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# On Terms of Trade, Offshoring Ties, and the Enforcement of Trade Agreements

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**Abstract:** This paper unpacks the role of offshoring in the enforcement of trade agreements. In a two-country model of task offshoring, we show that by depressing demand and thus demand for embodied labor, own-tariff effects on factor content weighted terms of trade are: (i) negative in upstream countries, backfiring on upstream workers, and (ii) positive in downstream countries which render imported labor tasks even cheaper. This progression in own-tariff effects on terms of trade along the supply chain presents a novel challenge to the effectiveness of dispute settlement rules designed to nullify unwarranted terms of trade gains. The pros and cons of deep trade integration as a remedy, involving well-enforced labor standards both upstream and downstream as an integral part of trade agreements, are highlighted.

**JEL Classification:** F11, F13, F16, F66, O19, O24

**Keywords:** Offshoring, Dispute Settlement Reciprocity, Labor Standards.

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# 1 Introduction

Offshoring is a ubiquitous feature of global production and international trade. Reduction in trade barriers and changes in information and communications technology have made possible the routinization of tasks and improvements in business-to-business coordination across long distances. These factors have contributed to a drastic reduction in the cost of production fragmentation facilitated by the offshoring of tasks worldwide (Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg 2008). The emergence and growth in offshoring relationships between countries precipitate a novel type of interdependence between trade partners. To wit, upstream countries export offshored labor services to downstream countries, only to import final products from downstream countries that contain their own countries' labor content. What trade policies benefit terms of trade upstream, where final goods trade is augmented to include labor task exports? What trade policies benefit terms of trade downstream, where offshored task imports facilitate trade in final goods? Answers to these questions can offer useful clues about whether canonical dispute settlement reciprocity principles, designed precisely to tame terms of trade rivalries, can remain self-enforcing conditional on dispute settlement rules. As Antràs and Chor (2022, p.356) point out, our understanding about these issues are underdeveloped, in an otherwise fast growing literature on global value chains.

We begin with a raw gauge on the patterns of global trade in value added. Overall, trade in intermediate inputs now comprises a sizeable share of global trade. According to OECD estimates, over 50% of the value of imports in OECD economies are intermediate inputs (Miroudot, Lanz and Ragoussis 2009). As high as two-thirds of total merchandise imports for many OECD countries comprised of imported intermediate goods (Johnson and Noguera 2012).<sup>1</sup> Beyond these oft noted aggregates, the domestic content share of manufacturing imports more specifically measures the domestic value added embodied in gross imports as a share of the value of gross imports at the bilateral exporter-importer level. Data is available from the OECD Trade in Value Added (TiVA) data set (1995-2018). While the overall average domestic content share was at 0.36% during this period (Table 1), there has in fact been a great deal of heterogeneity across country-groups and over time. To see this, we ranked countries based on their average

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<sup>1</sup>Of comparable magnitudes, between 1992 and 2008, offshored production from foreign countries contributed to 56% of China's total exports (Sheng and Yang 2017). Imported content comprised 44% of EU exports in 2000 (European Central Bank 2005). In the US, the foreign content of exports ranged between 12 - 13% from 2008 - 2013 based on OECD statistics on trade and value added.

value of total manufacturing production in 1995-1997, and divided countries into two equal-sized groups by rank, respectively low initial manufacturing production countries, and high initial manufacturing production countries. Figure 1 presents binscatter plots of the domestic content of import share, which shows that emerging markets with low initial manufacturing production saw phenomenal growth in the domestic content share of imports. These economies complement longstanding manufacturing hubs that have always been the key suppliers of intermediate goods to the world, with China's growth contributing to much of the rising trajectory for the group as a whole.

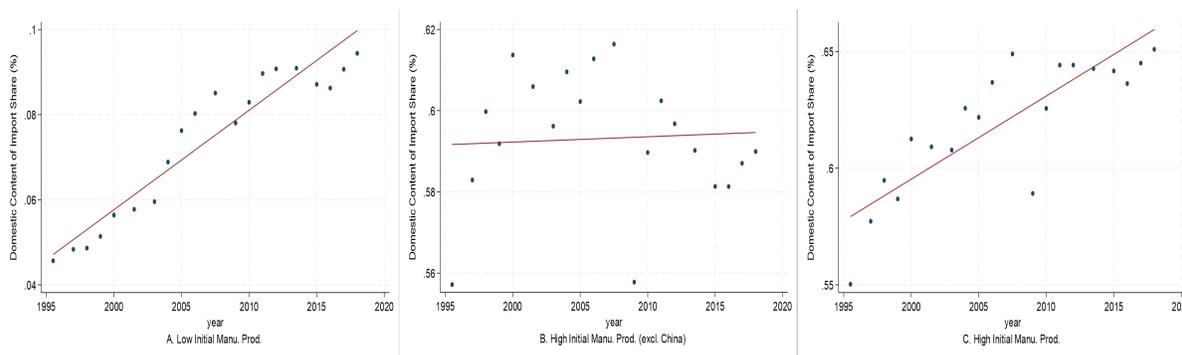
To further focus on trade patterns among large manufacturing hubs, for whom the terms of trade effects of their own trade policies are arguably most relevant, Table 2 dissects the matrix of bilateral trade shares among the top 15 manufacturing economies using the most recent manufacturing output figures from 2016-2018. For each exporter, we divide importer partners into a high and a middle income group (World Bank definition), to separately document upstream trade patterns with relatively higher- and lower-income importers. Table 2 presents exporter-specific mean bilateral levels of domestic content of import share by importer income group from 2010-2018. We see interesting and nuanced trade patterns across exporters. To start, exports from every manufacturing hub serve upstream trade partners. The average domestic content of import shares are highly exporter-importer specific (e.g. from 2.266% on average among high income import partners of Mexico, to 0.268% among middle income import partners of Russia), and in particular, some exporters display tighter upstream trade links with lower-income offshoring destinations on average (e.g. USA, Japan, India). For other countries (e.g. China, Great Britain, European Union member countries), the opposite is true. There are also exporters that harbor similar upstream linkages with both high and low income importers.

The fact that the intensity of supply chain relationships are highly exporter-importer pair specific suggests interesting new forces in play in the terms of trade rivalry between trading partners. Put simply, within a trading pair, the more downstream country may now be even more susceptible to the temptations of bilateral import restrictions that artificially depress the price of imports, if weakened final product demand spills over to depress the cost of foreign content embodied in downstream production. The more upstream partner, by contrast, may be less inclined to impose import restrictions if taxing imports entails taxing the use of their own domestic content embodied in imports.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, this novel terms of trade effect

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<sup>2</sup>This relationship between tariff preference on *final goods* and a country's location along the global supply

Figure 1: Growth in Domestic Content of Imports (1995-2018)



Note: 1. Figure 1 shows residualized binscatter plots of the domestic content of imports in three groups of countries, controlling for exporting and importing country fixed effects. 2. Panel A displays the pattern of growth in domestic content of imports from 33 countries in the data set with lower initial (1995-97 average) levels of aggregate manufacturing production. 3. Panel B displays the pattern of growth in domestic content of imports from the remaining countries in the data set with higher initial (1995-97 average) levels of aggregate manufacturing production, excluding China, while Panel C includes China. 4. Source: OECD Trade in Value Added Database.

associated with traditional tariff instruments has broad relevance to manufacturing hub countries regardless of levels of development, for as shown in Table 2, both high and middle income countries play important upstream roles for the majors exporters of the world. At the center of these arguments is the observation that traditional tariff instruments on final goods can directly impact the price of offshored tasks upstream.

Just how important these terms of trade effects are in upstream and downstream countries is the subject of a nascent area of empirical research, where notably some of the most pioneering work have shown that: (i) bilateral tariffs and temporary trade barriers appear to be set lower against imports with high domestic content (Blanchard, Bown and Johnson 2016, Ludema et al. 2021), (ii) when sanctions on imports with high domestic content do occur in upstream countries, negative employment effects in establishments producing domestic contents of imports have been observed (Chen 2022),<sup>3</sup> and (iii) the cost savings made possible by task offshoring confer significant native wage gains in downstream countries through a productivity effect even in the absence of technological change (Olney 2013, Ottaviano, Peri and Wright 2013, Firsin 2022). These studies provide important evidence consistent with the need for trade policy

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chain is thus distinct from a phenomenon more commonly referred to as tariff escalation. In the case of tariff escalation, countries tend impose higher rates of import tariffs on final goods than intermediate goods.

<sup>3</sup>Chen (2022) studies the effect of Chinese boycott of Japanese cars on China’s automobile supply chain, and finds a 10% to 15% employment reduction from the auto parts manufacturers located near the Japanese joint venture firms after the boycott.

making that internalizes (i) the depressive upstream terms of trade and employment influences that import tariffs can have when imports contain high levels of domestic content, and (ii) the potential gains that downstream countries can enjoy when the cost of offshoring is kept low, for example via import restrictions on final goods import.

In this paper, we take a cue from these earlier studies – particularly regarding the asymmetric ways in which countries up and down the global supply chain are motivated to leverage import barriers. We question whether the principles that have guided the multilateral trading system, designed specifically to discipline terms of trade rivalry in final goods trade via reciprocity can continue to incentivize countries to self-enforce efficient trade agreements in the age of global offshoring. We develop a two-country model of task offshoring, to verify and unpack how offshoring ties alter (i) the terms of trade consequences of import tariffs, (ii) the form that retaliatory tariffs must accordingly take to rebalance the terms of trade damages caused by foreign trade violations, and (iii) the ex post credibility of retaliatory threats that promise to fully neutralize the terms of trade gains made possible by a trade agreement violation.

There are two major considerations in our modelling choice. We seek a general equilibrium setting in which the upstream wage cost and the downstream wage benefits associated with offshoring are simultaneously endogenized. Taken together, these flexible wages jointly capture the wage dimension of factoral terms of trade aggregates in upstream and downstream countries. In addition, we work with a setting where the volume of offshored tasks is also fully endogenous and can change in response to the demand interferences that come with import barriers. This feature serves two purposes. First, endogenous offshoring provides variable weights on wages in factoral terms of trade aggregates, to duly reflect market demand conditions. Second, endogenous offshoring volume also makes it possible that both upstream and downstream countries can have wage setting capabilities in the market for offshored tasks, when import restrictions displace upstream workers away from completing offshored tasks to seek work elsewhere in the economy, for example. We make these modelling choices in line with evidence to date showing endogenous wage consequences of offshoring (Olney 2013, Ottaviano, Peri and Wright 2013, Firsin 2022), and the depressive labor demand effects of trade sanctions on goods with high domestic content (Chen 2022).

Specifically, we modify the canonical Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg (2008) model of international task offshoring. Our model features a continuum of varieties of final products in

a two-country setting, accommodating two-way trade in a continuum of final product varieties, and two-way trade in tasks along a continuum of tasks spectrum. These two-way trades in goods and tasks are respectively facilitated by heterogeneous product varieties depending on country of origin as well as international differences in labor supply, and labor productivity in select tasks. We perform simple comparative statics to formally demonstrate that own-tariff wage responses in the two countries are asymmetric, if the domestic labor contents of imports in the two countries are sufficiently divergent. Specifically, an import tariff by a *more upstream* country can have adverse local wage consequences if the domestic labor content of import is sufficiently high. This occurs because a tax on imports is a tax on the use of local workers employed upstream in the production process of imports. An import tariff by a *more downstream* country, however, can benefit domestic workers, as it lowers offshoring cost by pushing down the upstream wage. The resulting positive effect on downstream wages is reminiscent of the productivity effect of an offshoring cost reduction by now well-understood and empirically verified in the literature (Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg 2008, Ottaviano, Peri and Wright 2013).

These asymmetric, own-tariff wage responses suggest that offshoring ties can introduce interesting asymmetries in the trade policy preferences of upstream and downstream countries, where a pro-trade bias becomes more likely among countries upstream in view of the adverse wage (and thus terms of trade with task exports) consequences of import tariffs, while import protection continues to confer unilateral terms of trade gains downstream. We flesh out these intuitions in three steps, by exploring (i) the nature and maintenance of first-best import tariff agreements, (ii) the Nash equilibrium in import tariffs, and (iii) the possibility of deep trade integration that takes into account minimum labor standards in charting trade agreements.

According to GATT Article 22.4 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding, a trade agreement violation or withdrawal of concessions by any one party is to be met by an equivalent and compensatory market access rebalancing, leaving the value of trade unchanged for all parties concerned (Anderson 2002, WTO 2005, Chau and Färe 2011). In a seminal paper, Bagwell and Staiger (1999) shows that market access reciprocity can guide self-interested countries to sign efficient trade agreements. Similarly, dispute settlement reciprocity negates incentives for trade agreement violations. The underlying model that justified these features of a trade agreement is a trade in final goods model, where the salient features of economies engaged in offshoring relationships are not accounted for. We check and affirm the importance of market access

reciprocity in enforcing first-best trade agreements in the context of our model with offshoring ties, and derive the analog of market access rebalancing required to eliminate trade violation incentives. In so doing, we furnish a revised equivalent retaliatory tariff formula, as one that maintains a constant level of (factor content of trade weighted) terms of trade after a trade violation.

We then explore the properties of the revised equivalent retaliatory tariff formula to gain insights. In particular, we show that an eye for an eye type retaliatory tariff may no longer be able to deliver the constant level of factor content of trade weighted terms of trade required to mitigate downstream incentives to unilaterally deviate from a first-best trade agreement. Indeed, in response to downstream protectionism in violation of a free trade agreement, upstream import protection may end up benefiting the downstream nation if own-tariff wage response in the upstream country is negative, thus encouraging the violation even further. We derive conditions under which the equivalent tariff response that rebalances terms of trade subsequent to a downstream protectionist violation is in fact an import subsidy. Here, the pro-trade bias of offshoring in upstream countries manifests either in the form of (i) an import subsidy to counter unilateral protectionism downstream, or (ii) an inability to issue terms of trade rebalancing retaliation if subsidies are not feasible due to government budget constraints. Without effective retaliation in the punishment phase, a trade agreement with dispute settlement reciprocity cannot prevent trade wars.

What then is the nature of an all-out tariff war with offshoring ties, when free trade agreements may be hard to enforce? We derive the best responses in import tariffs for the upstream and downstream countries respectively. Interestingly, we find that trade preference asymmetries between upstream and downstream countries take the form of asymmetric shifts in the tariff best responses due to offshoring ties. The more upstream country's best response shifts in a pro-trade fashion relative to a no-offshoring benchmark, with lower import taxes or higher import subsidies depending on the domestic content of imports. The more downstream country's best response shifts relative to a no-offshoring benchmark to reflect even more protectionist tendencies. The insight gained is thus that offshoring alters the nature of equilibrium tariffs in an all-out trade war as well. A novel concern that directly follows is that if the best that an upstream country can do is free trade in an all-out tariff war because of the pro-trade bias inherent in a upstream position, the prospect of achieving a first-best trade agreement (with

free trade) is dim. This is particularly relevant if revenue considerations prohibit the use of import subsidies in a trade war, as well as the use of side payments to compensate downstream countries as incentives to sign trade agreements.<sup>4</sup>

In view of these trade preference asymmetries and the possibility that trade agreements cannot be credibly enforced, we propose a potential remedy. In particular, we explore the role of deep trade integration that jointly takes into account the efficiency and trade agreement enforcement consequences of trade and minimum labor standards (e.g. well-enforced and binding minimum wages in the two countries). We show that credibly enforced minimum labor standards can accomplish what an equivalent retaliatory tariff is supposed to accomplish – to maintain a stable factor content of trade weighted terms of trade. In so doing, we shed new light on the potential role for labor standards as a precondition that can facilitate the signing and maintenance of trade agreements between countries along the global supply chain.<sup>5</sup>

## 2 Literature

This paper expands on the work of an nascent literature of trade policy in the age of global supply chains.<sup>6</sup> Earlier studies work in partial equilibrium settings with homogeneous goods where (i) wages are determined outside the model, while the volume of intermediate goods trade is endogenous and moderated by constant unit input requirements (Antràs and Chor 2022), or where (ii) the volume of inputs used in offshored production are exogenously fixed, but their returns reflect the value of marginal products (Blanchard, Bown and Johnson 2016). The former does not accommodate variable productivity and wage effects that have been shown to play an important role in assessing the benefits of offshoring (e.g. Ottaviano, Peri and Wright 2013). The latter restrict offshored input quantities, and as such it precludes trade barriers on final goods from having general equilibrium labor market effects in upstream countries.

Our model is thus more in line with recent contributions such as Beshkar and Lashkaripour (2020), Caliendo et al.(2021), and Antràs et al. (2022) in which goods are distinguished by a

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<sup>4</sup>We also check to show that these intuitions remain valid in a number of extensions of the basic model: (i) alternative import tariffs on goods that do not required offshored tasks, (ii) taxes on imported inputs, (iii) endogenous offshoring intensities, (iv) markup pricing and (v) alternative functional forms.

<sup>5</sup>Some recent examples include the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), where the promotion of labor standards among all member is an explicit goal.

<sup>6</sup>See Antràs and Chor (2022) for an excellent survey with a focus on optimal policies to reap terms of trade gains / specific input rents. Grossman, Helpman, and Lhuillier (2023) studies optimal policy design in the presence of supply chain interruptions. Also see Timmer et al. (2014) for a comprehensive overview on the growth in global supply chains, with an emphasis on the foreign content of production across countries.

product’s country-of-origin, and where wages and input volumes are endogenous. In Beshkar and Lashkaripour (2020), the objective is to derive unilaterally optimal tariff policy formulas to show that failure to achieve a trade agreement can lead to significantly higher welfare losses when global supply chains are involved. In Caliendo et al. (2021), unilaterally optimal import tariffs are featured as a second best policy to offset the inefficiencies associated with the double marginalization that occurs when input producers and final goods producers both entertain market power, but production subsidies are not feasible. In Antràs et al. (2022), the model likewise features imperfect competition in both input and final goods markets, where the key result provides an economic rationale behind the well-documented tariff escalation from primary to intermediate to final goods commonly observed in the data (Bown and Crowley 2016). The objective of our paper is to move beyond non-cooperative tariffs, to explicitly assess the feasibility of self-enforcing trade agreements using canonical dispute settlement reciprocity principles.

This paper complements a growing volume of studies on offshoring that has so far been concerned primarily with the wage and employment consequences of offshoring. The benefits of offshoring in terms of employment generation and wage increases in the offshoring country have been shown in a number of studies (e.g. Mankiw and Swagel 2006, Harrison and McMillan 2011, Ottaviano, Peri and Wright 2013, Hummels Munch and Xiang 2016).<sup>7</sup> Most of this literature focusses on downstream developed countries in the global supply chain, with few exceptions. For example, Feenstra and Hanson (1996, 1997) examine the impact of offshoring on wage inequality between developed and developing countries, and show that the skill intensities of the tasks offshored play a critical role. Davidson, Matusz and Shevchenko (2008) presents a two-country model of offshoring with search friction. A reduction in the cost of posting a vacancy in the developed country is shown to increase offshoring, and raise wages. Bergin, Feenstra and Hanson (2011) shows that offshoring stabilizes wages in the developed country, while adding volatility to developing country wages as offshoring activities respond to business cycle effects. Bandyopadhyay et al. (2020) formulates a model of tasks offshoring, and shows

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<sup>7</sup>Mankiw and Swagel (2006) examines employment levels in the overseas affiliates of US multinational firms and the US parent. Harrison and McMillan (2011) argues in favor of a more nuanced look at the offshoring and employment relationship, and specifically the need to distinguish between horizontal and vertical foreign investment. Ottaviano, Peri and Wright (2013) introduces competition with both immigrant workers as well as native workers as an additional mediating factor. Other studies include Mitra and Ranjan (2010), which introduces search friction into the Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg setting, and Ranjan (2013) which demonstrates the importance of labor market institutions such as employer-employee bargaining. Hummels, Munch and Xiang (2016) is an excellent survey of the literature.

that whether a developing country benefits from offshoring cost reducing technological change in general equilibrium depends in a nuanced way on the labor demand elasticities in the two countries. This paper contributes to the literature by shedding light on the potential perverse consequences of import protection on wages when the domestic labor content of imports is sufficiently high.<sup>8</sup>

This paper also contributes to the literature on the economics of international trade agreements, where the rationale behind market access rebalancing as a dispute settlement device has been extensively explored (e.g. Bagwell and Staiger 1999, Schwartz and Sykes (2002), Lawrence 2003, Kohler 2004, Howse and Staiger 2005). In particular, our findings complement studies that single out the role of retaliation threat on revealed tariff preference (e.g. Moore and Zanardi 2011, Blonigen and Bown 2013), and the pattern of retaliation tariffs within and outside of the sector in which the original trade injury takes place (e.g. Furceri et al. 2023). These studies do not take into account the difference that offshoring ties make to the nature and enforcement of trade agreements. The only exception is Antràs and Staiger (2012), which points out a hold-up problem that arises when contracts between buyers and producers are incomplete. In this setting, input trade subsidies and free trade in the final goods resolve the hold-up problem. Furthermore, if governments' objective include political economy considerations, reciprocity is no longer able to guide countries to reach an efficient trade agreement. Our paper departs from the contracting hold-up issue, and focuses instead on changes in trade preferences that arise when offshoring shifts the own-tariff wage responses in a way that may be harmful to workers upstream, but not to workers downstream. We check and state the nature that market access rebalancing should take in the presence of offshoring ties to enforce trade agreements, and point out potential pitfalls along the way (e.g. government budget constraints) that may constrain countries from executing equivalent rebalancing import tariff / subsidy retaliation.

Finally, this paper directly connects with longstanding work on globalization and labor standards, where the predominant focus is that globalization leads to a cut-throat race in developing countries' effort to outcompete one another in terms of wages. Some argued that strict regulation on labor standards deters participation and competition in the global economy (Collier and Dollar 2002), while other studies have shown how globalization can unleash a race

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<sup>8</sup>For studies that share the developing country focus of this paper but examine other aspects of offshoring, see for example, Díez (2014) that investigates the impact of tariffs on offshoring and intra-firm trade decisions in a North-South framework, and Burstein and Vogel (2010) in which the focus is on the impact of offshoring on the skill premium in Northern and Southern countries.

to manipulate labor standards (Chau and Kanbur 2006, Olney 2013, Im and McLaren 2021). Despite these concerns, Rodrik (1996), Bakhshi and Kerr (2010) and Flanagan (2003) use proxies of labor rights (e.g. adoption of ILO conventions) and fail to find empirical support for a negative relationship between international labor standards and exports. Our paper contributes to this literature by staging the determinants of trade flows from the broader perspective of whether countries are able sign credible trade agreements with one another in the presence of an offshoring relationship.

### 3 Insights from Recent Trade Disputes

If offshoring ties indeed give rise to asymmetric terms of trade consequences among upstream and downstream trade partners, one would expect realized trade policy disputes to reflect this asymmetry. For example, are trade disputes more common among upstream complainants and downstream respondents?

To preface the model, therefore, we offer suggestive, albeit non-causal, evidence of trade policy preference biases up and down the global supply chain.<sup>9</sup> We ascertain the extent to which the likelihood that a country confronts trade policy violations by trade partners is associated with the position of the country along the supply chain, and the intensity of the domestic content of imports in particular. In order to assess the relationship between the domestic content of imports and trade disputes, we construct a trade dispute incidence matrix across 4,290 ( $= 66 \times 65$ ) country pairs from 1995-2018. For each importer( $j$ )-exporter( $i$ ) pair at year  $t$ , we ascertain the likelihood that an importer country  $j$  launches a WTO dispute against exporter country  $i$  as a function of the intensity of the domestic (country  $j$ 's) content of imports from  $i$ . We measure this intensity in two ways, including (i) a dummy variable (Domestic Content Dummy) which equals one when the domestic content of imports of  $j$  from  $i$  as a share of the value of total imports of  $j$  from  $i$  exceeds  $x\%$  ( $= 1, 3, 5, 7, 10\%$ ) in year  $t$ , and (ii) the domestic content of imports of  $j$  from  $i$  as a share of the value of total imports of  $j$  from  $i$  (Domestic Content Share) in year  $t$ . The domestic content of trade data comes from the OECD TiVA

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<sup>9</sup>Specific trade war episodes can also offer insights. In the US-China trade disputes that began in 2018, the trade war began with an eye for an eye type retaliation to start from January 2018 to August 2018. China's match of US's new trade restrictions decelerated in market access terms thereafter. Trade-weighted average U.S. tariff on Chinese products was at 3.1% in January 2018 compared to the 8.0% Chinese average. By September 2019, the U.S. average tariff and the Chinese average tariff converged at 21%. Chinese retaliation covered food and materials imports in the main, as well as electronics including televisions, cell phones, machinery, vehicles, medical instruments, and plastic products for example (Bown 2020).

(Trade in Value Added) data set. Table 1 summarizes the data. On average, WTO trade disputes occurred in 0.24% of the country pairs. The domestic content of imports constitutes 0.36% of total imports on average. In 0.13% (0.45%, 0.87%, 1.9%, 8.8%) of the country pair-year observations, the domestic content of import as a share of total imports exceeds 10% (7%, 5%, 3%, 1%, respectively). Interestingly, and just based on raw data, a country-pair is close to more than 37 (12, 6, 5, 7) times more likely to have engaged in a trade dispute with an exporting trade partner if the importer’s domestic content of import from the exporter exceeds 10% (7%, 5%, 3%, 1% respectively) of total imports from the exporter.

Table 3 displays the results of a series of linear probability model regressions that assess the likelihood of an importer-launched WTO-trade dispute between an importer-exporter pair in year  $t$  as a function of the intensity of the domestic-content of import of the importer from the exporter at time  $t$ , with year, importer and exporter fixed effects, as well as year, importer-exporter pair fixed effects.<sup>10</sup> Column (1) shows the intensity of the domestic content of import using the domestic content share variable, controlling separately for year, importer and exporter fixed effects. The next two columns additionally account for scale effects, by respectively incorporating the value of manufacturing production of the importer (column 2), and the value of manufacturing production of the importer and the exporter separately (column 3). All three sets of regressions control for year, importer and exporter fixed effects. The next three columns repeat these regressions by introducing importer-exporter pair fixed effects to replace separate importer and exporter fixed effects. In all six regressions, an increase in the intensity of the domestic content of imports in the country pair increases the likelihood of an importer-launched trade dispute given our list of controls. Using Column 6 of Table 3 with country-pair fixed effects as a benchmark, a 1 percentage point increase in the domestic content share of imports increases the likelihood of an importer launched trade dispute by 0.30%. Given that trade disputes only occur in 0.24% of the country pairs in our data, this is a non-trivial increase in the risk of a trade dispute. It bears emphasis that these are non-causal associations. Nonetheless, we find these novel observations and associated mechanisms to be worthy of further investigation. We now turn to our model of offshoring and trade taxes.

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<sup>10</sup>We adopt the linear probability model due to the infrequency of trade disputes among many country pairs, and consequently the large number of perfectly predicted outcomes (> 95%) if, for example, a categorical variable approach such as a logit model is adopted.

## 4 A Simple Model of Offshoring and Trade Taxes

Consider a two-country (home ( $H$ ) and foreign ( $F$ )) setting, in which each country produces two tradable commodities  $x$  and  $y$ , where  $y$  is a homogeneous product, and serves as the model's numeraire good. Home's  $x$  sector produces a continuum of varieties  $z_n \in [0, N]$ , for home consumption, and varieties  $z_{n^*} \in [0, N^*]$ , for foreign consumption. Similarly, foreign's  $x$  sector produces a continuum of varieties  $z_m \in [0, M]$ , for home consumption, and varieties  $z_{m^*} \in [0, M^*]$ , for foreign consumption.<sup>11</sup> Let  $q_{z_n}$  and  $q_{z_m}$  denote home consumption of variety  $z_n$  and  $z_m$  respectively, and  $q_{z_{n^*}}^*$  and  $q_{z_{m^*}}^*$  denote foreign consumption of variety  $z_{n^*}$  and  $z_{m^*}$  respectively.  $q_y$  and  $q_y^*$  are the quantities of  $y$  consumed in the two countries.

Preferences of consumer  $i$  in the home country are represented by a utility function:

$$U(q_{iz_n}, q_{iz_m}, q_{iy}) = q_{iy} + \int_0^N u(q_{iz_n}) dz_n + \int_0^M v(q_{iz_m}) dz_m.$$

where  $u(q_{iz_n}) = (\alpha - \gamma q_{iz_n}/2)q_{iz_n}$ , and  $v(q_{iz_m}) = (\alpha - \gamma q_{iz_m}/2)q_{iz_m}$ . These yield consumer demand for each variety  $z_n$  and  $z_m$  as functions of market prices  $p_{z_n}$  and  $p_{z_m}$  respectively.<sup>12</sup>

$$q_{z_n}(p_{z_n}) = L(\alpha - p_{z_n})/\gamma, \quad q_{z_m}(p_{z_m}) = L(\alpha - p_{z_m})/\gamma. \quad (1)$$

Similarly in the foreign country,

$$U^*(q_{iz_{n^*}}^*, q_{iz_{m^*}}^*, q_{iy}^*) = q_{iy}^* + \int_0^{N^*} u^*(q_{iz_{n^*}}^*) dz_{n^*} + \int_0^{M^*} v^*(q_{iz_{m^*}}^*) dz_{m^*}$$

where  $u^*(q_{iz_{n^*}}^*) = (\alpha^* - \gamma^* q_{iz_{n^*}}^*/2)q_{iz_{n^*}}^*$ , and  $v^*(q_{iz_{m^*}}^*) = (\alpha^* - \gamma^* q_{iz_{m^*}}^*/2)q_{iz_{m^*}}^*$ . Consumer demand given prices  $p_{z_{n^*}}^*$  and  $p_{z_{m^*}}^*$  are:

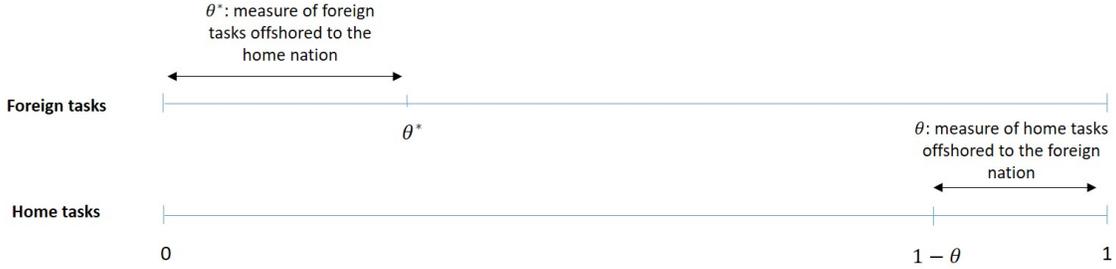
$$q_{z_{n^*}}^*(p_{z_{n^*}}^*) = L^*(\alpha^* - p_{z_{n^*}}^*)/\gamma^*, \quad q_{z_{m^*}}^*(p_{z_{m^*}}^*) = L^*(\alpha^* - p_{z_{m^*}}^*)/\gamma^*. \quad (2)$$

Production of  $y$  in the two countries is accomplished via production functions  $y(L_y, K_y) \geq 0$  and  $y^*(L_y^*, K_y^*) \geq 0$ , using local labor  $(L_y, L_y^*)$  and other specific inputs  $(K_y, K_y^*)$  imported from the rest of the world. We fix units such that a unit of  $y$  incurs wage cost  $wb_L$ . Reflecting diminishing returns to scale, a unit of  $y$  also requires specific inputs that cost  $b_K y/2$  units of the numeraire. Likewise in the foreign country, the cost of a unit of  $y$  is given by the sum of wage cost  $w^*b_L^*$ , and specific input cost  $b_K^* y^*/2$ .

<sup>11</sup>For the time being, these ranges are fixed, and role of endogenous entry will be addressed in Section 4.

<sup>12</sup>We have assumed here, for expositional clarity, that demand depends only on own-price effects. In section 4, we discuss this assumption by incorporating cross-substitution possibilities between varieties.

Figure 2: The Pattern of Task Offshoring



The profit maximizing labor demand schedules are given by  $L_y(w, T) = \bar{L}_y(1 + T) - A_y w$  and  $L_y^*(w^*, T^*) = \bar{L}_y^*(1 + T) - A_y^* w^*$  where  $\bar{L}_y > 0$  and  $\bar{L}_y^* > 0$  are labor demand shifters and  $A_y > 0$  and  $A_y^* > 0$  the corresponding slope terms.<sup>13</sup>  $T$  and  $T^*$  are placeholders for a specific import tariff (export subsidy) if the country in question is a net importer (exporter) of the homogeneous good.<sup>14</sup> A higher  $T$ , for example, encourages local production in the home country to expand to replace imports, which in turn increases derived labor demand in  $y$  at given  $w$  in the standard way. The effect of an increase in  $T^*$  is analogous.

Production of a unit of any variety of  $x$  requires a continuum of labor tasks  $k \in [0, 1]$  to be performed. Task offshoring to the home country is feasible for a range  $[0, \theta^*]$  of tasks in the foreign country, while  $[1 - \theta, 1]$  denotes the range of production tasks in the home country that can be offshored to the foreign country, as shown in Figure 2. Some tasks are not offshorable, and thus we take  $\theta^* < 1 - \theta$ . We assume henceforth that  $\theta^* > \theta \geq 0$ , meaning simply that with two-way offshoring, the home country is more upstream, and the foreign country more downstream. The share of offshorable tasks  $\theta^*$  and  $\theta$  are technologically given to producers in the two countries depending, for example, on the routine nature and skill intensity of the tasks performed.<sup>15</sup>

Without loss of generality, assume that workers in the foreign country are more productive – expressed in units of labor, each task offshored by the foreign country requires  $\beta^* A^* > A^*$  number of home country workers to complete, when all tasks can be completed in the foreign country with  $A^*$  number of workers per task.  $\beta^* > 1$  parameterizes worker productivity

<sup>13</sup>These labor demand schedules solve  $\max_y (1 + T)y - w b_L y - b_K y^2 / 2$ . The corresponding labor demand schedule are  $\bar{L}_y(1 + T) - A_y w$  where  $\bar{L}_y = b_L / b_K$ , and  $A_y = b_L \bar{L}_y$ . The profit maximization problem in the  $y$  sector in the foreign country is analogous. Profits in  $y$  sector is claimed as a residual by  $y$  sector entrepreneurs.

<sup>14</sup>Export subsidies are prohibited in the WTO for manufactured products, but some agricultural export subsidies are still permitted (Article XVI of GATT).

<sup>15</sup>Section 4 discusses the implications of endogenous offshoring shares in our setting.

difference adjusted to account for any foreign offshoring cost in the home country. Meanwhile, let  $\beta A < A$  be the number of foreign country workers required to produce each task offshored by the home country, where  $A$  denotes the unit labor requirement per task in the home country. Given simultaneous productivity differences  $\beta \neq \beta^*$  and wage differences  $w \neq w^*$ , two-way offshoring is cost-minimizing in the two countries if and only if respectively  $\beta^* A^* w < A^* w^*$  and  $\beta A w^* < A w$ , or equivalently

$$\beta^* < \frac{w^*}{w} < \frac{1}{\beta}. \quad (3)$$

By contrast, one-way offshoring applies when for example  $\beta^* A^* w - A^* w^* > 0$  and  $\beta A w^* - A w < 0$ , in which case only the home country should offshore tasks to the foreign country to minimize cost, and the foreign country minimizes cost by completing all tasks locally. If however  $\beta^* A^* w - A w < 0$  and  $\beta A w^* - A w > 0$ , then only the foreign country will find it cost minimizing to offshore tasks to be completed in the home country, while the home country completes all tasks locally to minimize cost. Henceforth we assume that the productivity gap between the two countries is large, so that  $\beta^* \leq 1/\beta$ , thus accommodating the possibility of two-way offshoring required in (3).

The home and foreign unit costs of production with two-way offshoring will thus embody both home and foreign country wage costs. In particular, denote  $a = A(1 - \theta)$  and  $a_o = A\beta\theta$  as the home and foreign country labor requirements of a unit of the final good  $x$  supplied by the home country. Symmetrically, denote  $a^* = A^*(1 - \theta^*)$  and  $a_o^* = A^*\beta^*\theta^*$  as the foreign and home country labor requirements of a unit of the final good  $x^*$  supplied by the foreign country. The corresponding unit costs of production for each of the  $N + N^*$  and  $M + M^*$  varieties are respectively

$$c(w, w^*) = aw + a_o w^* \quad \text{and} \quad c^*(w, w^*) = a^* w^* + a_o^* w.$$

The two countries have at their disposal uniform specific tariffs  $t$  and  $t^*$  on all heterogeneous goods imports. With competitive pricing in the final demand of the heterogeneous good, prices and the corresponding aggregate demand in the home country are <sup>16</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} p_{z_n} &= p_n(w, w^*) = c(w, w^*), & Q_n(w, w^*) &= Nq_{z_n}(p_n(w, w^*)), \\ p_{z_m} &= p_m(w, w^*, t) = c^*(w, w^*) + t, & Q_m(w, w^*, t) &= Mq_{z_m}(p_m(w, w^*, t)), \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

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<sup>16</sup>Input taxes by the home  $\tau$  and the foreign country  $\tau^*$  can be readily introduced as well. We discuss this in section 5.

while in the foreign country

$$\begin{aligned} p_{z_n^*}^* &= p_{n^*}^*(w, w^*, t^*) = c(w, w^*) + t^*, & Q_{n^*}^*(w, w^*, t^*) &= N^* q_{z_n^*}^*(p_{n^*}^*(w, w^*, t^*)), \\ p_{z_m^*}^* &= p_{m^*}^*(w, w^*) = c^*(w, w^*), & Q_{m^*}^*(w, w^*) &= M^* q_{z_m^*}^*(p_{m^*}^*(w, w^*)). \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

In line with these prices and aggregate consumption levels, the derived demand for labor in the two countries,  $L_x$  and  $L_x^*$ , come from four sources respectively. In the home country:

$$L_x(w, w^*, t, t^*) = a(Q_n(w, w^*) + Q_{n^*}^*(w, w^*, t^*)) + a_o^*(Q_m(w, w^*, t) + Q_{m^*}^*(w, w^*)), \quad (6)$$

to include direct employment in the production of final goods  $Q_n$  and  $Q_{n^*}^*$ , and employment to complete offshored foreign tasks in  $Q_m$  and  $Q_{m^*}^*$ . In the foreign country,

$$L_x^*(w, w, t, t^*) = a^*(Q_m(w, w^*, t) + Q_{m^*}^*(w, w^*)) + a_o(Q_n(w, w^*) + Q_{n^*}^*(w, w^*, t^*)), \quad (7)$$

to satisfy labor demand for final goods production in  $Q_m$  and  $Q_{m^*}^*$  and to complete offshored home tasks in  $Q_n$  and  $Q_{n^*}^*$ .

Equations (6) and (7) fully characterize the own-wage, and cross-wage, as well as the own-tariff, and cross-tariff impacts on labor demand in the two countries, depending on the domestic content of imports in the two countries embodied in the  $(a, a_o)$  and  $(a^*, a_o^*)$  pairings. Strictly following standard intuitions, it can be shown that own-wage labor demand effects  $(\partial L_x / \partial w, \partial L_x^* / \partial w^*)$  are unambiguously negative, while cross-wage effects  $(\partial L_x / \partial w^*, \partial L_x^* / \partial w)$  are negative if and only if there is cross-border offshoring ( $a_o > 0$  and / or  $a_o^* > 0$ ).<sup>17</sup>

From (6) and (7), labor demand in the two countries are also subject to own- and cross-tariff influences. All else equal, cross-tariff effects on local labor demand  $(\partial L_x / \partial t^*, \partial L_x^* / \partial t)$  are always negative as expected, as tariff abroad depresses demand for production, and thus employment.<sup>18</sup> Interestingly, and relevant particularly for the analyses to follow, offshoring facilitates a perverse own-tariff effect on local labor demand. Specifically, using (6) - (7), it can be shown that all else constant,

$$\frac{\partial L_x}{\partial t} = -a_o^* M L / \gamma < 0, \quad \frac{\partial L_x^*}{\partial t^*} = -a_o N^* L^* / \gamma^* < 0$$

if and only if the domestic labor content of imports in two countries are respectively positive ( $a_o^* > 0$  and  $a_o > 0$ ).

<sup>17</sup>Using (1) - (2), and (4) - (7), the own-wage response is given by  $\partial L_x / \partial w = -a^2(NL/\gamma + N^*L^*/\gamma^*) - (a_o^*)^2(ML/\gamma + M^*L^*/\gamma^*) < 0$ . The cross-wage response is:  $\partial L_x / \partial w^* = -a a_o(NL/\gamma + N^*L^*/\gamma^*) - a_o^* a(ML/\gamma + M^*L^*/\gamma^*) < 0$  if and only if  $a_o > 0$  and / or  $a_o^* > 0$ . The own- and cross-wage responses for  $L_x^*$  are analogous.

<sup>18</sup>Using (1) - (2), and (4) - (7),  $\partial L_x / \partial t^* = -a N^* L^* / \gamma^* < 0$  and  $\partial L_x^* / \partial t = -a^* M L / \gamma < 0$ .

Using (6) - (7), as well as labor demand in the homogeneous sector ( $L_y(w)$  and  $L_y^*(w^*)$ ), full employment in the two countries respectively require that:

$$L = L_y(w, T) + L_x(w, w^*, t, t^*), \quad (8)$$

$$L^* = L_y^*(w^*, T^*) + L_x^*(w, w^*, t, t^*). \quad (9)$$

Our model yields closed-form general equilibrium solutions to wages, which in turn can be used to determine prices, employment, output levels and welfare. We show in the appendix that general equilibrium wages are functions of the two tariff rates in the differentiated goods sector  $\mathbf{t} = (t, t^*)$ , henceforth “x-sector tariffs” for notational economy, and the import tariffs / export subsidies in the homogenous goods sector  $\mathbf{T} = (T, T^*)$ , henceforth “y-sector tariffs”, in the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} w(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T}) &= \omega_o + \sum_{\sigma=t, T} \omega_\sigma \sigma + \sum_{\sigma=t^*, T^*} \omega_\sigma \sigma, \\ w^*(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T}) &= \omega_o^* + \sum_{\sigma=t, T} \omega_\sigma^* \sigma + \sum_{\sigma=t^*, T^*} \omega_\sigma^* \sigma \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

where  $\omega_o$  and  $\omega_o^*$  are functions of relative labor supply and consumption shares, along with technological parameters only, while general equilibrium own-tariff and cross-tariff responses ( $\omega_t, \omega_{t^*}$  and  $\omega_t^*, \omega_{t^*}^*$  respectively) are likewise fully characterized by the same list of relative labor and consumption share in addition to technological parameters.<sup>19</sup>

**Proposition 1** *General equilibrium own-wage effects of x-sector tariffs are perverse if and only if the domestic content of imports is sufficiently high. In the home country:*

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} \equiv \omega_t < (\geq) 0 \text{ if and only if } \frac{a_o^*}{a^*} > (\leq) \frac{a_o}{a} \left( \frac{a^2 s_p}{a_y^* + (a_o)^2 s_p} \right),$$

*and in the foreign country:*

$$\frac{\partial w^*}{\partial t^*} \equiv \omega_{t^*}^* < (\geq) 0 \text{ if and only if } \frac{a_o}{a} > (\leq) \frac{a_o^*}{a^*} \left( \frac{(a^*)^2 (1 - s_p)}{a_y + (a_o^*)^2 (1 - s_p)} \right).$$

*General equilibrium cross-wage effects of x-sector tariffs are always negative:*

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t^*} \equiv \omega_{t^*} < 0, \quad \frac{\partial w^*}{\partial t} \equiv \omega_t^* < 0.$$

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<sup>19</sup>In the Appendix, we prove the existence of a unique interior equilibrium, along with the comparative statics results summarized in Proposition 1.

General equilibrium own-wage effects of  $y$ -sector tariffs are always positive, and cross-wage effects are always negative:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial w}{\partial T} &\equiv \omega_T > 0, & \frac{\partial w^*}{\partial T^*} &\equiv \omega_{T^*}^* > 0, \\ \frac{\partial w}{\partial T^*} &\equiv \omega_{T^*} < 0, & \frac{\partial w^*}{\partial T} &\equiv \omega_T^* < 0.\end{aligned}$$

$a_y \equiv A_y/((NL + ML)/\gamma + (N^*L^* + M^*L^*)/\gamma^*)$  denotes normalized input requirement in  $y$ , while analogously  $a_y^* = A_y^*/((NL + ML)/\gamma + (N^*L^* + M^*L^*)/\gamma^*)$ . Proposition 1 shows that an import tariff in  $x$  can backfire and harm local workers in the more upstream country. Put simply, a tax on imports in  $x$  is a tax on domestic labor demand when domestic labor contents are embodied in imports from abroad. Proposition 1 also shows that neither country is immune to this tendency as long as they are both engaged in some upstream tasks, but if the degree of upstreamness between the two countries are sufficiently divergent, say when

$$\frac{a_o^*}{a^*} > \frac{a_o}{a} \left( \frac{a^2 s_p}{a_y^* + (a_o)^2 s_p} \right), \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{a_o}{a} < \frac{a_o^*}{a^*} \left( \frac{(a^*)^2 (1 - s_p)}{a_y + (a_o^*)^2 (1 - s_p)} \right),$$

which applies, as a special case, when the foreign country is purely downstream ( $a_o^* > 0 = a_o$ ), import tariffs may only backfire in the more upstream country and not downstream.  $Y$ -sector tariffs, by contrast, protects the homogeneous good from import competition in the standard way, and are thus always unambiguously favorable to local workers.

Having established these sharply asymmetric wage effects of  $x$ -sector and  $y$ -sector import tariffs, we now turn to an analysis of the pros and cons of import tariffs in the presence of offshoring links in welfare terms.

#### 4.1 Trade Policy Preference Asymmetries

Let  $C_y$  and  $C_y^*$  denote total consumption of the numeraire commodity in the two countries. Gross national product  $W(w, w^*, t, T)$  and  $W^*(w, w^*, t^*, T^*)$  in the two countries respectively add up profits from producing the homogeneous good, and from producing heterogeneous varieties, plus wage income from completing local tasks and offshored tasks, as well as any tariff revenues (or minus subsidy costs). Thus  $C_y$  and  $C_y^*$  are respectively given by the amount of gross national product leftover from consuming locally and imported  $x$ -sector goods:<sup>20</sup>

$$\begin{aligned}C_y(w, w^*, t, T) &= y(1 - b_K y/2) + w(L - b_L y) + tQ_m - p_n Q_n - p_m Q_m, \\ C_y^*(w, w^*, t^*, T^*) &= y^*(1 - b_K^* y^*/2) + w^*(L^* - b_L^* y^*) + t^* Q_{n^*}^* - p_{n^*}^* Q_{n^*}^* - p_{m^*}^* Q_{m^*}^*.\end{aligned}$$

<sup>20</sup>To see this, note that with competitive markets,  $W(w, w^*, t, T) = y(1 + T - b_K y/2) - wL_y + wL + tQ_m + T(C_y - y)$  where  $tQ_m + T(C_y - y)$  denote tariff revenues. Now, consumption on  $y$  costs  $(1 + T)C_y$  in the home

As all consumers maintain budget balance, equilibrium indirect utility, with lump sum transfers of tariff revenues back to consumers, is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} V &= C_y(w, w^*, t, T) + L^* \int_0^N u(q_{iz_n}) dz_n + L \int_0^M u(q_{iz_m}) dz_m \\ V^* &= C_y^*(w, w^*, t^*, T^*) + L^* \int_0^{N^*} u^*(q_{iz_{n^*}}) dz_{n^*} + L^* \int_0^{M^*} u^*(q_{iz_{m^*}}) dz_{m^*}. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

### X-sector Tariffs

Is an import tariff on x-sector imports desirable? From (11):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dV}{dt} &= (aQ_{n^*}^* + a_o^*Q_{m^*}^*) \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} - (a^*Q_m + a_oQ_n) \frac{\partial w^*}{\partial t} + t \frac{\partial Q_m}{\partial t} - T \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \\ &= \mathcal{E}\omega_t - \mathcal{M}\omega_t^* - tML(a^*\omega_t^* + a_o^*\omega_t + 1)/\gamma + TA_y\omega_t, \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where  $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T}) \equiv aQ_{n^*}^* + a_o^*Q_{m^*}^*$  and  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T}) \equiv a_oQ_n + a^*Q_m$  respectively denote the home country labor content of home exports (inclusive of home labor content of goods exports as well as completed offshored tasks) in sector  $x$ , and the foreign labor content of home imports (inclusive of goods and tasks imports).

In particular, from (12), any home country welfare change subsequent to an x-sector tariff,  $t$ , is driven by three effects: (i) a factor content of trade weighted terms of trade effect ( $\mathcal{E}\omega_t - \mathcal{M}\omega_t^*$ ), and (ii) the canonical tariff distortion effect,  $t(\partial Q_m/\partial t) = -tML(a^*\omega_t^* + a_o^*\omega_t + 1)/\gamma$ , and (iii) a second-best policy effect  $-T(\partial y/\partial t) = TA_y\omega_t$  in the presence of other distortionary tariffs. The former is the analog of the standard terms of trade consequences of import tariffs (e.g. Johnson 1953, Bagwell and Staiger 1999) cast in the context of a two-country model of trade with two-way backward and forward linkages. From Proposition 1, if the domestic content of trade is sufficiently high, the own-wage effect of an import tariff in the x-sector may be perverse ( $\omega_t < 0$ ). This can potentially give rise to a perverse terms of trade effect (that is,  $\mathcal{E}\omega_t - \mathcal{M}\omega_t^* < 0$ ). The second effect due to tariff distortion shows the efficiency cost of the x-sector tariff in the standard way, as measured by the production distortion associated with import tariffs,  $t(\partial Q_m/\partial t)$ .

Finally, the second-best policy effect of  $t$  arises when there are other distortionary policies in play, in this case, the y-sector tariff. Since a positive y-sector tariff leads to overproduction 

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country. Thus, budget balance requires  $(1 + T)C_y = W(w, w^*, t, T) - p_nQ_n - p_mQ_m$ , or equivalently,

$$C_y = y(1 - b_K y/2) + w(L - b_L y) + tQ_m - p_nQ_n - p_mQ_m.$$

The foreign country budget balance is analogous.

in  $y$ , an x-sector tariff can mitigate against this distortion by changing wages  $w$ , which in turn changes production in  $y$ . There are two possibilities here. From Proposition 1, when  $\omega_t$  is negative, which occurs when the domestic content of imports in the home country is sufficiently high, a positive y-sector tariff  $T > 0$  renders an x-sector import subsidy all the more attractive, for such a policy raises  $w$ , which is exactly what is required to temper overproduction in  $y$ . Conversely, when  $\omega_t > 0$ , an x-sector tariff magnifies the desirability of an x-sector tariff, for doing so raise wages  $w$ , and mitigate against the production distortion associated with the y-sector tariff. Thus a y-sector tariff  $T > 0$  can magnify the rationale for an import subsidy in the x-sector when the domestic content of imports is high,  $\omega_t < 0$ , or magnify the rationale for an import tax in the x-sector when the opposite is the case,  $\omega_t > 0$ .

Analogously in the foreign country, the welfare change associated with an increase in import tariff can be similarly decomposed into a factor content of trade weighted terms of trade term, a tariff distortion term, and a second-best policy effect:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dV^*}{dt^*} &= (a^*Q_m + a_oQ_n) \frac{\partial w^*}{\partial t^*} - (aQ_{n^*}^* + a_o^*Q_{m^*}^*) \frac{\partial w}{\partial t^*} + t^* \frac{\partial Q_{n^*}^*}{\partial t^*} - T^* \frac{\partial y^*}{\partial t^*} \\ &= \mathcal{E}^* \omega_{t^*}^* - \mathcal{M}^* \omega_{t^*} - t^* N^* L^* (a\omega_{t^*} + a_o\omega_{t^*}^* + 1) / \gamma^* + T^* A_y^* \omega_{t^*}^*, \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where  $\mathcal{E}^* = \mathcal{E}^*(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T}) \equiv a^*Q_m + a_oQ_n$  and  $\mathcal{M}^* = \mathcal{M}^*(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T}) \equiv aQ_{n^*}^* + a_o^*Q_{m^*}^*$  are, respectively, the foreign country labor content of goods and tasks exports from the foreign country, and the home country labor content in goods imports and tasks offshored by the foreign country respectively. Note that in this two-country setup, market equilibrium requires that  $\mathcal{E}^* = \mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{M}^* = \mathcal{E}$ . From equation (13), we see that just like in the home country, foreign tariffs also give rise to three effects on foreign welfare, respectively through a factor content of trade weighted terms of trade effect ( $\mathcal{E}^* \omega_{t^*}^* - \mathcal{M}^* \omega_{t^*}$ ), a tariff distortion term  $t^* Q_{n^*}^* / \partial t^* = -t^* N^* L^* (a\omega_{t^*} + a_o\omega_{t^*}^* + 1) / \gamma^*$ , and a second-best policy term  $-T^* \partial y^* / \partial t^* = T^* A_y^* \omega_{t^*}^*$ .

## Y-sector Tariffs

Unlike in the x-sector, y-sector imports do not contain local contents. Indeed, from Proposition 1, a y-sector tariff (or export subsidy) always improves local wages at the expense of trade partner wages. Thus, the welfare effects of a y-sector tariff in the home country is:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dV}{dT} &= (aQ_{n^*}^* + a_o^*Q_{m^*}^*) \frac{\partial w}{\partial T} - (a^*Q_m + a_oQ_n) \frac{\partial w^*}{\partial T} + t \frac{\partial Q_m}{\partial T} - T \frac{\partial y}{\partial T} \\ &= \mathcal{E} \omega_T - \mathcal{M} \omega_T^* - tML(a^* \omega_T^* + a_o^* \omega_T) / \gamma + T(A_y \omega_T - \bar{L}_y). \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

As may be expected, therefore, starting from a position of free trade ( $t = T = 0$ ), a small y-sector tariff always improves welfare through its effect of the factor content of trade weighted terms of trade  $w$  and  $w^*$ , since

$$\mathcal{E}\omega_T - \mathcal{M}\omega_T^* > 0$$

from Proposition 1. Against this backdrop, the other two expressions in equation (14) are respectively the efficiency cost of the import tariff ( $-T(\partial y/\partial T) = -T(\bar{L}_y - A_y\omega_T)$ ), and the second-best policy effect of  $T$  when another distortionary tariff is present, in this case, the x-sector tariff  $t$ , if levied,  $t\partial Q_m/\partial T = -tML(a^*\omega_T^* + a_o^*\omega_T)/\gamma$ . In the foreign country, we have a similar expression indicating the benefits associated with a y-sector tariff (or export subsidy, as the case may be)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dV^*}{dT^*} &= (a^*Q_m + a_oQ_n) \frac{\partial w^*}{\partial T^*} - (aQ_n^* + a_oQ_m^*) \frac{\partial w}{\partial T^*} + t^* \frac{\partial Q_n^*}{\partial T^*} - T^* \frac{\partial y^*}{\partial T^*} \\ &= \mathcal{E}^*\omega_{T^*}^* - \mathcal{M}^*\omega_{T^*} - t^*N^*L^*(a\omega_{T^*} + a_o\omega_{T^*}^*)/\gamma^* + T^*(A_y^*\omega_{T^*}^* - \bar{L}_y^*), \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Like in the home country, foreign y-sector tariffs also give rise to a tariff distortion term ( $-T^*(\partial Y^*/\partial T^*) = -T^*(\bar{L}_y^* - A_y^*\omega_{T^*}^*)$ ), and a second-best policy effect of  $T^*$  when another distortionary tariff  $t^*$  is present,  $t^*(\partial Q_n^*/\partial T^*) = -t^*N^*L^*(a\omega_{T^*} + a_o\omega_{T^*}^*)/\gamma^*$ .

With the help of (12) - (13) as well as (14) - (15), we now investigate the nature of optimal trade policy formation in three distinctive settings: (i) the nature and enforcement of the globally first-best import tariffs in the two countries, (ii) the Nash equilibrium tariffs, and (iii) the possibility and limitations of applying labor standards to replicate the jointly optimal first-best outcome.

## 4.2 Enforcing First Best Tariffs

From (12) and (13), we see that small deviations from free trade ( $t = t^* = T = T^* = 0$ ) give rise to factor content weighted terms of trade changes that are necessarily zero-sum, since  $\mathcal{E}\omega_\sigma - \mathcal{M}\omega_\sigma^* = -\mathcal{E}^*\omega_\sigma^* + \mathcal{M}^*\omega_\sigma$ , and  $\mathcal{E}^*\omega_\sigma^* - \mathcal{M}^*\omega_\sigma^* = -\mathcal{E}\omega_\sigma + \mathcal{M}\omega_\sigma^*$  for  $\sigma = \{t, T\}$ . Import tariffs in the x-sector introduce additional welfare losses due to tariff distortions when  $t(\partial Q_m/\partial t) < 0$  or  $t^*(\partial Q_n^*/\partial t^*) < 0$  for  $t > 0$  and  $t^* > 0$ , and  $-T(\partial y/\partial T) < 0$  and  $-T^*(\partial y^*/\partial T^*) < 0$  for  $T > 0$  and  $T^* > 0$  respectively.<sup>21</sup> Free trade is thus the first-best policy. In order to disincentivize unilateral deviations from first-best tariffs, (12) and (13) together suggest that tariff retaliation will have to be severe enough to remove any factor content weighted terms of

<sup>21</sup>See the appendix for a proof of these comparative statics results.

trade advantages extracted as a consequence of unilateral trade policy violation. This is the essence of the rebalancing role of retaliation enshrined in Article 22.4 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding of the WTO, whereby the allowable level of suspension of concessions subsequent to an infringement should be substantially equivalent to the level of impairment or nullification of market access.<sup>22</sup>

Using (12) and (13), we can pin down the precise level of equivalent retaliatory tariff that eliminates any terms of trade gains extracted via a trade violation by a trade partner.<sup>23</sup> In particular, we are interested in whether a country's position along the supply chain will change the nature and level of retaliation required to mitigate / eliminate incentives to violate a trade agreement. Thus, we begin by focusing on x-sector tariffs only first, for the case where the home country is a net exporter of the homogeneous good in  $y$ , and a  $y$ -sector export subsidy is not feasible either because it requires government funding that is not forthcoming, or that it is prohibited by the WTO. Starting from a first-best trade agreement with  $t = t^* = T = T^* = 0$ , define an equivalent retaliatory home tariff schedule in the x-sector as:

$$t(t^*) = \{\tau | \mathcal{E}^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})[w^*(\tau, t^*, \mathbf{0}) - w^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})] - \mathcal{M}^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})[w(\tau, t^*, \mathbf{0}) - w(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})] = 0\}. \quad (16)$$

$t(t^*)$  gives the home import tariff response to a foreign trade violation  $t^*$  that eliminates any foreign terms of trade advantages that may have been gained starting from a free trade equilibrium ( $t^* = t = 0$ ). Likewise define an equivalent retaliatory foreign tariff schedule in the x-sector as:

$$t^*(t) = \{\tau^* | \mathcal{E}(0, 0)[w(t, \tau^*, \mathbf{0}) - w(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})] - \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})[w^*(t, \tau^*, \mathbf{0}) - w^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})] = 0\}. \quad (17)$$

$t(t^*)$  and  $t^*(t)$  have a number of sensible properties. For example, bilateral free trade is on the retaliatory tariff schedules:

$$t(0) = t^*(0) = 0,$$

as such no country can retaliate by deviating from free trade against a trade partner's adherence to free trade. Second, since  $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{M}^*$  and  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{E}^*$ , the two retaliatory tariffs coincide:

$$t(t^*(\tilde{t})) = \tilde{t} \text{ and } t^*(t(\tilde{t}^*)) = \tilde{t}^*$$

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<sup>22</sup>The literature on the definition of equivalent retaliation is longstanding. See for example Bagwell and Staiger (1999, 2002), Lawrence (2003), and Kohler (2004), for example.

<sup>23</sup>These are retaliatory tariffs that eliminate trade partner incentives to deviate from a trade agreement. Thus, they are, in general, not unilaterally optimal tariffs. We discuss best response tariff schedules in the next subsection.

Thus, the equivalent retaliatory schedules are internally consistent, in the sense that retaliation by one country in response to a trade agreement violation does not justify another round of retaliation by the first violator. In addition, it can be shown that

**Proposition 2** *Given any foreign trade agreement violation in the  $x$ -sector ( $t^* \neq 0$ ) that gives rise to an improvement in the factor content of trade weighted terms of trade in the foreign country,*

$$\mathcal{E}^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})[w^*(0, t^*, \mathbf{0}) - w^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})] - \mathcal{M}^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})[w(0, t^*) - w(\mathbf{0})] > 0,$$

*equivalent retaliation using  $x$ -sector tariffs only calls for a tax on imports  $t(t^*) > 0$  if the home domestic content of import  $\theta^*$  is sufficiently low, and an import subsidy  $t(t^*) < 0$  otherwise.*

Proposition 2 showcases a novel form of trade policy asymmetry in the presence of offshoring. Specifically, equivalent retaliation can rule out an eye for an eye type tariff retaliation against a trade partner's tariff, and prescribes an import subsidy instead. To understand this result, note from Proposition 1 that in upstream countries with sufficiently high domestic content of imports, taxing imports lowers wages both locally and abroad. It follows that when local labor content embodied in imports is high, an import tariff can in fact worsen the retaliating country's factor content adjusted terms of trade. Consequently, only an import subsidy, which increases the price of the country's labor content in exports, is able to rebalance any terms of trade gains that a foreign country import tariff may have accomplished. Since import subsidies must be funded, and to the extent that such funding may not be forthcoming, Proposition 2 suggests a possible break down in the ability of countries to leverage the dispute settlement understanding of the WTO to punish countries that violate the first-best trade agreement by erecting import tariffs.<sup>24</sup>

Of course, if a country imports both  $x$  and  $y$ -sector output, the terms of trade gains associated with an  $x$ -sector tariff violation by the foreign country can be nullified using a  $y$ -sector tariff, since from Proposition 1,  $y$ -sector tariffs always have positive own-wage effects and

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<sup>24</sup>Proposition 2 looks at foreign trade agreement violations in the  $x$ -sector. We can analogously work on  $y$ -sector foreign trade violations that worsen home country terms of trade. The general tendency for the home country to need to resort to subsidizing  $x$  sector import as an equivalent retaliation remains, since that depends only on the domestic content of import of the home country.

negative cross wage effects.<sup>25</sup>

$$T(t^*) = \{\tau | \mathcal{E}^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})[w^*(0, t^*, \tau, 0) - w^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})] - \mathcal{M}^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})[w(0, t^*, \tau, 0) - w(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})] = 0\}. \quad (18)$$

$T(t^*)$  gives the home y-sector import tariff response to a foreign trade violation  $t^*$  that eliminates any foreign terms of trade advantages that may have been gained starting from a free trade equilibrium ( $t^* = t = T = T^* = 0$ ). Likewise define an equivalent retaliatory foreign tariff schedule in the x-sector as:

$$T^*(t) = \{\tau^* | \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})[w(t, 0, \tau^*, 0) - w(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})] - \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})[w^*(t, 0, \tau^*, 0) - w^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})] = 0\}. \quad (19)$$

**Proposition 3** *Given any foreign trade agreement violation in the x-sector ( $t^* \neq 0$ ) that gives rise to an improvement in the factor content of trade weighted terms of trade in the foreign country,*

$$\mathcal{E}^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})[w^*(0, t^*, \mathbf{0}) - w^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})] - \mathcal{M}^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})[w(0, t^*, \mathbf{0}) - w(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})] > 0,$$

*equivalent retaliation using y-sector tariffs always calls for a tax on imports  $T(t^*) > 0$ .*

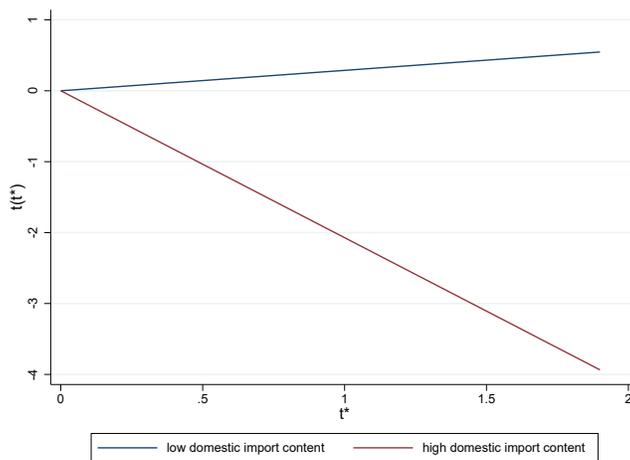
Proposition 3, together with Proposition 2 deliver two sets of insights. First, offshoring links give rise to asymmetric incentives to levy x-sector tariffs. To reap terms of trade gains, a country with high domestic content of imports should provide an import subsidy rather than levying a tariff. Second, and the flip side of the above, offshoring links give rise to asymmetric incentives to use retaliatory tariffs as well. In particular, countries with high domestic content of import will find an import subsidy in the x-sector, but not an import tariff, to be punitive. Alternatively, retaliation will have to be carried out using y-sector tariffs, if such a policy is available and feasible. From Proposition 3, in countries with a broad selection of imports from downstream countries covering products with different degrees of upstream offshoring links, tariff retaliation may be tailored to minimize adverse terms of trade consequences by focusing on retaliating in sectors where offshoring link are weak.

These findings have broad implications as tariff preferences that reflect the likelihood / scale of retaliation threats – as measured by overall export exposure, for example – are widespread (Bown 2001, Blonigen and Bown 2003, Bown 2005). Our study extends these

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<sup>25</sup>One can analogously define a retaliatory tariff to counter the effects of a y-sector subsidy by the foreign country. This will be equivalent to the well-studied case of a standard trade war between two countries producing only final goods. We leave this to the interested reader to return to our focus on the difference that offshoring links present.

Figure 3: Equivalent Retaliatory Tariff Schedules ( $t(t^*)$ )



observations further to a world where global supply chains effectively assign different degrees of retaliation effectiveness on a product-by-product basis depending on the strength and nature of offshoring links. In so doing we echo recent empirical work by Furceri et al. (2023) which shows that retaliatory tariffs in a dispute are seldom levied in the same sector of trade injury. Rather, cross-sector retaliatory tariffs are commonplace. Finally, turning to the specific case of the 2018 US trade disputes with China, EU, and NAFTA countries where the US imposed tariffs on a range of products going from solar panels, washing machines, steel, and aluminum, Parilla and Bouchet (2018) finds that all four countries targeted their lists of retaliatory tariffs to extensively leverage cross-sector tariffs focusing notably on US agricultural exports. There are multiple potential (including political economy driven) reasons behind this focus on retaliatory actions towards U.S. agricultural exports (e.g. Bown and Pauwelyn 2010, Congressional Research Service 2018, Fetzer and Schwarz 2021), but our findings introduce an alternative view, that agricultural imports are unlikely to embody high levels of domestic contents supplied by the retaliating countries themselves.

To conclude this discussion on equivalent retaliation, we use our general equilibrium closed form solutions to back out the equivalent tariff formula in (16) and (17). In Figure 3, we plot these relationships based on two sets of parameter configurations, in which a baseline of no offshoring ( $\theta = \theta^* = 0$ ) is compared with another regime in which only the home country is the lone upstream country  $\theta^* > \theta = 0$ . As expected, equivalent tariffs passes though the free trade combination of import tariffs, and changes slope from positive to negative when the domestic content of imports of the home country, parameterized by  $\theta^*$ , increases. The full list

of parameter values used in the computation of these equivalent tariff schedules are displayed in Table 4.<sup>26</sup>

### 4.3 Nash Equilibrium Tariffs

When trade agreement fails, equations (12) and (13) jointly define a pair of import tariff best responses, based on which the nature of an all-out trade war can be characterized. We will first consider the case of a Nash equilibrium in x-sector tariffs, with  $T = T^* = 0$  for the time being, either for because the home country exports  $y$  for example, or because export subsidies are ruled out because the requisite funding is not forthcoming. Define

$$\bar{t}_o(t^*) = \{\tau | \mathcal{E}(\tau, t^*, \mathbf{0})\omega_t - \mathcal{M}(\tau, t^*, \mathbf{0})\omega_t^* - \tau ML(a^*\omega_t + a_o^*\omega_t^* + 1) / \gamma = 0\}. \quad (20)$$

Likewise define:

$$\bar{t}_o^*(t) = \{\tau^* | \mathcal{E}^*(t, \tau^*, \mathbf{0})\omega_{t^*}^* - \mathcal{M}^*(t, \tau^*, \mathbf{0})\omega_{t^*} - \tau^* N^* L^*(a\omega_{t^*} + a_o\omega_{t^*}^* + 1) / \gamma^* = 0\}. \quad (21)$$

$\bar{t}_o(t^*)$  and  $\bar{t}_o^*(t)$  respectively prescribe the unilaterally optimal import tariff / subsidy levels that balance the terms of trade gains and tariff/subsidy distortions consequences of any deviations from free trade for the home and the foreign countries respectively. From Proposition 1, a home country with sufficiently high domestic content of import will find an import tariff to have less appeal, as the local wage impact of  $t$  ( $\omega_t$ ) is negative. By contrast, the foreign country, under the same conditions, may find an import tariff to be more attractive, as a foreign import tariff not only pushes the home wage downwards, the reduction in wage can increase the foreign wage via the productivity effect via (7).

We can demonstrate these tendencies by solving explicitly for  $\bar{t}_o(t^*)$  and  $\bar{t}_o^*(t)$  using the general equilibrium wage solutions in (10).<sup>27</sup> Table 5 displays the best response schedules,  $\bar{t}_o(t^*)$  and  $\bar{t}_o^*(t)$ , for successively higher values of  $\theta^*$ , when  $\theta = 0$  throughout. As shown, from low  $\theta^*$  to high  $\theta^*$ , the home and foreign best response tariff schedules shift in opposite directions. The asymmetry is shown through a shifting-in of the home country best response,<sup>28</sup> and a

<sup>26</sup>Table 5 also shows the corresponding equilibrium wages, which are consistent with the pattern of one-way offshoring in this example, since  $\beta^* A^* w - Aw < 0$  and  $\beta Aw^* - A^* w > 0$  in both cases.

<sup>27</sup>Table 4 displays the lists of parameter values for a low  $\theta^*$  regime and a high  $\theta^*$  regime. The table also shows the corresponding equilibrium wage outcomes to ensure that the parameter condition satisfy the requirement for the home country to be an offshoring destination  $\beta^* A^* w < A^* w^*$ .

<sup>28</sup>Similar predictions have been demonstrated in partial equilibrium settings (e.g. Blanchard, Bown and Johnson (2016)), as well as in general equilibrium settings (e.g. Caliendo et al. (2021)).

shifting-out of the foreign country best response.<sup>29</sup> The equilibrium Nash policies are likewise asymmetric, showing a reduction in the home tariff, and an increase in the foreign tariff from  $(t, t^*) = (0.0613, 0.0464)$  for a low  $\theta^*$  Nash equilibrium to  $(t, t^*) = (-0.0295, 0.0918)$  for a high  $\theta^*$  Nash equilibrium (Table 4). Thus, even in a non-cooperative setting, offshoring harbors a pro-trade bias in the upstream home country, and the reverse response in the downstream foreign country.

Of course, these findings presume that an import subsidy is fiscally feasible. Ruling out import subsidies for government budget reasons would imply constrained best responses,  $\max\{0, \bar{t}(t^*)\}$  and  $\max\{0, \bar{t}^*(t)\}$ , and a corresponding Nash equilibrium  $\max\{0, \bar{t}(\bar{t}^*)\}$  and  $\max\{0, \bar{t}^*(\bar{t})\}$ . Clearly, these constraints are not binding for the low  $\theta^*$  Nash equilibrium, and binding only for the high  $\theta^*$  Nash equilibrium in the upstream home country. Given these constraints, the Nash equilibrium tariffs are  $(t, t^*) = (0.0613, 0.0464)$  for a low  $\theta^*$  Nash equilibrium and  $(t, t^*) = (0.00, 0.0918)$  for a high  $\theta^*$  Nash equilibrium. A notable feature of these trade war configurations is that if free trade is the optimal policy in an all-out trade war, the upstream country has little leverage left to offer to entice the downstream country to sign a free trade agreement starting from a high  $\theta^*$  Nash equilibrium, where the home country's constrained optimum outcome is free trade.

Now, assume that the home country is an importer of  $y$ , and / or if exporter funding for export subsidies are available, we can include (14) to define a pair of optimal import tariff best responses. Continue to keep  $T^* = 0$  as the foreign country is now the exporter of  $y$ , define  $(\bar{t}(t^*), \bar{T}(t^*))$  be the combination of home country x-sector and y-sector tariffs respectively such that

$$0 = \mathcal{E}(\bar{t}, t^*, \bar{T}, 0)\omega_t - \mathcal{M}(\bar{t}, t^*, \bar{T}, 0)\omega_t^* - \bar{t}ML(a^*\omega_t^* + a_\delta^*\omega_t)/\gamma + \bar{T}A_y\omega_t. \quad (22)$$

$$0 = \mathcal{E}(\bar{t}, t^*, \bar{T}, 0)\omega_T - \mathcal{M}(\bar{t}, t^*, \bar{T}, 0)\omega_T^* - \bar{t}ML(a^*\omega_T + a_\delta^*\omega_T^*)/\gamma + \bar{T}(t^*)(A_y\omega_T - \bar{L}_y). \quad (23)$$

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<sup>29</sup>When offshoring inputs are in fixed supply, Blanchard, Bown and Johnson (2016) shows that a high foreign value-added deflects the tariff rents that accrue to specific factors to foreign inputs. Thus, import barriers should be lower in industries with high foreign value-added. This prediction is empirically verified using bilateral tariff rates and temporary trade protection indicators across 14 major trading countries. We note that these results appear different from our predictions for two reasons. In our setting, the wage cost of offshored tasks *falls* in the home country in response to a foreign import tariff because import barriers depress final goods demand, and as such the demand for embodied home country labor inputs as well. This channel is turned off when offshored inputs are in fixed supply in Blanchard, Bown and Johnson (2016). Furthermore, in the empirical application, Blanchard, Bown and Johnson (2016) leverages the sum of all foreign value-added from all suppliers of intermediate goods to explain bilateral tariffs. Our prediction here is that the foreign value-added specifically from a trade partner should explain bilateral tariffs / temporary protection, conditional on existing trade agreements, and their enforceability.

Likewise define:

$$\bar{t}^*(t, T) = \{\tau^* | \mathcal{E}^*(t, \tau^*, T, 0)\omega_{t^*}^* - \mathcal{M}^*(t, \tau^*, T, 0)\omega_{t^*} - \tau^* N^* L^* (a\omega_{t^*} + a_o\omega_{t^*}^* + 1) / \gamma^* = 0\}. \quad (24)$$

This is the x-sector tariff of the foreign country in response to a home country tariff pair  $t$  and  $T$ . In the Appendix, we derive each of these optimal tariff formulae in closed form.

Using parameter values in Table 4, Table 6 displays the best response schedules,  $\bar{t}(t^*)$  and  $\bar{T}(t^*)$ , for successively higher values of  $\theta^*$ , and  $\theta = 0$ . Note that when  $T$  is unconstrained and positive, the home x-sector tariff best response shifts in, favoring an import subsidy even more.<sup>30</sup> Meanwhile, the optimal y-sector policy is a positive import tariff. Matching these changes with the corresponding foreign tariff best response, the Nash equilibrium policy vector  $\{\bar{t}, \bar{t}^*, \bar{T}, 0\}$  is  $\{-1.1107, 0.0187, 10.7295, 0\}$  when  $\theta^*$  is low, and  $\{-6.9152, 0.3200, 12.6264, 0\}$  when  $\theta^*$  is high. Allowing for multiple types of import tariffs in both the x- and y-sectors leads to Nash equilibrium x-sector tariff choices that are higher than when  $T$  is suppressed. As discussed, in this environment, tariffs in both sectors perform an additional second-best function, essentially to mitigate against the efficiency losses associated with the other distortionary tariff. The important takeaway is that pro-trade incentives brought on by offshoring links are preserved in this extension of the basic setup with only x-sector tariffs.

#### 4.4 Replicating the First Best Equilibrium with Labor Standards

If import subsidies are not feasible to directly enforce the first-best agreement due to funding gaps, or if funding constrained Nash equilibrium as a threat point is not sufficient to incentivize trade partners to negotiate a first-best agreement, what are some available pathways that can facilitate and sustain multilateral trade agreements in the presence of offshoring ties? In a different setting than ours, where an international holdup problem in input markets applies due to the lock-in effects of costly search, Antràs and Staiger (2012) shows that trade agreements will need to entertain deep integration, in which governments coordinate actions in trade and input market policies. Furthermore, any efficient trade agreement must simultaneously mitigate against incentives for using trade policies to reap terms of trade gains, and reduce the deadweight losses associated with export promotion programs of traded intermediate goods.

While our model does not feature such lock-in effects, our findings agree with Antràs and Staiger (2012) in that cooperation may break down if trade agreements continue to focus

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<sup>30</sup>It can be verified that the own-wage x-sector tariff effect given the parameter configurations here is negative.

exclusively on market access in the presence of offshoring. In what follows, we propose an alternative perspective in conceptualizing policy measures that can help sustain an open trade environment between upstream and downstream countries in the presence of offshoring. Labor provisions are not uncommon in preferential trade agreements, a notable example being the North American Free Trade Agreement. More broadly, Raess and Sari (2018) finds that the number of preferential trade agreements (PTAs) with labor provisions as a share of all newly in force PTAs has risen significantly from 32% in the 1990s to an average of 61% during 2010–2015. Of course, to date there are no PTA labor provisions that require countries to consult with each other in setting labor standards. What we show in what follows is the unilateral benefits of setting domestic labor standards when countries engage in agreements involving trade up and down the supply chain. The idea is to mitigate against any trade partner incentives to reap (factoral) terms of trade gains through trade agreement violations that may prove to be hard to retaliate against in the face of offshoring links, as we have shown.

Specifically, we seek to illustrate the important role that labor standards can play in trade agreements between economies engaged in offshoring relationships. Consider a pair of minimum labor standards, in the form of minimum wages  $\bar{w}$  and  $\bar{w}^*$  in the two countries respectively. In doing so, the foreign country is unable to manipulate home wages via the trade tax  $t^*$ , and vice versa the home country is not able to manipulate the foreign wage by choice of  $t$ . The case of trade taxes in the form of  $T$  and  $T^*$  is analogous.

The wage in the rest of the economy continues to be competitively determined at  $w$  and  $w^*$  to clear the labor market. Denote unit costs of production in the two countries as  $\bar{c} = a\bar{w} + a_o\bar{w}^*$  and  $\bar{c}^* = a^*\bar{w}^* + a_o^*\bar{w}$ , labor market equilibrium requires:

$$L = L_y(w) + L_x(\bar{w}, \bar{w}^*, t, t^*), \quad (25)$$

$$L^* = L_y^*(w^*) + L_x^*(\bar{w}, \bar{w}^*, t, t^*). \quad (26)$$

Well-enforced minimum wages  $\bar{w}$  and  $\bar{w}^*$  renders home and foreign country workers in  $x$  immune from the perverse wage impacts of import tariffs  $t$  and  $t^*$ . Labor market equilibrium in the two countries yields a pair of competitively determined wages  $w$  and  $w^*$  in the homogeneous goods sector. It can be shown that:

**Proposition 4** *In the presence of binding and well-enforced minimum wages  $\bar{w}$  and  $\bar{w}^*$ ,*

$$\left. \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} \right|_{\bar{w}, \bar{w}^*} \leq 0 \text{ if and only if } a_o^* \geq 0, \quad \frac{\partial w^*}{\partial t} < 0$$

similarly,

$$\left. \frac{\partial w}{\partial t^*} \right|_{\bar{w}, \bar{w}^*} < 0, \quad \frac{\partial w^*}{\partial t^*} \leq 0 \text{ if and only if } a_o \geq 0.$$

Intuitively, a home import tariff always depresses foreign labor demand in  $x$  through (26), and only depresses home labor demand in  $x$  if the domestic content of imports in the home country is strictly positive ( $a_o^* > 0$ ). The effect of an import tariff in the foreign country is analogous. These changes in labor demand in  $x$  are then absorbed in the homogeneous goods sector  $y$ , with corresponding wage consequences as shown in Proposition 4.

The two minimum wages sustain a constant level of factor content of trade weighted terms of trade in the two countries starting from any agreed upon tariffs, since  $\mathcal{E}^*(0, 0)\bar{w}^* - \mathcal{M}^*(0, 0)\bar{w}$  and  $\mathcal{E}(0, 0)\bar{w} - \mathcal{M}(0, 0)\bar{w}^*$  are invariant to changes in the import tariffs as both  $\bar{w}$  and  $\bar{w}^*$  are both institutionally given. Furthermore, an import tariff can exacerbate the misallocation associated with a minimum wage that is too high, as any reduction in domestic demand (when  $a_o^* > 0$ , or  $a_o > 0$ ) can render trade policy violation even less attractive. These possibilities are borne out in what follows, which shows using (11) that in the presence of a binding minimum wage  $\bar{w}^* \geq \partial Y^*(L_y^*)/\partial L_y^*$ ,

$$\frac{dV^*}{dt^*} = \left( \bar{w}^* - \frac{\partial Y^*(L_y^*)}{\partial L_y^*} \right) A_y^* \left. \frac{\partial w^*}{\partial t^*} \right|_{\bar{w}, \bar{w}^*} - t^* N^* L^* / \gamma^* \leq 0 \quad (27)$$

whenever  $t^* \geq 0$ . The second term  $t^* N^* L^* / \gamma^*$  is the canonical tariff distortion term. The expression  $(\bar{w}^* - \partial Y^*(L_y^*)/\partial L_y^*) A_y^* \partial w^* / \partial t^* \leq 0$  is a new tariff distortion term, which applies if the minimum wage is set higher than labor productivity in  $y$ . A further increase in the import tariff will only result in an even more inefficient allocation of labor between the two sectors if and only if  $a_o > 0$ . Thus, international labor standards in the form of minimum wages nullifies the perceived gains from raising import barriers, and in so doing, alters the trade policy preference of the foreign country in favor of free trade.

Analogously in the home country, with a binding minimum wage  $\bar{w} \geq \partial Y(L_y)/\partial L_y$  and From (11), we have

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \left( \bar{w} - \frac{\partial Y(L_y)}{\partial L_y} \right) A_y \left. \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} \right|_{\bar{w}, \bar{w}^*} - tML/\gamma \leq 0. \quad (28)$$

for any  $t \geq 0$ . In summary,

**Proposition 5** *With binding minimum wages  $\bar{w}$  and  $\bar{w}^*$ , any unilateral deviation from free trade by either country via import tariffs worsens national welfare.*

This conclusion comes with important caveats. Well-enforced labor standards in the two nations as proposed above (modeled through a binding offshoring sector minimum wage) require deep integration, in the sense that countries jointly take into account the efficiency and trade agreement enforcement consequences of trade and labor market policies. For example, the minimum wages will need to be adjusted and set equal to the first-best competitive wage to replicate the first-best trade benchmark without minimum wages – a tall order given the realities of trade agreement negotiations and trade dispute settlement, such as prolonged negotiation delays. Furthermore, introducing labor standards in trade talks presumes that countries can simultaneously refrain from tendencies to engage in a race to the bottom in labor standards to gain market share amongst upstream countries, in addition to unilaterally protectionistic tendencies via the use of tariffs, wherever applicable.

With these caveats in mind, what we have shown is that labor standards and trade are not always substitutes, in the sense that better labor standards will adversely affect trade flows. Far from it, our findings suggest that suitably selected and enforced labor standards and trade liberalizing agreements can be complements of one another, where labor standards promote trade by remolding countries' incentives away from unilateral protectionistic moves.

## 5 Discussion

We showcased above a parsimonious model in which trade policy preference asymmetry in the presence of offshoring ties is brought into sharp relief. The basic model can be extended in multiple ways to incorporate additional salient feature of the countries in question.<sup>31</sup>

### Input Taxes

Taxes on imported tasks can be readily included in our analysis. Specifically, let  $\tau$  and  $\tau^*$  denote home and foreign taxes on imported labor tasks. The corresponding unit costs of production for each of the  $N + N^*$  and  $M + M^*$  varieties are respectively  $c(w, w^* + \tau) = aw + a_o(w^* + \tau)$  and  $c^*(w + \tau^*, w^*) = a^*w^* + a_o^*(w + \tau^*)$ . The price equals unit cost equations accounting for import tariffs on final goods trade are thus:

$$p_{z_n} = c(w, w^* + \tau), \quad p_{z_m} = c^*(w + \tau^*, w^*) + t,$$

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<sup>31</sup>Details of these extensions are available from the authors upon request.

while in the foreign country

$$p_{z_n^*}^* = c(w, w^* + \tau) + t^*, \quad p_{z_m^*}^* = c^*(w + \tau^*, w^*).$$

As shown, a home input tax depresses home labor demand both (i) on its own by raising the cost of production for home varieties as  $p_{z_m} = c^*(w, w^* + \tau)$ , and (ii) by complementing foreign import tariffs in raising export prices via  $p_{z_n^*}^* = c(w, w^* + \tau) + t^*$ . Analogous channels of labor demand influence apply for foreign input tax on foreign labor demand, acting directly through  $p_{z_n^*}^* = c(w + \tau^*, w^*)$ , while complementing home import tariffs in raising prices facing consumers through  $p_{z_m} = c^*(w + \tau^*, w^*) + t$ .

Collecting terms, these labor demand effects of a home input tax can be shown to (i) always harm home countries workers through a perverse home wage effect, and (ii) benefit foreign workers through a positive foreign wage effect as  $\tau$  lowers the cost of offshored tasks that foreign producers pay if and only if

$$\frac{a_o^*}{a^*} > \frac{a_o a_y + (a_o^*)^2(1 - s_p)}{a (a^*)^2(1 - s_p)}, \quad (29)$$

or equivalently if the home country's domestic content of import is sufficiently high.  $a_o^*/a^*$ .<sup>32</sup> The case of a foreign input tax is exactly analogous. Directly applying these findings to our earlier results, as long as the inequality in equation (29) is satisfied, a home country input tax is not effective in nullifying the foreign terms of trade gains achieved via a trade agreement violation. Instead, one can only opt for an input subsidy. In addition, since input tax unambiguously worsens the home country's factoral terms of trade  $w/w^*$ , the unilaterally optimal trade policy is in fact an input subsidy.

Interestingly, these effects are consistent with a tendency for tariff escalation where the tax on imported inputs should be minimized to avert a worsening in terms of trade, as shown empirically for example in (Bown and Crowley 2016), and demonstrated theoretically in the recent work of Antràs et al. (2022).<sup>33</sup> The additional caveat we offer is that upstream countries can also favor a lower tax on final goods imports with embodied domestic content as well, as we have shown, while the same pro-trade tendency does not apply in downstream countries.

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<sup>32</sup>See the appendix for a proof of this result.

<sup>33</sup>Also see Bown et al. (2021) for a novel study featuring a new instrumental variable strategy that shows the negative downstream employment impact of US antidumping duties on Chinese exports along the supply chain.

## Endogenous Offshoring Intensities

So far we have assumed that offshoring intensities  $\theta$  and  $\theta^*$  are exogenously given based on technological and offshoring cost considerations. These margins along the task spectrum can be endogenized to depend explicitly on the relative wage considerations in the two countries, for example along the lines of Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg (2008). Doing so would make demand for both home and foreign country workers more responsive to own-wage changes, since a higher labor cost lowers demand for home output, in addition to the endogenous range of task performed locally per unit of output.

Meanwhile, accounting for extensive margin variations along the task spectrum makes demand for both home and foreign country workers less responsive to cross-wage changes. This follows since a higher foreign wage increases labor cost in the home country whenever  $a_o > 0$ , but the range of tasks performed by home country workers increases per unit output as employers substitute away from using foreign workers in the production. A similar argument can be made for the foreign labor demand elasticity with respect to changes in the home country wage.

Acknowledging these novel labor demand elasticities considerations, endogenous offshoring intensities will not shut down the tendencies for trade policy preference asymmetry brought on by offshoring that we have discussed in this paper. Our conclusion regarding the benefits of labor standards will also stand, since at given minimum wages in the two countries, the set of task offshored will be dictated by relative minimum wages, and thus independent of import tariffs, as we have assumed above.

## Market Power

Since each variety in the heterogeneous goods sector is distinct, our model can readily incorporate market power in the product market, wherein each variety is produced by a single producer who wields price setting power taking at given wage costs  $w$ ,  $w^*$ , and the share of offshorable tasks  $\theta$  and  $\theta^*$ . Naturally, market power raises prices and restricts demand. These inefficiencies will come into play when considering optimal trade policy as both a means to extract terms of trade gains, as well as a remedial policy to correct for market imperfections.

In our setup, the first-best trade policy in the presence of export monopsonies (and no offshoring links) is a pair of import subsidies, in place to offset the effects of markup pricing and the resulting wedges between production costs and consumer prices. Adding product market

power thus changes the nature of the first-best policies, but given the markup, the mechanics that drive the asymmetric own-tariff wage responses in upstream and downstream countries as laid out in Proposition 1 remain unchanged. Consequently, unilaterally optimal trade policy preferences will continue to exhibit the kind of asymmetry as shown in Proposition 2 as long as the domestic labor content of imports in the two countries are sufficiently divergent. Furthermore, introducing minimum wages in this setting keeps wage costs immune from manipulation by import protection. In the current setup, well enforced labor standards can continue to play an integral part in mitigating the terms of trade motives behind trade agreement violations.

### **Cross-Price Elasticity of Demand**

Finally, we have so far maintained the assumption of additively separable utility as in Antràs and Staiger (2012) in order to single out a product variety's labor and trade costs as the primary determinants of labor demand in the two countries. A more general setting can also incorporate consumption demand effects that arise in the presence of substitution possibilities across varieties (e.g. Melitz and Ottaviano 2008).

These substitution effects can also be applied to understand the workings of tariffs in the presence of offshoring. Consider once again a home import tariff when there is domestic content embodied in imports. The import tariff motivates consumers to substitute away from imports in favor of local varieties. The resulting increase in demand for labor employed in local varieties can offset the negative effects of the tariff on home workers employed to complete offshored tasks used in imports. The takeaway message here is that cross-substitution possibilities add nuance to our findings, and in particular, own-tariff wage responses will continue to be negative in upstream countries provided that the domestic content of imports is high, *and* that the cross-price demand elasticity substitution effects are mild.

## **6 Conclusion**

Offshoring has become an indispensable feature of the global trading system. Governments in both offshoring countries and offshoring destinations face new challenges in setting rules to facilitate and sustain efficient and mutually beneficial trade agreements. We show here that offshoring arrangements create an asymmetry where downstream nations are more incentivized to depart from free trade agreements by restricting imports, but for more upstream countries, a

more pro-trade stance applies. Furthermore, the upstream nation may not be able to retaliate using a tariff without resulting in self-inflicted welfare losses. While it is conceivable that side payments can keep the downstream nation from violating the trade agreement, trade agreement violations can occur if side payments fall short. Consistent with this possibility, in Tables 1 and 3, we observe that trade partners with an offshoring relationship are more likely to engage in trade disputes where the dispute complainant has relatively higher domestic content share of imports from the dispute respondent.

In addition, the advent of international offshoring provides fertile grounds for revisiting long held assumptions about the role of labor standards in global trade. In particular, the effectiveness of labor standards to advance the interest of workers has been previously challenged on the grounds that such standards chase employers away, thus robbing upstream country labor markets of their main source of advantage. In this paper, we shed new light on the role of labor standards, and show that when workers' wages are protected by minimum wages set appropriately to reflect first-best labor productivity, both countries can in fact be incentivized to remain faithful to the terms of a trade agreement. From this broader perspective of how mutually acknowledged labor standards can play an important role in the signing of trade agreements, labor standards facilitate trade liberalization and as well as the benefits thereof to workers. Indeed, recent trade agreements have made strides towards incorporating labor standards, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Our paper provides a possible rationale rooted in the trade policy preference asymmetries that can potentially arise when countries in trade agreements are linked via extensive offshoring relationships.

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Table 1: Summary of Statistics (N= 102960; 1995-2018)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Pooled	$x = 1\%$	$x = 3\%$	$x = 5\%$	$x = 7\%$	$x = 10\%$
Domestic Content Share (%)	0.3594 (0.9425)					
Trade Dispute Incidence (0/1)	0.0024 (0.0494)					
Observations	102960					
Panel A:						
	Domestic Content Dummy by Threshold $x\%$ ( $=1$ )					
Domestic Content Share (%)	2.5208 (2.1257)	5.5631 (2.7294)	7.7856 (2.7366)	9.5614 (2.7432)	12.7330 (3.0365)	
Trade Dispute Incidence (0/1)	0.0117 (0.1074)	0.0124 (0.1106)	0.0145 (0.1196)	0.0278 (0.1647)	0.0857 (0.2809)	
Observations	9077	2020	897	467	140	
Panel B						
	Domestic Content Dummy by Threshold $x\%$ ( $=0$ )					
Domestic Content Share (%)	0.1504 (0.2048)	0.2552 (0.4520)	0.2941 (0.5843)	0.3174 (0.6860)	0.3425 (0.8175)	
Trade Dispute Incidence (0/1)	0.0016 (0.0394)	0.0022 (0.0474)	0.0023 (0.0483)	0.0023 (0.0482)	0.0023 (0.0483)	
Observations	93983	100940	102063	102493	102820	

Notes. 1. The domestic content share measures the domestic value added embodied in gross imports as a share of the value of gross imports at the bilateral importer-exporter level using data from the OECD TiVA database cover a 66x65 matrix of trade over 24 years (1995-2018). 2. The domestic content dummy is a binary variable at the bilateral importer-exporter level with a value at one when the domestic content of imports of  $j$  from  $i$  as a share of the value of total imports of  $j$  from  $i$  exceeds  $x\%$  ( $= 1, 3, 5, 7, 10\%$ ) threshold in year  $t$ . The table shows the average value of the domestic content dummy for all country pairs from 1995-2018. 3. Trade dispute incidence is a binary variable with value of 1 if there is a WTO trade dispute between a country pair launched by the importer in year  $t$ . The Table shows the average value of the trade incidence variable for all country pairs from 1995-2018. 4. Standard deviations are shown in parenthesis.

Table 2: Mean Domestic Content of Import Share (%) by Importer Income Group in Major Manufacturing Exporters (2010-2018)

USA			Japan			India			S. Korea		
Middle Income	High Income	p-value	Middle Income	High Income	p-value	Middle Income	High Income	p-value	Middle Income	High Income	p-value
0.575	0.301	0.000	0.720	0.502	0.083	0.647	0.430	0.017	1.515	1.259	0.341
Russia			Mexico			Brazil			Chinese Taipei		
Middle Income	High Income	p-value	Middle Income	High Income	p-value	Middle Income	High Income	p-value	Middle Income	High Income	p-value
0.268	0.356	0.125	1.391	2.266	0.196	0.343	0.511	0.141	1.766	2.219	0.308
Indonesia			China (People's Rep. of)			Great Britain			Spain		
Middle Income	High Income	p-value	Middle Income	High Income	p-value	Middle Income	High Income	p-value	Middle Income	High Income	p-value
0.560	0.472	0.393	0.345	0.958	0.000	0.373	0.928	0.000	0.574	1.220	0.000
Germany			Italy			France					
Middle Income	High Income	p-value	Middle Income	High Income	p-value	Middle Income	High Income	p-value			
0.625	1.003	0.001	0.602	1.064	0.002	0.553	1.470	0.000			

Notes. 1. This table displays exporter-specific average level of bilateral domestic content of import shares by importer income group from 2010-2018. 2. The list of economies (exporters and importers) covers the top 15 manufacturing producers (2016-2018, OECD TiVA Database). 3. High income economies (by World Bank definition) ranked in terms of total manufacturing production, with the highest first, USA, Japan, S. Korea, Germany, Italy, France, Great Britain, Chinese Taipei, and Spain. 4. Middle income economies refer to the remaining non-high income countries. The ranked list includes, with highest manufacturing production first, China, India, Brazil, Mexico, Russia and Indonesia. 6. The p-value associated with the equality of means t-tests are also included.

Table 3: Determinants of Importer-Launched WTO-Trade Disputes (1995-2018), Linear Probability Model

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Trade Dispute	Trade Dispute	Trade Dispute	Trade Dispute	Trade Dispute	Trade Dispute
Domestic Content Sh.	0.0033*** (0.0008)	0.0033*** (0.0009)	0.0033*** (0.0009)	0.0028* (0.0014)	0.0030* (0.0016)	0.0030* (0.0016)
Observations	102960	102960	102960	102960	102960	102960
Importer FE	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Exporter FE	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Pair FE	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Importer Manu. Prod	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Exporter Manu. Prod.	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
R2	0.0377	0.0377	0.0380	0.1765	0.1765	0.1768

Notes. 1. This table presents estimates from a linear probability model of the likelihood of an importer launched WTO trade dispute with robust standard errors and two-way fixed effects. 2. For each importer-exporter pair  $\times$  year observation, the dependent variable takes on a value of 1 if the importer launched a WTO-trade dispute against the exporter in year  $t$ . 3. The “Domestic Content Sh.” variable is defined as the domestic content of imports of  $j$  from  $i$  as a share of the value of total imports of  $j$  from  $i$  in year  $t$ . 4. Robust standard errors are in parentheses. 5. \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ .

Table 4: Calibrated Model Parameters and Solutions

<b>Home</b>		<b>Foreign</b>		
		low $\theta^*$	high $\theta^*$	
$A$	1.0	$A^*$	1.0	1.0
$\theta$	0.0	$\theta^*$	0.1	0.5
$\beta$	0.9	$\beta^*$	1.1	1.1
$L$	100.0	$L^*$	100.0	100.0
$\gamma$	400.0	$\gamma^*$	200.0	200.0
$\alpha$	30.0	$\alpha^*$	30.0	30.0
$A_y$	400.0	$A_y^*$	300.0	300.0
$N$	1	$M$	3	3
$N^*$	1	$M^*$	3	3
$\bar{L}_y$	800.0	$\bar{L}_y^*$	800.0	800.0

<b>Free Trade Wages</b>			
		low $\theta^*$	high $\theta^*$
$w$		1.820	1.890
$w^*$		2.536	2.447

<b>Nash Equilibrium X-sector Tariffs (<math>T = T^* = 0</math>)</b>			
$t$		0.0613	-0.0295
$t^*$		0.0464	0.0918

<b>Nash Equilibrium X- and Y-sector Tariffs (<math>T^* = 0</math>)</b>			
$t$		-1.1107	-6.9152
$T$		10.7295	12.6264
$t^*$		0.0187	0.320

<sup>1</sup> This table presents the list of parameter values adopted for the calibrated model and the associated solutions.

<sup>2</sup> The model wage solutions under free trade are also displayed, showing higher wages in the foreign country throughout, consistent with one-way offshoring  $\theta = 0$  and  $\theta^* > 0$ .

Table 5: Best Response Tariff Schedules ( $T = T^* = 0$ )

Home Best Response				Foreign Best Response			
low $\theta^*$		high $\theta^*$		low $\theta^*$		high $\theta^*$	
$t^*$	$\bar{t}_o(t^*)$	$t^*$	$\bar{t}_o(t^*)$	$t$	$\bar{t}_o^*(t)$	$t$	$\bar{t}_o^*(t)$
-2	0.0610	-2	-0.0309	-2	0.046434	-2	0.091830
-1.5	0.0611	-1.5	-0.0306	-1.5	0.046433	-1.5	0.091831
-1	0.0612	-1	-0.0303	-1	0.046433	-1	0.091832
-0.5	0.0612	-0.5	-0.0299	-0.5	0.046433	-0.5	0.091833
0	0.0613	0	-0.0296	0	0.046433	0	0.091833
0.5	0.0614	0.5	-0.0292	0.5	0.046433	0.5	0.091834
1	0.0614	1	-0.0289	1	0.046433	1	0.091835
1.5	0.0615	1.5	-0.0285	1.5	0.046433	1.5	0.091836
2	0.0616	2	-0.0282	2	0.046433	2	0.091837
2.5	0.0616	2.5	-0.0279	2.5	0.046433	2.5	0.091838
3	0.0617	3	-0.0275	3	0.046432	3	0.091838
3.5	0.0618	3.5	-0.0272	3.5	0.046432	3.5	0.091839
4	0.0619	4	-0.0268	4	0.046432	4	0.091840
4.5	0.0619	4.5	-0.0265	4.5	0.046432	4.5	0.091841
5	0.0620	5	-0.0262	5	0.046432	5	0.091842
5.5	0.0621	5.5	-0.0258	5.5	0.046432	5.5	0.091843
6	0.0621	6	-0.0255	6	0.046432	6	0.091843
6.5	0.0622	6.5	-0.0251	6.5	0.046432	6.5	0.091844
7	0.0623	7	-0.0248	7	0.046431	7	0.091845
7.5	0.0623	7.5	-0.0245	7.5	0.046431	7.5	0.091846

<sup>1</sup> This table presents two sets of tariff best response schedules defined in equations (16) and (17), where  $T$  and  $T^*$  are constrained at zero.

<sup>2</sup> The model parameter values for the high and low tariff regimes are displayed in Table 4.

Table 6: Best Response Tariff Schedules ( $T^* = 0$ )

Home Best Response						Foreign Best Response					
low $\theta^*$			high $\theta^*$			low $\theta^*$			high $\theta^*$		
$t^*$	$\bar{t}(t^*)$	$\bar{T}(t^*)$	$t^*$	$\bar{t}(t^*)$	$\bar{T}(t^*)$	$t$	$\bar{T}$	$\bar{t}^*(t, \bar{T})$	$t$	$\bar{T}$	$\bar{t}^*(t, \bar{T})$
-2	-1.1747	11.3126	-2	-7.1061	12.9739	-7	10.7295	0.018748	-7	12.6264	0.03207
-1.5	-1.1589	11.1682	-1.5	-7.0591	12.8884	-6	10.7295	0.018748	-6	12.6264	0.03207
-1	-1.1430	11.0237	-1	-7.0121	12.8029	-5	10.7295	0.018748	-5	12.6264	0.03207
-0.5	-1.1272	10.8793	-0.5	-6.9652	12.7174	-4	10.7295	0.018748	-4	12.6264	0.03207
0	-1.1113	10.7349	0	-6.9182	12.6319	-3	10.7295	0.018748	-3	12.6264	0.03208
0.5	-1.0955	10.5905	0.5	-6.8712	12.5464	-2	10.7295	0.018747	-2	12.6264	0.03208
1	-1.0797	10.4461	1	-6.8243	12.4609	-1	10.7295	0.018747	-1	12.6264	0.03208
1.5	-1.0638	10.3017	1.5	-6.7773	12.3754	0	10.7295	0.018747	0	12.6264	0.03208
2	-1.0480	10.1573	2	-6.7303	12.2899	1	10.7295	0.018747	1	12.6264	0.03208
2.5	-1.0321	10.0128	2.5	-6.6834	12.2044	2	10.7295	0.018746	2	12.6264	0.03208
3	-1.0163	9.8684	3	-6.6364	12.1189	3	10.7295	0.018746	3	12.6264	0.03209
3.5	-1.0004	9.7240	3.5	-6.5894	12.0334	4	10.7295	0.018746	4	12.6264	0.03209
4	-0.9846	9.5796	4	-6.5425	11.9479	5	10.7295	0.018746	5	12.6264	0.03209
4.5	-0.9687	9.4352	4.5	-6.4955	11.8624	6	10.7295	0.018745	6	12.6264	0.03209
5	-0.9529	9.2908	5	-6.4485	11.7769	7	10.7295	0.018745	7	12.6264	0.03209
5.5	-0.9371	9.1464	5.5	-6.4016	11.6914	8	10.7295	0.018745	8	12.6264	0.03209
6	-0.9212	9.0019	6	-6.3546	11.6059	9	10.7295	0.018745	9	12.6264	0.03210
6.5	-0.9054	8.8575	6.5	-6.3076	11.5204	10	10.7295	0.018744	10	12.6264	0.03210
7	-0.8895	8.7131	7	-6.2607	11.4349	11	10.7295	0.018744	11	12.6264	0.03210
7.5	-0.8737	8.5687	7.5	-6.2137	11.3494	12	10.7295	0.018744	12	12.6264	0.03210

<sup>1</sup> This table presents two sets of tariff best response schedules defined in equations (16), (18) and (17).

<sup>2</sup> The model parameter values for the high and low tariff regimes are displayed in Table 4.

<sup>3</sup> Columns 9 and 12 show the dependence of the Nash equilibrium y-sector tariffs in the foreign on the home country y-sector tariffs, evaluated at the Nash equilibrium y-sector tariff of the home country  $\bar{T}$ .

## Appendix A

### Existence, Uniqueness, and Proof of Proposition 1:

We proof the existence and uniqueness of the general equilibrium wage pair  $(w, w^*)$  by construction. Labor market equilibrium in the two countries requires

$$L = L_y(w) + L_x(w, w^*, t, t^*), \quad (30)$$

$$L^* = L_y^*(w^*) + L_x^*(w, w^*, t, t^*) \quad (31)$$

where in the homogeneous goods sector  $y$ ,

$$L_y(w, T) = \bar{L}_y(1 + T) - A_y w, \quad L_y^*(w^*, T^*) = \bar{L}_y^*(1 + T^*) - A_y^* w^*$$

where  $\bar{L}_y = b_L/(b_K)$ ,  $A_y = b_L \bar{L}_y$ , while  $\bar{L}_y^* = b_L^*/(b_K^*)$ ,  $A_y^* = b_L^* \bar{L}_y^*$

In addition, in the heterogeneous goods sector  $x$ ,

$$L_x(w, w^*, t, t^*, \tau, \tau^*) = a(Q_n(w, w^* + \tau) + Q_{n^*}^*(w, w^* + \tau, t^*)) + a_o^*(Q_m(w + \tau^*, w^*, t) + Q_{m^*}^*(w + \tau^*, w^*))$$

and

$$L_x^*(w, w, t, t^*, \tau, \tau^*) = a^*(Q_m(w + \tau^*, w^*, t) + Q_{m^*}^*(w + \tau^*, w^*)) + a_o(Q_n(w, w^* + \tau) + Q_{n^*}^*(w, w^* + \tau, t^*))$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} Q_n(w, w^* + \tau) &= NL(\alpha - aw - a_o(w^* + \tau))/\gamma, \\ Q_m(w + \tau^*, w^*, t) &= ML(\alpha - a^*w^* - a_o^*(w + \tau^*) - t)/\gamma, \\ Q_{n^*}^*(w, w^* + \tau, t^*) &= N^*L^*(\alpha^* - aw - a_o(w^* + \tau) - t^*)/\gamma^*, \\ Q_{m^*}^*(w + \tau^*, w^*) &= M^*L^*(\alpha^* - a^*w^* - a_o^*(w + \tau^*))/\gamma^*. \end{aligned}$$

Denote labor demand shifters in sector  $x$  of the two countries as

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{L}_x &\equiv (aN + a_o^*M)\alpha L/\gamma + (aN^* + a_o^*M^*)\alpha^*L^*/\gamma^*, \\ \bar{L}_x^* &\equiv (a_oN + a^*M)\alpha L/\gamma + (a_oN^* + a^*M^*)\alpha^*L^*/\gamma^*. \end{aligned}$$

Also denote economy-wide normalized labor demand shifters in the two countries as:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} &= (\bar{L}_x + \bar{L}_y(1 + T) - L) \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right)^{-1} \\ \mathcal{L}^* &= (\bar{L}_x^* + \bar{L}_y^*(1 + T) - L^*) \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right)^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Let  $s_p$  and  $1 - s_p$  respectively be production share parameters of the home and the foreign country:

$$s_p = \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right) \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right)^{-1}.$$

Also let  $\sigma_m$  and  $\sigma_{n^*}$  respectively be import consumption share parameters of the home and the foreign country:

$$\sigma_m = \frac{ML}{\gamma} \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right)^{-1}, \quad \sigma_{n^*} = \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right)^{-1}.$$

Analogously let  $\sigma_n$  and  $\sigma_{m^*}$  respectively be domestic consumption share parameters of the home and the foreign country:

$$\sigma_n = \frac{NL}{\gamma} \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right)^{-1}, \quad \sigma_{m^*} = \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right)^{-1}.$$

In addition, let

$$\begin{aligned} a_y &\equiv A_y \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right)^{-1} \\ a_y^* &\equiv A_y^* \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right)^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

In equilibrium, the two wages  $w$  and  $w^*$  simultaneously solve (8) and (9), with unique closed-form solutions:

$$\begin{aligned} w(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T}) &= \omega_o + \sum_{\sigma=t, T, \tau} \omega_\sigma \sigma + \sum_{\sigma=t, T, \tau} \omega_{\sigma^*} \sigma^*, \\ w^*(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T}) &= \omega_o^* + \sum_{\sigma=t, T, \tau} \omega_\sigma^* \sigma + \sum_{\sigma=t, T, \tau} \omega_{\sigma^*}^* \sigma^* \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_o &= (\mathcal{L}(a_y^* + (a^*)^2(1 - s_p) + (a_o)^2 s_p) - \mathcal{L}^*(aa_o s_p + a^* a_o^*(1 - s_p))) / \Omega \\ \omega_o^* &= (\mathcal{L}^*(a_y + (a)^2 s_p + (a_o^*)^2(1 - s_p)) - \mathcal{L}(aa_o s_p + a^* a_o^*(1 - s_p))) / \Omega \\ \omega_t &= -\sigma_m (a_o^*(a_y^* + (a^*)^2(1 - s_p) + (a_o)^2 s_p) - a^*(aa_o s_p + a^* a_o^*(1 - s_p))) / \Omega \\ \omega_t^* &= -\sigma_m (a^*(a_y + (a)^2 s_p + (a_o^*)^2(1 - s_p)) - a_o^*(aa_o s_p + a^* a_o^*(1 - s_p))) / \Omega \\ \omega_{t^*} &= -\sigma_{n^*} (a(a_y^* + (a^*)^2(1 - s_p) + (a_o)^2 s_p) - a_o(aa_o s_p + a^* a_o^*(1 - s_p))) / \Omega \\ \omega_{t^*}^* &= -\sigma_{n^*} (a_o(a_y + (a)^2 s_p + (a_o^*)^2(1 - s_p)) - a(aa_o s_p + a^* a_o^*(1 - s_p))) / \Omega \end{aligned}$$

and in addition,

$$\begin{aligned}
\omega_T &= \bar{L}_y(a_y^* + (a^*)^2(1 - s_p) + (a_o)^2 s_p) / \left( \Omega \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right) \right)^{-1} \\
\omega_T^* &= -\bar{L}_y(aa_o s_p + a^* a_o^*(1 - s_p)) / \left( \Omega \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right) \right)^{-1} \\
\omega_{T^*} &= -\bar{L}^*_y((aa_o s_p + a^* a_o^*(1 - s_p))) / \left( \Omega \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right) \right)^{-1} \\
\omega_{T^*}^* &= \bar{L}^*_y(a_y + (a)^2 s_p + (a_o^*)^2(1 - s_p)) / \left( \Omega \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right) \right)^{-1} \\
\Omega &= a_y a^* y + a_y((a^*)^2(1 - s_p) + (a_o)^2 s_p) + a_y^*((a)^2 s_p + (a_o^*)^2(1 - s_p)) \\
&\quad + s_p(1 - s_p)(aa^* - a_o a_o^*)^2 > 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Finally,

$$\begin{aligned}
\omega_\tau &= -a_o(\sigma_n + \sigma_{n^*}) (a(a_y^* + (a^*)^2(1 - s_p) + (a_o)^2 s_p) - a_o(aa_o s_p + a^* a_o^*(1 - s_p))) / \Omega \\
\omega_\tau^* &= -a_o(\sigma_n + \sigma_{n^*}) (a_o(a_y + (a)^2 s_p + (a_o^*)^2(1 - s_p)) - a(aa_o s_p + a^* a_o^*(1 - s_p))) / \Omega \\
\omega_{\tau^*} &= -a_o^*(\sigma_m + \sigma_{m^*}) (a_o^*(a_y^* + (a^*)^2(1 - s_p) + (a_o)^2 s_p) - a^*(aa_o s_p + a^* a_o^*(1 - s_p))) / \Omega \\
\omega_{\tau^*}^* &= -a_o^*(\sigma_m + \sigma_{m^*}) (a^*(a_y + (a)^2 s_p + (a_o^*)^2(1 - s_p)) - a_o(aa_o s_p + a^* a_o^*(1 - s_p))) / \Omega.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, at  $t = t^* = T = T^* = 0$ ,  $w > 0$  and  $w^* > 0$  if and only if the two country's overall labor demand are not too divergent so no country is completely specialized in  $x$ , or

$$\frac{a_y^* + (a^*)^2(1 - s_p) + (a_o)^2 s_p}{aa_o s_p + a^* a_o^*(1 - s_p)} > \frac{\mathcal{L}^*}{\mathcal{L}} > \frac{aa_o s_p + a^* a_o^*(1 - s_p)}{a_y + (a)^2 s_p + (a_o^*)^2(1 - s_p)}.$$

Own-wage effect of  $x$ -sector tariff in the home country is positive if and only if  $\omega_t < 0$ , or

$$\frac{a_o^*}{a^*} > \frac{a_o}{a} \left( \frac{a^2}{a^* y + s_p a_o^2} \right),$$

while  $\omega_{t^*}^* > 0$  in the foreign country if and only if

$$\frac{a_o}{a} < \frac{a_o^*}{a^*} \left( \frac{(a^*)^2}{a_y + (1 - s_p) a_o^{*2}} \right).$$

as stated in Proposition 1. Cross-wage effects of  $x$ -sector tariff in both countries are negative since:

$$\begin{aligned}
\omega_t^* &= -\sigma_m (a^* a_y + a s_p (a^* a - a_o^* a_o)) / \Omega < 0 \\
\omega_{t^*} &= -\sigma_{n^*} (aa_y^* + a^*(1 - s_p)(aa^* - a_o a_o^*)) / \Omega < 0
\end{aligned}$$

where  $aa^* - a_o a_o^* = AA^*(1 - \theta)(1 - \theta^*) - AA^*\beta\beta^*\theta\theta^* > AA^*(1 - \theta - \theta^*) > 0$ . This inequality follows since  $\beta^*\beta < 1$  and  $\theta^* < 1 - \theta$ , or  $1 - \theta - \theta^* > 0$  by assumption. Finally, own-wage effects of y-sector tariff in both countries are positive since

$$\begin{aligned}\omega_T &= \bar{L}_y(a_y^* + (a^*)^2(1 - s_p) + (a_o)^2s_p) / \left( \Omega \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right) \right)^{-1} > 0 \\ \omega_{T^*} &= -\bar{L}_y^*((aa_o s_p + a^* a_o^*(1 - s_p))) / \left( \Omega \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right) \right)^{-1} > 0\end{aligned}$$

while cross-wage effects of y-sector tariff in both countries are negative since

$$\begin{aligned}\omega_T^* &= -\bar{L}_y(aa_o s_p + a^* a_o^*(1 - s_p)) / \left( \Omega \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right) \right)^{-1} < 0 \\ \omega_{T^*}^* &= \bar{L}_y^*(a_y + (a)^2s_p + (a_o^*)^2(1 - s_p)) / \left( \Omega \left( \frac{NL}{\gamma} + \frac{N^*L^*}{\gamma^*} + \frac{ML}{\gamma} + \frac{M^*L^*}{\gamma^*} \right) \right)^{-1} < 0\end{aligned}$$

as stated in Proposition 1.

**The own- and cross-wage effects of an input tax:** Own-wage effect of an input tax in the home country is always negative since

$$\omega_\tau = -a_o(\sigma_n + \sigma_{n^*}) (aa_y^* + a^*(aa^* - a_o a_o^*)(1 - s_p)) / \Omega < 0.$$

while cross-wage effect is positive  $\omega_\tau^* > 0$  if and only if

$$\omega_\tau^* > 0 \Leftrightarrow (a_o^*/a^*)(a^*)^2(1 - s_p) > (a_o/a)(a_y + (a_o^*)^2(1 - s_p))$$

or

$$\frac{a_o^*}{a^*} > \frac{a_o}{a} \left( \frac{a_y + (a_o^*)^2(1 - s_p)}{(a^*)^2(1 - s_p)} \right).$$

as stated in the text in Section 5. The case of a foreign input tax is exactly analogous.

### Proof of Proposition 2:

Using (16),

$$\frac{\partial t(t^*)}{\partial t^*} = -\frac{\mathcal{E}^*(0,0)\omega_{t^*}^* - \mathcal{M}^*(0,0)\omega_{t^*}}{\mathcal{E}^*(0,0)\omega_t^* - \mathcal{M}^*(0,0)\omega_t} = \frac{\mathcal{E}^*(0,0)\omega_{t^*}^* - \mathcal{M}^*(0,0)\omega_{t^*}}{\mathcal{E}(0,0)\omega_t - \mathcal{M}(0,0)\omega_t^*}$$

which follows since  $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{M}^*$  and  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{E}^*$  in this two-country setup. Suppose that  $a_o$  is sufficiently low satisfying the condition under which  $\omega_{t^*}^* > 0$  from Proposition 1. It follows that

$$\mathcal{E}^*(0,0)\omega_{t^*}^* - \mathcal{M}^*(0,0)\omega_{t^*} > 0.$$

Furthermore, note that

$$\begin{aligned}\omega_t &= -\sigma_m (a_o^* a_y^* + a_o s_p (a_o^* a_o - a^* a)) / \Omega \\ \omega_t^* &= -\sigma_m (a^* a_y + a s_p (a^* a - a_o^* a_o)) / \Omega\end{aligned}$$

Suppose that  $a_o^*$  is sufficiently high satisfying the condition under which  $\omega_t \leq 0$  according to Proposition 1. It follows that evaluated at  $a_o^*$  such that  $\omega_t = 0$ ,

$$\mathcal{E}(0, 0)\omega_t - \mathcal{M}(0, 0)\omega_t^* > 0$$

since  $\omega_t = 0$  and  $\omega_t^* < 0$ . However as  $\theta^* \rightarrow 1$ ,

$$\mathcal{E}(0, 0)\omega_t - \mathcal{M}(0, 0)\omega_t^* < 0$$

since  $\omega_t < 0$  while  $\omega_t^* \geq 0$ . It follows that there exists  $\theta^*$  large enough satisfying the condition in Proposition 1 that  $\mathcal{E}(0, 0)\omega_t - \mathcal{M}(0, 0)\omega_t^* \leq 0$ . It also follows that there exists  $\theta^*$  large enough such that

$$\frac{\partial t(t^*)}{\partial t^*} = \frac{\mathcal{E}^*(0, 0)\omega_{t^*}^* - \mathcal{M}^*(0, 0)\omega_{t^*}}{\mathcal{E}(0, 0)\omega_t - \mathcal{M}(0, 0)\omega_t^*} < 0$$

as stated in Proposition 2. Under these conditions, the schedule of equivalent tariff retaliation is downward sloping, wherein the home country punishes violators with an import subsidy.

### **Proof of Proposition 3:**

Using (18),

$$\frac{\partial T(t^*)}{\partial t^*} = -\frac{\mathcal{E}^*(0, 0)\omega_{t^*}^* - \mathcal{M}^*(0, 0)\omega_{t^*}}{\mathcal{E}^*(0, 0)\omega_T^* - \mathcal{M}^*(0, 0)\omega_T} = \frac{\mathcal{E}^*(0, 0)\omega_{t^*}^* - \mathcal{M}^*(0, 0)\omega_{t^*}}{\mathcal{E}(0, 0)\omega_T - \mathcal{M}(0, 0)\omega_T^*}$$

since  $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{M}^*$  and  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{E}^*$ . Since  $\omega_T > 0$  and  $\omega_T^* < 0$  and  $\omega_{t^*} < 0$  and  $\omega_{t^*}^* < 0$  from Proposition 1, it follows that

$$\frac{\partial T(t^*)}{\partial t^*} = \frac{\mathcal{E}^*(0, 0)\omega_{t^*}^* - \mathcal{M}^*(0, 0)\omega_{t^*}}{\mathcal{E}(0, 0)\omega_T - \mathcal{M}(0, 0)\omega_T^*} > 0$$

as stated in Proposition 3.

### Model Solutions for Calibration:

We discuss in what follows the steps we adopt to demonstrate (i) the equivalent retaliation x-sector tariff schedules, (ii) the best response x-sector tariff schedules at given y-sector tariff, and (iii) the best response x-sector tariff schedules at optimized y-sector tariff. To start, recall that  $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T}) \equiv aQ_{n^*} + a_o^*Q_{m^*}$  and  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T}) \equiv a_oQ_n + a^*Q_m$ . Also,

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{n^*} &= N^*L^*(\alpha^* - aw - a_o w^* - t^*)/\gamma^*, \\ Q_{m^*} &= M^*L^*(\alpha^* - a^*w^* - a_o^*w)/\gamma^*, \\ Q_n &= NL(\alpha - aw - a_o w^*)/\gamma, \\ Q_m &= ML(\alpha - a^*w^* - a_o^*w)/\gamma. \end{aligned}$$

Since the two wages  $w$  and  $w^*$  are affine functions of the policy vectors  $\mathbf{T}$  and  $\mathbf{T}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} w(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T}) &= \omega_o + \sum_{\sigma=t, T} \omega_\sigma \sigma + \sum_{\sigma=t, T} \omega_{\sigma^*} \sigma^*, \\ w^*(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T}) &= \omega_o^* + \sum_{\sigma=t, T} \omega_\sigma^* \sigma + \sum_{\sigma=t, T} \omega_{\sigma^*}^* \sigma^* \end{aligned}$$

we can rewrite

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T}) &= \mathcal{E}_o + \sum_{\sigma=t, T} \mathcal{E}_\sigma \sigma + \sum_{\sigma=t, T} \mathcal{E}_{\sigma^*} \sigma^*, \\ \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T}) &= \mathcal{M}_o + \sum_{\sigma=t, T} \mathcal{M}_\sigma \sigma + \sum_{\sigma=t, T} \mathcal{M}_{\sigma^*} \sigma^*. \end{aligned}$$

where for  $\sigma = \{t, t^*, T, T^*\}$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}_t &= -[a^2\omega_t + aa_o\omega_t^*]N^*L^*/\gamma^* - [a_o^*a^*\omega_t^* + (a_o^*)^2\omega_t]M^*L^*/\gamma^* \\ \mathcal{M}_t &= -[a_o a\omega_t + (a_o)^2\omega_t^*]NL/\gamma - [(a^*)^2\omega_t^* + a^*a_o^*\omega_t + 1]ML/\gamma \\ \mathcal{E}_{t^*} &= -[a^2\omega_{t^*} + aa_o\omega_{t^*}^* + 1]N^*L^*/\gamma^* - [a_o^*a^*\omega_{t^*}^* + (a_o^*)^2\omega_{t^*}]M^*L^*/\gamma^* \\ \mathcal{M}_{t^*} &= -[a_o a\omega_{t^*} + (a_o)^2\omega_{t^*}^*]NL/\gamma - [(a^*)^2\omega_{t^*}^* + a^*a_o^*\omega_{t^*}]ML/\gamma \\ \mathcal{E}_T &= -[a^2\omega_T + aa_o\omega_T^*]N^*L^*/\gamma^* - [a_o^*a^*\omega_T^* + (a_o^*)^2\omega_T]M^*L^*/\gamma^* \\ \mathcal{M}_T &= -[a_o a\omega_T + (a_o)^2\omega_T^*]NL/\gamma - [(a^*)^2\omega_T^* + a^*a_o^*\omega_T]ML/\gamma \\ \mathcal{E}_{T^*} &= -[a^2\omega_{T^*} + aa_o\omega_{T^*}^*]N^*L^*/\gamma^* - [a_o^*a^*\omega_{T^*}^* + (a_o^*)^2\omega_{T^*}]M^*L^*/\gamma^* \\ \mathcal{M}_{T^*} &= -[a_o a\omega_{T^*} + (a_o)^2\omega_{T^*}^*]NL/\gamma - [(a^*)^2\omega_{T^*}^* + a^*a_o^*\omega_{T^*}]ML/\gamma. \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

We will use these notations to express the equivalent retaliation and best response tariff schedules below.

### Equivalent Retaliatory X-sector and Y-sector Tariff Schedules:

By definition in equation (16), the equivalent retaliatory x-sector tariff schedule that nullifies the terms of trade advantage that the foreign country attempts to gain via a y-sector tariff  $t^*$  is:

$$t(t^*) = \{\tau|\mathcal{E}^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})[w^*(\tau, t^*, \mathbf{0}) - w^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})] - \mathcal{M}^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})[w(\tau, t^*, \mathbf{0}) - w(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})]\} = 0\}.$$

Since  $\mathcal{E}^* = \mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{M}^* = \mathcal{E}$  in a two-country setup, using equation (32), we have

$$t(t^*) = - \left( \frac{\mathcal{E}_o \omega_{t^*} - \mathcal{M}_o \omega_{t^*}^*}{\mathcal{E}_o \omega_t - \mathcal{M}_o \omega_t^*} \right) t^*.$$

In addition, from equation (18), the y-sector tariff that eliminates foreign terms of trade gains via  $t^*$  is

$$T(t^*) = \{\tau|\mathcal{E}^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})[w^*(0, t^*, \tau, 0) - w^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})] - \mathcal{M}^*(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})[w(0, t^*, \tau, 0) - w(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})]\} = 0\}.$$

Once again using equation (32), we have

$$T(t^*) = - \left( \frac{\mathcal{E}_o \omega_{t^*} - \mathcal{M}_o \omega_{t^*}^*}{\mathcal{E}_o \omega_T - \mathcal{M}_o \omega_T^*} \right) t^*.$$

### X-sector Best Response Tariff Schedules (given $T$ ):

From (12), the best response x-sector tariff  $\bar{t}(t^*, T, T^*)$  solves:

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T})\omega_t - \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T})\omega_t^* - tML(a^*\omega_t^* + a_o^*\omega_t + 1)/\gamma + TA_y\omega_t = 0,$$

For given  $T$ ,  $T^*$ , and  $t^*$ , the x-sector tariff best response in the home country solves:

$$0 = \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T})\omega_t - \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T})\omega_t^* - tML(a^*\omega_t^* + a_o^*\omega_t + 1)/\gamma + TA_y\omega_t$$

and is given by:

$$\bar{t}(t^*, T, T^*) = \frac{[\mathcal{E}_o + \sum_{\sigma=t^*, T, T^*} \mathcal{E}_\sigma \sigma]\omega_t - [\mathcal{M}_o + \sum_{\sigma=t^*, T, T^*} \mathcal{M}_\sigma \sigma]\omega_t^* + TA_y\omega_t}{ML(a^*\omega_t^* + a_o^*\omega_t + 1)/\gamma - \mathcal{E}_t\omega_t + \mathcal{M}_t\omega_t^*}.$$

The best response of the foreign country,  $\bar{t}^*(t, T, T^*)$  given  $t$ ,  $T$  and  $T^*$  is analogous, and solves:

$$0 = \mathcal{E}^*(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T})\omega_{t^*}^* - \mathcal{M}^*(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T})\omega_{t^*} - t^*N^*L^*(a\omega_{t^*} + a_o\omega_{t^*}^* + 1)/\gamma^* + T^*A_y^*\omega_{t^*}^*.$$

Now since  $\mathcal{E}^* = \mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{M}^* = \mathcal{E}$ , the best response of the foreign country at given  $t$ ,  $T$ , and  $T^*$  is given by:

$$\bar{t}^*(t, T, T^*) = \frac{[\mathcal{M}_o + \sum_{\sigma=t, T, T^*} \mathcal{M}_\sigma \sigma]\omega_{t^*}^* - [\mathcal{E}_o + \sum_{\sigma=t, T, T^*} \mathcal{E}_\sigma \sigma]\omega_t + T^*A_y^*\omega_{t^*}^*}{N^*L^*(a\omega_{t^*} + a_o\omega_{t^*}^* + 1)/\gamma^* - \mathcal{M}_{t^*}\omega_{t^*}^* + \mathcal{E}_t\omega_t}.$$

### X-sector Best Response Tariff Schedules (optimized $T$ ) in the home country:

In the home country, to optimize the choice of  $t$  and  $T$  simultaneously, we simultaneously solve

$$\frac{dV}{dT} = \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T})\omega_T - \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T})\omega_T^* - tML(a^*\omega_T^* + a_o^*\omega_T)/\gamma - T(\bar{L}_y - A_y\omega_T) = 0,$$

and

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T})\omega_t - \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{T})\omega_t^* - tML(a^*\omega_t^* + a_o^*\omega_t + 1)/\gamma + TA_y\omega_t = 0.$$

Using (32), the task reduces to finding the simultaneous solutions to a system of two equations in two unknowns:

$$\begin{aligned} & -[\mathcal{E}_t\omega_T - \mathcal{M}_t\omega_T^* + ML(a^*\omega_T^* + a_o^*\omega_T)]t - [\mathcal{E}_T\omega_T - \mathcal{M}_T\omega_T^* + \bar{L}_y - A_y\omega_T]T \\ = & \left[ \mathcal{E}_o + \sum_{\sigma=t^*, T^*} \mathcal{E}_\sigma\sigma \right] \omega_T - \left[ \mathcal{M}_o + \sum_{\sigma=t^*, T^*} \mathcal{M}_\sigma\sigma \right] \omega_T^* \\ & -[\mathcal{E}_t\omega_t - \mathcal{M}_t\omega_t^* + ML(a^*\omega_t^* + a_o^*\omega_t + 1)/\gamma]t - [\mathcal{E}_T\omega_t - \mathcal{M}_T\omega_t^* - A_y\omega_t]T \\ = & \left[ \mathcal{E}_o + \sum_{\sigma=t^*, T^*} \mathcal{E}_\sigma\sigma \right] \omega_t - \left[ \mathcal{M}_o + \sum_{\sigma=t^*, T^*} \mathcal{M}_\sigma\sigma \right] \omega_t^* \end{aligned}$$

The solution pair  $t$  and  $T$ , with the parameter values summarized in Table 6, are plotted as functions of  $t^*$  (at  $T^* = 0$ ).