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Neue Erkenntnisse der Außenwirtschaftstheorie – von Ricardo bis Melitz

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Interindustry Trade between different countries: Comparative Advantage – Ricardo + Heckscher Ohlin





Austria and Germany



Interindustry Trade between similar countries: New trade theory – Krugman + Melitz



Austrian Exports



Austrian Imports



Gains from Trade



Lower prices because of lower costs!

Theories differ in focusing on different reason for lower costs

Traditional trade theories: Ricardo

Ricardo and Heckscher Ohlin

New trade theory:

Krugman Melitz







Technology: Labour input



	1 unit of wine requires labour	1 unit of cloth requires labour
England	1.25	1
Portugal	0.5	1

Absolute advantage: Portugal		
Comparative advantage: Portugal – wine England - cloth		

Labour endowment: England = Portugal = 125



Production Possibility





62.5

 $Cloth^{125}$

0 **L** 0

7

Portugal	Wine	Cloth
Labour input per unit	0.5	1
Output	250	125





Relative prices without trade







International trade







Comparative advantage: Consequences of international trade 1



- Specialisation in production: sector with comparative advantage is increased
- Trade pattern: commodity with comparative advantage is exported
- Welfare gain: consumption above production possibilities



Comparative advantage: Consequences of international trade 2



Distribution of gains:

might be uneven within a country factors in export sector gain factors in "import sector" loose

Upgrading

might be uneven between countries small countries gain more unequal factor remuneration between countries may persist



Comparative advantage: Consequences of international trade 3



- Adjustment requirements: workers have to switch sector rigid wages – unemployment –
 - lower gains
- Trade in components and trade in services
- Adjustment of factor remuneration versus adjustment of (un)employment rates



Simple empirical tests-1: Seminal study by Stern (1962)

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FIG. 1. Scatter diagram of American and British ratios of output per worker and quantity of exports, 1950.



Simple empirical tests-2: **Revealed comparative** advantage



Brändle, Vautier: Schweizer Exportwirtschaft langfristig gut positioniert. Die Volkswirtschaft, 2009)

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New Trade Theory: Krugman (basic idea)



- Intraindustry Trade between similar countries
- International trade lowers prices because

Bigger markets – higher output – lower per unit cost

Fixed costs – eg R&D

15 Monopolistic pricing



Krugman: Consequences of international trade

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- Bigger firms
- Intraindustry trade
- Welfare gain: lower prices

increased product variety

- Less distributive conflicts
- Adjustment processes simpler



Simple empirics: Grubel Lloyd index of intra-industry trade



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(index of intra-industry trade) =	Minimum of imports and exports	
	$\frac{1}{2}$ (Imports + exports)	

Product	Value of Imports (\$ millions)	Value of Export (\$ millions)	Index of Intra- Industry Trade (%)
Golf clubs	\$284	\$226	89%
Vaccines	2,027	2,763	85
Whiskey	1,166	752	78
Mattresses	133	48	53
Golf carts	29	86	50
Small cars	40,527	11,778	45
Natural gas	12,391	2,790	37
Sunglasses	848	184	36 US 2009;
Frozen orange juice	3	17	33 Source:
Apples	139	752	³¹ Feenstra,
Large-passenger aircraft	4,955	31,322	²⁷ Taylor, 2011
Telephones	761	71	17
Men's shorts	542	9	3 EFM

Simple empirics: gravity equation

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Newton's law of gravitation:

$$F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{dist^2}$$

Trade analog:

$$T_{ij} = c \frac{GDP_i \cdot GDP_j}{dist_{ij}^{\gamma}}$$



Simple empirics: gravity equation





Source: Feenstra, Taylor, 2011



Simple empirics: gravity equation





Source: Feenstra, Taylor, 2011



Melitz – Basic idea: Heterogenous firms





○ Firm productivity \$\varphi\$ is distributed;
○ Fixed entry cost \$f\$ ⇒ firms enter only if \$\varphi ≥ \varphi_a^*\$ (zero cutoff productivity)
○ Revenue and profits are increasing in firm productivity \$\varphi\$

○ With trade: additional fixed cost to enter export market $f_x \Rightarrow$ firms enter export market only if $\varphi \ge \varphi_x^*$ ○ Zero cutoff profit increases $\varphi_a^* < \varphi^*$ (selection effect of trade)



Melitz – Consequences of international trade







Dynamic effects of international trade 1



Growth effects – learning and human capital accumulation

ambigous arguments



Dynamic effects of international trade 2



Trade fosters economic growth	Trade hinders economic growth
Trade offers additional learning possibilities	Trade hinders learning at home
Export, import and FDI offer access to foreign technology	Trade may lead to a specialisation in "wrong" sector
Melitz: selection of more productive firms	Trade may prevent a sheltered learning period "Late comer" "infant industries"



Costs and Benefits of a Tariff: Importing country Situation without tariff

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Costs and Benefits of a Tariff: Importing country Situation with tariff



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New Economic Geography NEG – Central question



How does the spatial distribution of economic activity look like in the long-run?

- Equally distributed among regions
- Agglomerated in one region
- Unevenly distributed over regions



GDP per head, PPP, 2007

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Spatial distribution of economic activity: Explanation patterns

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- Solow growth model
- Heckscher-Ohlin model of international trade
- New Economic Geography model



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Explanation patterns: Solow growth model in a multi-country setting



Factor endowments: labour, capital, technical knowledge – growing

Connection between regions: not much,

sometimes technological spill-overs No commodity trade and no factor mobility

Differences between regions: growth rate of population and technical knowledge "savings rate" for physical and human capital distance to steady state

Consequence:

countries grow at specific rates; con-/divergence

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Explanation patterns: Heckscher Ohlin model of international trade



Factor endowments: labour, capital – given

Sectors: agriculture and manufacturing

Connection between regions: commodity trade, but no factor mobility

Differences between regions: factor endowment

Consequence of deeper integration: specialization in production according to factor endowment



Explanation patterns: New Economic Geography



Factor endowments: labour, capital – given

Sectors: agriculture and manufacturing

Connection between regions: commodity trade and factor mobility

Differences between regions: no differences

Consequence of deeper integration: Self-reinforcing agglomeration processes (in most NEG models via factor mobility)



Explanation patterns: New Economic Geography

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Krugman's cookbook: Main ingredients of the New Economic Geography



 Dixit Stiglitz monopolistic competition with iso-elastic demand functions
 Price setting: Constant mark-ups on (constant) marginal costs including transport cost
 Profits are higher in the bigger market

2. Iceberg trade cost: Location of firm matters



Firms are selling to all markets, but profits are higher if local market is bigger

3. Factor mobility: according to profit rate differentials



Krugman's story: Self reinforcing agglomeration processes



Footloose entrepreneur model: firm, capital and expenditure Move simultaneously

Pivotal: Size of local market for a single firm depends on overall market size in the region number of firms in region

Interplay between

- Market size effect (positive feed-back agglomeration)
- Competition effect (negative feed-back dispersion)
- Price index effect (positive feed-back agglomeration)













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Conclusions 1: explanation patterns for regional disparities

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- regional Solow growth
- Heckscher Ohlin
- New economic geography



Conclusions 2: New Economic Geography



 NEG mechanism: Factor relocation – market potential – market crowding

not Marshallian externalities

NEG implications:

sudden and irreversible agglomeration circular causation depending on small differences



Thank your for your attention!

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