PubPol/Econ 541

Classes 3, 4

Tariffs and Quotas

by
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2024



Pause for News

In the news:

- Examples of measures to be considered this week in House:
 - Maintaining American Superiority by Improving Export Control Transparency Act
 - Export Control Enforcement and Enhancement Act,
 - Chinese Currency Accountability Act,
 - Countering the PRC Malign Influence Fund Authorization Act

Announcements

- Quizzes in general
 - Clarify my expectations:
 - Feel free to look up anything you like from course or other sources.
 - But write your answers yourself and do not work with other students.
 - In "short answer" questions, no need to write paragraphs or even sentences if you can convey what I ask for.

Announcements

Quiz 1 Scores

	Q1
Mean	7.69
Median	7.5
Max	10
Min	5
Standard deviation	1.41

Pause for Discussion

Questions from KOM

- How do "specific" and "ad valorem" tariffs differ?
- An import demand curve is sometimes called a "derived demand curve." Why?
- What is an "effective rate of protection"?

Outline for Today and Wednesday

- Tariff by Small country
- Tariff by large country
- Quotas

Small country

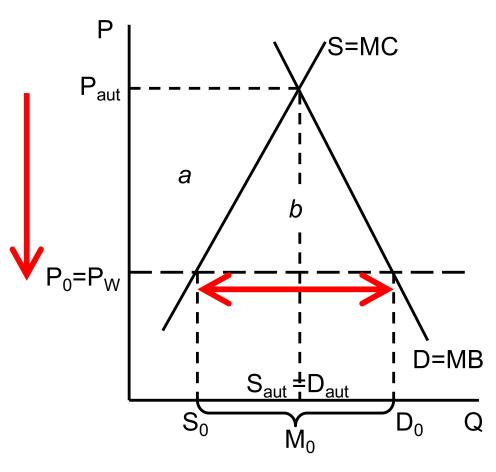
Assumptions throughout

- Markets perfectly competitive (many small buyers and sellers)
- Product homogeneous (all units from all suppliers the same)
- Markets in equilibrium (quantities supplied and demanded equal)
- There are no "distortions" (externalities, etc.)
 - This includes no taxes other than tariffs
- Supply and demand curves are straight lines
 - Just for simplicity
- Model is partial equilibrium (takes all other prices as given)
- Model is static (time does not play any role)
- Trade is free and frictionless
 - No tariffs or quotas other than those we introduce
 - No transport costs (for simplicity)

Small country

- Special assumption for small country case
 - World price is given (country too small to influence it)
 - More correctly: country's supply and demand in that industry too small to influence the world price

Small country, Import Industry



- Effects of move from autarky to free trade
 - Price falls
 - Quantity supplied falls
 - Quantity demanded rises
 - Imports rise
- Welfare effects:
 - Suppliers lose −a
 - Demanders gain +(a+b)
 - Country gains (

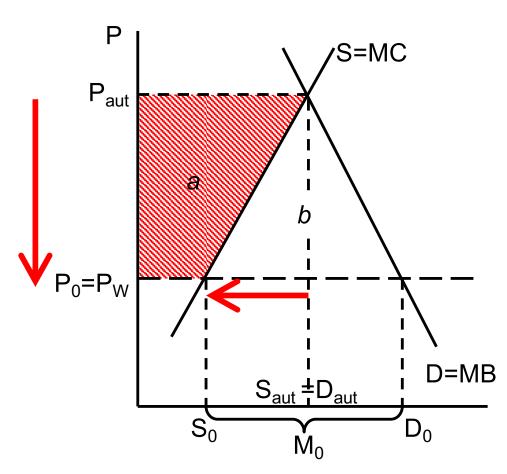
+*b*

Free trade

The Gain from Trade

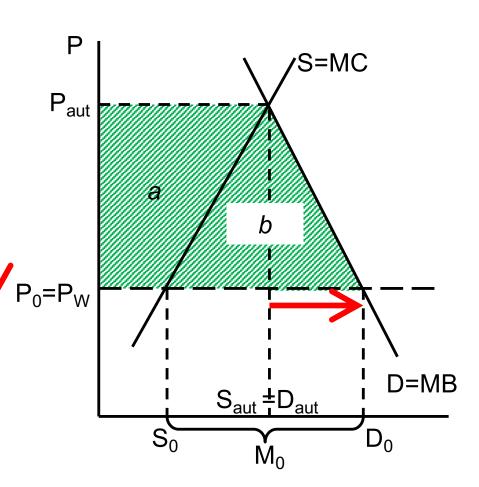
Welfare Effects

- Why a and (a+b)?
- Area a
 - Loss of "producer surplus"
 - Zero to S₀
 - Lost revenue
 - $-S_0$ to S_{aut}
 - Lost profit from P_{aut} above MC



Welfare Effects

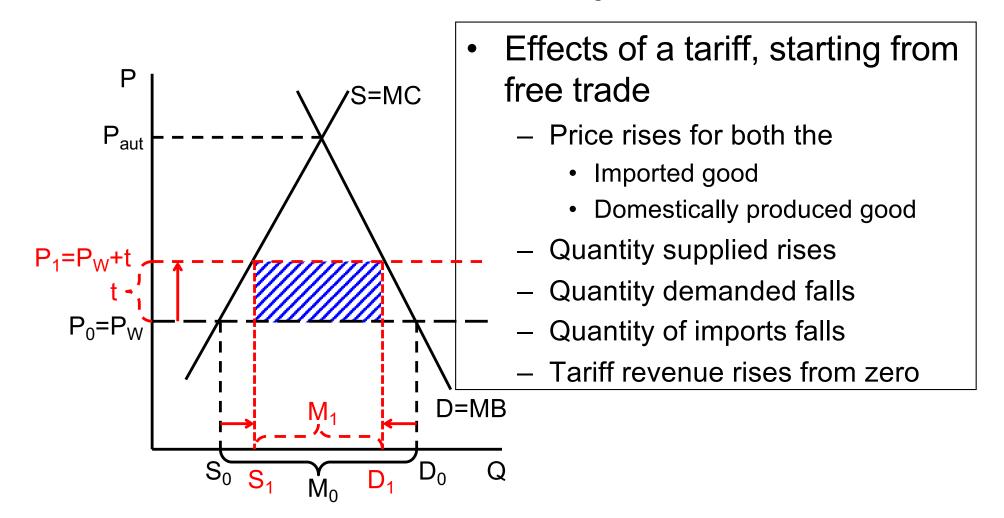
- Area (a+b)
 - Gain of "consumer surplus"
 - Zero to D_{aut}
 - Less expenditure on previous purchase
 - D_{aut} to D₀
 Additional units worth more (MB) than price



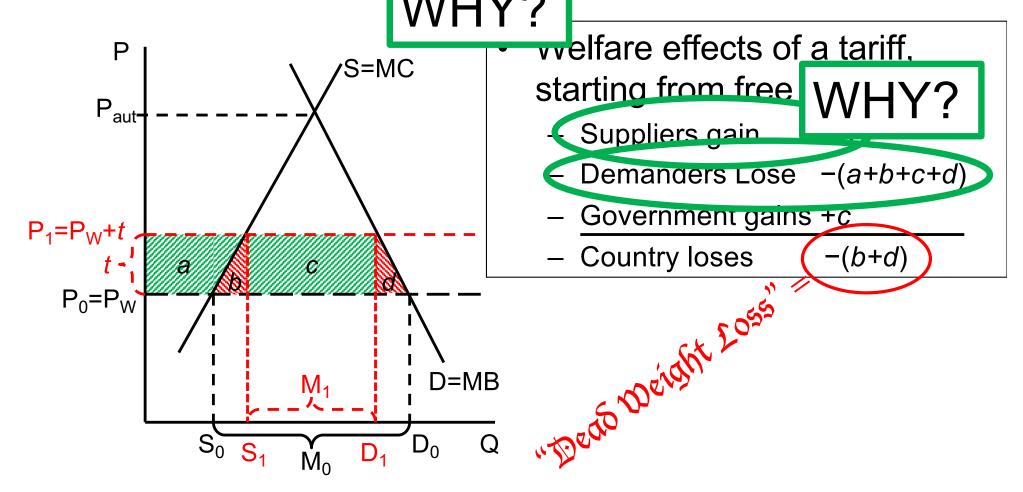
Welfare Effects

- Note that these welfare effects are
 - Measured in currency, price times quantity
 - Loss of producer surplus is what suppliers would be "willing to pay" to avoid the loss
 - Gain in consumer surplus is what buyers would be "willing to pay" to get this benefit
- This does <u>not</u> tell us about individual buyers and sellers, only them as a group

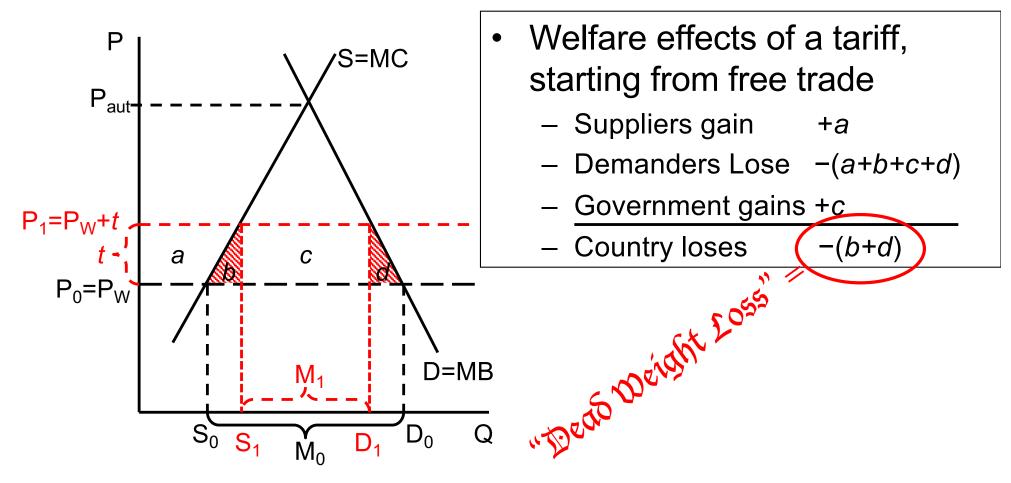
- Tariff makes importing buyers pay more than the foreign exporters receive
 - By size of tariff, % or \$
 - Difference goes to importing government
- Small country means that world price does not change
- So domestic price rises above world price by amount of the tariff



Specific Tariff t



Specific Tariff t



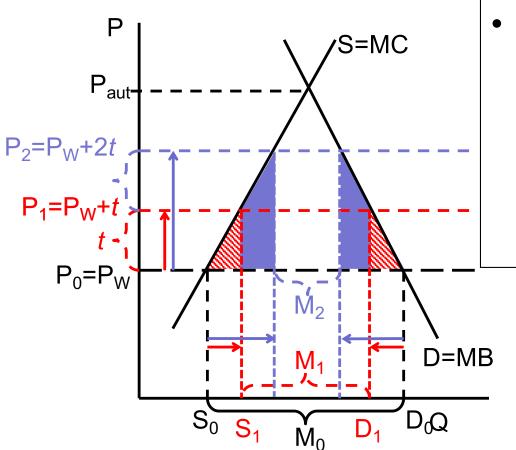
Specific Tariff t

Pause for Discussion

Questions on Graph

- If a price falls, why does the gain to demanders not equal the fall in what they pay? Is it larger than this or smaller?
- If a price rises, why is the gain to suppliers not their rise in revenue? Is it larger or smaller?
- In what sense does a small country gain by eliminating a tariff? Does anybody in the country lose?

Small country, larger tariff

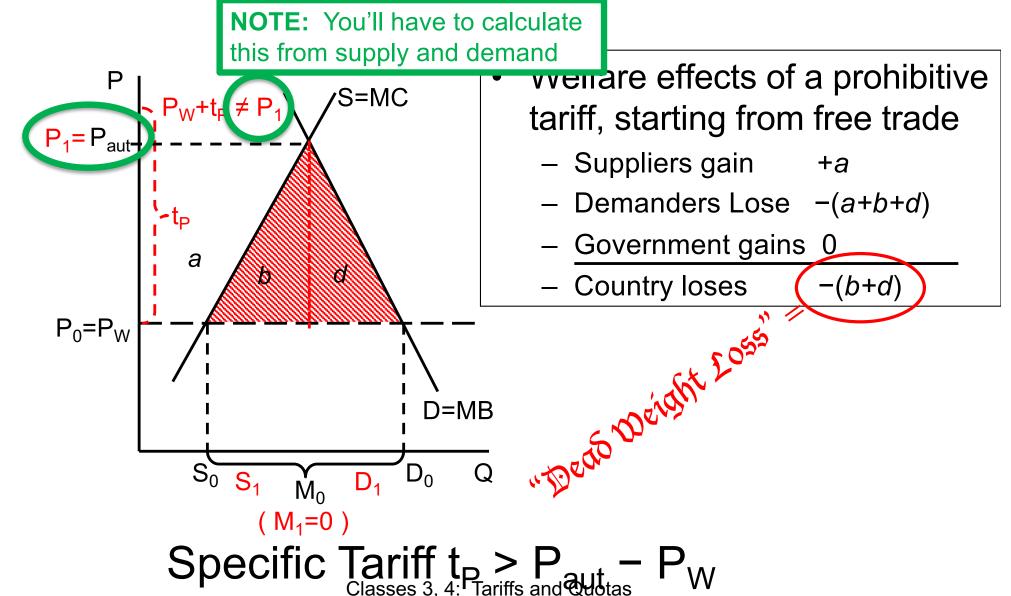


- Effects of doubling the tariff
 - Price rises by twice as much
 - Imports fall by twice as much
 - Deadweight loss is 4-times as large!
 - (Efficiency loss rises with the square of the tariff)

(These are exact only if S and D are straight lines. Approximate otherwise.)

Specific Tariffs, t, then 2t

Small country, prohibitive tariff

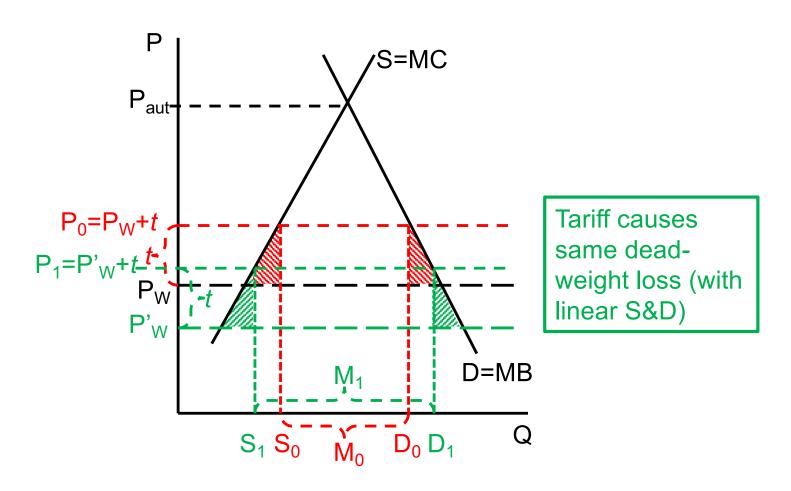


Small country, prohibitive tariff

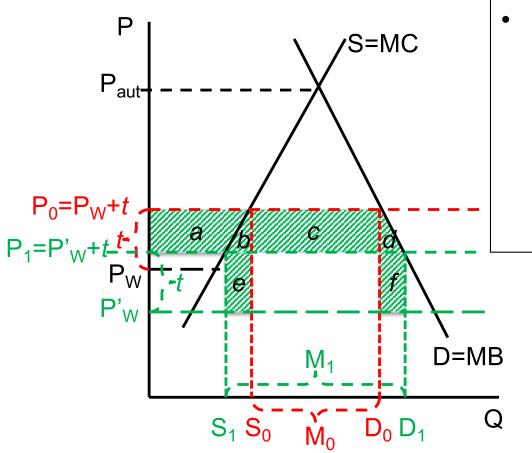
Notes:

- Price does <u>not</u> rise by amount of tariff (even though country is small).
- Further increase in size of prohibitive tariff has no effect at all on anyone.

Comparative Statics with Tariff Fall in World Price



Comparative Statics with Tariff Fall in World Price



- Welfare effects of a fall in world price in presence of specific tariff
 - Suppliers lose –a
 - Demanders gain +(a+b+c+d)
 - Government gains +(e+f)
 - Country gains +(b+c+d+e+f)

Pause for Your Questions

Pause for Discussion

Questions on Lahart, "The Imperfect Science ..."

- Why does Lahart say the measurement of harm from tariffs is an "imperfect science"?
- Lahart cited an estimate of loss from Trump's tariffs and retaliation of 1.3% of GDP. Is this big?
- ➤ What effects of tariffs are missing from the welfare effects of tariffs?



• Let p^w be world price and p^h be price in home market. With ad valorem tariff, t, assumed not large enough to stop trade:

$$p^h = (1+t)p^w$$

• Demand:
$$Q^d = D(p^h)$$

• Supply:
$$Q^S = S(p^h)$$

• Imports:
$$Q^m = Q^d - Q^s$$

NOTE: Used specific tariff in graphs, ad valorem in eqns. Both are for simplicity.

• Without tariff (free trade; t = 0):

$$p^{h0} = p^w$$
$$Q^{m0} = D(p^w) - S(p^w)$$

• With tariff, t > 0:

$$p^{h1} = (1+t)p^{w}$$
$$Q^{m1} = D((1+t)p^{w}) - S((1+t)p^{w})$$

Notation: Let

$$\Delta x = x^1 - x^0$$

for x = p, Q, etc.

Then

$$\Delta p^h = p^{h1} - p^{h0} = (1+t)p^w - p^w = tp^w$$

and

$$t = \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^w} = \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}}$$

 It is most convenient to work with percentage changes and elasticities:

• Percentage change in any variable, x, is

Percent change in
$$x = \frac{\Delta x}{x}$$

Elasticity of x with respect to y is

$$\frac{\Delta x}{x} / \frac{\Delta y}{y}$$

• Elasticity of (home) demand
$$(\eta)$$
:
$$\eta = \frac{\Delta Q^d}{Q^{d0}} / \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\Delta Q^d}{Q^{d0}} = \eta \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}}$$

- Note that $\eta < 0$ (downward sloping)
- Elasticity of (home) supply (ε):

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\Delta Q^s}{Q^{s0}} / \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\Delta Q^s}{Q^{s0}} = \varepsilon \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}}$$

When you know the price change, ci use these to find the quantity change

- Notes regarding elasticities:
 - They'll be defined here as changes relative to the free-trade quantities and prices.
 - Different, but just as valid, would be changes relative to quantities and prices in the presence of the tariff.
 - Answers will differ, but by much less than our uncertainty about the values of elasticities.
 - In your calculations, use whichever is most convenient, but be consistent.

Data are usually values, not quantities.

Values of initial quantities:

• Demand:
$$V^{d0} = p^{h0}Q^{d0} = p^wQ^{d0}$$

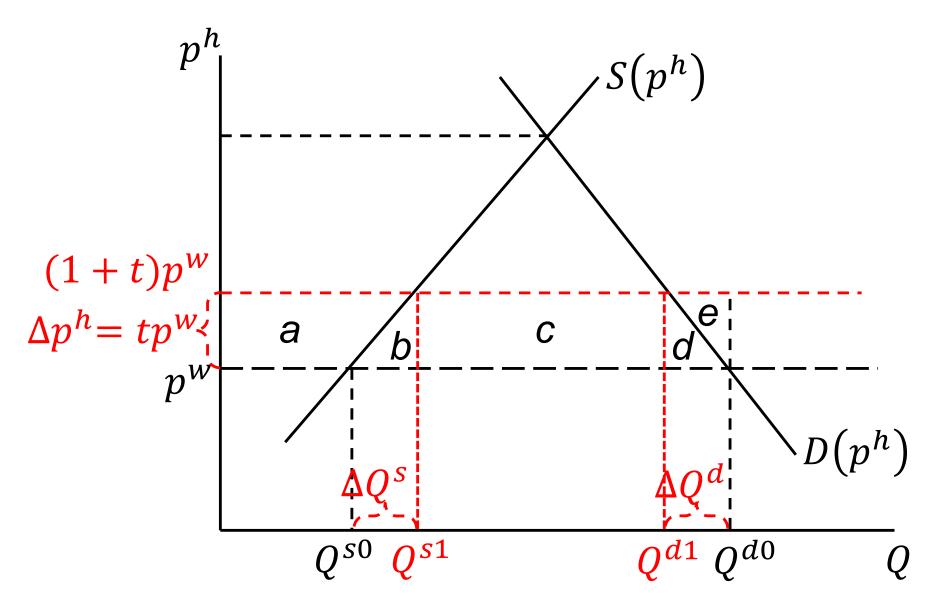
• Supply:
$$V^{s0} = p^{h0}Q^{s0} = p^wQ^{s0}$$

• Imports:
$$V^{m0} = p^{w0} (Q^{d0} - Q^{s0})$$

• Effects of tariff on quantities:

Demand:
$$\Delta Q^d = \eta t Q^{d0}$$

Supply:
$$\Delta Q^{S} = \varepsilon t Q^{S0}$$



I'll use $\langle a \rangle$, $\langle abcd \rangle$, etc. to represent these areas.



Welfare gain of suppliers (producers & upstream):

$$WGS = \langle a \rangle$$

$$= (Q^{s0})(\Delta p^h) + \frac{1}{2}(\Delta Q^s)(\Delta p^h)$$

$$= Q^{s0}\Delta p^h + \frac{1}{2}\frac{\Delta Q^s}{Q^{s0}}Q^{s0}\Delta p^h$$

$$= \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon\frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}}\right)p^{h0}Q^{s0}\frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}}$$

$$= \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon\frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}}\right)V^{s0}\frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}}$$

$$= \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon t\right)tV^{s0}$$

$$= \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon t\right)tV^{s0}$$

Classes 3, 4: Tariffs and Quotas

Welfare gain of suppliers (producers & upstream):

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$$= \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon t\right)tV^{s0}$$

Classes 3, 4: Tariffs and Quotas

Welfare loss of demanders (consumers and downstream):

$$\begin{split} WLD &= \langle abcd \rangle = \langle abcde \rangle - \langle e \rangle \\ &= (Q^{d0})(\Delta p^h) - \frac{1}{2}(|\Delta Q^d|)(\Delta p^h) \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{|\Delta Q^d|}{Q^{d0}}\right) Q^{d0} \Delta p^h \\ &= \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Delta Q^d}{Q^{d0}}\right) p^{h0} Q^{d0} \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} \\ &= \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} \eta \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}}\right) V^{d0} \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} \\ &= \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} \eta t\right) t V^{d0} \end{split}$$

Classes 3, 4: Tariffs and Quotas

Revenue gain of (home) government: $R = \langle c \rangle$ $= (Q^{d1} - Q^{s1})\Delta p^h$ $= (Q^{d0} + \Delta Q^d - Q^{s0} - \Delta Q^s)tp^w$ $= \left(Q^{d0} \left(1 + \frac{\Delta Q^d}{Q^{d0}}\right) - Q^{s0} \left(1 + \frac{\Delta Q^s}{Q^{s0}}\right)\right) t p^w$ $= \left(Q^{d0} \left(1 + \eta \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} \right) - Q^{s0} \left(1 + \varepsilon \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} \right) \right) t p^w$ $= \left| \left(V^{d0} (1 + \eta t) - V^{s0} (1 + \varepsilon t) \right) t \right|$

• Welfare change for country:
$$WCC = -\langle abcd \rangle + \langle a \rangle + \langle c \rangle$$

$$= WLD - WGS - R$$

$$= -\left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\eta t\right)tV^{d0} + \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon t\right)tV^{s0}$$

$$+ \left(V^{d0}(1 + \eta t) - V^{s0}(1 + \varepsilon t)\right)t$$

$$= -tV^{d0} + tV^{s0} - \frac{1}{2}\eta t^2V^{d0} + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon t^2V^{s0} + tV^{d0} - tV^{s0}$$

$$+ \eta t^2V^{d0} - \varepsilon t^2V^{s0}$$

$$= -\left[\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon t^2V^{s0} - \frac{1}{2}\eta t^2V^{d0}\right]$$

- Notation for Summary:
 - t = tariff (ad valorem %)
 - V^{s0} , V^{d0} = initial values of domestic supply and demand (currency per year)
 - ε = elasticity of domestic supply (positive)
 - η = elasticity of domestic demand (negative)

Summary:

• WGS =
$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon t\right)tV^{s0}$$

• WLD =
$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\eta t\right)tV^{d0}$$

•
$$R = \left(V^{d0}(1+\eta t) - V^{s0}(1+\varepsilon t)\right)t$$

• WCC =
$$-\left[\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon t^{2}V^{s0} - \frac{1}{2}\eta t^{2}V^{d0}\right]$$

WGS = Welfare Gain of Suppliers
WLD = Welfare Loss of Demanders
R = Government Revenue
WCC = Welfare Change of Country
(all in currency per year)

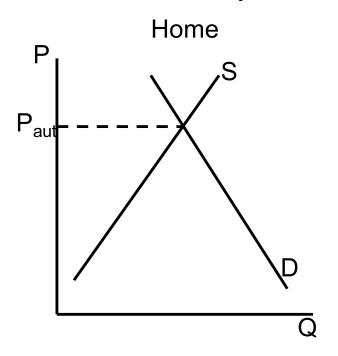
Pause for Discussion

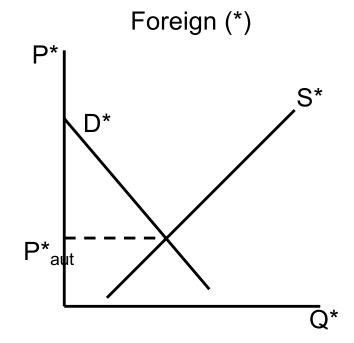
Questions on Equations

- What information do you need to calculate these welfare effects?
- How do the equations change with larger tariffs?
- Explain the sources of the "production distortion loss" and the "consumption distortion loss."
 - Why does each occur, and who is it that loses in each case?
 - Where do these appear in the equations?

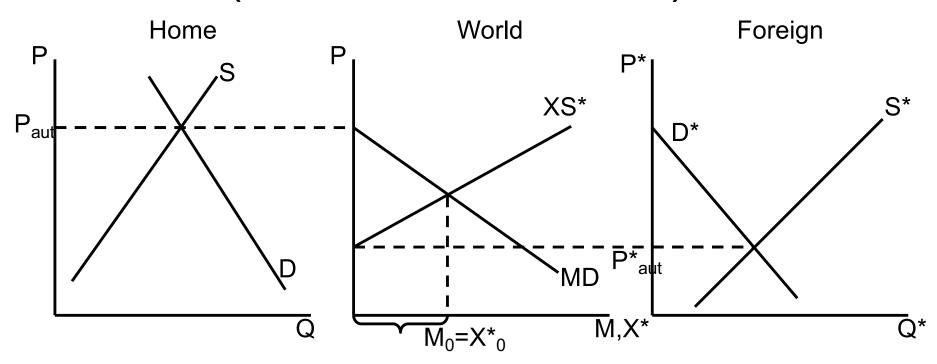
Outline

- Tariff by Small country
- Tariff by large country
- Quotas

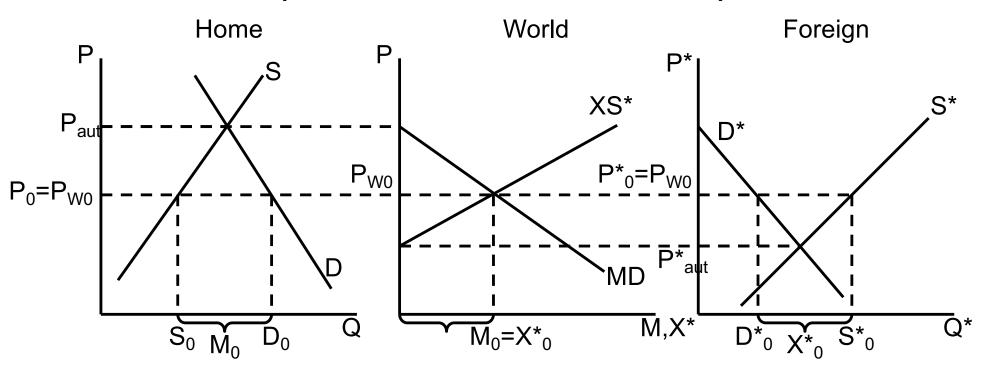




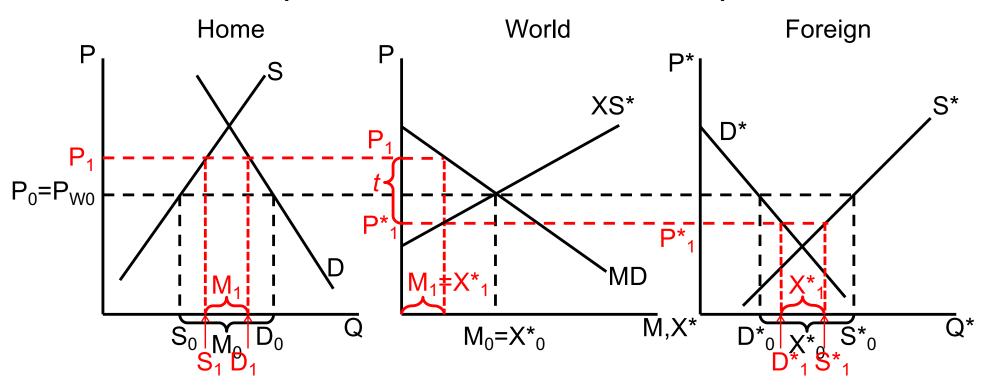
Autarky



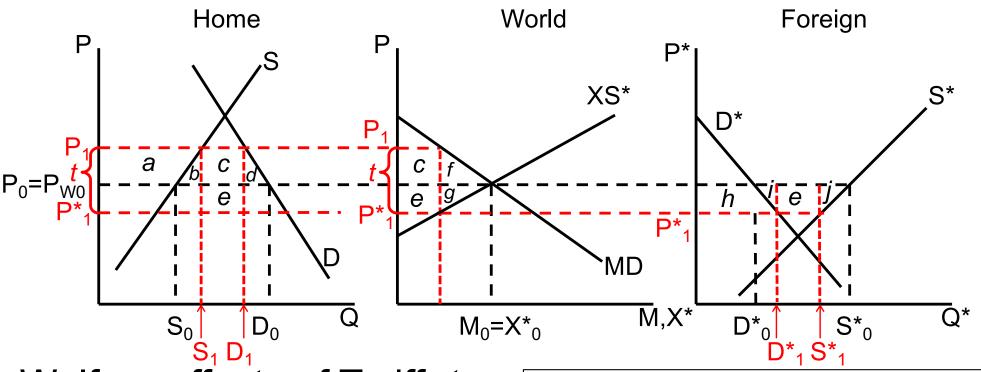
Free trade



Free trade



Specific Tariff, *t*, by Home Requires: P=P*+*t*, MD=XS*

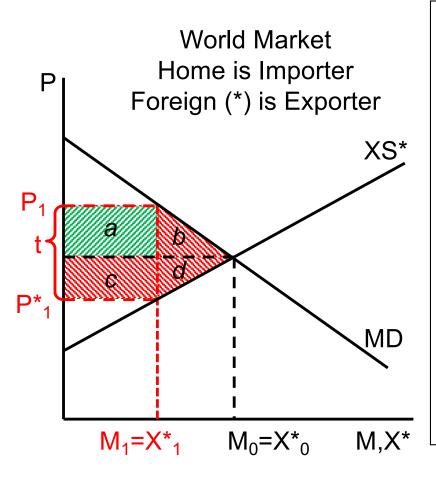


Welfare effects of Tariff, t:

- Home
 - Suppliers +a
 - Demanders -(a+b+c+d)
 - Government +(c+e)
 - Country $+e^{-(b+d)} = e^{-f}$

- Foreign
 - Suppliers -(h+i+e+j)
 - Demanders +h
 - Country -(i+e+j) = -(e+g)
- World: -(f+g) = -(b+d+i+j)

Large country, World Market



Welfare effects of a largecountry tariff, starting from free trade

Home:

```
Private sector (S&D) loses -(a+b)
```

Government gains +(a+c)

Country may gain or lose: +c-b

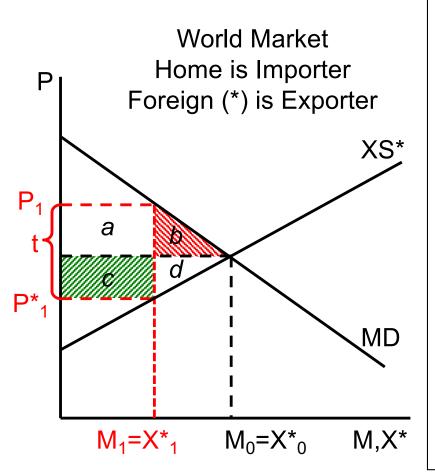
Foreign

Private sector (S&D) loses -(c+d)

World loses

-(b+d)

Large country, World Market



Thus large country will gain from tariff if *c>b*

- What is area c?
 - The portion of the tariff paid by foreign exporters, who get a lower price
 - Thus, a transfer from foreign producers to the home government
 - The result of improving the home country's "terms of trade"

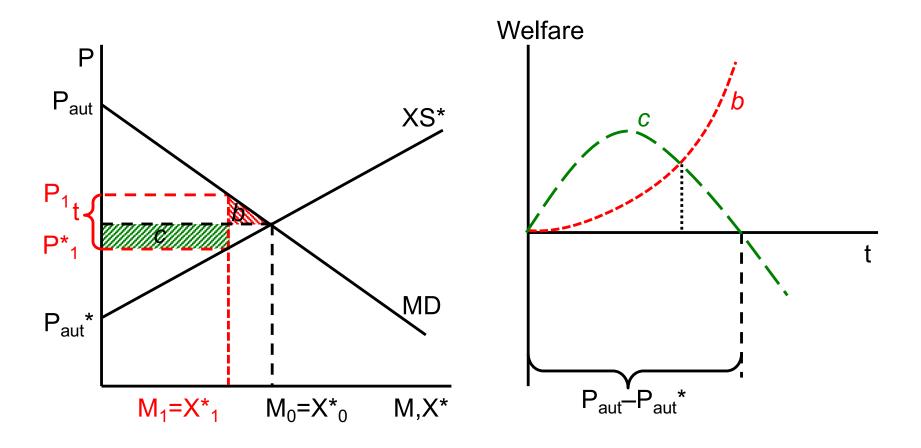
"Terms of Trade" ≡ Relative price of exports = PX/PM

Pause for Discussion

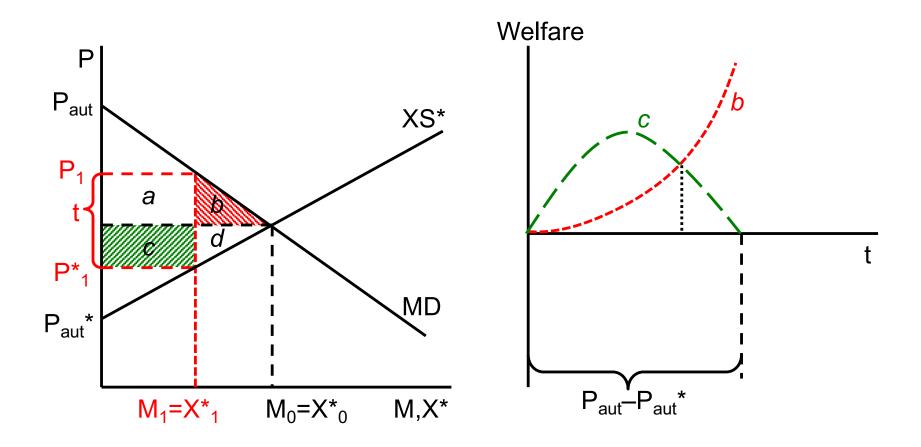
Questions on Large Country

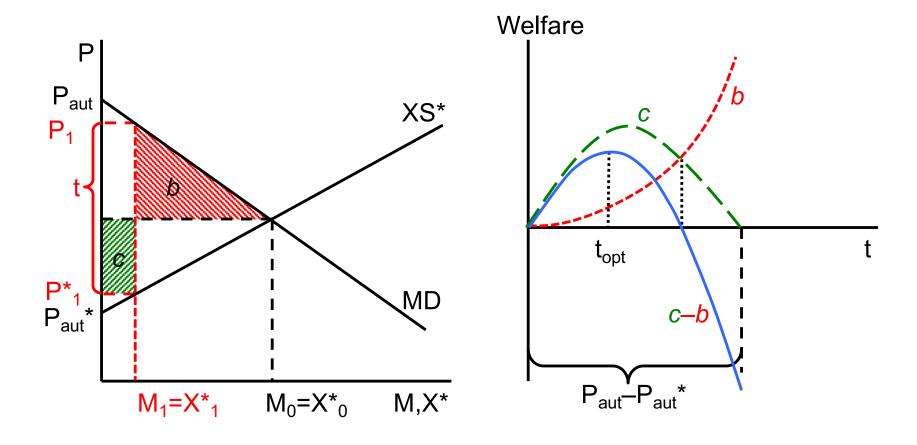
- The figure for the world market shows the tariff causing the world price to fall. What in the figure tells you that the Home country is large?
- In what sense might a large country gain by using a tariff? Who in the country benefits from that gain?
- What reasons are there, if any, for a large country <u>not</u> to levy a tariff?

Large country, "Optimal" tariff Watch as *t* rises



Large country, "Optimal" tariff Watch as *t* rises

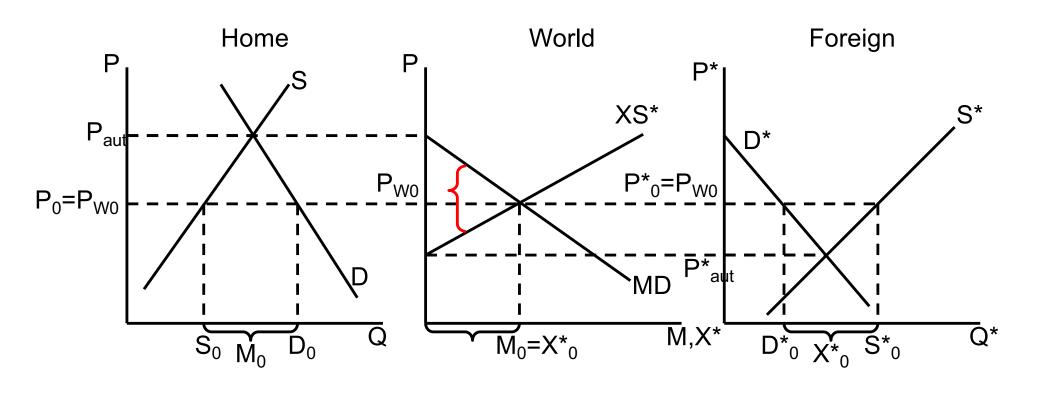




Classes 3, 4: Tariffs and Qu

Skipping slides 60-62 How Sizes and Slopes Matter

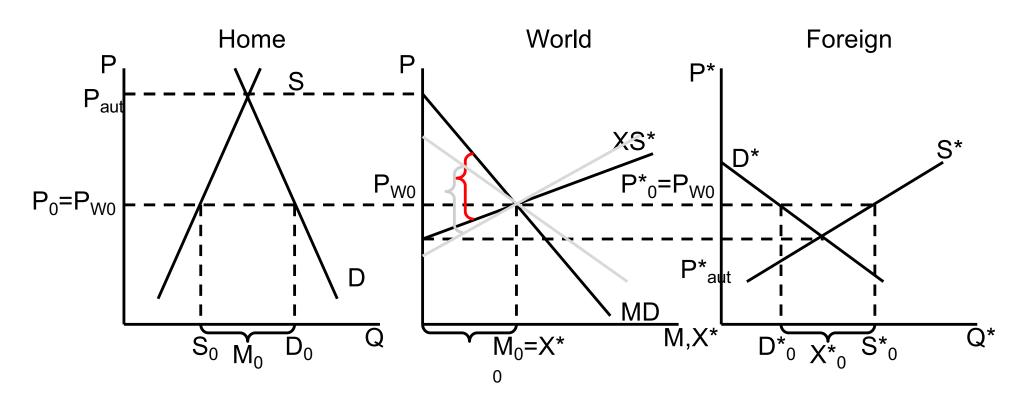
How Sizes and Slopes Matter



Free trade

Tariff

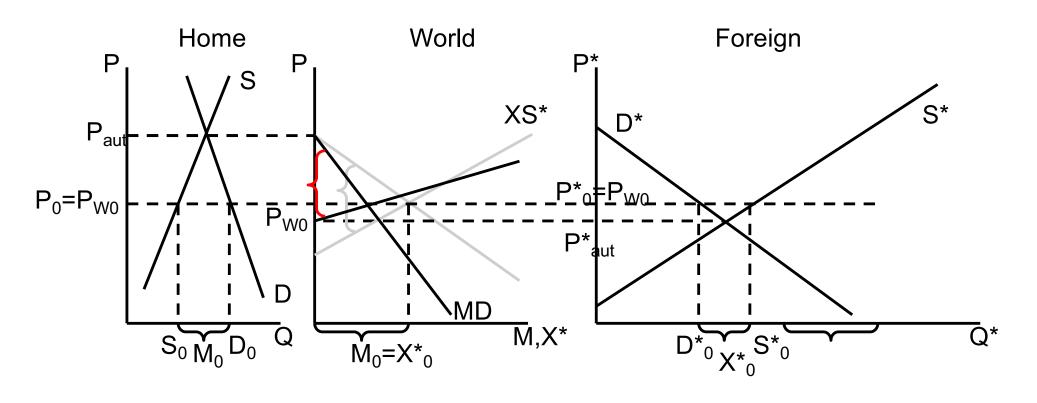
How Slopes (Elasticities) Matter



Free trade

Tariff

How Sizes Matter



Free trade

Tariff

Classes 3, 4: Tariffs and Quotas

Pause for Your Questions

- Countries i = h, f = home, for eign
- Prices p^i , i = h, f
 - With free trade, equilibrium #0:

$$p^{h0} = p^{f0} (= p^{w0})$$

 With specific tariff, t, levied by country h on export of f, equilibrium #1:

$$p^{h1} = p^{f1} + t$$

 Ad valorem equivalent of the specific tariff at the initial price:

$$\tau = \frac{t}{p^{h0}}$$

Classes 3, 4: Tariffs and Qu

Go to Solution Skipping slides 65-76



Domestic supply and demand in each country,
 i = h, f, are represented by their elasticities:

$$\varepsilon^{i} = \frac{\Delta Q^{is}}{Q^{is0}} / \frac{\Delta p^{i}}{p^{i0}} > 0 \quad \text{or } \Delta Q^{is} = \varepsilon^{i} \frac{\Delta p^{i}}{p^{i0}} Q^{is0}$$

$$\eta^{i} = \frac{\Delta Q^{id}}{Q^{id0}} / \frac{\Delta p^{i}}{p^{i0}} < 0 \quad \text{or } \Delta Q^{id} = \eta^{i} \frac{\Delta p^{i}}{p^{i0}} Q^{id0}$$

Notation

– Values of initial supply and demand, i = h, f:

$$V^{is0} = p^{i0}Q^{is0}$$

 $V^{id0} = p^{i0}Q^{id0}$

– Value of initial (home-country) imports:

$$M^0 = \left(V^{hd0} - V^{hs0} \right)$$

- Convenient values, capturing both size and price responsiveness, i = h, f:

$$A^{i} \equiv \varepsilon^{i} V^{is0} - \eta^{i} V^{id0} > 0$$

$$\bar{A} = A^{h} + A^{f} > 0$$

Price changes must add up to tariff:

$$\Delta p^h - \Delta p^f = t$$

• Divide by $p^{h0} = p^{f0}$:

$$\frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} - \frac{\Delta p^f}{p^{f0}} = \frac{t}{p^{h0}} = \tau$$

or:

$$\frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} = \frac{\Delta p^f}{p^{f0}} + \tau$$

Equilibrium quantities:

$$\Delta Q^{hd} - \Delta Q^{hs} = \Delta Q^{fs} - \Delta Q^{fd}$$

Use elasticities:

$$\eta^h \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} Q^{hd0} - \varepsilon^h \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} Q^{hs0} = \varepsilon^f \frac{\Delta p^f}{p^{f0}} Q^{fs0} - \eta^f \frac{\Delta p^f}{p^{f0}} Q^{fd0}$$

• Multiply through by $p^{h0} = p^{f0}$ to get values:

$$A^{h} \left(\eta^{h} V^{hd0} - \varepsilon^{h} V^{hs0} \right) \frac{\Delta p^{h}}{p^{h0}} = \left(\varepsilon^{h} f V^{fs0} - \eta^{f} V^{fd0} \right) \frac{\Delta p^{f}}{p^{f0}}$$

or:

$$A^h \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} = -A^f \frac{\Delta p^f}{p^{f0}}$$

This gives us two equations in two unknowns,

$$\frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} \& \frac{\Delta p^f}{p^{f0}}$$
:

$$\frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} = \frac{\Delta p^f}{p^{f0}} + \tau$$

$$A^h \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} = -A^f \frac{\Delta p^f}{p^{f0}}$$

Classes 3, 4: Tariffs and Quotas

Solution:

$$A^{h} \frac{\Delta p^{h}}{p^{h0}} = A^{h} \left(\frac{\Delta p^{f}}{p^{f0}} + \tau\right) = -A^{f} \frac{\Delta p^{f}}{p^{f0}}$$

$$= \left(A^{h} + A^{f}\right) \frac{\Delta p^{f}}{p^{f0}} = -A^{h} \quad \text{Where} \quad A^{h} \approx \text{Home size} \quad A^{f} \approx \text{Foreign size} \quad A^{f} \approx \text{Foreign size} \quad A^{f} \approx A^{h} + A^{f} = A^{h} = A^{h} + A^{f} = A^{h} = A^{h} + A^{f} = A^{h} = A^$$

- Interpretation:
 - Ratio of two price changes:

$$R \equiv \frac{\Delta p^h}{-\Delta p^f} = \frac{\Delta p^h/p^{h0}}{-\Delta p^f/p^{f0}} = \frac{A^f}{A^h}$$

– Home country share of tariff incidence:

$$S \equiv \frac{\Delta p^h}{\Delta p^h - \Delta p^f} = \frac{A^f}{A^h + A^f}$$

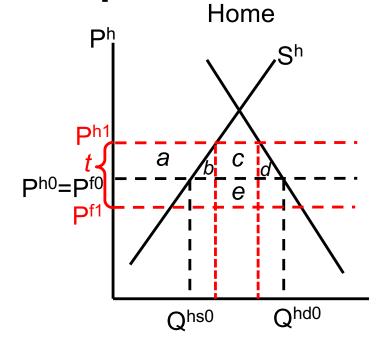
- Recall that $A^i = \varepsilon^i V^{is0} \eta^i V^{id0}$ measures country size in this industry:
 - Small home country: if $A^h \to 0$; $R \to \infty$; $S \to 1$
 - Large home country: if $A^h \approx A^f$; $R \approx 1$; $S \approx 1/2$

Welfare of home country:

$$WHC = \langle e \rangle - \langle b \rangle - \langle d \rangle$$

$$\begin{split} \langle e \rangle &= -\Delta p^f \left(Q^{hd0} + \Delta Q^{hd} - Q^{hs0} - \Delta Q^{hs} \right) \\ &= -\Delta p^f \left(Q^{hd0} - Q^{hs0} \right) - \Delta p^f \left(\Delta Q^{hd} - \Delta Q^{hs} \right) \\ &= -\frac{\Delta p^f}{p^{f0}} M^0 + \Delta p^f \left(\varepsilon^h \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} Q^{hs0} - \eta^h \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} Q^{hd0} \right) \\ &= -\frac{\Delta p^f}{p^{f0}} M^0 + \frac{\Delta p^f}{p^{f0}} \left(\varepsilon^h V^{hs0} - \eta^h V^{hd0} \right) \frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} \\ &= \frac{A^h}{\bar{A}} \tau M^0 - \frac{A^h}{\bar{A}} \tau A^h \frac{A^f}{\bar{A}} \tau \end{split}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\bar{A}} \tau M^{0} - \frac{1}{\bar{A}} \tau A^{n} - \frac{1}{$$



Welfare of home country:

$$WHC = \langle e \rangle - \langle b \rangle - \langle d \rangle$$

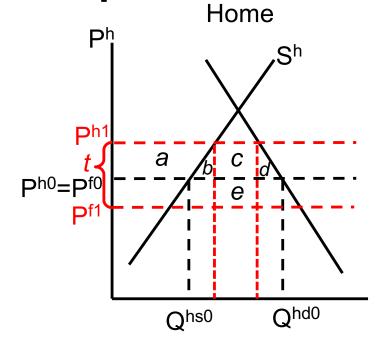
$$\langle b \rangle + \langle d \rangle = \Delta p^{h} (\Delta Q^{hs} - \Delta Q^{hd})/2$$

$$= \frac{\Delta p^{h}}{2p^{h0}} \left(\varepsilon^{h} \frac{\Delta p^{h}}{p^{h0}} p^{h0} Q^{hs0} - \eta^{h} \frac{\Delta p^{h}}{p^{h0}} p^{h0} Q^{hd0} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\Delta p^{h}}{2p^{h0}} \left(\varepsilon^{h} V^{hs0} - \eta^{h} V^{hd0} \right) \frac{\Delta p^{h}}{p^{h0}}$$

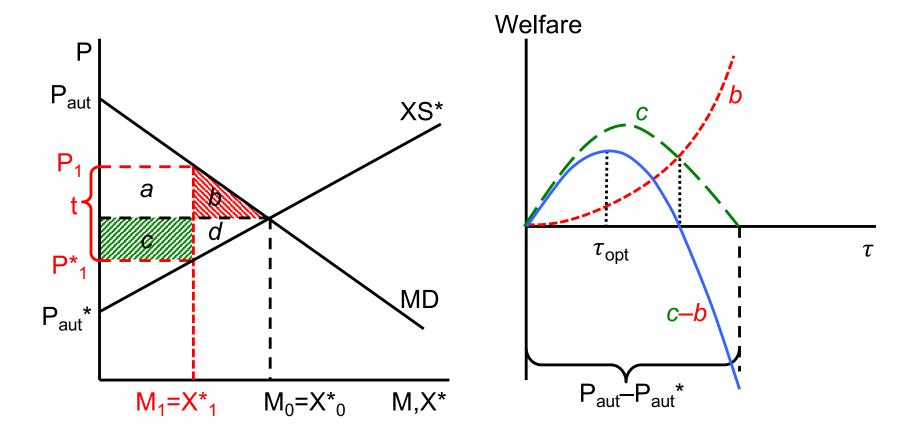
$$= \frac{1}{2} A^{h} \left(\frac{\Delta p^{h}}{p^{h0}} \right)^{2} = \frac{1}{2} A^{h} \left(\frac{A^{f}}{\bar{A}} \tau \right)^{2}$$

$$\langle b \rangle + \langle d \rangle = \frac{A^{h} A^{f^{2}}}{2 \bar{A}^{2}} \tau^{2}$$



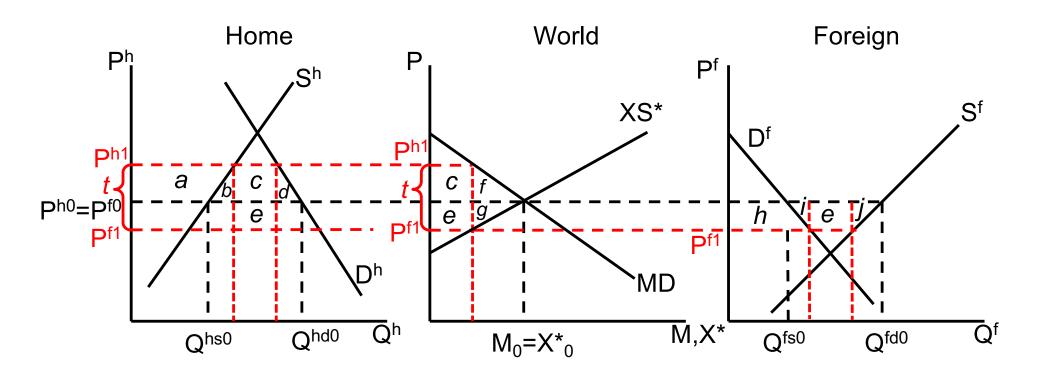
Welfare of Home Country

$$WHC = \langle e \rangle - (\langle b \rangle + \langle d \rangle) = \left[\frac{A^h}{\bar{A}} M^0 \tau - \frac{A^{h^2} A^f}{\bar{A}^2} \tau^2 \right] - \frac{A^h A^{f^2}}{2\bar{A}^2} \tau^2$$



Classes 3, 4: Tariffs and Quotas

 Other effects can be calculated similarly from the areas in the figure:



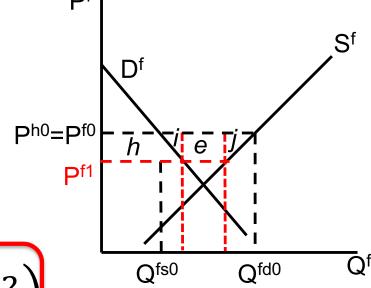
Classes 3, 4: Tariffs and Quotas

Welfare of foreign country:

$$WFC = -\langle e \rangle - \langle i \rangle - \langle j \rangle$$

$$\langle e \rangle = \frac{A^h}{\bar{A}} M^0 \tau - \frac{A^{h^2} A^f}{\bar{A}^2} \tau^2$$

$$\langle i \rangle + \langle j \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{A^h}{A^f} \right) A^h \left(\frac{A^f}{\bar{A}} \tau \right)^2$$



Foreign

$$WFC = -\frac{A^h}{\bar{A}} \left(M^0 \tau - \frac{1}{2} \frac{A^h A^f}{\bar{A}} \tau^2 \right)$$

Note that as A^h goes to zero, so does $\frac{A^h}{\bar{A}}$ and WFC.

However, area $\langle h \rangle$ may not, so the welfare effects on foreign demanders and suppliers separately are not negligible.

Solution:

$$\frac{\Delta p^f}{p^{f0}} = -\frac{A^h}{\bar{A}}\tau$$

$$\frac{\Delta p^h}{p^{h0}} = \frac{A^f}{\bar{A}} \tau$$

Where $A^h \approx \text{Home size}$ $A^f \approx \text{Foreign size}$ $\bar{A} = A^h + A^f$

Is the US a Large Country?

Consider Trump's 25% tariff on steel

$$\frac{\Delta p^f}{p^{f0}} = -\frac{A^{US}}{\bar{A}} 25\%$$

$$A^{US} \equiv \varepsilon^{US} V^{USS0} - \eta^{US} V^{USd0}$$

$$\bar{A} = A^{US} + A^f$$

- So
 - Foreign price of steel should fall by 25% times the US share of the world market
 - US price of steel should rise by 25% of the foreign share of the world market

Is the US a Large Country?

- What matters is, approximately, the US share of the world market for steel.
- In 2018 (from Wikipedia)
 - US/World production ≈ 5%
 - US/World demand ≈ 7%
- So US share was, at most, 7%
 - World price change 7% of 25%: negative < 2%</p>
 - US price change 93% of 25%: positive > 23%
- Several studies of the 2018 tariffs showed
 - No perceptible fall in world prices
 - US prices rose by amount of tariffs

Pause for Discussion

Questions Martin, "US Importers Bore Cost..."

- By how much did prices of items subject to tariffs rise?
- How much did this mean for individual items?
- How much did imports decline from China?
- Has USTR under Biden responded?

Questions Economist, "The Tijuana two-step..."

- What is the "de minimis" threshold and what does it mean?
- What is the Tijuana two-step?
- What in recent years increased the incentive to do this?
- What do you learn here that casts doubt on US trade data?
- Who gains and who loses from all of this?

Questions Wolf, "Tariffs are ... good politics"

- Why are tariffs politically appealing?
- Why are tariffs harmful?
- Wolf says that whatever purpose tariffs may serve, they are "rarely the best way" of achieving those purposes? Does he explain that? What policy does he say is better?
- Why does he not expect Biden's support for EVs to make the US industry competitive?

Pause for Your Questions

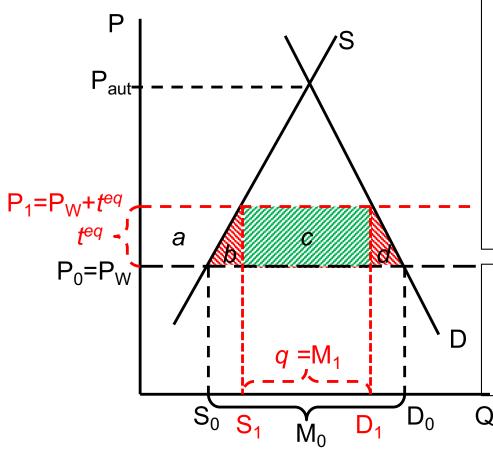
Outline

- Tariff by Small country
- Tariff by large country
- Quotas

Quotas

- Quota puts upper limit on <u>quantity</u> of imports
- Analysis is exactly the same as a tariff, except
 - Policy sets quantity of imports
 - Price difference is determined by the market (supply & demand)
 - Price difference is called "tariff equivalent" of the quota
- Welfare analysis of quota is the same as tariff, except
 - "Quota rent" instead of tariff revenue
- Who gets the quota rent?
 - Depends on how quota is administered
 - Most commonly, goes to foreigners

Small country quota (with rents to foreigners)



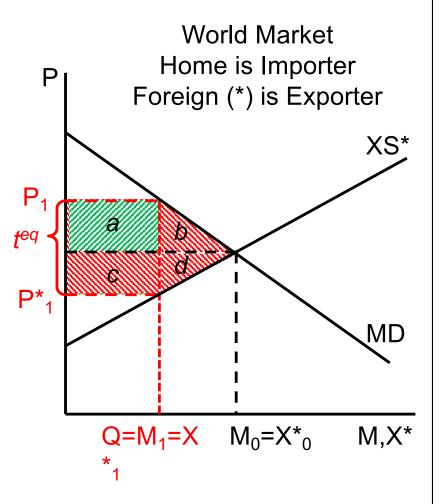
- Welfare effects of a quota, q, starting from free trade
 - Suppliers gain +a
 - Demanders Lose −(a+b+c+d)
 - Government gains nothing
 - Country loses -(b+c+d)
- Foreign gains quota rent +c
 - But this is negligible for world, since country is small
 - World dead-weight loss is still *b+d*

Quota q

Classes 3, 4: Tariffs and Quotas

Large country quota

(with rents to foreigners)



Welfare effects of a largecountry quota, starting from free trade

Home:

Private sector (S&D) loses -(a+b)

Government gains 0

Country must lose: -(a+b)

Foreign:

Private sector (S&D) loses -(c+d)

Foreigners gain rents +(a+c)

Country may gain or lose +a-d

World loses

(-(b+d)

and Ouatas

Classes 3, 4: Tariffs and Quotas

Pause for Discussion

Questions on Quotas from Deardorff "Nontariff ..."

- How might quotas be administered; what happens to the quota rents in each case?
- How is an import quota equivalent to a tariff? How is it not?
- With a fixed and binding import quota, how will the domestic price and the tariffequivalent of the quota change if curves shift?