigma} du \right)^{\sigma/(\sigma-1)},$$

- One factor of production (labor)
- There may also be intermediate goods (more on that later)
- $c_i \equiv$  unit cost of the “common input” used in production of all goods
  - Without intermediate goods,  $c_i$  is equal to “wage”  $w_i$  in country  $i$

# Basic Assumptions (Cont.)

- Constant returns to scale:
  - $Z_i(u)$  denotes productivity of (any) firm producing  $u$  in country  $i$
  - $Z_i(u)$  is drawn independently (across goods and countries) from a **Fréchet distribution**:

$$\Pr(Z_i \leq z) = F_i(z) = e^{-T_i z^{-\theta}},$$

with  $\theta > \sigma - 1$  (important restriction, see below)

- Since goods are symmetric except for productivity, we can forget about index  $u$  and keep track of goods through  $\mathbf{Z} \equiv (Z_1, \dots, Z_N)$ .
- Trade is subject to “iceberg” (Samuelson, 1954) costs  $d_{ni} \geq 1$ 
  - $d_{ni}$  units need to be shipped from  $i$  so that 1 unit makes it to  $n$ ; transport costs, but no real resources used in transport.
- All markets are perfectly competitive

# Four Key Results

## A - The Price Distribution

- Let  $P_{ni}(Z_i) \equiv c_i d_{ni} / Z_i$  be the unit cost at which country  $i$  can serve a good  $\mathbf{Z}$  to country  $n$  and let  $G_{ni}(p) \equiv \Pr(P_{ni}(Z_i) \leq p)$ . Then:

$$G_{ni}(p) = \Pr(Z_i \geq c_i d_{ni} / p) = 1 - F_i(c_i d_{ni} / p)$$

- Let  $P_n(\mathbf{Z}) \equiv \min\{P_{n1}(\mathbf{Z}), \dots, P_{nN}(\mathbf{Z})\}$  and let  $G_n(p) \equiv \Pr(P_n(\mathbf{Z}) \leq p)$  be the price distribution in country  $n$ . Then:

$$G_n(p) = 1 - \exp[-\Phi_n p^\theta]$$

where

$$\Phi_n \equiv \sum_{i=1}^N T_i (c_i d_{ni})^{-\theta}$$

# Four Key Results

## A - The Price Distribution (Cont.)

- To show this, note that (suppressing notation  $\mathbf{Z}$  from here onwards)

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(P_n \leq p) &= 1 - \prod_i \Pr(P_{ni} \geq p) \\ &= 1 - \prod_i [1 - G_{ni}(p)]\end{aligned}$$

- But using

$$G_{ni}(p) = 1 - F_i(c_i d_{ni} / p)$$

then

$$\begin{aligned}1 - \prod_i [1 - G_{ni}(p)] &= 1 - \prod_i F_i(c_i d_{ni} / p) \\ &= 1 - \prod_i e^{-T_i(c_i d_{ni})^{-\theta} p^\theta} \\ &= 1 - e^{-\Phi_n p^\theta}\end{aligned}$$

# Four Key Results

## B - The Allocation of Purchases

- Consider a particular good. Country  $n$  buys the good from country  $i$  if  $i = \arg \min \{p_{n1}, \dots, p_{nN}\}$ . The probability of this event is simply country  $i$ 's contribution to country  $n$ 's price parameter  $\Phi_n$ ,

$$\pi_{ni} = \frac{T_i(c_i d_{ni})^{-\theta}}{\Phi_n}$$

- To show this, note that

$$\pi_{ni} = \Pr \left( P_{ni} \leq \min_{s \neq i} P_{ns} \right)$$

- If  $P_{ni} = p$ , then the probability that country  $i$  is the least cost supplier to country  $n$  is equal to the probability that  $P_{ns} \geq p$  for all  $s \neq i$

# Four Key Results

## B - The Allocation of Purchases (Cont.)

- The previous probability is equal to

$$\prod_{s \neq i} \Pr(P_{ns} \geq p) = \prod_{s \neq i} [1 - G_{ns}(p)] = e^{-\Phi_n^{-i} p^\theta}$$

where

$$\Phi_n^{-i} = \sum_{s \neq i} T_i (c_i d_{ni})^{-\theta}$$

- Now we integrate over this for all possible  $p$ 's times the density  $dG_{ni}(p)$  to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^\infty e^{-\Phi_n^{-i} p^\theta} T_i (c_i d_{ni})^{-\theta} \theta p^{\theta-1} e^{-T_i (c_i d_{ni})^{-\theta} p^\theta} dp \\ &= \left( \frac{T_i (c_i d_{ni})^{-\theta}}{\Phi_n} \right) \int_0^\infty \theta \Phi_n e^{-\Phi_n p^\theta} p^{\theta-1} dp \\ &= \pi_{ni} \int_0^\infty dG_n(p) dp = \pi_{ni} \end{aligned}$$



# Four Key Results

## C - The Conditional Price Distribution

- The price of a good that country  $n$  actually buys from any country  $i$  also has the distribution  $G_n(p)$ .
- To show this, note that if country  $n$  buys a good from country  $i$  it means that  $i$  is the least cost supplier. If the price at which country  $i$  sells this good in country  $n$  is  $q$ , then the probability that  $i$  is the least cost supplier is

$$\prod_{s \neq i} \Pr(P_{ni} \geq q) = \prod_{s \neq i} [1 - G_{ns}(q)] = e^{-\Phi_n^{-i} q^\theta}$$

- Then the joint probability that country  $i$  has a unit cost  $q$  of delivering the good to country  $n$  **and** is the the least cost supplier of that good in country  $n$  is then

$$e^{-\Phi_n^{-i} q^\theta} dG_{ni}(q)$$

# Four Key Results

## C - The Conditional Price Distribution (Cont.)

- Integrating this probability  $e^{-\Phi_n^{-i} q^\theta} dG_{ni}(q)$  over all prices  $q \leq p$  and using  $G_{ni}(q) = 1 - e^{-T_i(c_i d_{ni})^{-\theta} p^\theta}$  then

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^p e^{-\Phi_n^{-i} q^\theta} dG_{ni}(q) \\ &= \int_0^p e^{-\Phi_n^{-i} q^\theta} \theta T_i(c_i d_{ni})^{-\theta} q^{\theta-1} e^{-T_i(c_i d_{ni})^{-\theta} p^\theta} dq \\ &= \left( \frac{T_i(c_i d_{ni})^{-\theta}}{\Phi_n} \right) \int_0^p e^{-\Phi_n q^\theta} \theta \Phi_n q^{\theta-1} dq \\ &= \pi_{ni} G_n(p) \end{aligned}$$

- Given that  $\pi_{ni} \equiv$  probability that for any particular good country  $i$  is the least cost supplier in  $n$ , the conditional distribution of the price charged by  $i$  in  $n$  for the goods that  $i$  actually sells in  $n$  is

$$\frac{1}{\pi_{ni}} \int_0^p e^{-\Phi_n^{-i} q^\theta} dG_{ni}(q) = G_n(p)$$

# Four Key Results

## C - The Conditional Price Distribution (Cont.)

- Hence, we see that in Eaton and Kortum (2002):
  - ① All the adjustment is at the extensive margin: countries that are more distant, have higher costs, or lower  $T$ 's, simply sell a smaller range of goods, but the average price charged is the same.
  - ② The share of spending by country  $n$  on goods from country  $i$  is the same as the probability  $\pi_{ni}$  calculated above.
- We will establish (in Lectures 10-11) a similar property in models of monopolistic competition with Pareto distributions of firm-level productivity

# Four Key Results

## D - The Price Index

- The exact price index for a CES utility with elasticity of substitution  $\sigma < 1 + \theta$ , defined as

$$p_n \equiv \left( \int_0^1 p_n(u)^{1-\sigma} du \right)^{1/(1-\sigma)},$$

is given by

$$p_n = \gamma \Phi_n^{-1/\theta}$$

where

$$\gamma = \left[ \Gamma \left( \frac{1-\sigma}{\theta} + 1 \right) \right]^{1/(1-\sigma)},$$

where  $\Gamma$  is the Gamma function, *i.e.*  $\Gamma(a) \equiv \int_0^\infty x^{a-1} e^{-x} dx$ .

# Four Key Results

## D - The Price Index (Cont.)

- To show this, note that

$$\begin{aligned} p_n^{1-\sigma} &= \int_0^1 p_n(u)^{1-\sigma} du \\ &= \int_0^\infty p^{1-\sigma} dG_n(p) = \int_0^\infty p^{1-\sigma} \Phi_n \theta p^{\theta-1} e^{-\Phi_n p^\theta} dp. \end{aligned}$$

- Defining  $x = \Phi_n p^\theta$ , then  $dx = \Phi_n \theta p^{\theta-1}$ ,  $p^{1-\sigma} = (x/\Phi_n)^{(1-\sigma)/\theta}$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} p_n^{1-\sigma} &= \int_0^\infty (x/\Phi_n)^{(1-\sigma)/\theta} e^{-x} dx \\ &= \Phi_n^{-(1-\sigma)/\theta} \int_0^\infty x^{(1-\sigma)/\theta} e^{-x} dx \\ &= \Phi_n^{-(1-\sigma)/\theta} \Gamma\left(\frac{1-\sigma}{\theta} + 1\right) \end{aligned}$$

- This implies  $p_n = \gamma \Phi_n^{-1/\theta}$  with  $\frac{1-\sigma}{\theta} + 1 > 0$  or  $\sigma - 1 < \theta$  for gamma function to be well defined

# Equilibrium

- Let  $X_{ni}$  be total spending in country  $n$  on goods from country  $i$
- Let  $X_n \equiv \sum_i X_{ni}$  be country  $n$ 's total spending
- We know that  $X_{ni}/X_n = \pi_{ni}$ , so

$$X_{ni} = \frac{T_i(c_i d_{ni})^{-\theta}}{\Phi_n} X_n \quad (*)$$

- Suppose that there are no intermediate goods so that  $c_i = w_i$ .
- In equilibrium, total income in country  $i$  must be equal to total spending on goods from country  $i$  so

$$w_i L_i = \sum_n X_{ni}$$

- Trade balance further requires  $X_n = w_n L_n$  so that

$$w_i L_i = \sum_n \frac{T_i(w_i d_{ni})^{-\theta}}{\sum_j T_j(w_j d_{nj})^{-\theta}} w_n L_n$$

# Equilibrium (Cont.)

- This provides system of  $N - 1$  independent equations (Walras' Law) that can be solved for wages  $(w_1, \dots, w_N)$  up to a choice of numeraire
  - We now know that this is unique: Scarf and Wilson (2003), Alvarez and Lucas (2007), Allen and Arkolakis (2015)
- Everything is as if countries were exchanging labor (as we expected from Wilson, 1980).
  - Fréchet distributions just imply that labor demands are iso-elastic
  - Begs the question: might there be other Ricardian microfoundations under which the global labor demand system is isoelastic? And what happens if it's not isoelastic? See Lectures 14-15.

## Equilibrium (Cont.)

- Under frictionless trade ( $d_{ni} = 1$  for all  $n, i$ ) previous system implies

$$w_i^{1+\theta} = \frac{T_i \sum_n w_n L_n}{L_i \sum_j T_j w_j^{-\theta}}$$

and hence (for any 2 countries,  $i$  and  $j$ ), writing this as “relative labor demand = relative labor supply”

$$\left(\frac{w_i}{w_j}\right)^{1+\theta} \frac{T_j}{T_i} = \frac{L_i}{L_j}$$

- Compare with similar equation in DFS (1977), in Lecture 3, but with symmetric Cobb-Douglas prefs (i.e.  $\theta(\tilde{z}) = \tilde{z}$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{w}{w^*} \frac{1 - \tilde{z}}{\tilde{z}} &= \frac{L^*}{L} \\ \Rightarrow \left( \frac{w}{w^*} \frac{1 - A^{-1}\left(\frac{w}{w^*}\right)}{A^{-1}\left(\frac{w}{w^*}\right)} \right)^{-1} &= \frac{L}{L^*} \end{aligned}$$



# The Gravity Equation

- Letting  $Y_i = \sum_n X_{ni}$  be country  $i$ 's total sales, then

$$Y_i = \sum_n \frac{T_i (c_i d_{ni})^{-\theta} X_n}{\Phi_n} = T_i c_i^{-\theta} \Omega_i^{-\theta}$$

where

$$\Omega_i^{-\theta} \equiv \sum_n \frac{d_{ni}^{-\theta} X_n}{\Phi_n}$$

- Solving  $T_i c_i^{-\theta}$  from  $Y_i = T_i c_i^{-\theta} \Omega_i^{-\theta}$  and plugging into (\*) we get

$$X_{ni} = \frac{X_n Y_i d_{ni}^{-\theta} \Omega_i^{\theta}}{\Phi_n}$$

- Using  $p_n = \gamma \Phi_n^{-1/\theta}$  we can then get

$$X_{ni} = \gamma^{-\theta} X_n Y_i d_{ni}^{-\theta} (p_n \Omega_i)^{\theta}$$

- This is the **Gravity Equation**, with bilateral resistance  $d_{ni}$  and multilateral resistance terms  $p_n$  (inward) and  $\Omega_i$  (outward).

# The Gravity Equation

## A Primer on Trade Costs

- From (\*) we also get that country  $i$ 's share in country  $n$ 's expenditures normalized by its own share is

$$S_{ni} \equiv \frac{X_{ni}/X_n}{X_{ii}/X_i} = \frac{\Phi_i}{\Phi_n} d_{ni}^{-\theta} = \left( \frac{p_i d_{ni}}{p_n} \right)^{-\theta}$$

- This shows the importance of trade costs and comparative advantage in determining trade volumes. Note that if there are no trade barriers (i.e, frictionless trade), then  $S_{ni} = 1$ .
- Letting  $B_{ni} \equiv \left( \frac{X_{ni}}{X_{ii}} \cdot \frac{X_{in}}{X_{nn}} \right)^{1/2}$  then

$$B_{ni} = (S_{ni} S_{in})^{1/2} = \left( d_{ni}^{-\theta} d_{in}^{-\theta} \right)^{1/2}$$

- Under symmetric trade costs (i.e.,  $d_{ni} = d_{in}$ ) then  $B_{ni}^{-1/\theta} = d_{ni}$  can be used as a measure of trade costs. (Later we will call this the Head and Ries (AER, 2001) index of trade costs.)

# The Gravity Equation

## A Primer on Trade Costs

We can also see how  $B_{ni}$  varies with physical distance—perhaps a plausible proxy for  $d_{ni}$ —between  $n$  and  $i$ :

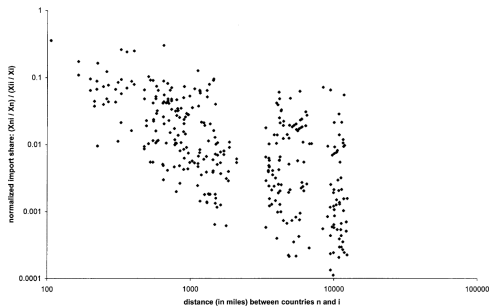


FIGURE 1.—Trade and geography.

# How to Estimate $\theta$ , “The Trade Elasticity”?

- As we will see,  $\theta$ , often referred to as “the trade elasticity,” is the key structural parameter for welfare and counterfactual analysis in EK model
- In order to estimate  $\theta$  directly from  $B_{ni} = d_{ni}^{-\theta}$  we need a measure of  $d_{ni}$ , not just a proxy (like distance).
  - Negative relationship in Figure 1 could come from strong effect of proxy variable (distance) on  $d_{ni}$  or from mild CA (high  $\theta$ ), so  $\theta$  not identified.

# How to Estimate the Trade Elasticity?

- EK use price data to measure  $p_i d_{ni} / p_n$ , and then use fact that 
$$S_{ni} = \left( \frac{p_i d_{ni}}{p_n} \right)^{-\theta}.$$
- They use retail prices in 19 OECD countries for 50 manufactured products from the UNICP 1990 benchmark study.
- They interpret these data as a sample of the prices  $p_i(j)$  of individual goods  $j$  in the model.
- They note that for goods that  $n$  imports from  $i$  we should have  $p_n(j) / p_i(j) = d_{ni}$ , whereas goods that  $n$  doesn't import from  $i$  can have  $p_n(j) / p_i(j) \leq d_{ni}$ .
- Since every country in the sample does import manufactured goods from every other, then  $\max_j \{p_n(j) / p_i(j)\}$  should be equal to  $d_{ni}$ .
- To deal with measurement error, they actually use the second highest  $p_n(j) / p_i(j)$  as a measure of  $d_{ni}$ .

# How to Estimate the Trade Elasticity?

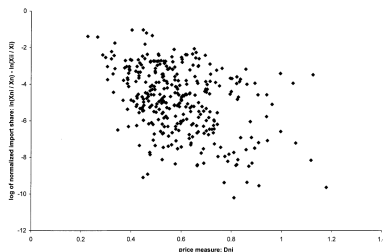


FIGURE 2.—Trade and prices.

- Let  $r_{ni}(j) \equiv \ln p_n(j) - \ln p_i(j)$ . EK calculate  $\ln(p_n/p_i)$  as the mean across  $j$  of  $r_{ni}(j)$ . Then they measure  $\ln(p_i d_{ni}/p_n)$  by

$$D_{ni} = \frac{\max_j 2_j \{r_{ni}(j)\}}{\sum_j r_{ni}(j)/50}$$

- Given  $S_{ni} = \left(\frac{p_i d_{ni}}{p_n}\right)^{-\theta}$  they estimate  $\theta$  from  $\ln(S_{ni}) = -\theta D_{ni}$ .  
Method of moments:  $\theta = 8.28$ . OLS with zero intercept:  $\theta = 8.03$ .

# Alternative Strategies

- Simonovska and Waugh (2011) argue that EK's procedure suffers from upward bias:
  - Since EK are only considering 50 goods (real world has more), maximum price gap may still be strictly lower than trade cost.
  - If we underestimate trade costs, we overestimate trade elasticity
  - Simulation based method of moments leads to a  $\theta$  closer to 4.
- An alternative approach is to use tariffs (Caliendo and Parro, 2011). If  $d_{ni} = t_{ni}\tau_{ni}$  where  $t_{ni}$  is one plus the ad-valorem tariff (they actually do this for each 2 digit industry) and  $\tau_{ni}$  is assumed to be symmetric, then:

$$\frac{X_{ni}X_{ij}X_{jn}}{X_{nj}X_{ji}X_{in}} = \left( \frac{d_{ni}d_{ij}d_{jn}}{d_{nj}d_{ji}d_{in}} \right)^{-\theta} = \left( \frac{t_{ni}t_{ij}t_{jn}}{t_{nj}t_{ji}t_{in}} \right)^{-\theta}.$$

- They can then run an OLS regression and recover  $\theta$ . (In practice, this is done over time and Their preferred specification leads to an estimate of 8.22.

# Gains from Trade

- Consider again the case where  $c_i = w_i$
- From (\*), we know that

$$\pi_{nn} = \frac{X_{nn}}{X_n} = \frac{T_n w_n^{-\theta}}{\Phi_n}$$

- We also know that  $p_n = \gamma \Phi_n^{-1/\theta}$ , so

$$\omega_n \equiv w_n/p_n = \gamma^{-1} T_n^{1/\theta} \pi_{nn}^{-1/\theta}.$$

- Under autarky we have  $\omega_n^A = \gamma^{-1} T_n^{1/\theta}$ , hence the **gains from trade** are given by

$$GT_n \equiv \omega_n/\omega_n^A = \pi_{nn}^{-1/\theta}$$

- Trade elasticity  $\theta$  and share of expenditure on domestic goods  $\pi_{nn}$  are sufficient statistics to compute GT



## Gains from Trade (Cont.)

- A typical value for  $\pi_{nn}$  (manufacturing) is 0.7. With  $\theta = 5$  this implies  $GT_n = 0.7^{-1/5} = 1.074$  or 7.4% gains. Belgium has  $\pi_{nn} = 0.2$ , so its gains are  $GT_n = 0.2^{-1/5} = 1.38$  or 38%.
- One can also use the previous approach to measure the welfare gains associated with any foreign shock, not just moving to autarky:

$$\omega'_n / \omega_n = (\pi'_{nn} / \pi_{nn})^{-1/\theta}$$

- For more general counterfactual scenarios, however, one needs to know both  $\pi'_{nn}$  and  $\pi_{nn}$ . (In autarky we knew that  $\pi_{nn} = 1$ .)

# Adding an Input-Output Loop

- Now imagine that intermediate goods are used to produce a composite good with a CES production function with elasticity  $\sigma > 1$ .
  - This composite good can be either consumed or used to produce intermediate goods (input-output loop).
- Each intermediate good is produced from labor and the composite good with a Cobb-Douglas technology with labor share  $\beta$ . We can then write  $c_i = w_i^\beta p_i^{1-\beta}$ .

## Adding an Input-Output Loop (Cont.)

- The analysis above implies

$$\pi_{nn} = \gamma^{-\theta} T_n \left( \frac{c_n}{p_n} \right)^{-\theta}$$

and hence

$$c_n = \gamma^{-1} T_n^{-1/\theta} \pi_{nn}^{-1/\theta} p_n$$

- Using  $c_n = w_n^\beta p_n^{1-\beta}$  this implies

$$w_n^\beta p_n^{1-\beta} = \gamma^{-1} T_n^{-1/\theta} \pi_{nn}^{-1/\theta} p_n$$

so

$$w_n/p_n = \gamma^{-1/\beta} T_n^{-1/\theta\beta} \pi_{nn}^{-1/\theta\beta}$$

- The gains from trade are now

$$\omega_n/\omega_n^A = \pi_{nn}^{-1/\theta\beta}$$

- Standard value for  $\beta$  is  $1/2$  (Alvarez and Lucas, 2007). For  $\pi_{nn} = 0.7$  and  $\theta = 5$  this implies  $GT_n = 0.7^{-2/5} = 1.15$  or 15% gains.

# Adding Non-Tradables

- Assume now that the composite good cannot be consumed directly.
- Instead, it can either be used to produce intermediates (as above) or to produce a consumption good (together with labor).
- The production function for the consumption good is Cobb-Douglas with labor share  $\alpha$ .
- This consumption good is assumed to be non-tradable.

## Adding Non-Tradables (Cont.)

- The price index computed above is now  $p_{gn}$ , but we care about  $\omega_n \equiv w_n / p_{fn}$ , where

$$p_{fn} = w_n^\alpha p_{gn}^{1-\alpha}$$

- This implies that

$$\omega_n = \frac{w_n}{w_n^\alpha p_{gn}^{1-\alpha}} = (w_n / p_{gn})^{1-\alpha}$$

- Thus, the gains from trade are now

$$\omega_n / \omega_n^A = \pi_{nn}^{-\eta/\theta}$$

where

$$\eta \equiv \frac{1-\alpha}{\beta}$$

- Alvarez and Lucas argue that  $\alpha = 0.75$  (share of labor in services). Thus, for  $\pi_{nn} = 0.7$ ,  $\theta = 5$  and  $\beta = 0.5$ , this implies  $GT_n = 0.7^{-1/10} = 1.036$  or 3.6% gains

# Comparative statics (Dekle, Eaton and Kortum, 2008)

See also Rutherford (1994), "Lecture Notes on Constant Elasticity Functions"

- Go back to the simple EK model above ( $\alpha = 0$ ,  $\beta = 1$ ). We have

$$X_{ni} = \frac{T_i(w_i d_{ni})^{-\theta} X_n}{\sum_{i=1}^N T_i(w_i d_{ni})^{-\theta}}$$
$$\sum_n X_{ni} = w_i L_i$$

- As we have already established, this leads to a system of non-linear equations to solve for wages,

$$w_i L_i = \sum_n \frac{T_i(w_i d_{ni})^{-\theta}}{\sum_k T_k(w_k d_{nk})^{-\theta}} w_n L_n.$$

# Comparative statics (Dekle, Eaton and Kortum, 2008)

- Consider any shock to labor endowments ( $L_i \rightarrow L'_i$ ), trade costs ( $d_{ni} \rightarrow d'_{ni}$ ), or productivity ( $T_i \rightarrow T'_i$ ).
- Two methods for solving for the change in endogenous variables:
  - 1 As in EK (2002): estimate or calibrate  $\theta$  and  $L_i, L'_i, d_{ni}, d'_{ni}, T_i$  and  $T'_i$ . Then solve for the endogenous variables at old and new equilibrium values.
  - 2 As in DEK (2008): If the initial equilibrium corresponds to a setting where all endogenous variables (matrix of  $X_{ni}$  values) are observed (and no measurement error), and have estimate of  $\theta$ , then can instead solve for changes in endogenous variables. Advantages:
    - Often simpler to solve for one set of changes than two sets of levels.
    - Often simpler to explain to audience.
    - Model fits data in observed pre-shock year exactly.
- NB: DEK procedure creates impression that hard and often controversial task of estimating many ( $L, d, T$ ) parameters has been avoided, but that's not true.

# Comparative statics (Dekle, Eaton and Kortum, 2008)

- To see how it works, note that trade shares are (from \*)

$$\pi_{ni} = \frac{T_i (w_i d_{ni})^{-\theta}}{\sum_k T_k (w_k d_{nk})^{-\theta}} \text{ and } \pi'_{ni} = \frac{T'_i (w'_i d'_{ni})^{-\theta}}{\sum_k T'_k (w'_k d'_{nk})^{-\theta}}.$$

- Letting  $\hat{x} \equiv x'/x$ , then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\pi}_{ni} &= \frac{\hat{T}_i (\hat{w}_i \hat{d}_{ni})^{-\theta}}{\sum_k T'_k (w'_k d'_{nk})^{-\theta} / \sum_j T_j (w_j d_{nj})^{-\theta}} \\ &= \frac{\hat{T}_i (\hat{w}_i \hat{d}_{ni})^{-\theta}}{\sum_k \hat{T}_k (\hat{w}_k \hat{d}_{nk})^{-\theta} T_k (w_k d_{nk})^{-\theta} / \sum_j T_j (w_j d_{nj})^{-\theta}} \\ &= \frac{\hat{T}_i (\hat{w}_i \hat{d}_{ni})^{-\theta}}{\sum_k \pi_{nk} \hat{T}_k (\hat{w}_k \hat{d}_{nk})^{-\theta}}. \end{aligned}$$



- On the other hand, for equilibrium we have

$$w'_i L'_i = \sum_n \pi'_{ni} w'_n L'_n = \sum_n \hat{\pi}_{ni} \pi_{ni} w'_n L'_n$$

- Letting  $Y_n \equiv w_n L_n$  and using the result above for  $\hat{\pi}_{ni}$  we get

$$\hat{w}_i \hat{L}_i Y_i = \sum_n \frac{\pi_{ni} \hat{T}_i (\hat{w}_i \hat{d}_{ni})^{-\theta}}{\sum_k \pi_{nk} \hat{T}_k (\hat{w}_k \hat{d}_{nk})^{-\theta}} \hat{w}_n \hat{L}_n Y_n$$

- This forms a system of  $N$  equations in  $N$  unknowns,  $\hat{w}_i$ , from which we can get  $\hat{w}_i$  as a function of shocks and initial observables (establishing some numeraire). Here  $\pi_{ni}$  and  $Y_i$  are data (obtainable from  $X_{ni}$  matrix) and we know  $\hat{d}_{ni}$ ,  $\hat{T}_i$ ,  $\hat{L}_i$ , as well as  $\theta$ .

# Comparative statics (Dekle, Eaton and Kortum, 2008)

- To compute the implications for welfare of a foreign shock, simply impose that  $\hat{L}_n = \hat{T}_n = 1$ , solve the system above to get  $\hat{w}_i$  and get the implied  $\hat{\pi}_{nn}$  through

$$\hat{\pi}_{ni} = \frac{\hat{T}_i (\hat{w}_i \hat{d}_{ni})^{-\theta}}{\sum_k \pi_{nk} \hat{T}_k (\hat{w}_k \hat{d}_{nk})^{-\theta}}.$$

and use the formula to get

$$\hat{\omega}_n = \hat{\pi}_{nn}^{-1/\theta}$$

- Of course, if it is not the case that  $\hat{L}_n = \hat{T}_n = 1$  (i.e. there is some “domestic” component to the shock too), then one can still use this approach, since in general we have:

$$\hat{\omega}_n = (\hat{T}_n)^{1/\theta} \hat{\pi}_{nn}^{-1/\theta}$$

# Some Examples of Extensions of EK (2002)

But there are many others...

- **Bertrand Competition:** Bernard, Eaton, Jensen, and Kortum (2003)
  - The same (Extreme Value Theory) tricks that EK (2002) show work for characterizing the lowest price work for finding the second-lowest, etc.
  - Bertrand competition  $\Rightarrow$  variable markups at the firm-level
  - Measured productivity varies across firms  $\Rightarrow$  one can use firm-level data to calibrate model
- **Multiple Sectors:** Costinot, Donaldson, and Komunjer (2012)
  - $T_i^k \equiv$  fundamental productivity in country  $i$  and sector  $k$
  - One can use EK's machinery to study pattern of trade, not just volumes
  - More in next lecture (on empirics of Ricardian models)
- **Non-homothetic preferences:** Fieler (2011)
  - Rich and poor countries have different expenditure shares
  - Combined with differences in  $\theta^k$  across sectors  $k$ , one can explain pattern of North-North, North-South, and South-South trade