On North-South Intra- and Inter-Industry Trade and Welfare

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Abstract
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JEL: F12, F13, F16, O18
Keywords: Trade and monopolistic competition, urban unemployment, North-South trade

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Abstract

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1 Introduction

It is well-established that intra-industry trade (IIT) constitutes a significant proportion of international trade between industrialized countries, and the empirical evidence backing the phenomenon has motivated an extensive theoretical literature addressing various trade issues in this context (see, for example, Krugman, 1979, 1980, Lancaster, 1980, Helpman, 1981, and Gros, 1987). However, while these theoretical developments address the implications of intra-industry trade between similar industrial economies, they do not directly address the consequences of intra-industry trade between the dissimilar economies of the North and South.

The economic implications of North-South intra-industry remain an important area of research for two reasons. The first is that the rapid industrialization of many developing economies, most notably India and China, has in fact resulted in a significant volume of intra-industry trade between the developing and the developed worlds. For example, the IIT index on Chinese trade with developed economies has averaged around 0.25 between 2001 and 2009, dominated by trade with Japan. Nearly one third of new Chinese trade with developed countries since the turn of the century has been intra-industry. We provide some further evidence in support of this proposition

\[1\] See also Oladi and Beladi (2008) for an application of Krugman (1979) in the context of trade blocks.
in this paper, but the key point is that North-South intra-industry trade is an empirical reality that the theoretical literature needs to address, in much the same way as the earlier literature addressed the empirical reality of North-North intra-industry trade. Second, developing economies may have an economic structure that is quite different from developed economies, and indeed they are often characterized in the literature by numerous distortions. Conclusions derived from models of intra-industry trade that do not factor developing country characteristics into account may be seriously misleading when applied to the developing world, or may fail to address issues of critical importance to developing economies.

A recent paper by Oladi and Gilbert (2011) contributes to this gap in the theoretical literature. They present a two-sector general equilibrium model in which the Southern economy is dual in the Harris-Todaro (1970) sense (i.e., characterized by open urban unemployment and rural-urban migration), but with the modification that the urban manufacturing sector is monopolistically competitive in the mode of Krugman (1980). Although Oladi and Gilbert (2011) address the effects of intra-industry trade (as well as trade policy) between developed and developing economies on unemployment, welfare and the process of urbanization/industrialization in developing countries, they focus exclusively on intra-industry trade, as has been the general convention in the literature.\(^2\) That is, although Oladi and Gilbert (2011) extend Krugman (1980) by incorporating a rural (agricultural) sector for the developing economy, they assume that the rural production is non-traded. Hence, the only trade that occurs in the model is of the intra-industry variety.

In reality, of course, while North-South intra-industry trade is increasingly important, much of North-South trade continues to be of the inter-industry variety. In light of this fact, in the current paper we reconsider the model posed by Oladi and Gilbert (2011) but introduce the alternative assumption that the rural (agricultural) good is also a tradable good in which the Southern economy has a comparative advantage. Hence, the North and South engage in simultaneous intra-industry trade in manufactures and inter-industry trade in agriculture. We focus attention on the gains from trade in this context. The main result of our paper is that this type of dual-track trade (i.e., intra-industry and inter-industry) can be welfare reducing for a developing economy. This result is in sharp contrast to Oladi and Gilbert (2011) and the usual presumption that international trade is welfare improving.

The structure of the paper is as follows. In the next section we briefly discuss recent patterns in inter and intra-industry trade patterns in some of the major developing economies, broken down along North-South dimensions. We then describe the structure of the model and the autarky equilibrium in Section 2. In Section 3, we draw our main results. Section 4 contains concluding comments.

2 North-South Intra-Industry Trade

Before turning to our theory, it is worthwhile to consider recent patterns in intra-industry trade for major developing economies. The trends can be described using various IIT indices, which assess the degree of intra-industry trade in terms of overlap within a product category. The original Grubel-Lloyd index, while popular, is known to suffer from aggregation bias. That is, when the categories that form an industry are aggregated inappropriately, the measure is biased toward unity. A similar problem exists when a region is a net exporter of some products within an industrial classification and a net importer of others. Hence, a preferable overlap measure, as proposed by Greenaway and Milner (1983), is:

$$IIT_{jk} = 1 - \frac{\sum_{j,d} |x_{jkd} - m_{jkd}|}{\sum_{j,d} (x_{jkd} + m_{jkd})}$$

where $j$ indexes a subset of products that form an industry, $k$ is the region of interest, and $d$ indexes the destination country or countries of interest. The IIT index takes on a value of 1 in the case of pure intra-industry trade and 0 in the case of pure inter-industry trade. To calculate a country level index of intra-industry trade, the industry level indices can be used to construct a weighted average for the region of interest.

We have calculated the aggregate IIT index, using the Greenaway and Milner (1983) modification, for three major developing economies (China, India and Brazil) over the period 2001-2009. The indices are calculated from the United Nation’s COMTRADE data (obtained via WITS) at the SITC (revision 3) 5-digit level, and aggregated up using trade weights.

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3The empirical intra-industry trade literature began in earnest with the pioneering work of Grubel and Lloyd (1975). See also the survey of Andresen (2003).
The results of the computations are presented in Table 1. The last row for each country (labeled total) presents the standard IIT index (i.e., calculated with respect to all trade partners). Given our interest North-South IIT in particular, we have also calculated the index on the bilateral trade flows with major developed economies (USA, Japan and the EU), as well as aggregate developed vs developing members of the WTO.

The calculations reveal both the presence of a substantial level of intra-industry trade as argued above, and some interesting regional biases. Hence, while for China the proportion of trade with the USA that is intra-industry has remained relatively constant, it has grown substantially vis-à-vis Japan.\textsuperscript{4} Overall, China’s IIT index has averaged around 0.25, dropping slightly in the latter part of the decade (in tandem with substantial reduction in global trade in the wake of the financial crisis). For China, the proportion of its trade with developed economies that is intra-industry is significantly higher than with other developing countries. In India the overall index increased for 0.14 in 2001 to 0.21 by 2009, also dominated by intra-industry trade with the developed world. Again, there are interesting regional biases, India has seen IIT expand with respect to the USA and the EU, but not Japan. For Brazil, in contrast to China and India, the IIT index has been relatively constant, and has been higher on Brazil’s trade with the developing world than developed. Overall though, we would have to say that the evidence suggests that the proportion of North-South trade that is intra-industry is substantial, and has been growing at least for China and India.

While the IIT index can be tracked over time in the same manner as any other index, changes must be interpreted carefully. In particular, the index over time is not appropriate for directly measuring the expansion of intra-industry trade. The reason is that proportional increases (decreases) in the volume of export and imports within a product category clearly raise intra-industry trade, but leave the IIT index unchanged. It is also possible for the index to increase when the total volume of intra-industry trade decreases, but the magnitude of imports and exports becomes closer (as might happen, for example, with a tariff). Because of these limitations, the Marginal Intra-Industry Trade Index (MIIT) directly represents the proportion of new trade that is pure intra-industry trade. Brulhart (1994) presents an index corrected for aggregation bias that takes

\textsuperscript{4}Hu and Ma, 1999, provide more evidence on the case of China.
the form:

$$MIIT_{jk} = 1 - \frac{|(\sum_{j,d} x_{jkd}^t - \sum_{j,d} x_{jkd}^{t-1}) - (\sum_{j,d} m_{jkd}^t - \sum_{j,d} m_{jkd}^{t-1})|}{|(\sum_{j,d} x_{jkd}^t - \sum_{j,d} x_{jkd}^{t-1})| + |(\sum_{j,d} m_{jkd}^t - \sum_{j,d} m_{jkd}^{t-1})|}$$

which takes on values between 0 and 1, with 1 representing pure marginal intra-industry trade. Again, the industry measure can be aggregated using a weighted average. We calculated the index using the same dataset discussed above, and present the results Table 1.

The marginal intra-industry trade index measures the proportion of marginal trade (in this case between the stated year and two years previous) that is intra-industry. While there was a drop in new intra-industry trade 2009 for China and Brazil, this must be seen in the light of a substantial drop in global trade in that period. Looking at the broader trend, in the case of China, between a fifth and a third of its trade expansion in recent years has come from intra-industry trade, mostly with the developed world. For India between roughly a fifth and a quarter of the new trade with the developed world has been intra-industry in recent years. Even for Brazil, which as we have seen has a lower proportion IIT with the developed economies than China and India, around 10 percent of new trade with developed economies in recent years has been of the intra-industry variety.

3 Autarky Equilibrium

Having established the basic patterns of North-South intra-industry trade, we turn our attention to understanding the economic consequences for developing economies. We begin by describing the structure of a closed developing economy, with urban unemployment and monopolistic competition. The structure of the model is the same as that used in Gilbert and Oladi (2011).

Assume that the ‘Southern’ economy has two industries, agriculture and manufactures. The market for the agricultural product is perfectly competitive, with a single product being produced in the rural region. The market for manufactures is monopolistically competitive, with a large number of differentiated products (small relative to the potential range) being produced in the urban region. All consumers are identical with the representative utility function:

$$u = c_y^\theta \sum_{i=1}^n c_i^\theta \quad \theta \in (0, 1)$$

(1)

where $c_y$ is the consumption of the agricultural product and $c_i$ denotes the consumption of manu-
factured variety \( i \). Note that, as in Krugman (1980), all manufactured varieties enter symmetrically into demand, but the model introduces substitution between manufactures and agriculture.

Denote the prices of the agricultural product and the manufactured variety \( i \) by \( p_y \) and \( p_i \), respectively. The agricultural product is the numéraire. From consumer utility maximization we have the first order conditions:

\[
p_i = \lambda^{-1} \theta c_y^\theta c_i^{\theta-1}
\]

(2)

\[
\theta c_y^{\theta-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} c_i^\theta = \lambda
\]

(3)

where \( \lambda \) is the marginal utility of income.

On the supply side, production technology in agriculture exhibits diminishing marginal productivity and is characterized by the following cost function:

\[
l_y = g(y)
\]

(4)

where \( y \) and \( l_y \) are quantities of production and the labor usage in the rural sector, respectively. We assume that \( g' > 0, g'' \geq 0 \) and \( g''' = 0 \).

There are \( n \) manufactured (horizontally differentiated) products produced in the urban sector, each with identical production technology. The cost function for product \( i \) is given by:

\[
l_i = \beta + \gamma x_i
\]

(5)

where \( l_i \) and \( x_i \) are quantities of labor used in producing variety \( i \) and output of variety \( i \), respectively, and \( \beta \) and \( \gamma \) are positive constants. Hence, production exhibits constant marginal cost, and declining average cost.

The Southern economy is characterized by open urban unemployment, with the volume denoted \( l_u \). Hence, the labor resource constraint requires that:

\[
l = l_y + l_u + \sum_{i=1}^{n} l_i
\]

(6)

\footnote{Diminishing returns implies the presence of an implicit fixed factor, say land, in the agricultural sector. The assumption on \( g''' \) is for mathematical simplicity. However, all results hold under much less stringent assumptions.}
where $\bar{l}$ is the economy-wide endowment of labor. Given a Harris and Todaro (1970) process, labor market equilibrium requires that:

$$w_r = w_e = \pi \bar{w}$$

(7)

where $w_r, w_e$ and $\bar{w}$ are the competitive rural wage, the expected urban wage, and the institutionally rigid urban wage, respectively, and $\pi = (\bar{l} - l_y - l_u)/(\bar{l} - l_y)$ is the urban employment rate. Hence, based on the Harris-Todaro (HT) process, (7) states that at equilibrium the expected urban wage is equal to the probability of finding a job in the urban sector multiplied by the fixed wage in the urban sector.$^6$

Now consider producer behavior in manufactures. By setting marginal revenue equal to marginal cost, we derive the equilibrium price for variety $i$:

$$p_i = p = \frac{\gamma \bar{w}}{\theta}$$

(8)

Prices of all manufacturing varieties are equal and constant. It then follows from (2) and (8) that the equilibrium consumption of all manufactured varieties is equal. That is, expressed in terms of consumption of the agricultural good:

$$c_i = c = \left( \frac{\lambda \gamma \bar{w} - c_y}{\theta^2 c_y^{\theta}} \right) \eta$$

(9)

where $\eta = 1/(\theta - 1)$ as the elasticity of demand. Free entry in the manufacturing sector implies that profits are driven to zero, which along with (8) implies:

$$x_i = x = \frac{\beta \theta}{\gamma(1 - \theta)}$$

(10)

which indicates that the output level of variety $i$ is constant across varieties. Market clearing in the market for manufactures then requires that:

$$x = \bar{l}c$$

(11)

$^6$This specification implies several implicit assumptions. In particular, it implies a random turnover of the urban laborforce, that there is no discount for risk, and that a subsistence income is available to the unemployed. These implicit assumptions are common to all models of the HT variety.
where the right hand side of (11) is aggregate consumption of any manufactured variety. Finally, using equations (5) and (10), we obtain:

\[ l_i = l = \frac{\beta}{1 - \theta} \]  

(12)

This equation states that the labor usage in the production of each variety \( i \) is constant across varieties.

Our next task is to characterize the equilibrium number of manufacturing varieties, which also corresponds to the equilibrium number of firms since, under our demand assumptions, no two firms will produce a common variety. Using the inverse function theorem and the profit maximization condition in the rural sector, we note that \( w_r = 1/g'(y) \). Substituting (12) into (6), then using (7), we have:

\[ n = \Delta \left[ \bar{l} - l_y \right] \]  

(13)

where \( \Delta = (1 - \theta)/\beta \bar{w} \). Since the quantity of production of each manufacturing variety is constant, we can express the trade-offs that this economy faces in \( n \) and \( y \) space by substituting (4) into (13) to obtain:

\[ n = \Delta \frac{\bar{l} - g(y)}{g'(y)} \]  

(14)

Equation (14) describes the equilibrium trade-offs between variety and rural output, which is useful in that it conveys the most important production information of this economy in a two dimensional space. With a binding minimum wage, Oladi and Gilbert (2011) show that the variety/rural output trade-off curve is downward sloping and convex.

To determine the general equilibrium number of produced manufacturing goods as well as the quantity of the agricultural good, we must specify the relationship between consumption of the agricultural product and the number of varieties. Using (3), (9), (10) and (11), we have:

\[ C_y = \frac{\beta \bar{w} n}{1 - \theta} \]  

(15)

where \( C_y = \bar{c}_y \) is aggregate consumption of \( y \). Consumption of \( y \) is a linear function of \( n \), and is increasing in the number of varieties. Equilibrium requires that \( y = C_y \). Hence, by simultaneously
solving equations (14) and (15), we find the general equilibrium quantities of consumption and production of the agricultural good as well as the equilibrium number of varieties of the manufactured good. Since (14) is downward sloping and (15) has a positive slope, an equilibrium solution exists.

Turning now the Northern economy, we assume the same basic structure, and for simplicity the same preferences and technology in manufactures. Under these conditions \( x^* = x \), where Northern variables are distinguished by use of an asterisk. The key difference between the South and the North is the absence of a dual labor market structure in the latter. With no open urban unemployment, however, agricultural and manufacturing wages must equalize, and (8) and (13) simplify to:

\[
p_i^* = p^* = \frac{\gamma w^*}{\theta} \quad (16)
\]

\[
n^* = \frac{1 - \theta}{\beta} (l^* - l_y^*) \quad (17)
\]

The economy-wide wage rate, \( w^* \), is given by \( w^* = 1/g^{''} \). Equation (17) indicates that the number of manufactured varieties is a linear function of the urban laborforce, under full employment. Using the production function for the agricultural sector, we rewrite (17) as:

\[
n^* = \frac{1 - \theta}{\beta} \left[ l^* - g(y^*) \right] \quad (18)
\]

From (18) it can be shown that the variety/rural output trade-off curve for the northern economy (with full employment) is downward sloping and concave.\(^7\)

The general equilibrium of the model is depicted in Figures 1 and 2, for the South and North respectively. In Figure 1, the curve bc reflects (14), while ac illustrates the tradeoffs that would arise in the absence of the dual labor market. The line od reflects (15), and the equilibrium production/consumption of agricultural good and the number of varieties produced in South is indicated by \( S \). The diagram for the North is similar, with ac representing production tradeoffs (18), and od the consumption line. Note that in the Northern economy the latter is not linear, but rather curved toward the \( y \) axis, by virtue of the effect of diminishing returns in \( y \) production on the wage.

\(^7\)Again, see Oladi and Gilbert (2011) for a formal proof.
4 Gains and Losses from Trade

Now consider the implications of opening up trade between the South and the North. Engaging in international trade does not change the quantity of production of any manufactured good in either country, which is fixed as shown by (10). However, international trade may change the number of varieties produced in each country, and moreover consumers in each country gain access to those varieties produced abroad. Since, as in other models of this class, firms will never share the same product space with a competitor, either domestic or international, consumers in each economy will have access to \( n + n^* \) varieties.

Given that the prices of goods manufactured at home (the South) are different from those of foreign (the North), the consumption equilibrium conditions in both countries require:

\[
\left( \frac{C_h}{C_f} \right)^{\theta-1} = \frac{p_h}{p_f} \tag{19}
\]

\[
\left( \frac{C_h^*}{C_f^*} \right)^{\theta-1} = \left( \frac{x - C_h}{x^* - C_f} \right)^{\theta-1} = \frac{p_h^*}{p_f^*} \tag{20}
\]

where \( C_h \) (\( C_f \)) denotes the aggregate consumption in the South of any home (foreign) made variety, and Northern variables are again distinguished by an asterisk. Note that in the absence of policy interventions and transportation costs, arbitrage ensures that \( p_h = p_h^* \) and \( p_f = p_f^* \), where \( p_h \) (\( p_f \)) is the price of any home (foreign) made variety at home. Finally, the equilibrium balance of trade condition requires that:

\[
n^*p_fC_f = np_h(x - C_h) + E_y \tag{21}
\]

where \( E_y \) is the export (import, if negative) quantity of the agricultural good. Since the agricultural good is the numéraire, all prices are expressed in units of agricultural good. If the minimum wage is binding in the South, then relative price index of agricultural good (i.e., the inverse of manufacturing price index) is lower in the South at the autarky equilibrium.\(^8\) Thus, with trade, the South will be a net exporter of the agricultural good, i.e., \( E_y > 0 \).

To characterize the free trade equilibrium, we have to modify equation (15) to incorporate

\(^8\)The price index of the manufacturing goods will simply be \( p \) at autarky equilibrium since the equilibrium price of each manufacturing good is constant and equal and so are their quantities. With trade, the relative price of agricultural good is defined as \( [(n + n^*) + n^*(p^*/(n + n^*))]/np \) for both countries.
exports of home made varieties as well as the imports of foreign made varieties. The first order condition stated in equation (3) must be modified for an open economy to the following:

\[ \theta c_y^{\theta-1} \left( nc_h^\theta + n^* c_f^\theta \right) = \lambda \]  

(22)

As in the closed economy case, use equations (2), (8), (22) and (23) to obtain:

\[ C_y = \frac{\gamma}{\theta} \left[ nC_h + \tilde{\psi} [np_f(x - C_h) + E_y]^\theta C_h^{1-\theta} \right] \]  

(23)

where \( \tilde{\psi} = [n^*(1-\theta)/p_f]^\theta \). \( C_y \) is an increasing function of \( C_h \) in the above equation. A decrease in consumption of any home made variety raises the marginal utility of that variety. However, it follows from (8) that the relative price of any variety is fixed in the developing economy since the urban wage rate is fixed. As it also follows from utility maximization that marginal utility per dollar must be equal across all goods, this in turn implies that the marginal utility of good \( y \) must increase. Therefore, the consumption of the agricultural good must fall. All these imply that as a result of the opening the Southern economy to trade, the consumption of every variety of manufacturing as well as the consumption of agricultural good must fall. Recall that the quantity of every variety is always constant. Nevertheless, as \( y = C_y + E_y \), by opening the Southern economy to trade we can have \( dy > 0 \) since \( dE_y > 0 \). In this case we would have \( dw_r < 0 \), i.e., the rural wage (and the average urban wage) would fall, and the urban unemployment rate would rise. Thus we have the following result.

**Proposition 1.** Opening to trade can result in a decrease in the number of home made manufacturing varieties and an increase in the level of agricultural output in the developing economy. Thus, international trade can reduce welfare (measured as the average wage paid to workers in either region) of the developing economy.

Opening the South to trade reduces Southern consumption of each of the manufactured varieties. This is due to the production level of each variety being constant and some of the good being exported to the North. As we have already established that the consumption of the agricultural good is an increasing function of consumption of any variety, it follows that \( dC_y < 0 \). By opening to trade we also have \( dE_y > 0 \) since we established that South will be an exporter of the agricultural
good. Now if \( dE_y > |dC_y| \), then we will have \( dy > 0 \). This in turn implies, on the one hand, that the number of varieties produced in the South falls. On the other hand, the rural wage rate must fall due to diminishing returns, which increases the incentive to migrate, and results in a deterioration in the rate of urban unemployment. Thus, economic welfare, measured in terms of the wages paid to rural workers or the wages paid to urban workers on average, can fall even if the number of varieties available for consumption increases. Note that South now consumes also the Northern made varieties.

As for the North, the same argument for consumption of goods holds. That is, as these economies open up to trade, the consumption level of any variety must fall. It then follows that the consumption of agricultural good must also fall, i.e., \( dC^*_y < 0 \). As we have \( dy^* = dC^*_y + dE^*_y \), we conclude that \( dy^* < 0 \) since international market equilibrium for agricultural good require that \( dE^*_y = -dE_y < 0 \). Therefore, we have the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.** *International trade in manufacturing and agricultural goods increases (decreases) the number of manufacturing varieties (agricultural output) and increase welfare in North. Moreover, the gain from trade would be higher than if the agricultural good was a non-traded good.*

The reasoning is just the opposite of the argument we made for the South. A fall in agricultural output raises wages in the North. This also shifts labor resources to the urban area and leads to an increase in the number of varieties produced, in addition to an increase in varieties available through trade. Thus, economic welfare certainly rises.

## 5 Conclusions

The data shows clearly that the economies of the North and South do engage in both intra- and inter-industry trade. However, the consequences of such a trade pattern, especially from the perspective of the South, are not well-understood. In this paper we help to fill that gap by extending a model proposed by Oladi and Gilbert (2011) to allow for simultaneous North-South intra- and inter-industry trade.

In the model the South is characterized by a ‘dual’ labor market as envisaged by Harris and Todaro (1970). With a binding urban wage restriction, the the relative price of agricultural commodities (in terms of manufactures) is lower in the South in autarky than in the North, allowing for
comparative advantage based inter-industry trade, with the South exporting agricultural commodities to the North. At the same time, the South and North engage in intra-industry trade in manufactures, which are produced under monopolistically competitive conditions in both economies. Hence trade potentially allows for more variety, much like Krugman (1980).

The key new result is that simultaneous intra-industry and inter-industry trade in this context can be welfare reducing for South. By contrast, the Northern economy unambiguously benefits from both intra-industry and inter-industry trade (indeed, the Northern gain from trade would be higher than had there been only intra-industry trade between these economies). The reasoning behind the disparity is that for the South international trade, while allowing for more foreign variety, can also potentially result in more production of the agricultural good to serve the Northern market. Given the distortions in the Southern labor market this is problematic from the welfare perspective. One mechanism is similar to existing work on the dual economy, the increase in rural production lowers the marginal product of labor, which leads to an increase in the rate of urban unemployment. On average, workers in the Southern economy have a lower income. A new mechanism is that there is a concurrent reduction in the number of varieties produced in the South, which mitigates the benefits of more varieties being imported from the North.
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Table 1: Intra-Industry Trade Patterns in Major Developing Economies 2001-2009

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<td>EU</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All Developed</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All Developing</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s calculations based on COMTRADE (SITC-Rev 3, 5-digit)
Figure 1: Autarky equilibrium production in the South

Figure 2: Autarky equilibrium production in the North