

Fast Track Authority and International Trade Negotiations*

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Abstract

Fast Track Authority (FTA) is the institutional procedure in the United States whereby Congress grants to the President the power to negotiate international trade agreements. Under FTA, Congress can only approve or reject negotiated trade deals, with no possibility of amending them. In this paper, we examine the determinants of FTA voting decisions and the implications of this institutional procedure for international trade negotiations. We describe a simple two-country trade model, in which industries are unevenly distributed across constituencies. In the foreign country, trade negotiating authority is delegated to the executive, while in the home country Congress can retain the power to amend trade agreements. We show that representatives of constituencies with higher stakes in import-competing industries tend to vote against FTA, while representatives of more export-oriented constituencies might vote in favor or against, depending on the degree of protectionism of the majority of Congress. Empirical analysis of the determinants of all FTA voting decisions taken by Congress provides strong support for the predictions of our model. We also show that lack of FTA tends to skew the outcomes of trade negotiations in favor of the home country. This might help to explain why other countries are reluctant to negotiate trade agreements with the United States in the absence of FTA.

JEL classifications: D72, F13

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1 Introduction

Fast Track Authority (FTA) is the trade negotiating authority granted by the Congress of the United States to the President. The crucial feature of this institutional procedure is that, when the President negotiates trade agreements under FTA, Congress can only approve or reject them, but cannot amend their content. While congressional and private sector leaders are consulted throughout the negotiations, the fact that the final agreement is presented to Congress as a package assures trading partners that any solution they reach with U.S. executive will not be renegotiated.

Fast track procedures played a crucial role during the Tokyo Round and the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, as well as in the negotiations of all major free trade agreements involving the United States.¹ The recent expiration of FTA on July 1, 2007 is likely to endanger the already troubled Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations,² as well as ongoing bilateral negotiations between the United States and various other countries. The objective of this paper is to examine the determinants of congressmen's decision to grant or not fast track authority to the President and to understand the impact of this decision on the outcome of international trade negotiations.

For this purpose, we develop a simple model of trade relations between two large countries, home (representing the United States) and foreign, which are characterized by similar economic features, but different trade policy institutions. In the foreign country, the authority to negotiate trade agreements is delegated to the executive, while in the home country, Congress can retain the possibility to amend trade deals. Each legislator in the home Congress will vote for or against FTA so as to maximize his expected utility, anticipating the impact that FTA (or lack thereof) will have on the outcome of the negotiations with the foreign country. We argue that this decision is effectively equivalent to choosing between two different country representatives: the President (in the case of FTA) and the majority of Congress (in case of no FTA). Hence the choice of fast track procedures will only have an impact on trade negotiations if the preferences of the President do not coincide with those of the majority of Congress.

In our setup, the executive represents the interests of all electoral constituencies in the country, while congressmen represent only their own electoral constituencies. For fast track to matter, legislators must have different trade policy preferences, implying that the majority of Congress and the President have different interest in trade negotiations. We assume that legislators' trade

¹The only free trade agreement which the United States did not negotiate under fast track authority was the U.S.-Jordan free trade agreement. As stated by Jagdish Bhagwati in a recent interview with the Council of Foreign Relations, "every time there's been something big and complicated—certainly the big multilateral ones, and even the big bilateral ones like NAFTA—they had to go through fast track" (see www.cfr.org).

²The director-general of the World Trade Organization, Pascal Lamy, warned that the Doha Round "will fail unless we get some sort of extension to the fast track" (*Sunday Telegraph*, December 3, 2006).

preferences differ as a result of the uneven distribution of production activities across constituencies. This implies that electoral districts which are relatively more specialized in the production of import-competing (export) goods will be less (more) willing to trade off reductions in domestic import tariffs with reductions in foreign import taxes compared to the country as a whole.

Our theoretical model predicts that representatives of constituencies with higher stakes in import-competing industries will tend to vote against FTA, while representatives of more export-oriented constituencies may vote in favor or against, depending on the degree of protectionism of the majority of Congress. The intuition behind this result is that more export-oriented constituencies, which are eager to reach an agreement with the foreign country, may gain from being represented by more protectionist constituencies, which are able to achieve a more favorable deal in the negotiations. This is in line with results obtained in the literature on strategic delegation, which shows how principals may gain by delegating decision-making power to status quo-biased agents, to increase their “bargaining power” in negotiations with other parties (e.g. Schelling, 1956; Jones, 1989; Segendorf, 1998).

We also show that lack of FTA tends to impede trade liberalization and to skew trade policy outcomes in favor of the home country. This result can explain why foreign countries are reluctant to negotiate trade agreements with the United States in the absence of FTA.

To test the predictions of our theoretical model concerning FTA voting decisions, we examine the determinants of all FTA votes which have taken place in the U.S. Congress between 1974 (when fast track was first introduced) and 2002 (when it was last granted). Our results provide strong empirical support for the voting predictions of our model. In particular, we show that a congressman is significantly less likely to vote in favor of granting or extending FTA the more his constituency is specialized in import-competing production compared to the entire country. Moreover, in line with the predictions of our theoretical model, the FTA voting decisions of less protectionist district representatives depend crucially on the characteristics of Congress majority.

Our analysis builds on the broad literature on the political economy of trade policy, and in particular on the various contributions which have examined the interaction between domestic politics and trade negotiations (e.g. Mayer, 1981; Grossman and Helpman, 1995; Broda *et al.*, 2007). While these papers have considered several important aspects of the process of endogenous formation of trade policies, somewhat surprisingly, very little attention has been paid by the literature to the workings of FTA and its impact on trade negotiations. The idea that negotiators may use various strategies to try to shift the terms of the agreements closer to their own preferred outcome was informally discussed by Putnam (1988), who was the first to describe international relations as “two-level games”, in which domestic and international politics are fundamentally intertwined.

Our paper is also related to the vast literature in political science that has examined the

evolution of U.S. trade policy institutions (e.g. Lohmann and O’Halloran, 1994; Bailey *et al.*, 1997; Hiscox, 1999).³ To the best of our knowledge, this is the first paper to focus on FTA, providing a fully microfounded theoretical model to understand the determinants of this institution and its impact on U.S. trade relations. Finally, our paper contributes to the empirical literature which has examined the determinants of congressional trade policy decisions (e.g. Kahane, 1996; Box-Steffenmeier *et al.*, 1997; Baldwin and Magee, 2000a,b).⁴

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we present a brief history of fast track authority. In Section 3, we develop a simple model of trade negotiations between two large countries (home and foreign). Section 4 introduces the trade policy preferences of Congress representatives in the home country, examines the determinants of FTA voting behavior and the implications for trade negotiations. Section 5 describes the data used in our empirical analysis, while Section 6 presents our methodology and our results. Section 7 reports the results of various robustness checks. Finally, Section 8 concludes, discussing the implications of our analysis for institution design.

2 A Brief History of Fast Track Authority

The U.S. Constitution explicitly assigns authority over foreign trade to Congress. Article I, section 8, gives Congress the power to “regulate commerce with foreign nations ...” and to “...lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises...”. Under Article II, however, the President is granted exclusive authority to negotiate treaties and international agreements and exercises broad authority over the conduct of the nation’s foreign affairs. Hence, both legislative and executive authorities have a role to play in the development and execution of U.S. trade policy.

For roughly the first 150 years of the United States, Congress exercised its authority over

³Most of these studies have focused on the impact of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act (RTAA) of 1934. As discussed in Section 2, this was the first bill in which Congress delegated trade policy to the President. Lohmann and O’Halloran (1994) present a theoretical model of distributive politics in which legislators delegate policymaking to the President to avoid being trapped in inefficient logrolling. Their analysis cannot be applied to understand the implications of fast track authority on trade negotiations, since it focuses only on one country. Bailey *et al.* (1997) use a spatial model to show how reciprocity in trade agreements can help to solve the collective action problems of exporters. Notice that in their analytical framework, the preferences of the legislators are simply assumed rather than being derived from a fully microfounded trade model. Similarly to our analysis, Hiscox (1999) models trade policy decisions in Congress as being shaped by differences in the endowments of specific factors across constituencies; however, his analysis is focused only on one country, and thus cannot be applied to examine how trade policy delegation affects strategic interaction between countries.

⁴In this literature, the paper which is closest to ours is Baldwin and Magee (2000a), who examine the determinants of three votes taken by Congress in 1993-1994 (on NAFTA, the Uruguay Round Agreement, and the most-favored nation status to China). Similarly to our analysis, they find legislators’ voting behavior to be affected by the extent to which their constituencies depend on jobs in export sectors relative to jobs in import-competing sectors, as well as by other factors (e.g. the ideology of the legislators, their party affiliation, and the lobbying contributions they receive).

foreign trade by setting tariff rates on all imported products. Tariffs were the main trade policy instrument and a primary source of federal revenues. During this period, the President's primary role in setting trade policy was in negotiating and implementing bilateral trade treaties with the advice and consent of Congress. In the 1930's, two legislative events radically changed the shape and conduct of U.S. trade policy. The first was the infamous Smoot-Hawley Act, which raised import duties to record levels and was widely blamed at the time for sharply reducing trade, triggering retaliatory moves by many other countries, and exacerbating the Great Depression (see Irwin, 1997). The second important piece of legislation was the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act (RTAA) of 1934, which gave the President the authority to undertake tariff-reduction agreements with foreign countries. The crucial feature of the RTAA was that the President could implement trade agreements by proclamation, i.e., with no need for congressional approval, although the RTAA itself required periodic renewal. The idea behind the RTAA was to undo the damage created by Smoot-Hawley, unwinding beggar-thy-neighbor trade policies through negotiated tariff reductions. Under the authority of the RTAA, the executive reached numerous bilateral trade agreements in the late 1930s and negotiated the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947.

Under the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, Congress granted again RTAA authority for five years. This allowed the President to negotiate the Kennedy Round (1963-1967), in which GATT members reached an agreement on a number of tariff reductions. However, since this agreement also involved interventions in two areas related to non-tariff barriers (customs valuation and antidumping practices), some congressmen argued that the President had overstepped his authority. The outcome of the Kennedy Round made evident that non-tariff barriers would increasingly dominate the agenda of future trade negotiations. As a result, when Congress considered a new grant of authority for the Tokyo Round of GATT negotiations, it decided to maintain final control over non-tariff agreements.

The process ultimately agreed upon in the Trade Act of 1974 is what is known as "fast track". Three key features characterize this institutional procedure. First, the act stipulates that agreements involving non-tariff barriers cannot enter into force by presidential proclamation, but need to be approved by Congress. Second, under fast track authority, Congress cannot amend a trade agreement once it has been submitted for approval.⁵ Finally, the Trade Act of 1974 requires Congress to consider trade agreement implementing bills within mandatory deadlines

⁵During the drafting of the Trade Act of 1974, it was recognized that trading partners would be unwilling to negotiate agreements that would be subject to unlimited congressional debate and amendments. As stated in the Senate Finance Committee report accompanying the legislation: "The Committee recognizes ... that such agreements negotiated by the Executive should be given an up-or-down vote by the Congress. Our negotiators cannot be expected to accomplish the negotiating goals ... if there are no reasonable assurances that the negotiated agreements would be voted up-or-down on their merits. Our trading partners have expressed an unwillingness to negotiate without some assurances that the Congress will consider the agreements within a definite time-frame."

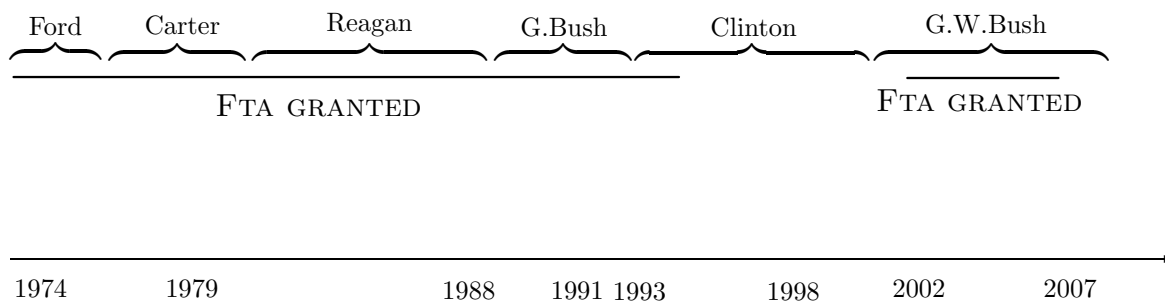


Figure 1: Conferrals of FTA

and with a limitation on debate.⁶

Additional provisions of the Trade Act of 1974 involve restrictions on the President’s powers under FTA. In particular, in his request for trade negotiating authority the executive must specify what types of agreements it will be used for and what his negotiating objectives will be. Furthermore, he has to consult with Congress during the course of the negotiations and during the drafting of the implementing legislation. Finally, Congress sets a deadline by which the negotiations have to be completed if fast-track procedures are to apply.⁷

Table 1 reports the outcome of all the votes in which Congress decided to authorize or extend fast track authority. Notice that some of the listed bills focus solely on fast track trade negotiating authority, while others include other trade provisions. The only episode of denial of a FTA request is represented by H.R. 2621 of September 25, 1998, when the Clinton administration was defeated by a 243 to 180 majority.

Figure 1 above illustrates the periods in which FTA has been granted since the Trade Act of 1974. As it can be seen, every President has enjoyed FTA, with the exception of Bill Clinton, who failed to obtain it between 1994 and 2001. Notice also that FTA has been granted for periods of different length and has often spanned more than one presidency.

From Table 2 below, we can see that all the most important multilateral and preferential trade agreements signed by the United States have been negotiated under fast track procedures. Presidential fast track trade negotiating authority, renamed “trade promotion authority” by the George W. Bush administration, was last renewed with the Trade Act of 2002. This allowed the United States to implement several free trade agreements with countries such as Australia and Chile and to negotiate four additional bilateral trade deals with Peru, Panama, South Korea

⁶Each house can debate the bill for no more than 20 hours. The entire Congressional consideration can take no longer than 90 legislative days.

⁷See Destler (1997), Brainard and Shapiro (2001), and Smith (2007) for a more detailed description on fast track procedures.

Table 1: Votes authorizing or extending FTA

Bill	Description	Vote in House	Vote in Senate
H.R. 10710 Trade Act of 1974	First approval of FTA Other provisions: escape clause, antidumping, countervailing duties, trade adjustment assistance, GSP	Dec. 11, 1973 (272-140)	Dec. 20, 1974 (72-4)
H.R. 4537 Trade Agreements Act of 1979	Extension of FTA Other provisions: implementation of Tokyo Round	July 11, 1979 (395-7)	July 23, 1979 (90-4)
H.R. 4848 Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act	Approval of FTA Other provisions: strengthening of unilateral trade retaliation instruments, authority of USTR	July 13, 1988 (376-45)	Aug. 3, 1988 (85-11)
H.Res. 101	Disapproval of extension of FTA	May 23, 1991 (192-231)	
S.Res. 78	Disapproval of extension of FTA		May 24, 1991 (36-59)
H.R. 1876	Extension of FTA	June 22, 1993 (295-126)	June 30, 1993 (76-16)
H.R. 2621	Approval of FTA (denied)	Sept. 25, 1998 (180-243)	
H.R. 3009 Trade Act of 2002	Approval of FTA Other provisions: Andean Trade Preference Act, trade adjustment assistance, GSP	July 27, 2002 (215-212)	Aug. 1, 2002 (64-34)

Sources: Destler (2005) and Smith (2007).

Notes: Only final votes in each chamber of Congress are reported; the first (second) number in parenthesis refers to votes in favor of the Bill (against it).

Table 2: Bills negotiated under FTA

Bill	Status	Votes/Signature Date
Trade Agreement Act of 1979	Approved Tokyo Round Agreements	July 1979
U.S.-Israel Free Trade Area	Approved free trade area	May 1985
U.S.-Canada Free Trade Area	Approved free trade area	Aug./Sept. 1988
NAFTA	Approved free trade area between United States, Canada and Mexico	Nov. 1993
Uruguay Round	Approved Uruguay Round Agreements	Nov./Dec. 1994
U.S.-Chile Free Trade Area	Approved free trade area	July 2003
U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Area	Approved free trade area	July 2003
U.S.-Australia Free Trade Area	Approved free trade area	July 2004
U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Area	Approved free trade area	July 2004
U.S.-Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Area	Approved free trade area between United States, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua	July 2005
U.S.-Bahrain Free Trade Area	Approved free trade area	Dec. 2005
U.S.-Oman Free Trade Area	Approved free trade area	July/Sept. 2006
U.S.-Peru Free Trade Area	Approved free trade area	Nov./Dec. 2007
U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Area	Awaiting congressional approval	November 2006
U.S.-Panama Free Trade Area	Awaiting congressional approval	June 2007
U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Area	Awaiting congressional approval	June 2007

and Colombia.

FTA expired on July 1, 2007 and has yet to be renewed. Without renewal of fast track, it has been argued that the current administration has “diminished leverage to pursue additional trade deals, and the prospects for completion of the Doha Round of global trade talks, as well as several proposed bilateral U.S. trade deals, remain bleak” (*Wall Street Journal*, June 29, 2007).⁸

3 A Simple Model of Trade Negotiations

To analyze the working of FTA, we introduce a standard model of trade relations between two large countries, “home” and “foreign” (represented by a “*”). We focus on countries characterized by similar economic structures, in which trade is the result of differences in factor endowments. Each country is made up of several electoral constituencies, which differ with respect to their stakes in import-competing and export industries.

In this section, we examine international negotiations between the executives of the two

⁸It is still not clear how the expiration of fast track will affect the outstanding bilateral trade pacts with Peru, Panama, South Korea and Colombia. Some claim that, since these agreements have been negotiated before the expiration deadline, they should be considered by Congress under fast track procedures. Others argue instead that a renewal of FTA is necessary (see Smith, 2007).

countries, who are assumed to represent the interests of all constituencies and to have full control over trade policy. The core of our analysis is presented in the following section, in which we allow legislators in the home country to choose whether or not to delegate trade negotiating authority to the President.

Each economy is characterized by three sectors, $i = 0, 1, 2$, where 0 denotes a numéraire good. The numéraire good is traded freely across countries and is produced using labor alone. We choose units so that the international and domestic price of good 0 are both equal to one. We assume that aggregate labor supply, $L = L^*$, is large enough to sustain production of a positive amount of good 0. This implies that in a competitive equilibrium the wage rate equals unity in each country.

Goods 1 and 2 are manufactured using labor and a sector-specific input, which is available in fixed supply. Home is abundant in sector-specific input 2, while foreign is abundant in sector-specific input 1. As a result, home imports good 1, while foreign imports good 2. We will assume perfect symmetry in the factor endowments between the two countries.

The domestic and international price of a nonnuméraire good i are denoted by p_i and π_i , respectively. With a wage rate equal to unity, the total rent R_i accruing to the specific factor in sector i depends only on the producer price of the good, and can thus be expressed as $R_i(p_i)$. Industry supply is given by $Q_i(p_i) = \partial R_i / \partial p_i$.

Trade policies in the two countries consist of ad valorem import tariffs or subsidies, denoted by τ and τ^* , which drive a wedge between domestic and international prices. In the home country, the domestic price of good 1 is thus equal to $p_1 = (1 + \tau)\pi_1$, with $\tau > 0$ ($\tau < 0$) representing an import tariff (subsidy); the domestic price of the export good is instead equal to $p_2 = \pi_2$. In the foreign country, domestic prices are given by $p_1^* = \pi_1$ and $p_2^* = (1 + \tau^*)\pi_2$.⁹

The economy is populated by a continuum of agents, and the population size is normalized to one. Each agent in $[0, 1]$ is indexed by h and shares the same, quasi-linear and additively separable preferences, which can be written as

$$u_h(c_0, c_1, c_2) \equiv c_0 + \sum_{i=1}^2 u_i(c_i), \quad (1)$$

where c_0 represents the consumption of the numeraire good, and c_1 and c_2 represent the consumption of nonnumeraire goods. The utility functions are assumed to be twice differentiable, increasing, and strictly concave.

⁹Following Johnson (1953-4) and Mayer (1981), we restrict the set of policy tools available to import tariffs and subsidies. This allows us to describe the preferences of the two countries in the tariff space (τ, τ^*) and to easily characterize trade negotiations between them. Levy (1999), in his model of lobbying and international cooperation, has convincingly argued that export subsidies and taxes are rarely used, the only exception being probably agriculture (see also Hoeckman and Kostecki, 2001).

Provided that income always exceeds the expenditure on the numéraire good, the domestic demand for good $i \in \{1, 2\}$ can be expressed as a function of price alone, $D_i(p_i)$. Net imports of good 1 by the home country can then be written as $M_1(p_1) = D_1(p_1) - Q_1(p_1) > 0$, while foreign net imports are given by $M_1^*(p_1^*) = D_1^*(p_1^*) - Q_1^*(p_1^*) < 0$. World product markets of goods 1 and 2 clear when

$$M_1\left((1 + \tau)\pi_1\right) + M_1^*(\pi_1) = 0, \quad (2)$$

$$M_2(\pi_2) + M_2^*\left((1 + \tau^*)\pi_2\right) = 0. \quad (3)$$

From (2) and (3) we can derive an expression for world equilibrium prices as a function of the policies in the two countries, i.e., $\pi_1(\tau)$, $\pi_2(\tau^*)$. Tariff revenues in home are given by

$$T(\tau) = \tau\pi_1(\tau)M_1(\tau) \quad (4)$$

and are assumed to be redistributed uniformly to all individuals. The same is true for foreign.

Individuals derive income from various sources: they all own a unit of labor and earn wages as workers; they also receive the same lump sum transfer (possibly negative) of trade policy revenues from the government; in addition, some individuals own a share of the specific inputs used in the production of goods 1 and 2. Aggregate welfare is defined as the sum of the income of all citizens (total labor income, industry rents and government revenues), plus consumer surplus, and for the case of home it can then be written as

$$W(\tau, \tau^*) = 1 + R_1(\tau) + R_2(\tau^*) + T(\tau) + \Omega(\tau, \tau^*), \quad (5)$$

where $\Omega(\tau, \tau^*) \equiv u\left(D_1(\tau)\right) - p_1D_1(\tau) + u\left(D_2(\tau^*)\right) - p_2D_2(\tau^*)$ denotes total consumer surplus. The welfare of the foreign country can be defined symmetrically.

Dropping the sectoral subscript for notational simplification, the first-order condition for the maximization of (5) can be written as¹⁰

$$-M\frac{d\pi}{d\tau} + \tau\pi\frac{dM}{d\tau} = 0. \quad (6)$$

Substituting the expression for $(d\pi/d\tau)$ into (6) yields the standard formula for the home coun-

¹⁰This is found by substituting $-D(dp/d\tau)$ and $Q(dp/d\tau)$ for the derivatives of consumer surplus and industry rents, respectively, and by substituting $(dp/d\tau) = (1 + \tau)(d\pi/d\tau) + \pi$.

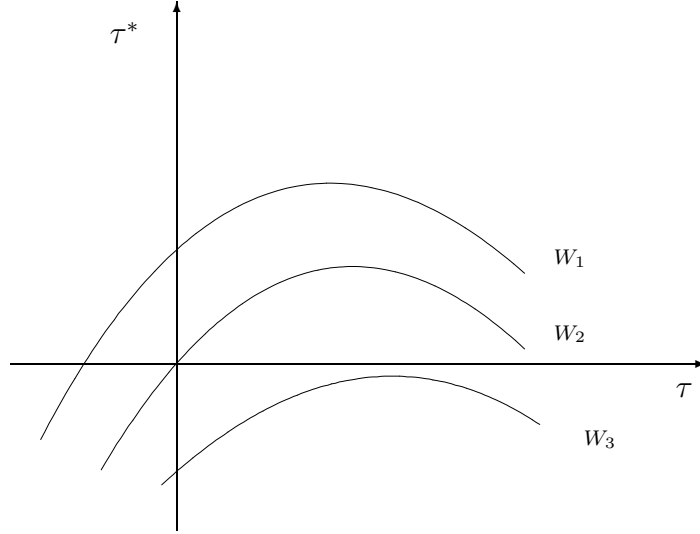


Figure 2: Home's indifference map

try's optimal import tariff:¹¹

$$\hat{\tau} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^*}, \quad (7)$$

where $\varepsilon^* \equiv (dM^*/dp^*)(p^*/M^*)$ is the elasticity of foreign export supply.

Figure 2 illustrates the home country's indifference map in the tariff plane (τ, τ^*) . Each indifference curve represents the combinations of domestic (τ) and foreign (τ^*) tariffs among which the home country is indifferent. These tariff indifference curves are denoted by W_U , with welfare increasing as subscript U rises in value. An expression for the slope of the tariff indifference curves is derived in the Appendix (see equation (21)). There we show analytically that, for non-negative values of τ , the slope of the home country's indifference curves is positive, zero or negative depending on the home country's actual tariff rate being less than, equal to, or larger than its optimal tariff.

Similarly, we can characterize the indifference curves of the foreign country (see Appendix for the derivation). Combining information on the preferences of the two countries, we can examine the scope for trade agreements between them. In this section, we will focus on the case in which the authority to negotiate trade agreements in both home and foreign is fully delegated to the President, who represents the interests of all the constituencies in his country.

In Figure 3 below, we illustrate the scope for trade agreements between the two executives,

¹¹The expression for $(d\pi/d\tau)$ is derived applying the implicit function theorem to the market-clearing condition (2):

$$\frac{d\pi}{d\tau} = -\frac{\pi \frac{dM}{dp}}{\frac{dM}{dp}(1 + \tau) + \frac{dM^*}{dp^*}}.$$

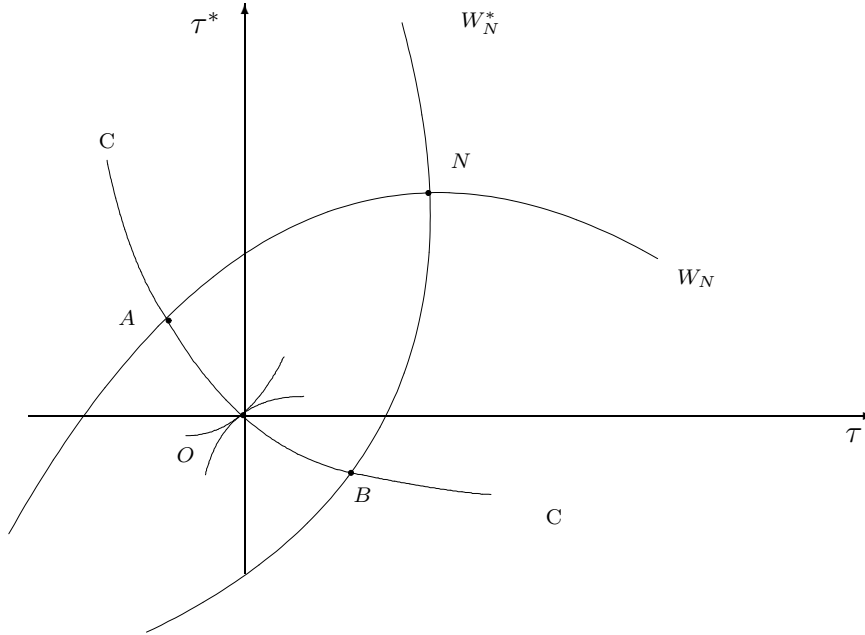


Figure 3: Trade negotiations between the two Presidents

taking the noncooperative Nash tariff equilibrium point N , as the status quo point for the negotiations. Graphically, the tariff war outcome lies at the intersection point between two indifference curves of the home and foreign executives, such that both indifference curves reach a maximum at that point.¹²

We make the following standard assumptions about trade agreements:

Assumption 1 *The negotiating parties can only agree to tariff combinations, that make each of them at least as well off as they would be in a tariff war.*

Graphically, this assumption implies that trade agreements must be in the lens comprised between the two indifference curves going through the Nash equilibrium, W_N and W_N^* . We also require trade deals to be efficient:

Assumption 2 *The negotiating parties can only agree to tariff combinations such that no further welfare gains can be achieved by one party without the other one losing.*

This assumption implies that agreed tariff combinations must lie on the contract curve (CC in Figure 3), the locus of all tangency points between the indifference curves of the two countries.

¹²The diagram shows a unique Nash equilibrium, which is given by the tariff pair (τ_N, τ_N^*) such that τ_N is a best response to τ_N^* , and vice versa. In general, multiple equilibria cannot be excluded. See Johnson (1953-4) for a full characterization of Nash equilibria in tariff games.

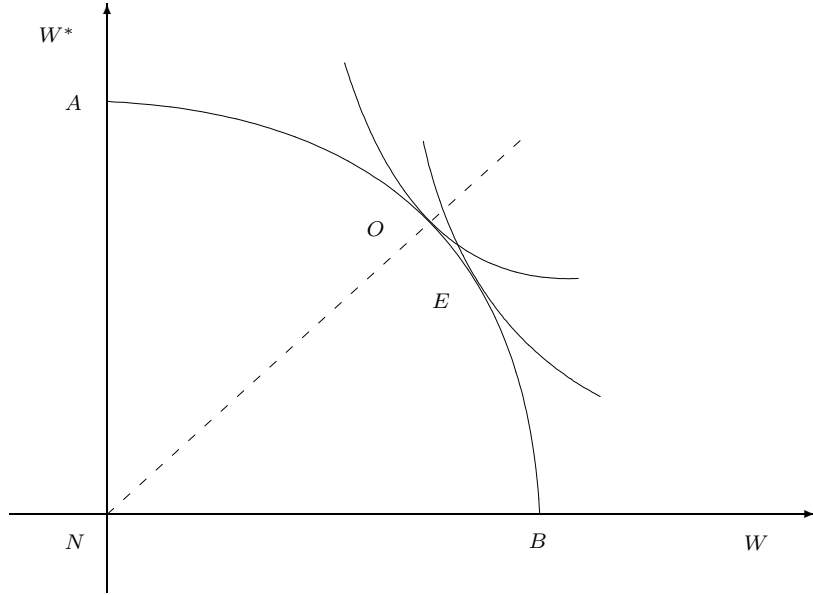


Figure 4: Bargaining between the two Presidents

In the Appendix, we show that efficient trade deals between the home and foreign country are characterized by the following condition:

$$(1 - \tau\epsilon^*)(1 - \tau^*\epsilon) - 1 = 0. \quad (8)$$

Equation 8 states that there exists an infinite number of tariff-subsidy combinations for the two countries, which satisfy Assumption 2. If one country imposes a tariff, the other country must offer a subsidy. Tariffs in both countries cannot be the outcome of efficient trade negotiations between the two countries. Free trade is the symmetric efficient outcome.¹³

Together, the two assumptions above imply that the two parties agree to combinations of import tariffs (subsidies) which lie on the segment $A-B$ of the contract curve in Figure 3. This segment identifies all possible trade agreements which satisfy the above two assumptions, i.e., they are in the set of Pareto-improving deals compared to the status quo and are efficient.

We can summarize the information in Figure 3 and derive trade negotiation outcomes by drawing the utility possibility frontier. This is done in Figure 4, where the origin is point N , which corresponds to the utility levels in a tariff war, W_N and W_N^* in Figure 3. The curve AB in Figure 4 represents the utility possibility frontier, which traces the utilities of the two countries as we move along the corresponding curve AB in Figure 3.

In order to derive the equilibrium outcome of the trade negotiations, we employ the general-

¹³See Mayer (1981) for a similar result.

ized Nash bargaining solution. This implies that the domestic and foreign tariffs τ and τ^* must be chosen so as to solve the following maximization problem:

$$\max_{W, W^*} (W - W_N)^\gamma (W^* - W_N^*)^{1-\gamma}, \quad (9)$$

where $\gamma \in (0, 1)$ captures the relative bargaining strength of the home government.¹⁴ If we consider the case of two symmetric countries, for which $\gamma = \frac{1}{2}$, the outcome of the negotiations will be point O in Figure 4, which corresponds to the free trade point O in Figure 3.¹⁵ If instead we increase the bargaining power of the home country, the solution will be a point like E where, as expected, the stronger bargainer does relatively better than its trading partner. In the limit, when $\gamma = 1$ ($\gamma = 0$), the equilibrium utility levels are given by point B (A), where the home (foreign) country gets the maximum level of utility and the foreign (home) country achieves the same level of utility as in the Nash equilibrium.

4 FTA and Trade Negotiations

In the analysis developed in the previous section, we have assumed that trade negotiations between home and foreign were carried out by the two executives, who represent the interests of the nation at large, i.e., one large district made up by all the electoral constituencies. In this section, we introduce a crucial asymmetry between the negotiating countries: for foreign, we retain the assumption that trade policy is set by the President; for home, we assume instead that the legislators in Congress must decide whether or not to delegate trade negotiating authority to the President by granting FTA. This allows us to focus on the impact of FTA on the outcomes of trade negotiations. Later, in Section 8, we discuss the implications of allowing Congress in both countries to retain amendment power.

The starting point of the political economy model described below is the uneven geographical distribution of industries across constituencies. This implies that the trade policy preferences of the members of Congress will be heterogenous, as they reflect the interests of their electoral districts, which depend on the specific industries located there.¹⁶

It should be stressed that the our analysis does not rely on the specific preferences we have

¹⁴Notice that the parameter γ does not reflect the countries' market power or their costs in case of trade negotiation failure, which are already captured by the utility possibility frontier; as argued by Binmore *et al.* (1986), γ could be interpreted instead as reflecting differences in discount rates.

¹⁵It should be stressed that free trade would arise as the outcome of the negotiations between two symmetric countries even if we used alternative bargaining solutions (e.g. under utilitarian or egalitarian bargaining).

¹⁶There is substantial evidence on the importance of geographical industry concentration in trade policy is pervasive. See, for example, Hansen (1990) and Busch and Reinhardt (1999). Grossman and Helpman (2005) and Willmann (2005) show in a small-country trade model how asymmetries in the distribution of industries across constituencies may lead to a protectionist bias in national legislators.

assumed for the President and the legislators, but rather on the fact that the executive's preferences do not coincide with those of the majority of Congress.

4.1 Congressional Preferences in the Home Country

In the home country, there are D districts, each populated by $h = H/D$ individuals and represented in Congress by one legislator. Note that, since we have normalized the country's population size H to unity, h captures the share of the total population residing in each district/constituency. All districts have identical preferences (equation (1) above) and receive the same transfer from the government. Importantly, districts differ with respect to their stakes in the production of import-competing and export goods, implying different trade policy preferences. In particular, we distinguish three types of districts/congressmen:

- *Import districts (M):* a fraction β^M of the D districts is relatively specialized in the production of the import-competing good. Each of these districts is characterized by a share α_1^M (α_2^M) of rents in the production of import (export) goods, with $\alpha_1^M > \alpha_2^M$. The utility function of a representative of one of these districts is thus given by

$$W^M(\tau, \tau^*) = h + \alpha_1^M R_1(\tau) + \alpha_2^M R_2(\tau_k^*) + h [T(\tau) + \Omega(\tau, \tau^*)]. \quad (10)$$

- *Export districts (S):* a fraction β^S of districts is relatively specialized in the production of export goods. Each of these districts is characterized by a share α_1^S (α_2^S) of the rents associated with import (export) production, with $\alpha_1^S < \alpha_2^S$. The utility function of a representative of one of these districts is given by

$$W^S(\tau, \tau^*) = h + \alpha_1^S R_1(\tau) + \alpha_2^S R_2(\tau_k^*) + h [T(\tau) + \Omega(\tau, \tau^*)]. \quad (11)$$

- *Neutral districts (C):* the remaining fraction $\beta^C = 1 - \beta^M - \beta^S$ of districts has equal stakes in the production of all goods, i.e., $\alpha_1^C = \alpha_2^C = h$. The utility function of a representative of one of these districts can thus be written as

$$W^C(\tau, \tau^*) = h + hR_1(\tau) + hR_2(\tau_k^*) + h [T(\tau) + \Omega(\tau, \tau^*)], \quad (12)$$

implying that a C district is just a scaled-down representation of the country's economy.

Equations (10)-(12) above imply that congressional districts have different preferences only due to the asymmetric distribution of industry rents across them.¹⁷ Notice that our formulation

¹⁷Notice that this implies an interaction between the size of a group of districts in Congress and the policy preferences of this group. For example, if we increase the share of M districts in Congress by increasing β^M ,

assumes homogeneous trade preferences within each type of districts (M , S or C), implying no coordination failure in voting and no role for logrolling. It can be shown, however, that the results of our analysis would still hold if we allowed for asymmetries within each type of districts.¹⁸

More importantly, asymmetries with respect to the geographic location of production activities across various districts imply different preferences over trade policy: M , S and C districts will have different indifference curves, reflecting different trade offs between domestic and foreign protection.¹⁹

In Figure 5 above we plot the indifference curves of the three types of districts going through a generic point Z in the tariff space (τ, τ^*) . Notice that the indifference curves of the neutral C districts have the same shape as those of the benevolent home executive (represented in Figure 2 above). Furthermore, the indifference curves of the representative of an import (export) district M (S) are steeper (flatter) than the indifference curves of the President (and the C districts). This reflects the fact that districts that are relatively specialized in the production of import-competing (export) goods are less (more) willing to trade off a reduction in domestic import tariffs with a reduction in foreign import taxes. See Appendix for a formal derivation.

4.2 Timing

The main ingredient of the political economy model described above is the uneven geographical distribution of the endowments of the specific factors used in the production of import-competing and export goods, implying asymmetries in the trade policy stances of the legislators. In the home country, Congress will decide whether or not to delegate trade negotiating authority to the President (granting FTA) or to retain amendment power (not granting FTA). Each legislator will vote to maximize his expected utility, anticipating the impact that FTA (or lack thereof) will have on the outcome of the negotiations with the foreign country.²⁰ The game involves five stages and is illustrated in Figure 6 below.

we must have that each of these districts enjoys a smaller proportion of the rents from the production of the import-competing good 1. To see this, notice that we must have $\alpha_1^M \beta^M + \alpha_1^S \beta^S + h(1 - \beta^M - \beta^S) = 1/D$, implying $\frac{\partial \alpha_1^M}{\partial \beta^M} < 0$.

¹⁸We could extend our trade model to a setting with N nonnumeraire goods, in which each M (S) district is relatively specialized in the production of one import-competing (export) good. In this setting, different M (S) districts would have different trade policy preferences across sectors, but would gain by coordinating their votes through logrolling.

¹⁹It could be argued that differences in trade policy stances across legislators would be attenuated in the presence of compensation mechanisms like the Trade Adjustment Assistance program. The analysis of the role of transfers is beyond the scope of this paper (see Magee (2001) and Drazen and Limão (forthcoming) on this point).

²⁰Notice that asymmetries across foreign constituencies will play no role in the negotiations, since we assume that in the foreign country trade negotiation authority is always fully delegated to the President, who represents the interests of all constituencies.

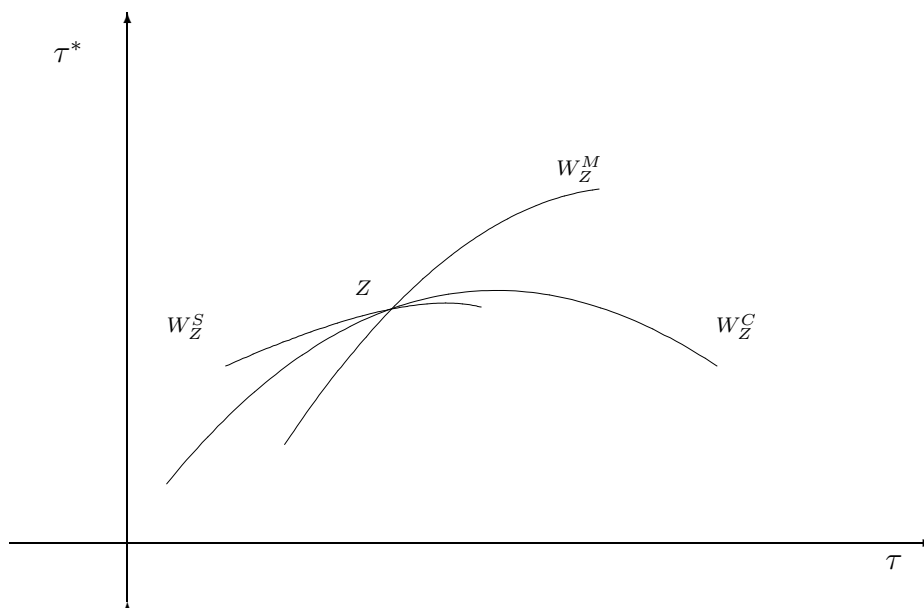


Figure 5: Preferences of home congressmen

In stage zero, Nature chooses the composition of home Congress, i.e. the share of elected members of each district type i (captured by the parameters $\beta^i, i \in \{M, S, C\}$), as well as their trade policy preferences (captured by the parameters α_1^i and $\alpha_2^i, i \in \{M, S, C\}$). As shown below, asymmetries in the size and preferences of the three types of districts will play a crucial role in determining whether fast track authority will be granted or not to the executive.

In stage 1, a vote is called by simple majority whereby the home Congress decides whether or not to grant FTA to the President. If FTA is approved, Congress retains the power to accept or reject negotiated trade deals, but cannot amend them. Therefore this stage involves a decision by Congress between partial delegation of trade negotiation authority to the President and no delegation at all.

In stage 2, the home and foreign executives carry out the negotiations to reach an agreement involving a reduction in domestic and foreign tariffs compared to the status quo (point N in Figure 3 above).

In stage 3, if FTA has been approved in stage 1, the home Congress reviews the agreement reached by the two Presidents in stage 2 and accepts or rejects the proposal by simple majority voting, without the possibility of modifying its content. If instead in stage 1 FTA has not been approved, Congress retains the possibility of amending any agreement reached by the two executives in stage 2 by simple majority voting.

Finally, in stage 4, the President signs or vetoes the agreement into law.²¹

²¹Article I, section 7 of the U.S. Constitution describes Presidential veto. It states that, if a bill or law is passed

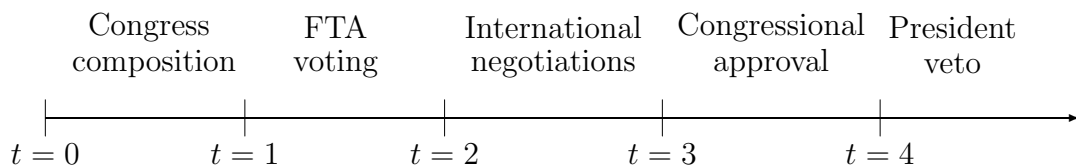


Figure 6: Timeline of the game

Before discussing in detail the equilibrium outcome of the game, a few observations are in order. Firstly, if Congress does not grant FTA to the President in stage 1 of the game and thus any deal agreed by the two executives in stage 2 can be amended, the game's outcome is the same as if the foreign President negotiated a trade deal directly with the majority of the home Congress.²² Secondly, the fact that the home President retains veto power in stage 4 implies that, in the absence of FTA, Congress cannot put forward trade deals which would make the home country worse off than the status quo. Graphically, this rules out trade agreements that lie above the indifference curve W_N in Figure 3.²³

In what follows, we derive predictions about congressmen's voting behavior and the outcome of trade negotiations, under alternative scenarios corresponding to different compositions of Congress in stage zero of the game.

4.3 Congress Composition and Voting Behavior

4.3.1 Majority of M Districts

Consider first a situation in which the majority of Congress is made up by representatives of import districts (i.e., $\beta^M > \frac{1}{2}$). To analyze this scenario, we will use Figure 7 below, where we have replicated the set of feasible agreements that can be reached by the two executives, lying on the AB segment of the CC curve. We have also drawn the indifference curve of an M

by both houses, it will be passed on to the President who will sign the law into effect or veto it. If he vetoes the law, it goes back to the house where it came from to be revised. If the law is again passed by both houses with a 2/3 vote, the law goes into effect. If the President makes no decision for ten days (excluding Sundays) the law goes into effect the same as if he had signed it into effect.

²²Note that, in the absence of FTA, any deal negotiated between the Presidents in stage 2 and amended by the home Congress in stage 3 can be further amended by the foreign executive. The above description of the timing of the game implicitly assumes that it is too costly to start a new round of trade negotiations between the two executives once an agreement negotiated under FTA is rejected by the home Congress; renegotiation is only possible during the amendment phase in stage 3, if the home President has not been granted fast track authority in stage 1. Notice, however, that in equilibrium there will be no amendments and no renegotiation. This is because, when the home President lacks FTA, the two executives will negotiate in stage 2 anticipating Congress' behavior in the following stage.

²³In the absence of FTA, the President's veto power imposes a different constraint on the negotiation outcomes than Assumption 1 above, since agreements reached between the majority of home Congress and the foreign President could imply a welfare loss from the point of view of the home country (see discussion below).

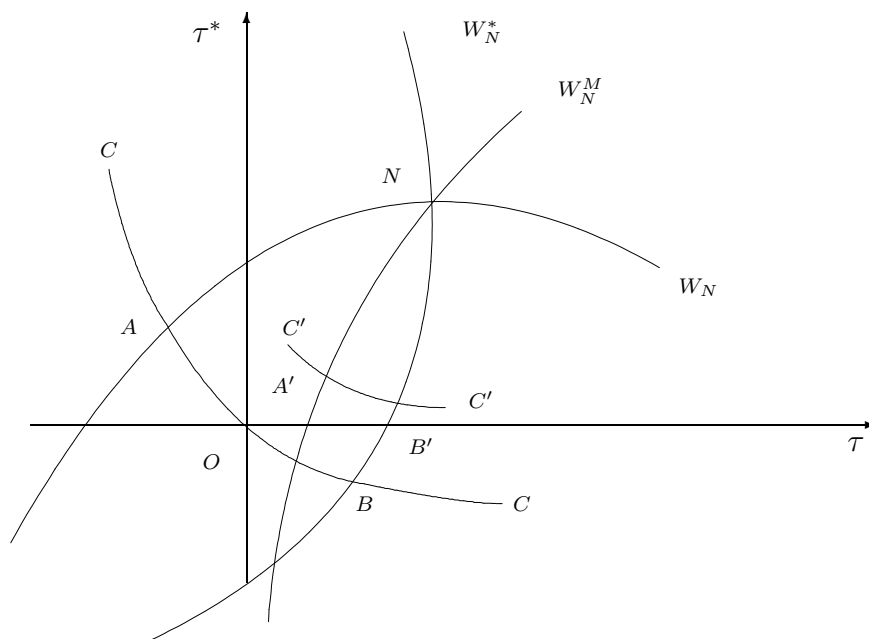


Figure 7: Trade negotiation between foreign President and M majority

district representative going through the status quo point, W_N^M . This allows us to construct the set of feasible agreements—satisfying assumptions 1 and 2 above—that can be reached in the absence of FTA, when Congress majority negotiates directly with the foreign executive. This set is identified by the segment $A'B'$ of the $C'C'$ curve.

Notice that the set of feasible agreements between the Congress majority and the foreign executive is smaller than the corresponding set for the two executives. Moreover, the $C'C'$ curve lies above the CC curve. This implies that, in the absence of FTA, free trade cannot be a negotiation outcome. Also, unlike in the case of trade negotiations between the two benevolent executives, outcomes in which both countries set positive import tariffs are now possible.

We can show that the M district representatives will never vote in favor of FTA. To this end, we need to compare the welfare of these agents when they negotiate directly with the foreign President and when they instead delegate trade negotiation authority to the executive. Using the generalized Nash bargaining solution described by equation (9) above, we can establish the following: first, if the foreign enjoys all the bargaining power (i.e., $\gamma = 0$) the outcome A' always yields a higher utility to the M district than the outcome A ; analogously, if home enjoys all the bargaining power (i.e., $\gamma = 1$) the M districts are always better off at B' than at B ; the same applies for any given $\gamma \in (0, 1)$. The intuition behind this result is as follows: from the point of view of the M districts, granting FTA implies delegating the trade negotiation authority to an agent, the President, who does not share their trade preferences; moreover, this agent is

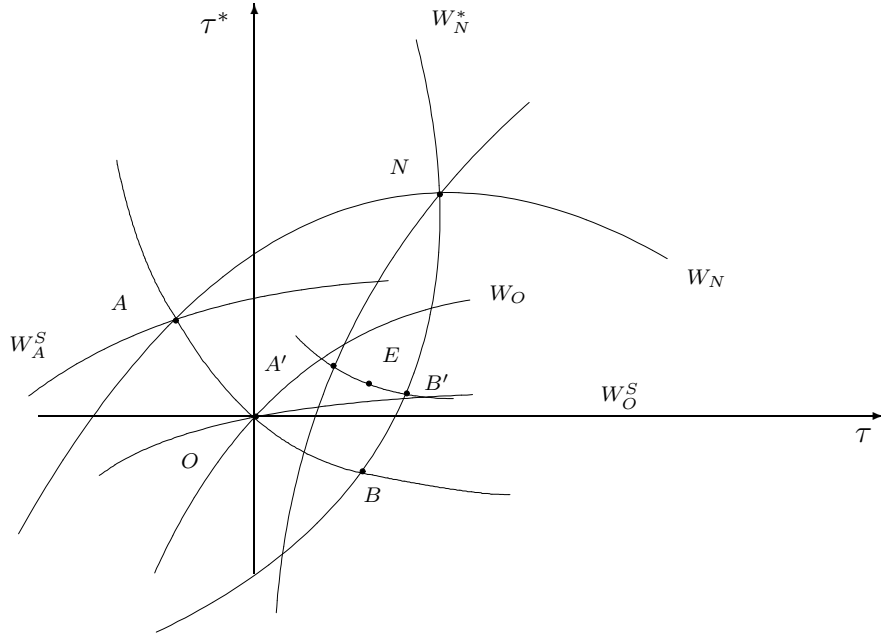


Figure 8: Trade negotiation between foreign President and M majority

less protectionist than the M districts, i.e., more willing to reduce domestic tariffs in exchange for a reduction in foreign tariffs; granting FTA would thus weaken home's bargaining position vis-à-vis the foreign country.

To examine the voting behavior of the C and S representatives in this scenario, consider Figure 8.²⁴ Let us start by focusing on the preferences of the C district, which have the same shape as those of the home country as a whole. Comparing points A and A' , we can see immediately that when foreign has all the bargaining power, C prefers to vote against FTA. If instead home has all the bargaining power, C prefers the outcome B to the outcome B' and would thus vote in favor of FTA. In the case of identical bargaining power, if M preferences are as represented in Figure 8, C prefers outcome E to the free trade outcome O .²⁵ This implies that the neutral representatives may prefer to vote against FTA and thus to delegate the trade negotiation authority to the protectionist majority of Congress rather than to the President. This is true even if the C districts and the President share the same trade preferences. This result is in line with findings of the literature on strategic delegation, which shows how principals may gain by delegating policymaking to status-quo biased agents, to increase their bargaining

²⁴Notice that, given the behavior of the M majority, voting by C and S representatives will not affect whether FTA is granted or not. We will assume that, whenever the outcome is independent of a legislator's vote, he will still cast his vote according to his preferences.

²⁵For generic M preferences, this will be the case: $W_{A'} > W_A$, $W_{B'} < W_B$ and $W_{E'} \lesseqgtr W_E$, where E and E' are the outcomes of the negotiations for intermediate bargaining weights (i.e., $\gamma \in (0, 1)$).

power in negotiations with other parties (e.g. Schelling, 1956; Jones, 1989; Segendorf, 1998).

Turning now to the S representatives, in the case illustrated in Figure 8, they will also prefer A' to A and B to B' . Hence, the more export-oriented S districts may also in some cases prefer to vote against FTA, strategically delegating trade negotiation authority to a protectionist majority in Congress. However, the likelihood of this happening is lower than for the C districts, since the trade preferences of the S export districts differ more from those of the M import districts, thus making delegation more costly. For example, in the case of identical bargaining power, if M preferences are as represented in Figure 8, S representatives prefer outcome O to outcome E .²⁶

4.3.2 Majority of S Districts

Next, consider a scenario in which the representatives of the S export districts are the majority in Congress (i.e., $\beta^S > \frac{1}{2}$). To analyze this case, we will use Figure 9 above. Again, the set of feasible agreements that can be reached under FTA is represented by the AB segment of the CC curve. Feasible agreements that can be reached in the absence of FTA, when Congress majority negotiates directly with the foreign executive, are instead identified by the segment $A'B'$ of the $C'C'$ curve. Point V represents the trade agreement that is efficient from the point of view of the S majority and the foreign executive and gives the same level of utility to the home country than the status quo. Notice that the President's veto power in the last stage of the game rules out agreements lying between V and A' .

In contrast to the case of a majority of M districts discussed above, in this scenario, the set of feasible agreements between the Congress majority and the foreign executive is larger than the corresponding set for the two executives. Moreover, the $C'C'$ curve now lies below the CC curve. Notice that, like in the M majority case, in the absence of FTA, free trade is not a possible negotiation outcome.

We can show that in this scenario M and C representatives will always vote in favor of FTA. This is because, when negotiating with foreign, they will always prefer to be represented by the President than by the S majority, since the executive is less eager to reach an agreement and is thus able to achieve a more favorable deal. It can be easily shown that, for any given γ , an outcome on the AB curve is always preferred to the corresponding outcome on the $A'B'$ curve.²⁷ This establishes that it cannot be beneficial for a home legislator to delegate trade negotiation authority to an agent who is keener than himself to reach an agreement with the foreign country.

²⁶For generic M preferences, the following holds: $W_{A'}^S \leq W_A^S$, $W_{B'} < W_B$ and $W_{E'}^S \leq W_E^S$, where E and E' are the outcomes of the negotiations for $\gamma \in (0, 1)$.

²⁷Only in the limit case in which $\gamma = 0$, C districts would be indifferent between granting FTA or not. In this case, because of the President's veto power, both negotiation procedures would yield a level of utility W_N for the C districts.

debate imposed by fast track procedures). We should thus expect C and S representatives to always vote in favor of FTA, while M representatives may vote in favor or against it. To verify this, notice from Figure 3 that any outcome on the AB segment of the CC contract curve is always weakly (strongly) preferred by the C (S) district representatives to the status quo N .²⁹ Representatives of the M districts, on the other hand, may or may not be better off in a trade agreement compared to the status quo of Nash tariffs.

4.3.4 No Majority

Finally, let us examine the scenario in which none of the district types enjoys a majority in Congress, i.e., $\beta^i < \frac{1}{2}$ for all $i \in \{M, S, C\}$. This implies that in the absence of FTA, amendments in stage 3 of the game can only be passed by a coalition of district representatives.

We assume that if a coalition is formed between two groups in Congress, its preferences are given by a weighted sum of the preferences of their members, where the weights are given by the districts' share in Congress.

In line with our analysis of the previous scenario, we can show that it will never be in the interest of the C or M congressmen to form a coalition with the S representatives. The intuition behind this result is that, relative to a scenario in which trade negotiation authority is delegated to the President, forming this coalition would always weaken home's bargaining position vis-à-vis the foreign country. Given this, the only possible coalition in the amendment phase is between the C and M districts. While for the M representatives being in such coalition will always be preferable than supporting FTA, the same is not always true for C . Below we show that the voting behavior of the C representative depends crucially on how protectionist the resulting coalition would be.

The trade preferences of the coalition of C and M districts are captured by

$$W^{C,M} = \beta^C W^C + \beta^M W^M. \quad (13)$$

Negotiations between the coalition and the foreign executive in case of no FTA can be captured by Figure 7 above, where now W_N^M should be interpreted as representing $W_N^{C,M}$. Notice that, the steeper is $W_N^{C,M}$, the more likely it is that the C districts will vote for FTA rather than joining the coalition. The intuition is that when the coalition becomes too protectionist, delegation to a more status-quo biased agent becomes too costly.

Notice that the degree of protectionism of the coalition of C and M districts is captured by

²⁹As discussed above, these congressmen may actually prefer to be represented in the negotiations by a more protectionist majority. However, this is not an option when $\beta^C > \frac{1}{2}$.

the slope of $W^{C,M}$, which is given by

$$\left(\frac{d\tau^*}{d\tau}\right)^{C,M} = -\frac{[(\beta^M \alpha_1^M + \beta^C h) \frac{\partial R_1}{\partial \tau} + (\beta^M + \beta^C) h (\frac{\partial T}{\partial \tau} + \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial \tau})]}{[(\beta^M \alpha_2^M + \beta^C h) \frac{\partial R_2}{\partial \tau^*} + (\beta^M + \beta^C) h \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial \tau^*}]} \quad (14)$$

Comparing (14) with equations (20) and (25) in the Appendix, we can easily show that the coalition's indifference curves are flatter than the indifference curves of the M representatives, but steeper than those of the C representatives. It is also straightforward to verify that an increase in β^C will make the indifference curves of the coalition flatter; in turn, this will make C representatives more likely to vote against FTA.

As far as S representatives are concerned, they will tend to vote in favor of FTA, preferring the negotiation outcomes that would emerge when home is represented by the President to those that would arise when home is represented by the coalition of C and M districts. However, if this coalition is not too protectionist, the opposite might be true, particularly if the foreign country enjoys a larger bargaining power (i.e., $\gamma \rightarrow 1$). This is in line with our discussion of the voting behavior of S representatives in the case of M majority.

4.4 FTA Voting Decisions and International Trade Agreements

In what follows, we summarize our discussion in Section ?? in five main results. The first two propositions concern the impact of fast track procedures on the outcome of trade negotiations between home and foreign.

Proposition 1 *Unless $\beta^C > \frac{1}{2}$, free trade can only be achieved under FTA.*

To verify this, notice that under fast track authority, when negotiations take place between the home and foreign executives, the set of efficient trade agreements is identified by the CC contract curve in Figure 3 above, which goes through the free trade point 0. In the absence of FTA, the contract curve will be either above the CC curve ($C'C'$ in Figure 7) or below ($C'C'$ in Figure 9), depending on the type of Congress composition, and will thus not pass through point 0.³⁰

Proposition 2 *Unless $\beta^S > \frac{1}{2}$, foreign prefers to negotiate with home under FTA.*

In the absence of FTA, it is as if the foreign executive negotiates directly with the majority in the home Congress. Except for the case in which the export-oriented S representatives hold

³⁰As discussed above, in the absence of FTA, free trade can only be achieved if C representatives hold a majority of seats in Congress. In this case, the contract curve identifying efficient agreements between the foreign executive and the majority of home Congress would coincide with the CC curve in Figure 3.

a majority of seats in Congress ($\beta^S > \frac{1}{2}$), this leads to worse negotiation outcomes from the point of view of the foreign country than those that could be achieved under FTA. The intuition behind this result is that lack of FTA strengthens home's bargaining positions in the negotiations with foreign.³¹ This result can explain why foreign countries are often reluctant to negotiate trade agreements with the United States in the absence of FTA.³²

The remaining three results relate to the FTA voting behavior of home's congressmen.

Proposition 3 *Home legislators will never delegate trade negotiating authority to the agent that is keener to reach an agreement with the foreign country.*

When voting for or against fast track procedures, home legislators must implicitly decide who should represent the country in the negotiations with foreign. The choice is either between oneself and the President (in the case of legislators who control the majority in Congress); or between a majority in Congress and the President (in the case of legislators who do not hold a majority). Our analysis above shows that, when taking this decision, legislators will never choose the agent who has the weaker bargaining position vis-à-vis the foreign country. For example, the M representatives will vote against FTA if they hold a majority in Congress—since in this case the President is the weaker country representative—but will vote in favor of FTA if the S districts hold a majority—since in this case the President is the tougher bargainer. Similarly, C representatives might decide to vote against FTA if the majority of Congress is more protectionist than the President, but would always vote in favor of FTA otherwise.

In our discussion of the four possible scenarios of Congress composition, we established that, except for the case in which S districts are a majority in Congress, M representatives will never vote in favor of FTA, S representatives will be unlikely to vote against, while C representatives might vote in favor or against. The likelihood that legislator i will vote in favor of FTA should thus increase in the extent to which his constituency is relatively specialized in the production of the export good, as captured by the ratio $\frac{\alpha_2^i}{\alpha_1^i}$. This implies the following:

Proposition 4 *Unless $\beta^S > \frac{1}{2}$, the likelihood that a home legislator votes in favor of FTA increases with the degree to which his district is export-oriented compared to the country as a whole.*

³¹Notice that this is true for scenarios in which M districts hold a majority of seats in Congress and for scenarios in which none of the district types enjoys a majority in Congress. For the case of C majority, FTA should not affect negotiation outcomes; however, foreign should still prefer to negotiate under FTA on the ground that it allows a faster implementation of trade agreements.

³²For example, during the negotiations of the Uruguay Round, U.S. trade officials were subject to strong pressures from other GATT members to come to the negotiating table with fast track authority. Similarly, Proposition 2 can explain why Chile only negotiated a free trade agreement with the U.S. in 2003, after the latest renewal of FTA, rather than during the period between 1994 and 2002, when fast track authority lapsed.

Our analysis in Section 4.3.4 also suggests that, if none of the district types has the majority in Congress, the neutral C districts will only vote against FTA in stage 2 of the game if they can reach more favorable negotiation outcomes by forming a coalition with the M representatives in stage 4 of the game; in turn, this can only happen if such coalition is not too protectionist, which is more likely to be the case the larger is β^C (or the smaller is β^M). We can thus state the following result:

Proposition 5 *If $\beta^i < \frac{1}{2}$ for all $i \in \{M, S, C\}$, the likelihood of C representatives voting in favor of FTA decreases with β^C .*

4.5 Empirical Predictions

In the empirical analysis that follows we will test the last two theoretical results concerning FTA voting behavior (Propositions 4 and 5 above), which we can restate in terms of empirical predictions:

- The likelihood of a U.S. congressman voting in favor of FTA should increase with the degree to which his district is relatively export-oriented compared to the U.S. as a whole;
- When no group of district representatives has the majority in Congress, M representatives will vote against FTA, while S representatives will tend to vote in favor; furthermore, the likelihood of C representatives voting in favor of FTA should decrease with their relative share in Congress.

Before describing the details of our empirical investigation, a few remarks are in order concerning the link between our theoretical analysis and its empirical counterpart. In Sections 4.3 and 4.4, we have examined legislators' voting behavior in all possible scenarios in terms of Congress composition: 1) majority of M districts; 2) majority of S districts; 3) majority of C districts; and 4) no majority. As shown in the next section, our dataset does not include situations in which M or S districts have a majority in the U.S. Congress; therefore only scenarios 3) and 4) are empirically relevant. However, this does not pose a problem for our empirical analysis, since the predictions of our two main propositions are valid in the scenarios that we do observe.

Consider first Proposition 4, which characterizes voting behavior in scenarios 1), 3) and 4) and predicts that the likelihood that a U.S. legislator votes in favor of FTA should increase with the degree to which his constituency is export-oriented compared to the country as a whole. Since scenario 2) is not empirically relevant, we can directly assess the validity of this proposition. Consider next Proposition 5, which predicts that in the case of no majority C legislators should be more likely to vote in favor of fast track authority the larger is their share in Congress. Notice

that in the remaining scenarios the voting behavior of C representatives should not be affected by their share. Evidence of a negative relationship between C 's share and their likelihood to vote in favor of FTA would thus provide empirical support for this proposition.

Notice that we are unlikely to observe votes on fast track when the majority of Congress is against granting it. Indeed, as it can be seen from Table 1, with the exception of House Resolution 2621 of September 25, 1998 all votes ended up with Congress granting FTA.³³ Interestingly, this might explain why scenario 1 is not included in our dataset, since it would always result in fast track not being granted. However, this issue does not pose a problem for our empirical analysis, which concerns FTA voting *behavior* of individual U.S. congressmen, rather than the *outcomes* of FTA decisions.

5 Data

In the empirical analysis presented below, we will examine the determinants of FTA voting decisions by U.S. congressmen. The objective of our analysis is to verify whether the legislators' voting behavior reflects the trade policy interests of their constituencies, as predicted by our theoretical model. To do so, we will try to isolate congressmen's trade policy interests from other factors which might affect their FTA voting decisions, such as their ideological preferences or which chamber of Congress they belong to.

Table 1 in Section 2 above provides details of all the votes granting or extending FTA that occurred in Congress, from the first one in 1973 till the last one in 2002.³⁴

Differently from the theoretical analysis where we used the words constituency and district interchangeably, empirically we have to distinguish the 435 congressional districts that elect one member each for the House of Representatives and the 50 states that elect two representatives each for the Senate. As it can be seen from Table 1 though, for each decision in the House and Senate less than 435 and 100 votes, are respectively reported. This is because some congressmen may not be present or may decide to abstain. Moreover, a seat in Congress may be vacant at any point in time because of special circumstances (e.g. resignation, death).

Overall, thirteen votes on FTA have been held in Congress including the House and Senate resolutions of disapproval that were rejected in 1991.³⁵ Seven of them took place in the House,

³³In some situations, the President may decide not to request a vote on FTA, anticipating that the outcome will be negative. For example, this is what happened in November 1997, when President Clinton agreed to hold off on the floor vote in the House, after House Speaker Gingrich had reportedly said that the vote was 5-25 votes short of passage (see Shoch, 2002).

³⁴When multiple votes occurred for each decision, only the final vote (i.e., Conference Report) is reported.

³⁵As a result of these resolutions, FTA was extended for trade agreements signed between May 31, 1991 and May 31, 1993. Compared to the other votes, the results in 1991 have the opposite interpretation (i.e., a vote in favor of disapproval is a vote against FTA).

Table 3: Definition of variables and sources

Variable	Definition	Source
$Vote_t^i$	Vote cast by congressman i in year t	Up to 1996: ICPSR Study number 4
λ_t^i	Dummy variable equal to 1 if ‘yea’ and 0 if ‘nay’ Employees in year t of district i in export industries divided by employees of district i in import industries	From 1997: http://www.voteview.com County Business Patterns
λ_t^{US}	U.S. employees in year t in export industries divided by U.S. employees in import industries	As for λ_t^i
Λ_t^i	Ratio $\lambda_t^i/\lambda_t^{US}$	As for λ_t^i
Democrat	Dummy variable equal to 1 if a congressman is a Democrat	As for Vote
Conservative rating	Rating (0–100) of Congressmen by American Conservative Union	As for Vote
Senate	Dummy equal to 1 for Senators	http://www.acuratings.org/
Party as President	Dummy equal 1 if Congressman and president belong to same party	As for vote
S, M, C districts	Dummy equal to 1 if district is of type $S, M, \text{ or } C$	As for λ_t^i
Congressional Districts	Aggregate of counties included in each district	1973-1982: ICSPR dataset 8258; 1983-2012: provided by Christopher Magee
Import/export industries	Industries in which the U.S. is a net importer/exporter (annual basis)	Feenstra (1996, 1997), Feenstra et al. (2002), and U.S. ITC, IMF BoP Statistics

and six in the Senate³⁶

For each vote, the identity of congressmen, their party affiliation, their state or district and their vote (in favor or against FTA) has been collected from roll call voting records. Table 3 provides details on the definitions and sources for all the variables used in our regressions (or used in the construction of the regressors).

Following our theoretical model, the main determinant of a congressman's vote refers to his constituency's trade position with respect to the United States at large. This requires the construction of district-specific and time-varying variables. Such variables are relatively easy to construct for the Senate, since each State always elects two Senators in state-wide elections. The case of House representatives is more complicated, since ready-made series are not available for the variables of interest. In particular, we encountered two main problems to obtain our proxy for a district's trade preferences.

The first problem is that district-specific information for the House must be obtained by aggregating county-level data, for which industry level information can be obtained from the County Business Patterns (CBP) series. To complicate matters further, a county may be split and various bits assigned to different districts.³⁷ Second, the geographic definition of Congressional Districts changes every ten years following the Decennial Census (as a result of the so-called "redistricting"). The 435 districts are assigned across the United States depending on population, with each State having at least one district. Given that our sample spans thirty years (i.e., 1973-2002), we need to track changes over three censuses.³⁸

To deal with the first issue, county and state level data have been extracted from the CBP. This is an annual series of reports by the Bureau of the Census providing detailed information on U.S. business and industries. The CBP report annual data on employment by SIC manufacturing industries up to 1997 and by NAICS manufacturing industries from 1998.³⁹

Notice that employment data in the CBP are withheld when their disclosure would allow researchers to identify firms. In such cases, a flag gives the interval where the actual data

³⁶The Senate did not vote on the extension in 1998 since the House had already rejected it.

³⁷For example, in the 1990's, Los Angeles county (California) was split among 17 congressional districts and Cook county (Illinois) was split among 12 congressional districts.

³⁸For example, Alaska has always had only one Congressional District; between the first FTA vote in 1974 and the last one in 2002, California went from 43 to 52 districts, while New York went from 39 to 31. Minor changes may occur between two consecutive censuses because of court actions; the regression results reported in Section 6 ignore these changes.

³⁹The CBP series mostly contains data on employment in manufacturing industries, with very little detailed information for the agricultural sector. However, manufacturing industries represent the lion's share of total imports and exports of the United States (i.e., at least 70 percent in each year from 1970 until today). Moreover, many agriculture-related activities are classified as manufacturing and are thus included in our dataset (e.g., dairy products, grain mill products, and sugar are included in SIC 20 and NAICS 311). In Section 7, where we report the results of various robustness checks, we will include information on agriculture employment, as well as on employment in the service sector.

belongs to.⁴⁰ These flags have been used to input values (i.e., the mid point of each interval) for the missing observations. In order to minimize the problem of undisclosed data, we use CBP employment data at the 2-digit SIC and 3-digit NAICS levels rather than at more disaggregated levels. Unfortunately, the CBP do not provide any flag for the data withheld in 1973. Treating these observations as missing results in a substantial underestimate of the employment in each county and, consequently, congressional district, which is why we have decided to omit the House vote of 1973 from our main estimations. Thus, we are left with 3,068 observations (i.e., all the votes from 1974 until 2002 as reported in Table 1).

Tables 9 and 10 in the Appendix report the list of manufacturing industries included in our analysis. For each year, each industry has been classified as being import-competing (export), if the U.S. as a whole was a net importer (exporter) for that industry in that year. For each county, we computed the number of employees in import (export) oriented sectors. Then, we constructed the corresponding figures for each Congressional district, by aggregating data for the counties included in that district. For those counties split across more than one district, we followed Baldwin and Magee (2000a,b), among others, imputing employees proportionally to the share of population of a county assigned to that district.⁴¹ Similar procedures to define import and export-oriented industries have been applied to state data to obtain analogous series for the Senate.

Having constructed the series of employees in import and export industries in each constituency (congressional district or state), we can then construct the main regressors of interest for our analysis. For each constituency i at time t , we define the ratio of employees in export industries (indexed by x) to import-competing industries (indexed by m), as well as this ratio relative to the United States as a whole (indexed by US):

$$\lambda_t^i = \frac{\sum_x L_{x,t}^i}{\sum_m L_{m,t}^i}, \quad (15)$$

$$\lambda_t^{US} = \frac{\sum_x L_{x,t}^{US}}{\sum_m L_{m,t}^{US}}, \quad (16)$$

⁴⁰For example, between 0 and 19 employees, between 20 and 99 employees and so on.

⁴¹We are grateful to Christopher Magee who provided us with the files for mapping counties into districts from 1983 until 2002, and to James Snyder who pointed out where to find a similar information for the period 1973-1982.

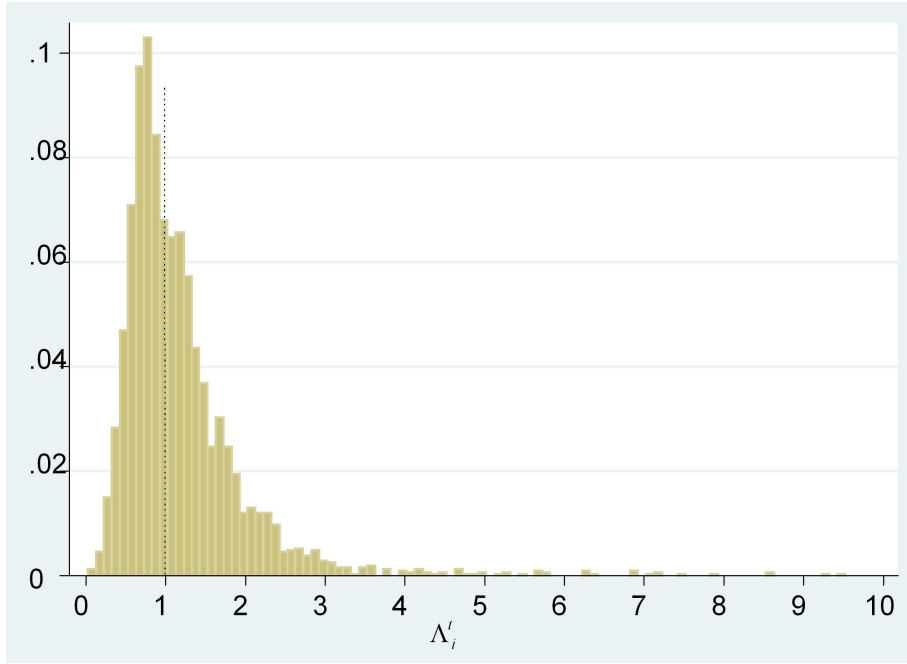


Figure 10: Trade exposure

Our measure of *trade exposure*, Λ_t^i is then defined as

$$\Lambda_t^i = \frac{\lambda_t^i}{\lambda_t^{US}}. \quad (17)$$

Figure 10 plots the empirical distribution of Λ_t^i for the full sample of 3,068 votes. Based on this, following our theoretical model, it is possible to classify congressmen as representatives of M , C , or S districts. Notice that a Λ_t^i equal to unity would provide the exact theoretical definition of a C district; however, this methodology has no empirical content, since we do not observe this exact value in the data. Instead, we will classify the identity of district i at time t as follows:

$$I_t^i = \begin{cases} M & \text{if } \Lambda_t^i \in [0, 1 - g) \\ C & \text{if } \Lambda_t^i \in [1 - g, 1 + g] \\ S & \text{if } \Lambda_t^i \in (1 + g, \infty]. \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

Alternative cut-off values of g give rise to different classifications of the legislators' identity, and correspondingly of Congress composition.

Figure 11 shows the frequency of M , C , and S districts for four different cut-off values of g , where we choose g as a fraction of the standard deviation of Λ_t^i . It is important to stress that, independently of the chosen value of g , there is never a situation in which M or S representatives

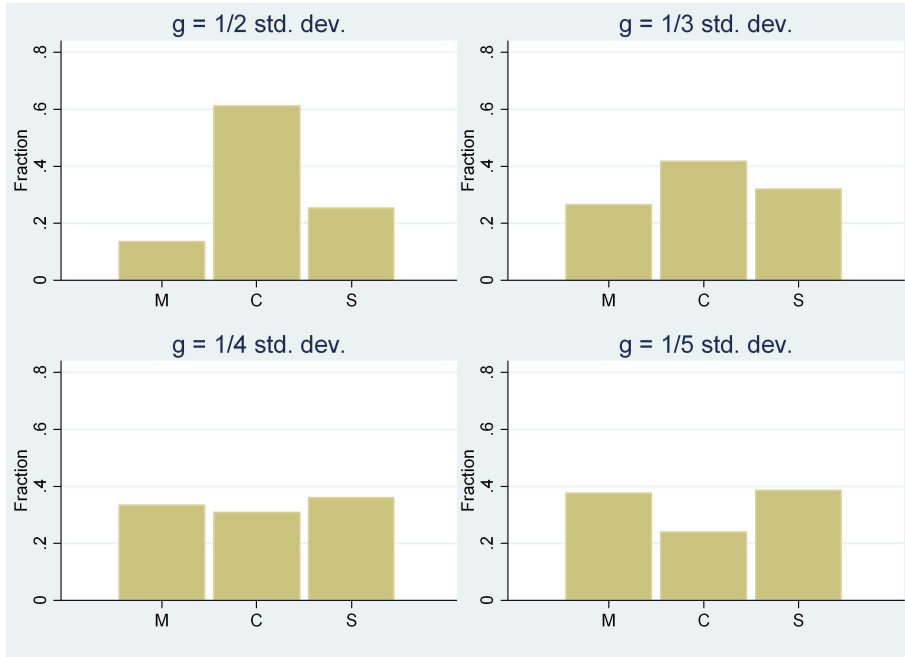


Figure 11: Congress composition for alternative values of g

have a majority in Congress.⁴² This is not surprising given that Figure 10 shows a relatively symmetric distribution of the trade orientation of the districts, with a median value of 0.99. Therefore, out of the four scenarios considered in Section ??, the only empirically relevant ones are characterized by either a majority of C districts or no majority.

Summary statistics for the main variables of interest are reported in Table 4. On average, districts are import oriented, since λ_t^i is smaller than 1. In terms of trade exposure of each district relative to the U.S. at large, notice that the mean of Λ_t^i is slightly higher than 1; this is because, as it is apparent looking at Figure 10, some districts are outliers with respect to their high shares of employees in export industries.

Table 4 also reports summary statistics for all the variables that we will use as controls in our regressions. Although they are not part of the theoretical model, they have been used in other studies on the determinants of congressional votes on trade policy. The Democrat dummy and the conservative rating index are proxies for the congressmen's ideology. The two are highly correlated (i.e., -0.80) since the ratings provided by the American Conservative Union (ACU) rank congressmen on a scale from 0 to 100, with higher scores assigned to conservative politicians. The advantage of this regressor, though, is that it provides more variation than the dichotomous party affiliation dummy. The remaining variables are a dummy for congressmen belonging to the same party as the President, and a Senate dummy to uncover possible differences between

⁴²Even experimenting with smaller value of g (e.g. $g = 1/20$) does not give rise to a majority of M or S districts. In the limit case of $g = 0$, these two types of legislators have almost identical shares in Congress. Notice that the same description applies when we look at the distribution of Λ_t^i year by year.

Table 4: Summary statistics

Variable	Observations	Mean	Std. dev.
$Vote_t^i$	3,068	0.697	0.460
λ_t^i	3,068	0.693	0.684
Trade exposure	3,068	1.194	0.829
Democrat	3,068	0.559	0.497
Conservative rating	3,065	46.704	37.447
Senate	3,068	0.207	0.405
Party as President	3,068	0.495	0.500

the two chambers of Congress.

6 Empirical Methodology and Results

The dependent variable in our empirical analysis, $Vote_t^i$ is dichotomous and equals one if the congressman has voted in favor of granting or extending FTA and zero otherwise. Our baseline specification is thus given by

$$Prob(vote_t^i = 1) = \Phi(\alpha + \beta_1 \mathbf{X}_t^i + \beta_2 \mathbf{Z}) \quad (19)$$

where $\Phi(\cdot)$ is the cumulative normal distribution (i.e., probit model). \mathbf{X}_t^i is a matrix of district-specific variables (i.e., all the variables listed in Table 4), \mathbf{Z} is a matrix of additional controls, which may or may not be time-invariant and district specific (e.g., time or state fixed effects) and α , β_1 , and β_2 are the vectors of parameters to be estimated. Depending on the specification, the main variable of interest (i.e., the district's trade exposure) may be continuous (Λ_t^i) or captured by the dummy variables defined in (18), with possibly different cut-off values for g . In order to facilitate the interpretation of the estimated coefficients, in the tables we report marginal effects (calculated at the mean of each regressor).

Moving to the results, we first want to assess the validity of the voting prediction contained in Proposition 4, according to which the likelihood that a legislator will vote in favor of FTA should increase with the degree to which his constituency is relatively export-oriented compared to the U.S. as a whole. To capture the trade policy preferences of the legislators' constituencies we employ the continuous variable Λ_t^i . The results for this specification are presented in Table 5 below.

In column (1), the simplest possible specification is reported, where the only explanatory variables are Λ_t^i and a set of year effects.⁴³ The prediction of the theoretical model is clearly

⁴³The estimates of various fixed effects are not reported to save on space. All the results and tests not reported in the text are available upon requests.

confirmed in the data, as the estimated coefficient of Λ_t^i is positive and significant at 1 percent level. In other words, a congressman is more likely to vote in favor of granting or extending FTA the more export oriented his district is compared to the whole of the U.S. The set of year dummies is jointly significant and their coefficients indicate a decreasing likelihood over time of voting in favor of FTA.⁴⁴ This suggests an erosion of the American consensus in favor of trade liberalization.

The remaining columns of Table 5 provide variations on the first regression. In the second specification, state effects are included (and they are jointly significant), without any qualitative change in the results. Clearly, this set of dummies controls for state-wide time-invariant determinants and it results in an increased fit of the model.⁴⁵ Still, the qualitative result on Λ_t^i is unchanged although the point estimate of its marginal effect is higher. Keeping the state effects and adding a Senate dummy variable in column (3) has no effect on the main variable of interest. However, Senators are in general more likely to vote in favor of FTA (6 percent on average).

As an additional control, in column (4) we include a dummy variable that takes a value of one if the congressman belongs to the Democratic party, and zero otherwise. Also in this case, the added regressor is significant and negative but the other coefficients are left unchanged. As an alternative, in column (5) we use the conservative rating from the ACU.⁴⁶ It is highly significant and positive, indicating that more conservative congressmen are more likely to vote in favor of FTA.⁴⁷ Both results suggest that the Republicans are more liberal on trade, a claim that may seem odd since Democrats have long been perceived as the traditional champions of free trade. However, their position has changed over time (see Hiscox, 1999). Indeed, around 1970 the parties realigned their trade policy stances as a result of more protectionist unions supporting the Democrats, while Republicans gained ground among export-oriented businesses (see Destler, 1980). For example, in Karol (2000)'s analysis of various trade votes in the 1950s and 1990s, the Democrat dummy variable is consistently positive and significant in the 1950s, but becomes negative and significant for the votes in the 1990s.

The results are also very similar if we check for whether the congressman and the President are aligned, i.e. they belong to the same party. As it turns out, the probability of a congressman voting in favor of FTA increases if the congressman belongs to the same party as the President.

⁴⁴Such trend may be due to various factors, including a strong increase in trade volumes, which might have lead to larger adjustment costs associated with trade liberalization, and the concerns over non-trade issues such as labor and environmental standards (see Elliot, 2000). Notice that Λ_t^i would also be significant at 1 percent and with an almost identical marginal effect if the year dummies were not included, although the Pseudo R^2 would be lower.

⁴⁵The inclusion of state effects forces us to drop the 17 observations for congressmen from Wyoming since they all and always voted in favor of FTA.

⁴⁶These two variables can not be included simultaneously since they are highly correlated, i.e., -0.80.

⁴⁷Since such ratings are not available for three congressmen and the fit of the model is slightly lower, in the following, we will use the Democrat dummy.

Table 5: Empirical results with continuous variable: marginal effects

Regressor	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Trade exposure	0.032*** (0.011)	0.059*** (0.013)	0.059*** (0.013)	0.053*** (0.013)	0.057*** (0.013)	0.053*** (0.013)	0.055*** (0.016)	0.075*** (0.026)
Senate			0.063*** (0.023)	0.073*** (0.024)	0.073*** (0.024)	0.073*** (0.024)		
Democrat				-0.286*** (0.015)		-0.288*** (0.015)	-0.328*** (0.017)	-0.148*** (0.039)
Conservative rating					0.004*** (0.0002)			
Party as President						-0.013 (0.019)		
Year effects	included	included	included	included	included	included	included	included
State effects		included	included	included	included	included	included	included
Observations	3,068	3,051	3,051	3,051	3,048	3,051	2,506	476
Log likelihood	-1,550.18	-1,442.63	-1,419.35	-1,269.48	-1,294.37	-1,269.24	-1,049.34	-174.50
Pseudo R ²	0.18	0.24	0.24	0.32	0.31	0.32	0.34	0.31
χ^2	478.35***	570.05***	566.90***	546.11***	541.67***	540.46***	454.25***	147.63***
Predicted Prob.	0.75	0.77	0.77	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.86

Notes: Dependent variable: $vote_t^i = 1$ if a Congressman votes in favor of FTA, $vote_t^i = 0$ otherwise. Robust standard errors in parenthesis; *** denotes significance at 1% level; ** 5% level; * 10% level. Marginal effects for dummy variables calculated as discrete changes from 0 to 1.

This is consistent with the fact that Republicans are more likely to vote in favor of FTA and most FTA votes occurred under a Republican President.⁴⁸ However, only the Democrat dummy is significant (and still negative) if both dummy variables are included at the same time (column 6). In other words, the alignment between the President and Congress does not seem to matter once we control for the congressmen’s party affiliation.⁴⁹

Finally, in the last two columns of Table 5 we separately consider the behavior of members of the House and the Senate. These specifications are more flexible than simply including a Senate dummy, since all the coefficients, and not only the constant, are allowed to take different values between the two chambers.⁵⁰ The marginal effects of trade exposure and the Democrat dummy for the Senate show different magnitudes, and are always significant. In particular, senators are more sensitive to the trade exposure of their constituency and Democrat senators are more liberal than House Democrats.

We then turn to evaluate the predictions of Proposition 5, according to which, when no group of district representatives has the majority in Congress, M representatives should vote against FTA, while S representatives will tend to vote in favor; furthermore, the likelihood of C representatives voting in favor of FTA should decrease with their relative share in Congress. Instead of using a continuous variable, the specifications reported in Table 6 use the classifications of constituencies into M , C or S types as defined in equation (18). Taking the C constituencies as the base (omitted) category, the two specifications with different cut-off values of g show that congressmen from S and M constituencies always exhibit a statistically different voting behavior on FTA bills. In line with our theoretical model, representatives from S constituencies are always more likely to vote in favor of granting or extending FTA than representatives from M constituencies. This result holds across the different cut-off values chosen for g . However, consistently with Proposition 5, the choice of g bears an effect on the voting behavior of congressmen from C constituencies: if $g = 1/4$, C district representatives represent a smaller share of Congress and are thus more likely to favor FTA. As a result, their voting behavior is not statistically different from that of S representatives. When instead $g = 1/3$, C representatives are a larger share of Congress and are thus less likely to support FTA, and their voting behavior is significantly different from that of M and S legislators. As for the estimates for the Senate

⁴⁸Only three rounds of the votes listed in Table 1 occurred under a Democrat President (i.e., the Trade Agreement of Act of 1979 under President Carter; the extension of FTA in 1993 for completing the Uruguay Round and the failed extension in 1998 under President Clinton).

⁴⁹We have also considered including a dummy variable for votes that occurred during the second term of a President. Unfortunately, this dummy is collinear with the set of year fixed effects, since it does not present any within-year variation: the only votes which took place during a second presidential mandate were the Senate and House votes in 1988 (Reagan administration) and the House vote in 1998 (Clinton administration).

⁵⁰Some more observations are lost because of no variation in the dependent variable within the House and/or the Senate for some States.

and Democrat dummies, they are identical to their counterpart in Table 5.

Table 6: Using dummy variables: marginal effects

Regressor	$g = \frac{1}{3}$ std. dev. (1)	$g = \frac{1}{4}$ std. dev. (2)
S constituency	0.046** (0.020)	0.025 (0.021)
M constituency	-0.047** (0.022)	-0.046** (0.022)
Senate	0.070*** (0.024)	0.068*** (0.024)
Democrat	-0.288*** (0.015)	-0.287*** (0.015)
Year effects	included	included
State effects	included	included
Observations	3,051	3,051
Log likelihood	-1,270.38	-1,272.53
Pseudo R^2	0.32	0.32
χ^2	551.83***	552.49***
Predicted Prob.	0.78	0.78

Notes: Dependent variable: $vote_t^i = 1$ if a Congressman votes in favor of FTA, $vote_t^i = 0$ otherwise. Robust standard errors in parenthesis; *** denotes significance at 1% level; ** 5% level; * 10% level. Marginal effects for dummy variables calculated as discrete changes from 0 to 1.

Finally, we focus on the behavior of congressmen from C constituencies to assess more directly the empirical validity of Proposition 5. Since Proposition 5 refers to scenarios in which no group of constituencies has a majority in Congress, we focus on the cut-off values of $g = \frac{1}{4}$ in Figure 11, for which C constituencies never have a majority.⁵¹ Notice that year fixed effects are not included in these specifications, since they are perfectly collinear with the two main regressors of interest. The results reported in Tables 5 and 6 above show that, when the year fixed effects are included, voting in favor of FTA becomes less likely over time (i.e., the year fixed effects are significant, negative and with bigger absolute values for recent years). To make sure that

⁵¹Notice that, although Figure 11 shows that for $g = \frac{1}{3}$ on average C constituencies do not hold a majority, their share is higher than 0.50 in some years. For this reason, we focus here on the case of $g = \frac{1}{4}$.

our regressors β^C and $\beta^C/(\beta^C + \beta^M)$ do not simply pick up some of these time effects, we have included a linear trend in the regressions. Consistently with a decreasing likelihood of FTA over time, the estimated coefficient for this trend is significant at 1% and negative.

Table 7 contains six different specifications where only the votes of representatives from C constituencies are included as the dependent variable. In the first three columns, the main regressor of interest is the share of C constituencies, i.e., β^C . In the remaining three columns, instead, the share of C constituencies in the coalition of C and M constituencies is included, i.e., $\beta^C/(\beta^C + \beta^M)$. Focusing on the first two rows of Table 9, we see that the empirical results are consistent with Proposition 5, since C congressmen are more likely to vote against FTA the higher their share in Congress or in their coalition with the M representatives. The point estimates in the last three columns are lower since $\beta^C/(\beta^C + \beta^M)$ is always higher than β^C and the two variables are highly correlated (i.e., 0.90).⁵²

As for the effect of the additional controls, their impact is comparable with the previous specifications. Senators are more likely to vote in favor of FTA, while Democrat congressmen are less favorable, also when ideology is measured with the continuous conservative rating. The only noticeable difference with respect to Table 7 is that the dummy variable for the alignment between congressmen and the President is now significant and positive when included along with the Democrat dummy.⁵³

As mentioned above, the results presented in Table 7 were based on a classification of legislators using $g = 1/4$ as a fraction of the standard deviation of our trade exposure measure, which corresponds to a scenario in which there is no majority.

The fact that these results provide strong evidence for the specific voting behavior of C representatives predicted by Proposition 5 for the case of no majority—a type of voting behavior that would only arise in such a scenario—suggest that this was indeed the empirically relevant one. This implies that if we were to use larger values of g we would artificially give rise to scenarios in which C constituencies have a majority in Congress, hence misclassifying some of the M and S legislators; in turn, this should lead to weaker evidence of a negative relationship between the voting behavior of C constituencies and their share in Congress. Indeed, when we tried running our regressions for higher values of g (e.g., $1/2$ and $2/3$), we found that this leads to lower estimates of the coefficients in Table 9 (column 1), and that these estimates become insignificant for large enough g .

⁵²Notice that, if we exclude the variable *Trend* from the set of controls, the shares β^C and $\beta^C/(\beta^C + \beta^M)$ remained negative and significant at 1%, although with much higher (in absolute values) point estimates.

⁵³The inclusion of the state fixed effects results in the exclusion of 90 observations because of the lack of variations within some states over time. The results are similar if the state effects are not included.

Table 7: Empirical results for C constituencies: marginal effects

Regressor	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
β^C	-0.023*** (0.007)	-0.025*** (0.007)	-0.022*** (0.007)			
$\beta^C / (\beta^C + \beta^M)$				-0.012*** (0.004)	-0.013*** (0.004)	-0.012*** (0.004)
Senate	0.126** (0.045)	0.126** (0.045)	0.124** (0.046)	0.122*** (0.045)	0.120*** (0.045)	0.119** (0.046)
Democrat	-0.352*** (0.031)		-0.343*** (0.031)	-0.347*** (0.030)		-0.339*** (0.030)
Conservative rating		0.005*** (0.001)			0.005*** (0.000)	
Party as President			0.075** (0.034)			0.077** (0.033)
Trend	-0.021*** (0.004)	-0.020*** (0.004)	-0.022*** (0.004)	-0.027*** (0.003)	-0.026*** (0.003)	-0.028*** (0.003)
State effects	included	included	included	included	included	included
Observations	849	848	849	849	848	849
Log likelihood	-371.37	-374.11	-369.18	-371.78	-374.52	-369.44
Pseudo R ²	0.31	0.31	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32
χ^2	213.04***	209.10***	209.83***	205.21***	199.22***	201.70***
Predicted Prob.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.74	0.73	0.74

Notes: Dependent variable: $vote_t^i = 1$ if a Congressman votes in favor of FTA, $vote_t^i = 0$ otherwise. Only congressmen from C constituencies (defined with $g = \frac{1}{4}$) are included. Robust standard errors in parenthesis; *** denotes significance at 1% level; ** 5% level; * 10% level. Marginal effects for dummy variables calculated as discrete changes from 0 to 1.

7 Robustness Checks

In this section, we discuss the results of a series of estimations that we have performed to check the robustness of our empirical results. All the specifications not explicitly reported are available upon request.

The first three robustness checks are related to our measure of trade orientation. As mentioned above, the CBP series that we employ to construct our Λ_t^t variable mostly contains data on employment in manufacturing industries, with very little detailed information about employ-

ment in agriculture. Although Λ_i^t includes employment in agriculture-related sectors such as dairy products, to separately assess the role of agriculture in shaping individual congressman behavior, we have tried to include as an additional control in all our regressions the share of population employed in agriculture in each congressional district, which can be obtained from the Census of Agriculture. In all cases, in line with previous results reported by Baldwin and Magee (2000a,b), the estimated coefficient was negative but not significant, and there was no qualitative or quantitative change for the other explanatory variables.

The definition of Λ_i^t that was used in our baseline regressions also excluded employment in services, even if the CBP does include information on employment in some service sectors. We have excluded services because there is no available data on trade in services by the same SIC or NAICS codes used by the CBP, which prevents us from directly classifying the various activities within services as being import or export oriented. Data on services can be derived though from balance of payments statistics (BoP statistics) and are available in large groupings (e.g., transportation, travel, construction). Moreover, a known problem with these data is its reliability, since they are more difficult to collect than those on traded goods.

Bearing in mind these caveats, we have manually matched SIC and NAICS codes to the categories of services available from the International Monetary Fund BoP statistics. Notice though, that detailed service data by major categories are only available from 1986 (e.g., the categories ‘Construction’ and ‘Computer and information services’ were not reported in earlier years). Thus, when using service data we had to restrict our sample to the votes that occurred from 1988 onward. Table 11 in the Appendix reports the correspondences that we created in order to use CBP data on employment for service-related sectors. Unfortunately, we could not match some service sectors to specific SIC or NAICS code.⁵⁴ The included sectors account on average for more than 70 percent of the value of services exports and imports for the years included in our empirical analysis. Constructing our Λ_i^t including service data, we obtain a distribution of this variable which is characterized by fewer extreme values (i.e., the maximum value is 6.3 compared to 9.5 in Figure 10) and a smaller standard deviation (i.e., 0.74 versus 0.83). This may be the result of the fact that employment in services is less geographically concentrated than in manufacturing.

⁵⁴The excluded sectors are ‘Postal and courier services’, ‘Royalties and license fees’, ‘Insurance services’, ‘Financial services’, ‘Personal, cultural, and recreational services’, and ‘Government services’. Insurance and financial services had to be excluded since we cannot match them separately to SIC and NAICS categories and their net balances exhibit different signs (i.e., the United States is a net importer (exporter) of insurance (financial) services).

Table 8: Robustness check using services: marginal effects

Regressor	Including		Including	
	(1)	services	(3)	services
Trade exposure	0.086*** (0.019)	0.071*** (0.022)		
β^C			-0.028*** (0.008)	-0.015** (0.006)
Senate	0.110*** (0.031)	0.110*** (0.031)	0.152** (0.055)	0.152*** (0.051)
Democrat	-0.367*** (0.019)	-0.374*** (0.019)	-0.422*** (0.035)	-0.435*** (0.036)
Trend			-0.020*** (0.005)	-0.021*** (0.005)
Year effects	included	included		
State effects	included	included	included	included
Observations	2,484	2,484	724	757
Log likelihood	-1,550.18	-1,193.51	-347.83	-367.03
Pseudo R ²	0.27	0.27	0.28	0.27
χ^2	493.67***	488.05***	566.90***	183.92***
Predicted Prob.	0.68	0.68	0.65	0.67

Notes: Dependent variable: $vote_t^i = 1$ if a Congressman votes in favor of FTA, $vote_t^i = 0$ otherwise. Data are from the period 1988-2002. Only congressmen from C constituencies are included in columns (3) and (4) (defined with $g = \frac{1}{4}$ and $g = \frac{1}{3}$, respectively). Robust standard errors in parenthesis; *** denotes significance at 1% level; ** 5% level; * 10% level. Marginal effects for dummy variables calculated as discrete changes from 0 to 1.

The results of two of our main specifications when constructing our Λ_t^i variable with employment in service sectors are reported in Table 8. Columns (1) and (3) replicate the earlier results with data only on manufacturing on the shorter sample period for which service data are available (i.e., votes from 1988) in order to allow a direct comparison of the effect of including employment on services. The reported marginal effects show that the qualitative results are unchanged although the point estimates are somewhat larger than in the benchmark specifications in Tables 5 and 7. When we also include service data, all the results continue to hold. In column (2), the coefficient on trade exposure is positive and significant at 1 percent. The point estimate

for β^C in specification (4) is also very similar to column (3) although the observations included in the last two columns are not the same since the identity of C constituencies is influenced by the inclusion of employment in service sectors. Thus, our results are robust to the inclusion of services, even if there are various problems related to their use, not least that the sample period is reduced.⁵⁵

A final check concerning how we constructed our Λ_i^t variable concerns the issue of within-county heterogeneity. Recall that we constructed employment variables for congressional districts by aggregating county-level data. For those counties which are split across more than one district, we imputed employees proportionally to the share of population of a county assigned to that district. This procedure may lead to imprecise values of Λ_i^t for those counties which are split in many districts, if they are very diverse in terms of the geographic distribution of production activities. To deal with this issue, we have performed our estimations leaving out those counties which are split in more than ten districts, i.e., Los Angeles county (California) and Cook county (Illinois). The results are not affected.

A second set of robustness checks concerns our methodology. Instead of using robust standard errors, we can cluster the errors by constituency, thus allowing for intra-group correlation over time. This approach seems a priori the most appropriate in our case, and when we follow it the significance levels of our main variables of interest in all the specifications presented earlier are unchanged.⁵⁶ Notice though that this procedure ignores the fact that the definitions of districts change over time due to redistricting, which is why we only discuss these results in the robustness section.⁵⁷

As an additional robustness check, we have estimated our main specifications by decades in order to put more emphasis on cross-sectional variation instead of the time dimension. To this end, we have defined three subsamples following each decennial Census starting with the first year for which the new districts were defined, thus distinguishing the periods 1973-1982, 1983-1992, and 1993-2002. The results for the two more recent decades are qualitatively similar to the ones reported earlier for the full sample, while this is not the true for the first subsample. However, analyzing the first decade in isolation is not very meaningful since the data do not exhibit much variation as the votes in 1974 and 1979 passed with an overwhelming majority (see

⁵⁵It should be stressed that in the last two columns, the results presented for manufacturing only (column 3) are computed for of a value of $g = 1/4$, which corresponds to a scenario in which none of the legislators' types has a majority in Congress. When we also include services (column 4), we use a value of $g = 1/3$ which implies the same no-majority scenario and identifies a similar number of C legislators while using $g = 1/4$ would result in only 551 C constituencies and little variation in their share over time.

⁵⁶The only relevant change is that the Senate dummy is significant at 5 percent, instead of 1 percent, in some specifications.

⁵⁷The theory underlying the use of clusters is valid asymptotically in the number of clusters and the number of clusters should be larger than the number of parameters to be estimated. For these reasons, we do not cluster by state.

Table 1) and the vote of 1973 is not included because of data problems.⁵⁸

We have also experimented with a series of minor variations of our main specifications. For example, we tried substituting the year fixed effects with U.S. wide macroeconomic variables, such as GDP growth and unemployment rates. While the coefficients of these regressors were mostly significant and positive, the qualitative results of our analysis remained unchanged. We have also performed estimations using only the sample of congressional votes on FTA, excluding votes which also included other trade provisions.⁵⁹ The results showed no substantial qualitative change when restricting the sample in this way.

In general, our empirical analysis provides strong support for the theoretical predictions of our model concerning legislators' FTA voting behavior (Propositions 4 and 5 above). Other control variables, even when significant, do not change this conclusion.

8 Conclusions

In the theoretical analysis presented above, we have focused on trade negotiations between two countries, in the presence of a crucial asymmetry between them: in the home country, Congress could decide whether or not to delegate trade negotiating authority to the President (granting FTA) or to retain amendment power (not granting FTA). This modeling choice was motivated by real institutional arrangements, since the United States is the only country in which Congress can decide whether or not to retain the power to amend trade agreements. We showed that this institutional asymmetry could generate an advantage for the home country, skewing negotiated tariff outcomes in its favor. This is because, by being represented by a protectionist Congress majority, the home country can be a “tougher bargainer” in trade negotiations, thus obtaining larger concessions from the foreign country.⁶⁰

More generally, there exist three possible ways in which a country can negotiate international trade deals. Based on the extent to which Congress is involved in the negotiations, we can distinguish between three institutional arrangements:

Full delegation: a scenario in which the President retains complete decision-making power over trade policy and trade agreements are not subject to congressional approval;

Partial delegation: a scenario in which Congress retains the power to reject trade agreements negotiated by the executive;

⁵⁸See discussion in section 2.

⁵⁹This subset includes only the votes which took place in 1991, 1993 and 1998 (see Table 1 above).

⁶⁰In line with this view, during the period in which President Clinton lacked FTA, it was argued that U.S. “trading partners are negotiating with the US Congress through the administration (. . .) In effect, the administration appears to be intent on taking advantage of the anxiety of other trading partners, by asking them to pay a price now before going to the Congress” (see www.sunsonline.org).

No delegation: a scenario in which Congress retains the power to shape trade deals through amendments.

The current U.S. institutional setting rules out the first possibility,⁶¹ and involves the recurrent choice between the last two arrangements, i.e., partial delegation (FTA) and no delegation. While our analysis has focused on the determinants of fast track voting decisions in the United States and their implications for trade negotiations, our model can help to shed light on broader institutional design questions that can arise in the context of international negotiations. For example, our theoretical framework could be used to examine the implications of the three possible institutional arrangements from the point of view of world welfare.

Our model can be easily extended in two directions, which would both tend to make delegating trade negotiation authority to the executive more desirable. The first extension involves making the model symmetric, i.e., allowing the foreign Congress to have a similar institutional arrangement as in the home country. This would be the case, for example, if the EU Council of Ministers was allowed to retain the power to amend negotiated trade agreements. In this scenario, both countries might be tempted to leave trade negotiations in the hands of protectionist legislators, so as to attempt to skew trade agreements in their favor. However, if they both did so, they would end up being worse off than if they could commit to delegate trade negotiations to their executives.⁶²

We could also extend our model to a multi-country setting. Our two-country setup shows that home (the U.S.) can gain by not granting FTA to the President. This conclusion may be reversed if there are more negotiating partners. This is because, in the absence of FTA, U.S. trading partners may decide to negotiate with other countries instead. As pointed out by Bhagwati, “if we don’t have fast track, we are going to lose out in the race for bilaterals. When the Europeans try for bilaterals, we’ve sort of stopped them in their tracks by joining in and pushing for these things ourselves. Now, we could get handicapped, because we’re the only country in the world that requires fast track. But I’m optimistic, for a perverse reason, which is that in our own self interest we will have to pass some form of fast track. Otherwise we’ll be big sore losers in the world trade system.”⁶³

⁶¹Even under the previous RTAA regime, even though the executive did not need congressional approval for the implementation of a negotiated tariff agreement, it still needed to receive Congress authorization to start trade negotiations.

⁶²See Jones (1999) for a similar prisoners’ dilemma type of scenario in two-player delegation games.

⁶³See recent interview of Bagwati with the Council of Foreign relations (www.cfr.org).

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Appendix

Indifference Curves for the Home Country

In this section, we characterize the shape of the indifference curves of the various agents in our home economy. We start by considering the preferences of the President and then turn to the preferences of the representatives of the M , S and C constituencies.

As in Mayer (1981), we draw the indifference curves in the (τ, τ^*) space. Totally differentiating equation (5) and setting $dW = 0$ the slope of the executive’s indifference curve is given by

$$\frac{d\tau^*}{d\tau} = - \frac{\left[\frac{\partial R_1}{\partial \tau} + \frac{\partial T}{\partial \tau} + \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial \tau} \right]}{\left[\frac{\partial R_2}{\partial \tau^*} + \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial \tau^*} \right]} \quad (20)$$

and substituting we obtain

$$\frac{d\tau^*}{d\tau} = \frac{M_1 \frac{d\pi_1}{d\tau} (1 - \tau \epsilon^*)}{M_2 \frac{d\pi_2}{d\tau^*}}, \quad (21)$$

where $\epsilon^* = \frac{dM_1^*}{dp_1^*} \frac{p_1^*}{M_1^*} > 0$.

Notice that, since the home country imports good 1 and exports good 2, we must have $M_1 > 0$ and $M_2 < 0$. Also, as long as goods 1 and 2 are normal, an increase in their price will decrease overall consumption, implying

$$\frac{d\pi_1}{d\tau} = - \frac{\pi_1 \frac{dM_1}{dp_1}}{\frac{dM_1}{dp_1} (1 + \tau) + \frac{dM_1^*}{dp_1^*}} < 0, \quad (22)$$

$$\frac{d\pi_2}{d\tau^*} = -\frac{\pi_2 \frac{dM_2}{dp_2^*}}{\frac{dM_2^*}{dp_2^*}(1 + \tau^*) + \frac{dM}{dp_2}} < 0. \quad (23)$$

This implies that the denominator of the term on the right hand side of equation (21) is positive. Turning now to the numerator, its sign depends on the the sign of $(1 - \tau\epsilon^*)$. It follows immediately that

$$\frac{d\tau^*}{dt} \geq (<)0 \Leftrightarrow \tau \leq (>), \frac{1}{\epsilon^*} \quad (24)$$

where $\hat{\tau} = \frac{1}{\epsilon^*}$ is the home country's optimal tariff as derived in (7). Therefore, for non-negative values of τ , the slope of the home country's indifference curves is positive, zero or negative depending on the home country's actual tariff rate being less than, equal to, or larger than its optimal tariff.

We turn now to the indifference curves of the representatives of the various constituencies, which determine FTA voting decisions in Congress. From equation (12) we know that the shape of the indifference curves of the representative of constituency C is identical to the one of the president. Consider instead the representative of the import competing M constituency. Totally differentiating equation (10), and setting $dW^M = 0$, we obtain that

$$\left(\frac{d\tau^*}{d\tau}\right)^M = -\frac{[\alpha_1^M \frac{\partial R_1}{\partial \tau} + h(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \tau} + \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial \tau})]}{[\alpha_2^M \frac{\partial R_2}{\partial \tau^*} + h \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial \tau^*}]} \quad (25)$$

Notice that, compared to the right hand side of equation (20), the numerator is bigger and the denominator is smaller in absolute value, since $\alpha_1^M > h > \alpha_2^M$. Thus, as shown in Figure 5, the indifference curves of the representatives of M import constituencies are *steeper* than those of the C representative and/or of the home country as a whole. From this, it immediately follows that M representative's most preferred domestic tariff \hat{t}^M is larger than the tariff most preferred by the executive, i.e.,

$$\hat{\tau}^M > \hat{\tau} = \hat{\tau}^C. \quad (26)$$

Consider now the representative of the S constituency. Totally differentiating equation 11 and setting $dW^S = 0$, we obtain

$$\left(\frac{d\tau^*}{d\tau}\right)^S = -\frac{[\alpha_1^S \frac{\partial R_1}{\partial \tau} + h(\frac{\partial T}{\partial \tau} + \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial \tau})]}{[\alpha_2^S \frac{\partial R_2}{\partial \tau^*} + h \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial \tau^*}]} \quad (27)$$

Notice that, compared to the right hand side of equation 20, the numerator is smaller and the denominator is bigger in absolute value as $\alpha_2^S > h > \alpha_1^S$. Thus, for each τ , the indifference curve of the representative of the S constituency is *flatter* than the indifference curve of the president and/or representative C . As a result, representative S most preferred tariff $\hat{\tau}^S$ is smaller than the tariff most preferred by the executive. Thus, we have established the following ranking of

optimal domestic tariffs for the legislators in the home country:

$$\hat{\tau}^M > \hat{\tau} = \hat{\tau}^C = \frac{1}{\epsilon^*} > \hat{\tau}^S. \quad (28)$$

Characterization of the Contract Curve (*CC* locus)

We can now proceed to characterize the set of efficient agreements between the home and the foreign country. We start by considering the set of efficient agreements that could be signed by the presidents of the two trading partners. This set is represented by the combinations of tariff levels (τ, τ^*) for the two countries such that the indifference curves of the two executives are tangent to each other. The slope of foreign's executive indifference curve is given by

$$\left(\frac{d\tau^*}{d\tau}\right)^* = \frac{M_1 \frac{d\pi_1}{d\tau}}{M_2^* \frac{d\pi_2}{d\tau^*} (1 - \tau^* \epsilon)}. \quad (29)$$

To characterize the contract curve between the two welfare-maximizing executives, we simply impose tangency of their indifference curve by setting

$$\left(\frac{d\tau^*}{d\tau}\right)^* = \frac{d\tau^*}{d\tau} \quad (30)$$

and recalling that $M_1 = -M_1^*$ and that $M_2^* = -M_2$, the set of efficient agreements between the two presidents must then satisfy the condition

$$(1 - \tau\epsilon^*)(1 - \tau^*\epsilon) - 1 = 0 \quad (31)$$

This condition implies that the set of efficient agreements goes through the origin, i.e., through the free trade point.

Table 9: List of SIC industries

SIC	Description
20	Food and Kindred Products
21	Tobacco Products
22	Textile Mill Products
23	Apparel and Other Finished Products Made From Fabrics and Similar Materials
24	Lumber and Wood Products, Except Furniture
25	Furniture and Fixtures
26	Paper and Allied Products
27	Printing, Publishing, and Allied Industries
28	Chemicals and Allied Products
29	Petroleum Refining and Related Industries
30	Rubber and Miscellaneous Plastics Products
31	Leather and Leather Products
32	Stone, Clay, Glass, and Concrete Products
33	Primary Metal Industries
34	Fabricated Metal Products, Except Machinery and Transportation Equipment
35	Industrial and Commercial Machinery And Computer Equipment
36	Electronic and Other Electrical Equipment and Components, Except Computer Equipment
37	Transportation Equipment
38	Measuring, Analyzing, And Controlling Instruments; Photographic, Medical and Optical Goods; Watches And Clocks
39	Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries

Table 10: List of NAICS industries

NAICS	Description
311	Food Manufacturing
312	Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing
313	Textile Mills
314	Textile Product Mills
315	Apparel Manufacturing
316	Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing
321	Wood Product Manufacturing
322	Paper Manufacturing
323	Printing and Related Support Activities
324	Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing
325	Chemical Manufacturing
326	Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing
331	Primary Metal Manufacturing
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing
333	Machinery Manufacturing
334	Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing
335	Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing
336	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing
337	Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing

Table 11: Correspondences used for service data

BoP definition	SIC categories	NAICS categories
Transportation + Travel	44: Water transportation	481: Air Transportation
	45: Transportation by air	483: Water transportation
	46: Pipelines, except natural gas	484: Truck transportation
		485: Transit and ground passenger transportation
		486: Pipeline transportation
		487: Scenic and sightseeing transportation
		488: Support activities for transportation
Telecommunications services	48: Communications	513: Broadcasting and telecommunications
Construction services	15: Building construction general contractors and operative builders	233: Building, developing, and general contracting
	16: Heavy construction other than building construction contractors	234: Heavy construction
	17: Construction special trade contractors	235: Special trade contractors
Computer and information services + Other business services	73: Business services	514: Information services and data processing services
	81: Legal services	541: Professional, scientific, and technical services
	87: Engineering, accounting, research, management, and related services	551: Management of companies and enterprises
		561: Administrative and support services