





such that each consumer purchases one of the two goods, thus abstracting away from aggregate demand effects (which are already well understood) and focusing on strategic market-share effects (i) a Nash equilibrium in prices— the “(imperfectly) competitive regime”, and (ii) the joint-profit maximizing cartel— the “(fully) collusive regime”

welfare point of view, prices cancel out because they are a transfer. Only market allocations matter, and what is important for these are relative prices (or relative cost-adjusted prices). Since markets and all equilibria are symmetric, we can consider welfare effects in a single market. In each market, the "home" firm has a cost advantage over the "away" firm because the home firm does not incur

welfare by restricting trade— has not been made.<sup>6</sup> Second, as in the standard Hotelling framework,

studies the division of regional markets by firms in the Brazilian cement industry. By quantifying

In the trade literature, Brander and Krugman (1983) show that exogenously moving from autarky (there is, by definition, no cross-hauling) to trade competition in a homogeneous-good Cournot oligopoly where aggregate demand slopes downward— and with free entry— is welfare-enhancing:

Consumers make discrete choices, purchasing one unit or none. Let  $x \in [0; 1]$ — the consumer's



(now adding market subscripts, and where the superscript C denotes the competitive equilibrium).  
In equilibrium, the location of the marginal consumer, and thus the quantity share of home firm A,

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Notice that A1 implies that  $x_1^C$

(a condition that, from the definition of  $x$ , is equivalent to  $U_B(p_B; x(p)) = 0$ ), which from (1) can be rewritten as  $2V(p_A - p_B) = 0$ . Using this locus of prices, the perfect cartel's problem

$$\max_{p_A, p_B} (p_A - c) S_A(p) + (p_B - c) S_B(p)$$





alternative regimes, i.e. as  $t \rightarrow 0$ , we have that  $\chi_s$

## 3.2 First-best social outcomes

The immediate question then is how distortionary are the market-based behavioral regimes derived above? We now compute the set of first-best outcomes, where social welfare is maximal, and compare them to the competitive and collusive outcomes. As we explain, what characterizes a first-

the trade cost  $t$ , in contrast to the market-based regimes where price discrimination was substantial

welfare being optimal, would set prices such that the marginal consumer's surplus is fully extracted,  $U_A(p_A; x_1^{FB}) = 0$ , that is

$$p_{1A}^{FB;pro\ b} = V - x_1^{FB} = V - \frac{1}{2} \min(t + ; 2); \quad p_{1B}^{FB;pro\ b} = p_{1A}^{FB;pro\ b} + t = V + t - \frac{1}{2} \min(t + ; 2)$$

for  $CS^C$  earlier, we obtain

$$CS^{FB;proc} - CS^C = \frac{1}{9}$$



For a market-based regime with either price competition or full collusion, the following proposition describes the symmetric tax and subsidy policy that yields the welfare-optimal market allocation.

Proposition 5 An appropriate tax and subsidy policy can be used to induce the market-based

and (iii)  $x_1^C \stackrel{+!}{=} x_1^M$ , with the latter characterizing an "intermediate" (suboptimal) level of intervention.

Finally, notice that as a potentially set





### 3.5 The effects of home bias

Very often, consumers in a market favor locally-sourced products over competing imports. Part of



## 4 Concluding remarks

In the context of trade where aggregate demand effects are small, we have provided a model—employing only standard ingredients—where the following unconventional and clear-cut combination of results obtains: (i) (perfect) collusion reduces, though does not eliminate, trade relative to competition, leading to a cartel allocation consistent with the “home-market principle”; (ii) this collusive reduction in trade (and thus reduction in the heterogeneity of consumption) enhances total welfare; (iii) the welfare gain from collusion occurs even when the trade cost is low (with this welfare gain increasing in the trade cost and decreasing in the degree of product differentiation); (iv) the cartel’s reduction in trade can even enhance consumer welfare relative to the competitive

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the entire home market but less than full share of the foreign market, or where the deviant firm ends up capturing both markets entirely. In what follows, we first analyze optimal deviation (conditional on a firm deviating from the equilibrium path). Since marginal cost is flat in output, defection can be analyzed separately for the home market and the away market. Subsequently, we study the perfect cartel's incentive constraint in each deviation case. Without loss of generality, our deviant firm is firm A.

### A.1 Optimal deviation in the home market

In market 1, if firm B abides by the agreement and sets a price of  $p^J$

at

Second scenario: Firm A captures the entire market in the defection period. If instead  $4V - 4c - 5t - 14 = 0$ , then deviant firm A sets price  $p_{2A}^D$

Case I: Both firms command positive market shares in each of the two markets:  
 $4V - 4c + t - 14 < 0$  The deviant firm's defection-period profit across both markets is then the sum of (9) and (11):

$$D_{\text{Case I}} = \frac{(4V - 4c + t + 2)^2 + (4V - 4c - 5t + 2)^2}{128} \quad (16)$$

So, making use of eqs. (13)-(16), the critical discount factor above which the fully collusive outcome can be sustained in this case is given by:

$$j_{\text{Case I}} = 9 \frac{16(V - c)(V - c - t) - 48(V - c) + 12(2t + 3) + 5t^2}{144(V - c)(V - c - t) - 36(2t + 15) + 53t^2}$$



Now consider the competitive regime. In the presence of a tax and a subsidy, prices in the competitive equilibrium solve the modified system (cf. Section 2.1)

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{p_A} (p_A - c - t) s_A(p) \\ & \max_{p_B} (p_B - c + t) s_B(p) \end{aligned}$$

yielding prices and profits (again, for brevity, we write the proof for an interior solution,  $t < \dots$ , otherwise the corner solution of Section 3.2 applies)

$$p_A^C$$

where, as expected,  $p_{1B}^C(\cdot; \cdot)$

on foreign sales, as stated in Sections 2.1 (competitive regime) and 2.2 (collusive regime). For brevity, we simply state the sum of consumer surplus and producer surplus in each regime:  $W^C = 36V - 36c - 18t + 5t^2 - 9^2 = (36 - 9^2)$  and  $W^{JM} = 16V - 16c - 8t + 3t^2 - 4^2 = (16 - 4^2)$ .

We now calculate welfare differences across regimes, first considering the parameter subspace for which there is full coverage under autarky (i.e.  $V > c + 2$ ). We compute  $16 - W^{AUTK} - W^{JM} = 3t^2 + 8t - 4^2$  which, being concave in  $t$  and having roots  $t = \frac{2}{3}; 2$ , is strictly positive over the interval  $\frac{2}{3} < t < 2$ : hence (conditional on full coverage, an6Td[.]. Wet

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Figure 2: The extent of cross-hauling across the different trade regimes, within and beyond the restricted space of parameters (A1). Market 1's import share  $1-x_1$  (left axis) and share of home good  $x_1$  (right axis, inverted scale) against trade cost  $t$ .