

# Matching and Sorting in a Global Economy\*

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## Abstract

We develop a neoclassical trade model with heterogeneous factors of production. We consider a world with two factors, “managers” and “worker”, each with a distribution of ability levels. Production combines a manager of some type with a group of workers. The output of a unit depends on the types of the two factors, with complementarity between them, while exhibiting diminishing returns to the number of workers. We examine the sorting of factors to sectors and the matching of factors within sectors, and we use the model to study the determinants of the trade pattern and the effects of trade on the wage and salary distributions and on measured productivity. Finally, we extend the model to include search frictions and consider the distribution of employment rates.

**Keywords:** heterogeneous labor, matching, sorting, productivity, wage distribution, international trade.

**JEL Classification:** F11, F16

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# 1 Introduction

In this paper, we study how international trade affects the sorting of heterogeneous workers and managers into industries and the matching of workers with managers in production units. It is by now well known that firms in the same industry differ in size, in the compositions of their workforces, in the technologies and capital goods they use, and in the wages they pay to their workers. Industries differ in factor intensities and in the marginal contributions of worker and managerial ability to firm productivity. Workers differ in physical attributes, in cognitive abilities, and in their education, training, and experience. Although some studies of international trade have examined the assignment of heterogeneous labor to different sectors and others have considered the matching of workers to heterogeneous teammates or technologies, relatively little is known about the general problem of how factors sort and match in the open economy when several of these factors are differentiated, when fixed quantities of one impart decreasing returns to the others, and when industries differ in their factor intensities and in the usefulness of factor “quality.” Our paper addresses these more general, allocational issues and their implications for factor rewards. Because workers and managers are heterogeneous, our analysis sheds light on the impact of trade on the *distribution* of wages and managerial salaries, and thereby on the impact of trade on earnings inequality.

By allowing for worker, manager, and industry heterogeneity, we can better understand a number of issues concerning the pattern and consequences of international trade. First, we can study how countries’ *distributions* of differentiated factors, in conjunction with their aggregate endowments of these factors, determine their comparative advantage in the various sectors. Bombardini et al. (2012) provide evidence, for example, that countries’ skill dispersions have a quantitatively similar impact on trade flows as do their aggregate endowments of human capital. Second, we can investigate how trade influences factor returns across the entire income distribution, affecting more than just the relative compensation paid to one factor versus another or to workers employed in one industry versus another. These additional dimensions of inequality can be useful for understanding recent findings of substantial variation in wages that is not easily explained by observable worker characteristics. Helpman et al. (2012) show, for example, that within-industry wage variation accounts for a majority of wage inequality in Brazil even after controlling for workers’ occupations. Finally, we can examine how globalization affects measured productivity in different sectors as a result of the altered patterns of sorting and matching that are induced by trade. The effect of trade liberalization on measured productivity has been the focus of much recent empirical research; see, for example, Pavcnik (2002), Trefler (2004), and De Loecker (2011).

The literature on the *sorting* of workers to industries includes recent work by Costinot (2009), Costinot and Vogel (2010), and Ohnsorge and Trefler (2007), as well as earlier work by Mussa

(1982) and Ruffin (1988).<sup>1</sup> All of these authors emphasize the comparative advantage that the various types of labor have when employed in different industries. They study the determinants of the trade pattern in countries that differ in the compositions of their labor forces and the impact that trade has on income inequality across the skill or ability spectrum. But most assume a linear relationship between labor input (of a given quality) and output or, what amounts to the same, an absence of interactions between quantities of labor and quantities of other factors of production. As emphasized by Eeckhout and Kircher (2012), models with one worker per firm or with a linear relationship between labor quantity and output cannot speak to the determinants of a firm’s capital intensity or its manager’s span of control.

The *matching* of workers to technologies within an industry is the focus of work by Yeaple (2005) and Sampson (2012). These authors also assume a production function with constant returns to labor and thus omit interactions between labor and any other factors of production.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, Grossman and Maggi (2000) study the pairing of workers who perform different production tasks, but in a context with exactly two workers per firm and therefore no scope for variation in factor intensity or firm size. The work of Antràs et al. (2006) does allow for endogenous span of control in a model with matching of workers and managers, but theirs is a one-sector model with international production teams and they assume a particular technology that tightly links the quality and the quantity of labor that a given manager can oversee.

Our analysis extends a familiar trade model with two sectors, two factors, and perfectly-competitive product markets. While most of our analysis assumes frictionless factor markets, we also consider an economy with search and matching frictions. We call one factor “labor” and assume throughout that workers are differentiated along a single dimension that we term “ability.” Workers with greater ability are assumed to be more productive in both industries, but the contribution of ability to output may differ across uses. We refer to the second input as “managers.” Similar to workers, managers generally differ in ability and more able managers contribute more to output in both sectors, albeit to an extent that may vary by industry. With this formulation, we can address how the economy matches a fixed but heterogeneous supply of one input (managers) with a fixed but heterogeneous supply of another (labor) in a setting where the relative number of workers per manager is a matter for firms to decide.

In the next section, we lay out our basic model of an open economy with two countries, two competitive industries, and two heterogeneous factors of production. Section 3 considers trade between countries that have heterogeneous workers but homogeneous managers. Our analysis of this simpler setting aids in understanding the more general case discussed in Sections 4 and 5, where managers also are assumed to vary in ability. We show that, with homogeneous managers, the sorting of workers is guided by a cross-industry comparison of the ratio of the elasticity of

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<sup>1</sup>We use the term “sorting” to refer to the allocation of heterogeneous factors to different industries and the term “matching” to refer to the combination of differentiated factors within an industry.

<sup>2</sup>Both of these authors assume, however, that firms produce differentiated products in a world of monopolistic competition, so that inputs of additional labor by a firm do generate decreasing returns in terms of *revenue*. Thus, these models do share some features with the ones that we study below.

output with respect to labor quality to the elasticity of output with respect to labor quantity. This can generate a simple sorting pattern in which all the best workers with ability above some threshold level are employed in one sector and the remaining workers are employed in the other. But it also can generate more complex patterns in which, for example, the most able and least able workers sort to one sector while workers with intermediate levels of ability are allocated to the other. Trade between countries with similar distributions of worker talent is determined by their aggregate factor endowments as in the Heckscher-Ohlin model, whereas trade between countries with similar relative endowments reveals a comparative advantage for a country with a superior distribution of labor quality (as reflected in a proportional rightward shift of its talent distribution) in the good produced by the industry in which worker ability contributes more elastically to productivity. With homogeneous managers, relative price movements do not affect within-sector relative wages and therefore have no effect on wage inequality *within industries*. Across industries, the impact of trade on wages reflects a blend of Stolper-Samuelson and Ricardo-Viner forces, as in models with imperfect factor mobility such as Mussa (1982) and Grossman (1983).

Section 4 addresses the sorting of heterogeneous workers and heterogeneous managers for the special case in which the elasticity of output with respect to any factor’s ability is constant in both industries. In obvious analogy with production functions based on quantities alone, we refer to this as the Cobb-Douglas (productivity) case. In this setting, there is a unique sorting pattern for each factor—which again reflects the ratio of a sector’s elasticity of output with respect to an input’s ability and the elasticity of output with respect to the input’s quantity—but the matching of workers and managers within an industry is not uniquely determined. Comparative advantage again reflects relative aggregate endowments and the distributions of ability. An abundance of managers per worker generates comparative advantage in the manager-intensive sector, whereas a “better” distribution of some factor generates comparative advantage in the sector that exhibits the greater elasticity of output with respect to that factor’s quality. In the Cobb-Douglas case, the wages of workers and the salaries of managers in a given sector both rise with ability at constant rates. These rates, which differ by factor and industry, reflect technological considerations alone. It follows that trade has no impact on within-industry wage or salary inequality. Other dimensions of factor rewards again are driven by a mix of Stolper-Samuelson and Ricardo-Viner forces.

In Section 5 we turn to the most interesting case, which has heterogeneity of both inputs and productivity that is a strictly log supermodular function of the abilities of the production unit’s manager and workers. Unlike the Cobb-Douglas case, the strong complementarities that are captured by strict log supermodularity induce positive assortative matching in each sector. That is, among the sets of workers and managers that sort to a given sector, the better workers are matched with the better managers. We provide sufficient conditions under which all of the workers with ability above some threshold level and all the managers with ability above some (different) threshold level sort to the same sector. We also provide conditions under which the high-ability workers sort to the same sector as the low-ability managers. More complex sorting patterns are possible as well. When countries share the same distributions of abilities and the sorting patterns

do involve a single threshold for each factor, then the country endowed with more managers per worker must export the manager-intensive good.

When there are strong complementarities between the types of workers and managers, the effects of trade or trade liberalization on the wage distribution are subtle and interesting. An increase in the relative price of some good might worsen the matches for all workers and improve the matches for all managers, or vice versa. Alternatively, a change in relative price might improve the matches for workers in one industry while worsening those for workers in the other. We identify conditions for these various shifts in the matching functions and discuss their implications for factor rewards. In particular, we show that trade may cause within-industry income inequality to rise or fall and the impact of trade on an input's within-sector earnings inequality can differ from the changes that occur across sectors.

In all of these settings, if the calculation of total factor productivity (TFP) fails to account for factor heterogeneity, then trade will affect measured TFP in each industry and in the economy as a whole. Consider, for example, a setting where the more able workers and managers sort into the same sector in both countries, and the countries open to trade. The resulting price changes induce workers and managers to move from the import-competing sector to the export sector in each country. In the country where the import-competing sector employs the most able factors, the marginal workers and managers that relocate are more able than those they join in their new industry but less able than those that remain behind. Then average worker and manager quality rise in each sector, and with them, measured TFP in each sector and in the economy as a whole. Just the opposite happens in the other country, where average factor quality falls in both sectors. Accordingly, trade can generate a convergence or divergence of measured productivity, depending on the initial conditions and the patterns of comparative advantage, even if the underlying production functions do not change. The effects on measured productivity in our model are reminiscent of those in the seminal Roy (1951) model of labor sorting, except that here the changes in factor composition occur due to trade.

In Section 6, we extend the analysis to include economies with labor-market frictions by assuming that workers engage in directed search. In this setting, each potential worker seeks a job at a firm of his choosing and manages to be hired by that firm with a probability that depends on the number of applicants per vacancy. We show that, with these search frictions, wage and employment rates both vary with ability; more able workers not only earn higher wages but also enjoy better job prospects. Moreover, trade affects both wage and employment-rate inequality.

Section 7 contains some concluding remarks.

## 2 The Economic Environment

We examine a world economy comprising two countries, two industries, and two factors of production. We call one of the factors “labor” and refer to individuals as “workers.” Each country is endowed with a continuum of workers with various abilities. The exogenous supply of work-

ers of ability  $q_L$  in country  $c$  is  $\bar{L}^c \phi_L^c(q_L)$  for  $c = \{A, B\}$ , where  $\bar{L}^c$  is the aggregate endowment of labor and  $\phi_L^c(q_L)$  is the density of workers with ability  $q_L$ . For ease of exposition, we assume throughout that  $\phi_L^c(q_L)$  is continuous and strictly positive on its finite support  $S_L^c = [q_{L\min}^c, q_{L\max}^c]$ , where  $0 < q_{L\min}^c < q_{L\max}^c < +\infty$ . We refer to the second factor as “managers.” Country  $c$  has a continuum of managers of measure  $\bar{H}^c$ . We begin in Section 3 by assuming that all managers are alike. Subsequently, we introduce manager heterogeneity and then denote the density of managers with ability  $q_H$  by  $\phi_H^c(q_H)$ , with  $\phi_H^c(q_H)$  continuous and strictly positive on its finite support  $S_H^c = [q_{H\min}^c, q_{H\max}^c]$ .<sup>3</sup>

Firms in the two countries have access to the same constant-returns-to-scale technologies. Output per manager in an industry reflects the *number* of workers that is combined with a manager there and the *abilities* of the inputs that are used in the production process. Specifically, when a firm combines a manager with a group of workers, it must allocate a fraction of the manager’s “time” to each of the workers. The greater is the fraction of managerial time that is devoted to a worker, the greater is his productivity, but with diminishing returns. This formulation, which is familiar from previous models of a manager’s “span of control” such as Sattinger (1975), Lucas (1978) and Garicano (2000), implies that firms will combine a given manager with a group of workers of uniform type and will divide the manager’s time evenly among them.<sup>4</sup> To conserve on notation, we invoke this implication of the firm’s optimal combination of inputs and write the output in sector  $i$  of a manager of ability  $q_H$  who is teamed with  $\ell$  workers of (a common) type  $q_L$  as<sup>5</sup>

$$x_i = \psi_i(q_H, q_L) \ell^{\gamma_i}, \quad 0 < \gamma_i < 1, \quad (1)$$

where  $\gamma_i < 1$  is a parameter that reflects the diminishing returns from dividing the manager’s time more finely and  $\psi_i(q_H, q_L)$  is a strictly increasing, twice continuously differentiable, log supermodular function that captures the complementarities between the types of the two factors. We assume that factor type contributes to productivity in qualitatively the same way in both sectors and, without further loss of generality, order the types so that  $\partial \psi_i / \partial q_F > 0$  for  $i = 1, 2$  and  $F = H, L$ . With this labeling convention, we refer to  $q_F$  as the “ability” of factor  $F$ . Note that the industries generally differ in the strength of the complementarities between factors, in the contributions of factor abilities to productivity, and in their factor intensities.

The rest of the model is familiar from neoclassical trade theory. Consumers worldwide share

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<sup>3</sup>We focus on an environment where factor endowments are invariant to trade. This makes our results comparable to most previous studies. Future work might consider adjustments in factor endowments - e.g., taking the terminology of workers and managers literally one might study long-run skill acquisition that turns workers into managers.

<sup>4</sup>The key assumption here is that there is no teamwork or synergy between workers in a firm; they interact only in the sense that they compete for the time of the manager. See Eeckhout and Kircher (2012) for more discussion. In such circumstances, the primitive for technology gives output as a function of the type of the manager and types of all workers with which it is combined. But there is no need for us to develop notation for this more general formulation since we know that, in our setting, a firm will not gain (and typically will lose) by choosing to combine a given type of manager with a variety of types of workers.

<sup>5</sup>We adopt a Cobb-Douglas-in-quantities specification in order to simplify the analysis. Some of our results would remain the same with an arbitrary constant-returns-to-scale production technology provided that there are no factor intensity reversals.

identical and homothetic preferences. Firms hire workers and managers on frictionless national factor markets and engage in perfect competition on integrated world product markets. Countries trade freely, with balanced trade. Note that we neglect for now the search frictions that are a realistic and interesting feature of many markets with heterogeneous factors. We shall extend the analysis to incorporate such frictions in Section 6 below.

### 3 Homogeneous Managers

We are ultimately interested in the sorting and matching of two heterogeneous factors of production. However, before we get to that, we consider a simpler case in which there is no variation in the types of one of the factors. By examining a setting with homogeneous managers we can gain insight into the sorting of the heterogeneous workers into different sectors without needing to concern ourselves with the matching of managers and workers. We will introduce manager heterogeneity in Section 4 below.

Suppose that all managers are interchangeable and assume, without further loss of generality, that their common ability level is  $q_H = 1$ . Let  $\tilde{\psi}_i(q_L) \equiv \psi_i(q_L, 1)$  be the productivity in sector  $i$  of workers of ability  $q_L$  when combined with any manager who might be employed there. Output per manager in sector  $i$  can now be written as  $x_i = \tilde{\psi}_i(q_L)\ell^{\gamma_i}$ , considering the diminishing returns to the manager's time.

A key variable in the analysis will be the ratio of two elasticities that describe a sector's production technology. One elasticity is  $\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_i}(q_L) \equiv q_L \tilde{\psi}'_i(q_L) / \tilde{\psi}_i(q_L)$ , which reflects the responsiveness of output to worker *ability* in sector  $i$ , holding constant the number of workers per manager. The other elasticity is  $\gamma_i$ , which is the responsiveness of output to labor *quantity*, holding constant the ability of the workers. Let

$$s_L(q_L) \equiv \frac{\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_1}(q_L)}{\gamma_1} - \frac{\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_2}(q_L)}{\gamma_2}$$

be the difference across sectors in these ratios. We assume for now that  $s_L(q_L)$  has a uniform sign for all  $q_L$  in the domain of the ability distribution and label the industries so that  $s_L(q_L) > 0$ . More formally, we adopt for now the following assumption:

**Assumption 1**  $S_H = \{1\}$  and  $s_L(q_L) > 0$  for all  $q_L \in S_L^A \cup S_L^B$ .

A firm in sector  $i$  chooses the ability and number of its workers (per manager) to maximize  $\pi_i(q_L, \ell) = p_i \tilde{\psi}_i(q_L) \ell^{\gamma_i} - w(q_L) \ell - r$ , where  $p_i$  is the price of good  $i$ ,  $w(q_L)$  is the wage of a worker with ability  $q_L$ , and  $r$  is the salary of the representative manager.<sup>6</sup> We solve the firm's profit maximization problem in two stages. First, we calculate the optimal demand (per manager) for workers of ability  $q_L$  when the wage of such workers is  $w(q_L)$ , which yields

$$\ell_i(q_L) = \left[ \frac{\gamma_i p_i \tilde{\psi}_i(q_L)}{w(q_L)} \right]^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}}. \quad (2)$$

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<sup>6</sup>We suppress for now the country superscript  $c$ , because we focus on firms' decisions in a single country.

Substituting this labor demand into the profit function gives an expression for profits that depends only on the ability of the workers, namely

$$\tilde{\pi}_i(q_L) = \bar{\gamma}_i p_i^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}} \tilde{\psi}_i(q_L)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}} w(q_L)^{-\frac{\gamma_i}{1-\gamma_i}} - r, \quad (3)$$

where  $\bar{\gamma}_i \equiv \gamma_i^{\frac{\gamma_i}{1-\gamma_i}} (1 - \gamma_i)$ . In the second stage, we choose  $q_L$  to maximize  $\tilde{\pi}_i(q_L)$ . To characterize this optimal choice, let  $Q_{Li}$  be the set of abilities of workers that sort into sector  $i$  and let  $Q_{Li}^{int}$  be the interior of this set. Since the equilibrium wage function must be continuous, strictly increasing, and differentiable at all points in  $Q_{Li}^{int}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , the first-order condition of the second-stage maximization problem implies

$$\frac{\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_i}(q_L)}{\gamma_i} = \varepsilon_w(q_L) \text{ for all } q_L \in Q_{Li}^{int}, \quad (4)$$

where  $\varepsilon_w(q_L)$  is the elasticity of the wage schedule with respect to ability.<sup>7</sup>

Evidently, the firms in sector  $i$  choose workers so that the elasticity of output with respect to ability divided by the elasticity of output with respect to quantity is just equal to the elasticity of the wage schedule.<sup>8</sup> If (4) were to hold at only one value of  $q_L$ , then all firms in industry  $i$  would hire workers with the same ability level. Of course, such an outcome would not be consistent with full employment for all types of workers. Instead, (4) must hold for all  $q_L \in Q_{Li}^{int}$ . In such circumstances, the firms in sector  $i$  are indifferent among the various types of workers that are employed in the sector. This indifference incorporates not only the heterogeneous productivities of the different workers, but also the optimal adjustment in the number of workers that the firm would make were it to switch from one type of worker to another. The accompanying adjustment in quantity explains why it is the ratio of the two elasticities—and not just the responsiveness of output to ability—that firms take into account when they contemplate a change in the ability of their employees.

The requirement that the wage function has an elasticity  $\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_i}(q_L)/\gamma_i$  for all worker types that are hired in sector  $i$  is equivalent to the requirement that the wage function takes the form

$$w(q_L) = w_i \tilde{\psi}_i(q_L)^{1/\gamma_i} \text{ for } q_L \in Q_{Li}, \quad (5)$$

for some constant wage anchor,  $w_i$ . This wage function dictates the sorting pattern for labor. Consider any worker type, say  $q_L^*$ , that is hired in equilibrium by both sectors and is paid the same wage in both. Under Assumption 1, workers with ability greater than  $q_L^*$  can earn more in sector

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<sup>7</sup>The wage function has to be strictly increasing because the productivity functions  $\tilde{\psi}_i(q_L)$  are strictly increasing; that is, if wages were decreasing with ability no one would hire workers with lower ability in the declining range. The wage function also has to be continuous because if it had an upward jump no one would hire workers just to the right of the jump. In the appendix we prove differentiability of the wage function for the case in which managers are also heterogeneous and the same method can be used to prove differentiability for the case of homogeneous managers considered in this section.

<sup>8</sup>Note that Costinot and Vogel (2010) derive a similar wage schedule, except that  $\gamma_i = 1$  for all  $i$  for their economy with linear output.



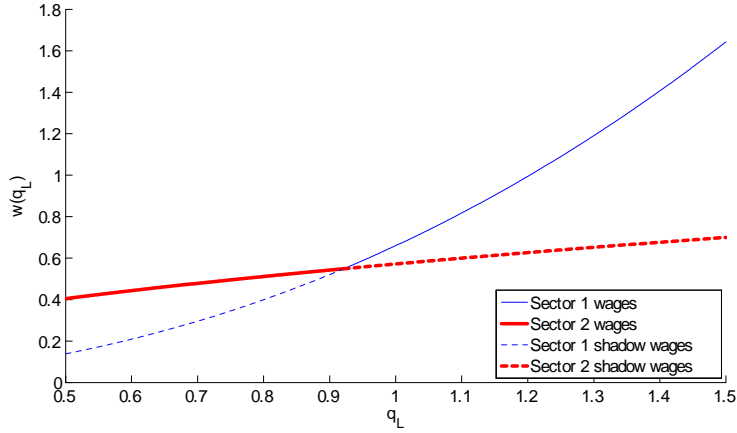


Figure 1: Wages of workers: homogeneous managers

1 than in sector 2, because the wage that makes firms indifferent between these more able workers and workers of ability  $q_L^*$  is higher there. Similarly, workers with ability less than  $q_L^*$  face better prospects in sector 2, because firms there are more willing to sacrifice ability after taking account of the optimal adjustment in quantity. It follows that the equilibrium sorting pattern has a single cutoff level  $q_L^*$  such that workers with ability above  $q_L^*$  are employed in sector 1 and those with ability below  $q_L^*$  are employed in sector 2.

Figure 1 shows the qualitative features of any equilibrium wage schedule. The solid curve depicts what workers of different abilities actually are paid, considering that those with ability  $q_L \geq q_L^*$  are employed in sector 1 and those with ability  $q_L \leq q_L^*$  are employed in sector 2. The broken curves show what the workers of different types would be paid if they moved to the opposite sector from their place of employment, considering that they would only be hired there if firms were indifferent between employing them and hiring the types that they actually employ in equilibrium. From now on, we will refer to these wage opportunities in the opposite sector as the “shadow wages.” Notice that the shadow wages are less than the actual wages, as of course they must be. Notice too that the worker with the marginal ability  $q_L^*$  earns the same wage in either of his job opportunities.

We record our observations about the equilibrium sorting pattern in

**Proposition 1** *Suppose that Assumption 1 holds. Then, in any competitive equilibrium with employment in both sectors, the more able workers with  $q_L \geq q_L^*$  are employed in sector 1 and the less able workers with  $q_L \leq q_L^*$  are employed in sector 2, for some  $q_L^* \in S_L$ .*

The intuition for this sorting pattern should be apparent by now. Sorting is determined by comparing across sectors the ratios  $\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_i}/\gamma_i$ . On the one hand, when  $\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_i}$  is large, there is a big return to moving higher *ability* workers to sector  $i$  inasmuch as marginal ability contributes greatly to productivity there. On the other hand, when  $\gamma_i$  is large, output in sector  $i$  expands rapidly with the *number* of employed workers, irrespective of their ability. In such circumstances, it makes economic sense to deploy relatively large numbers of workers in the industry. The equilibrium

sorting pattern reflects a trade-off between the returns to ability and the returns to quantity.

We can now write down the remaining equilibrium conditions by invoking labor-market clearing for the various types of workers, the aforementioned wage-continuity condition at  $q_L^*$ , and a requirement that all active firms must break even. Consider first the aggregate supply and demand for workers with ability greater than  $q_L^*$ . Define  $e_i(q_L) = \tilde{\psi}_i(q_L)^{1/\gamma_i} \ell(q_L)$  as the “effective labor” hired per manager by a firm that employs workers with ability  $q_L$ . Such a firm produces  $[e_i(q_L)]^{\gamma_i}$  units of good  $i$  for every manager it employs. Using the expression for labor demand (2) and considering the wage schedule (5), every firm operating in sector  $i$  combines the same amount of effective labor with any one of its managers, namely  $e_i = (\gamma_i p_i / w_i)^{1/(1-\gamma_i)}$ . It follows that the firms operating in sector  $i$  collectively demand  $H_i e_i = H_i (\gamma_i p_i / w_i)^{1/(1-\gamma_i)}$  units of effective labor, where  $H_i$  is the measure of managers employed in sector  $i$ . The total supply of effective labor is simply the measure of effective units of labor among those that sort to sector  $i$ . Equating demand and supply gives

$$H_i \left( \frac{\gamma_i p_i}{w_i} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}} = \bar{L} \int_{q_L \in Q_{Li}} \tilde{\psi}_i(q_L)^{1/\gamma_i} \phi_L(q_L) dq_L, \text{ for } i = 1, 2.$$

Proposition 1 tells us which workers are employed in which sectors, i.e.,  $Q_{L1} = [q_L^*, q_{L\max}]$  and  $Q_{L2} = [q_{L\min}, q_L^*]$ . So we can write

$$H_1 \left( \frac{\gamma_1 p_1}{w_1} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_1}} = \bar{L} \int_{q_L^*}^{q_{L\max}} \tilde{\psi}_1(q_L)^{1/\gamma_1} \phi_L(q_L) dq_L \quad (6)$$

and

$$(\bar{H} - H_1) \left( \frac{\gamma_2 p_2}{w_2} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_2}} = \bar{L} \int_{q_{L\min}}^{q_L^*} \tilde{\psi}_2(q_L)^{1/\gamma_2} \phi_L(q_L) dq_L \quad (7)$$

where, in (7), we have used the market-clearing condition for managers,  $H_1 + H_2 = \bar{H}$ .

We have observed that the wage function must be continuous at  $q_L^*$ . Continuity of the wage schedule at  $q_L^*$  implies in turn that

$$w_1 \tilde{\psi}_1(q_L^*)^{1/\gamma_1} = w_2 \tilde{\psi}_2(q_L^*)^{1/\gamma_2}. \quad (8)$$

Finally, profits must be equal to zero for firms operating in both sectors, assuming that the economy is incompletely specialized (otherwise they are zero in the active sector and potentially negative in the other). These requirements together with (3) pin down the equilibrium salary for managers,  $r = \bar{\gamma}_i p_i^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}} \tilde{\psi}_i(q_L)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}} w(q_L)^{-\frac{\gamma_i}{1-\gamma_i}}$ , and also ensure that

$$\bar{\gamma}_1 p_1^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_1}} w_1^{-\frac{\gamma_1}{1-\gamma_1}} = \bar{\gamma}_2 p_2^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_2}} w_2^{-\frac{\gamma_2}{1-\gamma_2}}. \quad (9)$$

Equations (6)-(9) jointly determine the marginal worker  $q_L^*$ , the wage anchors  $w_1$  and  $w_2$ , and the measure of managers  $H_1$  employed in sector 1 for any economy that produces positive amounts of

both goods. The equilibrium salary of managers is given by

$$r = \bar{\gamma}_i p_i^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}} w_i^{-\frac{\gamma_i}{1-\gamma_i}}, \quad i = 1, 2. \quad (10)$$

In what follows, we are interested in the determinants of the trade pattern between countries that differ in their relative endowments of labor to managers and in their distributions of worker ability. We are also interested in how trade between such countries affects their distributions of income and measured TFP.

### 3.1 Determinants of the Trade Pattern

Consider two countries that trade freely at common world prices but that differ in some way in their factor supplies. Since consumers have identical and homothetic tastes worldwide, the trade pattern between them can be identified by examining the countries' relative outputs of the two goods at the common prices. Accordingly, we investigate how a change in parameters reflecting factor endowments affects relative outputs of the two goods at given prices.

In each country, a firm in industry  $i$  employs  $e_i = (\gamma_i p_i / w_i)^{1/(1-\gamma_i)}$  units of effective labor per manager, thereby producing  $e_i^{\gamma_i}$  units of good  $i$ . Thus, aggregate output in sector  $i$  is

$$X_i = H_i \left( \frac{\gamma_i p_i}{w_i} \right)^{\frac{\gamma_i}{1-\gamma_i}}, \quad i = 1, 2, \quad (11)$$

and so

$$\frac{X_1}{X_2} = \frac{H_1}{(\bar{H} - H_1)} \frac{(\gamma_1 p_1)^{\frac{\gamma_1}{1-\gamma_1}} w_2^{\frac{\gamma_2}{1-\gamma_2}}}{(\gamma_2 p_2)^{\frac{\gamma_2}{1-\gamma_2}} w_1^{\frac{\gamma_1}{1-\gamma_1}}}.$$

We can substitute the equal-profit condition (9) into this expression to eliminate the wage anchors. This yields<sup>9</sup>

$$\frac{X_1}{X_2} = \frac{H_1}{(\bar{H} - H_1)} \frac{(1 - \gamma_2) p_2}{(1 - \gamma_1) p_1},$$

which implies that the relative output of good 1 is greater in whichever country allocates a greater share of its managers to producing that good.

#### 3.1.1 Relative Factor Endowments

First, suppose the two countries have the same distributions of worker ability but differ in their relative aggregate endowments,  $\bar{H}/\bar{L}$ . To find the pattern of trade, we totally differentiate the four-equation system comprising (6)-(9) with respect to  $\bar{H}/\bar{L}$  and examine how a change in relative endowments affects the allocation of managers to sector 1. The algebra in the appendix establishes

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<sup>9</sup>This condition can alternatively be derived from the observation that in sector  $i$  the fraction  $1 - \gamma_i$  of revenue is paid to managers, i.e.,  $(1 - \gamma_i) p_i X_i = r H_i$ .

the following proposition.

**Proposition 2** *Suppose that Assumption 1 holds and that  $\phi_L^A(q_L) = \phi_L^B(q_L)$  for  $q_L \in S_L^A = S_L^B$ . Then country A exports the manager-intensive good if and only if  $\bar{H}^A/\bar{L}^A > \bar{H}^B/\bar{L}^B$ .*

Proposition 2 represents, of course, an extension of the Heckscher-Ohlin theorem. When worker talent is distributed similarly in the two countries, the sorting of workers to sectors generates no comparative advantages and so has no independent bearing on the trade pattern. Comparative advantage is governed instead by relative quantities of the factors, just as in the case of homogeneous labor.

### 3.1.2 Distributions of Labor Ability

Now suppose that the relative number of managers and workers is the same in the two countries, but that country A has relatively better workers in the sense that the density function for worker ability in country A is a rightward shift (RS) of the similar density function in country B. That is,

$$\phi_L^B(q_L/\lambda) = \phi_L^A(q_L) \quad \text{for all } q_L \in S_L^A, \text{ for some } \lambda > 1, \quad (12)$$

which has the interpretation that every worker in country A is  $\lambda$  times as productive as his counterpart in the talent distribution in country B. Again, we need to totally differentiate the system of equations (6)-(9) in order to identify the impact of a rightward shift in the talent distribution on employment of managers in sector 1. The algebra in the appendix supports the following conclusion.

**Proposition 3** *Suppose that Assumption 1 holds, that  $\bar{H}^A/\bar{L}^A = \bar{H}^B/\bar{L}^B$ , and that  $\phi_L^A(q_L)$  is a rightward shift of  $\phi_L^B(q_L)$  for some  $\lambda > 1$ . If  $\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_i}(q'_L) > \varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_j}(q''_L)$  for all  $q'_L, q''_L \in S_L^A \cup S_L^B$ ,  $i \neq j$ ,  $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$ , then country A exports good  $i$ .*

The proposition states that the country that has the superior labor force exports the good produced in the industry where worker ability contributes more elastically to productivity. Notice that this need not be the good produced by the country's most able workers inasmuch as sorting reflects the ranking of  $\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_1}(q_L)/\gamma_1$  versus  $\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_2}(q_L)/\gamma_2$ , whereas the trade pattern depends only on the ranking of  $\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_1}(q_L)$  versus  $\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_2}(q_L)$ . This result can be understood by thinking about the sources of comparative advantage in this setting. With  $\bar{H}^A/\bar{L}^A = \bar{H}^B/\bar{L}^B$ , the cross-sectoral difference in factor intensity is not a source of comparative advantage for either country. Meanwhile, with  $\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_1}(q_L)$  different from  $\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_2}(q_L)$ , worker ability contributes differently to productivity in the two sectors. Country A, which is relatively better endowed with more able workers, enjoys a comparative advantage in the industry in which ability matters more for output.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup>In the special case in which  $\tilde{\psi}_i(q_L)$  is a power function for  $i = 1, 2$ , i.e.,  $\tilde{\psi}_i(q_L) = a_i q_L^{\alpha_i}$  for some  $a_i, \alpha_i > 0$ ,  $\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_i}(q'_L) > \varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_j}(q''_L)$  for all  $q'_L$  and  $q''_L$  if and only if  $\alpha_i > \alpha_j$ . Moreover, in this case,  $s_L(q_L) > 0$  for all  $q_L$  if and only if  $\alpha_1/\gamma_1 > \alpha_2/\gamma_2$ . Evidently, the conditions of Proposition 3 are easily satisfied. When  $\tilde{\psi}_i(q_L)$  is not a power function for  $i = 1, 2$ , the requirement that  $\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_i}(q'_L) > \varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_j}(q''_L)$  for all  $q'_L, q''_L \in S_L^A \cup S_L^B$ ,  $i \neq j$ ,  $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$  is not trivial, but it can be weakened into a comparison of the average elasticities of productivity with respect to ability in the two sectors. See the proof of Proposition 3 in the appendix.

We should emphasize, however, that RS puts a great deal of structure on the sense in which Country  $A$  is better endowed with high ability workers than Country  $B$ . We might ask, for example, whether an analogous result to Proposition 3 applies when the distributions of worker talent in the two countries satisfy the monotone likelihood ratio property (MLRP). The answer is that it does not. Under MLRP, the country that has the more talented work force will be especially well endowed with workers that sort to industry 1 even though ability might contribute more to productivity in industry 2. In such circumstances, the differences in relative supplies of the various qualities could offset the difference in the contribution of ability to productivity. The structure imposed by RS ensures that this cannot happen.

### 3.2 The Effects of Trade on Income Distribution and Measured Productivity

We study next the effect of trade on the income distribution and on measured total factor productivity (TFP) by examining the comparative statics of the equilibrium with respect to a change in the relative price of the traded goods.

#### 3.2.1 The Wage Distribution and Managers' Salaries

Suppose that country  $A$  exports good 1, the good that is produced with the country's most able workers. This might be because the countries have similar distributions of talent but differ in their relative numbers of workers versus managers, or because the countries have similar relative factor endowments but differ in their distributions of talent, or for some combination of these reasons. In any case, we consider the effects on factor returns of an increase in the price of good 1, which corresponds to an improvement in country  $A$ 's terms of trade. When integrated over the range of prices between the autarky price and the free-trade price, it also reveals the effects in country  $A$  of an opening of international trade.

Note first that the wage function (5) pins down the relative wages of the various workers employed in either of the two sectors. A small change in the relative price alters the relative pay only of workers employed in different industries. The calculations in the appendix establish the following findings.<sup>11</sup>

**Proposition 4** *Suppose that Assumption 1 holds. Then when  $\hat{p}_1 > 0$ , (i)  $\hat{w}_1 > \hat{w}_2$ ; (ii) if  $\gamma_1 \approx \gamma_2$ , then  $\hat{w}_1 > \hat{p}_1 > \hat{r} > 0 > \hat{w}_2$ ; (iii) if  $\gamma_1 > \gamma_2$  and  $s_L(q_L^*) \approx 0$ , then  $\hat{w}_1 \approx \hat{w}_2 > \hat{p}_1 > 0 > \hat{r}$ ; and (iv) if  $\gamma_1 < \gamma_2$  and  $s_L(q_L^*) \approx 0$ , then  $\hat{r} > \hat{p}_1 > 0 > \hat{w}_1 \approx \hat{w}_2$ .*

Proposition 4 captures the two distinct influences on factor returns in an economy with heterogeneous labor. The cross-sectoral difference in factor intensities introduces a force akin to that in the standard Heckscher-Ohlin model with homogeneous labor, whereby real wages tend to rise and real managerial salaries tend to fall if the sector experiencing the increase in relative price is the more labor intensive of the two. But the heterogeneity of labor implies that different workers are

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<sup>11</sup>In what follows, we use a "hat" over a variable to indicate an incremental, proportional change; i.e.,  $\hat{z} = dz/z$ .

not equally proficient as potential employees in the two sectors, which introduces a force akin to that in a specific-factors model (see, e.g., Jones, 1971). Indeed, our result is reminiscent of findings in a model with “imperfect factor mobility” (Mussa, 1982) or “partially mobile capital” (Grossman, 1983). That is, if the factor intensity differences across industries is large (i.e.,  $\gamma_1 \neq \gamma_2$ ) and the forces for inter-industry sorting of the different worker types are muted (i.e.,  $s_L(q_L^*) \approx 0$ ), then all types of the factor used intensively in sector 1 must gain, while all types of the factor used intensively in sector 2 must lose (parts (iii) and (iv) of the proposition). On the other hand, if the factor intensity difference is small (i.e.,  $\gamma_1 \approx \gamma_2$ ) and the different types of worker are imperfect substitutes in the two sectors (i.e.,  $s_L(q_L) > 0$ ), then all workers initially employed in the expanding sector will gain, all workers that continue to be employed in the contracting sector will lose, and the effect on the well being of managers will depend on their consumption pattern (part (ii) of the proposition). Finally, note from the wage equation (5) that the relative wages of two workers with different abilities that are employed in the same sector do not depend on prices. Therefore an increase in the price of good 1 does not change wage inequality *within* sectors. Meanwhile, an increase in the price of good 1 raises the wage anchor in sector 1 relative to the wage anchor in sector 2 (see part (i) of the proposition). And since the higher-ability, higher-wage workers are employed in sector 1, this implies that by raising wages in sector 1 relative to wages in sector 2 an increase in the price of good 1 increases overall wage inequality, while reducing wage inequality in the other country.

### 3.2.2 Measured TFP

In our setting, trade affects productivity by altering the composition of factors employed in each industry. Of course, if factor heterogeneity were properly taken into account in any measurement exercise, there could be no productivity gains or losses here inasmuch as all firms in an industry use the same production technology and technologies do not change as a result of trade. But productivity measures often do not account for fine differences in worker or managerial ability. Rather, they consider productivity gains as a residual after accounting for changes in output that can be associated with changes in input quantities in broad factor categories. Accordingly, it seems interesting to ask what our model has to say about the effects of trade on measured TFP when we take a stylized representation of the way that productivity typically is measured.

With our specification of the production functions, output in each industry is a Cobb-Douglas function of the quantities of capital and labor, with productivity determined by the abilities of the workers employed there. Let us write aggregate output in sector  $i$  as

$$X_i = A_i L_i^{\gamma_i} H_i^{1-\gamma_i},$$

where  $L_i = \bar{L} \int_{q_L \in Q_{Li}} \phi_L(q_L) dq_L$  is the aggregate employment of labor in sector  $i$  and  $H_i = \bar{L} \int_{q_L \in Q_{Li}} [\phi(q_L) / \ell(q_L)] dq_L$  is the aggregate number of managers hired there. We can view  $A_i$  as a measure of TFP in industry  $i$  when the abilities of different workers are not observed by the

analyst. This measure of productivity is close to what is used in most empirical studies. We ask, how does trade affect  $A_i$ ?

When the relative price of good 1 increases, additional workers are drawn to industry 1. The marginal workers that join the sector are less productive than those employed there beforehand, since  $s_L(q_L) > 0$  implies that the industry initially attracts all workers with ability above the threshold,  $q_L^*$ . Firms match these marginal workers with appropriate numbers of homogeneous managers. It follows that measured TFP in industry 1 falls. Meanwhile, industry 2 sheds its most able workers. So measured TFP in that sector falls as well. In short, the country that exports good 1 sees a fall in measured productivity in both sectors as the result of an opening of trade or after any increase in the price of its export good. Just the opposite is true in the other country, where an expansion of the export sector means that the marginal workers are more talented than any who were previously employed there and the contraction of the import-competing sector means that this sector loses its least able workers.

Formally, we show in the appendix that

$$A_1^{1/\gamma_1} = \mathbb{E} \left[ \tilde{\psi}_1(q_L)^{1/\gamma_1} \mid q_L \geq q_L^* \right]$$

and

$$A_2^{1/\gamma_2} = \mathbb{E} \left[ \tilde{\psi}_2(q_L)^{1/\gamma_2} \mid q_L \leq q_L^* \right],$$

where  $\mathbb{E}$  is the expectations operator. Apparently, both  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are increasing functions of  $q_L^*$ . As  $p_1$  increases and sector 1 expands, the ability of the marginal worker  $q_L^*$  declines in the country that exports good 1 and measured TFP falls in both sectors. The opposite is true in the country that imports good 1; as  $p_1$  declines there,  $q_L^*$  grows, and measured TFP rises in both sectors. We have therefore established

**Proposition 5** *Suppose that Assumption 1 holds. Then international trade reduces measured TFP in both sectors in the country that exports good 1 and raises measured TFP in both sectors in the country that imports this good.*

Here, trade has opposite implications for measured productivity in the two countries. If, for example, the country that has a comparative advantage in good 1 also has access to superior technologies for producing the two goods, then the opening of trade will generate a convergence in measured TFP. Such convergence would reflect only the induced changes in factor composition in the various sectors and not any international diffusion of technology.

### 3.3 Sorting Reversal

So far, we have used Assumption 1 to characterize the sorting of heterogeneous workers and the resulting trade structure. In this final part of the section on homogeneous managers we clarify what can happen when  $s_L(q_L)$  switches sign.

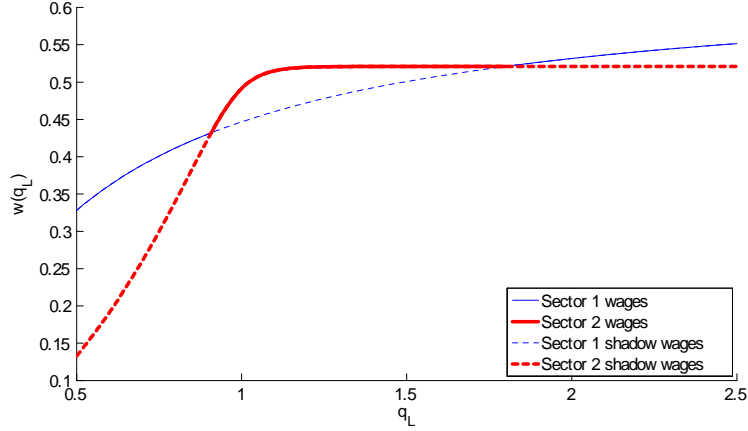


Figure 2: Wages with a reversal of sorting

First note that if  $\tilde{\psi}_i(q_L)$  is a power function for  $i = 1, 2$ , the function  $s_L(q_L)$  does not depend on  $q_L$  inasmuch as the elasticities of productivity with respect to ability then are constants. In such circumstances,  $s_L(q_L)$  is either always positive or always negative, and we can assume  $s_L(q_L) > 0$  without loss of generality, because this only amounts to a particular labeling of the sectors. However, when  $\tilde{\psi}_i(q_L)$  is not a power function for some  $i$ , the assumption that  $s_L(q_L)$  has a uniform sign for all  $q_L \in S_L$  imposes meaningful restrictions on the forms of the productivity functions and the support of the distribution of worker talent. Without these restrictions, we cannot be sure that the most able workers sort into one sector and the least able workers sort into the other.

To illustrate what can happen when  $s_L(q_L)$  changes signs, suppose that the productivity of a firm in sector  $i$  that hires workers of ability  $q_L$  is given by

$$\tilde{\psi}_i(q_L) = (\alpha_i q_L^{\rho_i} + 1)^{1/\rho_i}, \quad \alpha_i > 0, \quad \rho_i < 0 \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2. \quad (13)$$

This specification implies a constant elasticity of substitution between the ability of workers and the ability of managers in generating the productivity of the firm, and that worker and managerial ability are, in fact, complements. Of course, with homogeneous managers, firms have no possibility to adjust manager type in order to take advantage of this complementarity. Nonetheless, the CES specification for productivity represents a legitimate and even a plausible functional form.

When productivity takes the form indicated in (13), the elasticity of productivity with respect to worker ability in sector  $i$  is given by  $\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_i}(q_L) = \alpha_i q_L^{\rho_i} / (\alpha_i q_L^{\rho_i} + 1)$ . If  $\rho_1 \neq \rho_2$  then  $\varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_1}(q_L) - \varepsilon_{\tilde{\psi}_2}(q_L)$  necessarily switches signs on  $q_L \in [0, +\infty)$  and therefore  $s_L(q_L)$  may switch signs on the support of the distribution of worker ability, depending on the industry factor intensities and the range of the talent distribution.

Figure 2 depicts an equilibrium wage schedule for an economy in which  $s_L(q_L) < 0$  for low values of  $q_L$  and  $s_L(q_L) > 0$  for high values of  $q_L$ .<sup>12</sup> In this economy, the most and least able

<sup>12</sup>See Lim (2013) for the functional forms and parameter values that were used to generate this figure.



workers sort to sector 1 while a middle range of workers is hired into sector 2. The thin solid curves in the figure depict the wages of workers employed in sector 1 as a function of their ability, while the thick solid curve depicts the wages of workers employed in sector 2. The broken thin curve depicts the shadow wage for workers in sector 2, i.e., the wage offers they could garner were they to seek jobs in sector 1. Similarly, the broken thick curve depicts the shadow wages available in sector 2 for workers actually employed in sector 1. Clearly, each worker sorts into the industry that offers him the highest wage.

Figure 2 represents an economy in which  $\gamma_1 = \gamma_2 = 0.5$ , i.e., the industries have similar factor intensities. However,  $\rho_1 \neq \rho_2$ , which generates the different elasticities of productivity at different levels of ability. The comparative statics reveal an interesting response of wages to relative price changes for these parameter values. Inasmuch as the factor intensities are common to the two industries, there are no Stolper-Samuelson forces at work. But the workers that sort to sector 1 are better suited for employment there than their counterparts working in sector 2. The forces akin to those in a specific-factors model imply that when  $p_1$  rises, the real wages of all workers employed in sector 1 also rise, while the real wages of all workers employed in sector 2 decline. In short, an increase in the relative price of good 1 generates income gains for workers with high or low wages but income losses for those in the middle of the wage distribution.<sup>13</sup>

When the two sectors differ in their factor intensities, the Stolper-Samuelson forces will again play a role in determining the effects of trade on the wage distribution. Take, for example, a case in which  $\gamma_1 = 0.9$  and  $\gamma_2 = 0.1$ , so that sector 1 is much more labor intensive than sector 2. We have solved this example numerically for various sets of the other parameter values.<sup>14</sup> In all such cases, we found that an increase in the price of good 1 raises both wage anchors more than in proportion to the price change, so that all workers gain in real income. Meanwhile, the salary of managers falls. These results are familiar from the Stolper-Samuelson theorem, and they are similar to what we found with great disparities in factor intensities for economies that satisfy Assumption 1. We find as well that an increase in  $p_1$  benefits workers employed in sector 1 more than those employed in sector 2, in keeping with our observations that workers are partially specific to their industry of employment due to comparative productivity differences.<sup>15</sup> Price changes do not affect relative wages for workers employed in the same industry, even if those workers are at opposite tails of the talent distribution as is the case for some pairs of workers that sort to sector 1.

<sup>13</sup>For this example, we calculate that a 5% increase in  $p_1$  raises the wage anchor  $w_1$  by 5.7%, while depressing the wage anchor  $w_2$  by 4.2%. Managers' salaries rise by 4.3%, which is proportionately less than the increase in price.

<sup>14</sup>As one example, we have solved the model for the case in which world prices are  $(p_1, p_2) = (1, 1)$  and the economy has an aggregate endowment of  $(\bar{H}, \bar{L}) = (1, 1)$ . In this example, we assumed that worker ability is drawn from a truncated Pareto distribution on the support  $S_L = [0.8, 1.8]$  with the shape parameter 3, and that the technological parameters are given by  $(\gamma_1, \alpha_1, \rho_1) = (0.9, 0.7, -1)$  and  $(\gamma_2, \alpha_2, \rho_2) = (0.1, 0.3, -20)$ . In the computed equilibrium, sector 2 employs workers with  $q_L \in [1.0346, 1.2116]$  and 0.9532 managers. The wage anchors are  $w_1 = 0.7179$  and  $w_2 = 0.4339$  while the managers earn a salary of  $r = 0.7646$ .

<sup>15</sup>Using the parameter values detailed in the previous footnote, we find that a 5% increase in the price  $p_1$  generates a wage hike of 5.6% for workers employed in sector 1, a wage hike of 5.4% for workers employed in sector 2, and a salary reduction of 0.6% for all managers.

## 4 Heterogeneous Managers with Cobb-Douglas Productivity

We now introduce manager heterogeneity. We begin with a special case in which managerial ability and worker ability make multiplicatively separable contributions to the productivity of the unit and take a Cobb-Douglas (i.e., constant elasticity) form. In particular, we shall assume in this section that

$$\psi_i(q_H, q_L) = q_H^{\beta_i} q_L^{\alpha_i} \text{ for } i = 1, 2; \alpha_i, \beta_i > 0. \quad (14)$$

Note that, in this case, productivity is a *weakly* log supermodular function of the two ability levels. As such, the complementarity between the talent of workers and that of the manager is somewhat muted compared to what arises with *strict* log supermodularity, which means the forces for positive assortative matching within a sector are correspondingly weaker. The Cobb-Douglas case is simpler to analyze than the case with stronger complementarities, so we postpone the latter in order to shed light on some of the economic forces at works.

In this section and what follows, we model the diversity of manager types in parallel to that for workers. In particular, there is a mass  $\bar{H}^c$  of managers in country  $c$  and a probability density  $\phi_H^c(q_H)$  of managers with ability  $q_H$  for  $q_H \in S_H^c = [q_{H\min}^c, q_{H\max}^c]$ . We take the supply of managers and their ability distribution as given throughout the analysis.

There is no need to go through all the steps of a firm's profit maximization problem, because the derivation proceeds much as for the case with homogeneous managers in Section 3. Suffice it to say that the demand per manager for workers of ability  $q_L$  by a firm in industry  $i$  that pairs these workers with a manager of ability  $q_H$  is given by

$$\ell(q_L, q_H) = \left[ \frac{\gamma_i p_i q_H^{\beta_i} q_L^{\alpha_i}}{w(q_L)} \right]^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}}. \quad (15)$$

Substituting (15) into the expression for profits yields

$$\tilde{\pi}_i(q_L, q_H) = \bar{\gamma}_i p_i^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}} \left( q_H^{\beta_i} q_L^{\alpha_i} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}} w(q_L)^{-\frac{\gamma_i}{1-\gamma_i}} - r(q_H), \quad (16)$$

where  $r(q_H)$  is the salary of a manager with ability  $q_H$  and  $\bar{\gamma}_i \equiv \gamma_i^{\frac{\gamma_i}{1-\gamma_i}} (1 - \gamma_i)$ . Every firm chooses the ability of its workers and the ability of its manager so as to maximize profits, yet free entry dictates that these profits must be equal to zero in equilibrium. Let  $M_i$  be the set of all matches that maximize profits in sector  $i$ . For each pairing  $(q_L, q_H)$  in  $M_i$ ,

$$r(q_H) = \bar{\gamma}_i p_i^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}} \left( q_H^{\beta_i} q_L^{\alpha_i} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}} w(q_L)^{-\frac{\gamma_i}{1-\gamma_i}}, \quad i = 1, 2, \quad (17)$$

by dint of the zero-profit condition. Profit maximization with respect to the choice of types, evalu-

ated for pairings that achieve zero profits in accordance with (17), yields the first-order conditions,

$$\frac{\alpha_i}{\gamma_i} = e_w(q_L) \quad \text{for } q_L \in Q_{Li}^{int} \quad (18)$$

and

$$\frac{\beta_i}{1 - \gamma_i} = e_r(q_H) \quad \text{for } q_H \in Q_{Hi}^{int}. \quad (19)$$

Equation (18) is the analog to (4) and equates the ratio of the elasticities of output with respect to worker ability and labor quantity to the elasticity of the wage schedule. Equation (19) has a similar interpretation regarding a firm's choice of manager type.

In equilibrium, all worker types must be employed, which means that firms in some sector (or both) must demand the full range of workers. Equation (18) can be satisfied for a range of workers only if the wage schedule has a constant elasticity over this range. Therefore, the equilibrium wage schedule must take the form

$$w(q_L) = w_i q_L^{\alpha_i/\gamma_i} \quad \text{for } q_L \in Q_{Li}^{int}. \quad (20)$$

The salary schedule for managers must have a similar form, namely

$$r(q_H) = r_i q_H^{\beta_i/(1-\gamma_i)} \quad \text{for } q_H \in Q_{Hi}^{int}, \quad (21)$$

where  $r_i$  is a “salary anchor” analogous to  $w_i$ .

When the wage function has a constant elasticity equal to  $\alpha_i/\gamma_i$  for a range of worker types, a firm in sector  $i$  is indifferent as to its choice of employees among workers in this range, irrespective of the ability of its manager. And when the salary function has an elasticity equal to  $\beta_i/(1 - \gamma_i)$ , the firm is indifferent to the ability of its managers. Accordingly, the matching of workers and managers among those that sort to sector  $i$  is *indeterminate* in the Cobb-Douglas case. This indeterminacy reflects the fact that the productivity function in (14) is only weakly log supermodular and thus provides no clear incentives for positive (or negative) assortative matching.

Although the matching of workers and managers in a sector is not determined in the Cobb-Douglas case, the sorting of these factors to the two sectors follows a familiar pattern. The elasticity of the wage schedule must be greater along its upper segment than along its lower segment, or else firms that hire the less able workers would all prefer to upgrade their employees. Similarly, the elasticity of the salary schedule must be greater along its upper segment than its lower segment. We designate as sector 1 whichever industry has the greater ratio of the output elasticity with respect to worker ability to the output elasticity with respect to labor quantity. With this labeling convention,  $s_L = \alpha_1/\gamma_1 - \alpha_2/\gamma_2 > 0$ . Then, in any equilibrium in which a country produces both goods, sector 1 attracts the workers with ability  $q_L$  above some cutoff  $q_L^*$ . If  $s_H = \beta_1/(1 - \gamma_1) - \beta_2/(1 - \gamma_2) > 0$ , then sector 1 also attracts the more able managers with  $q_H > q_H^*$ ; otherwise, the sorting of managers is opposite to that for workers.

For precision, we state more formally the environment we consider throughout this section and the sorting pattern that results.

**Assumption 2** (i)  $S_H = [q_{H \min}, q_{H \max}]$ ,  $0 < q_{H \min} < q_{H \max} < +\infty$ ; (ii)  $\psi_i(q_H, q_L) = q_H^{\beta_i} q_L^{\alpha_i}$ ,  $\alpha_i, \beta_i > 0$ , for  $i = 1, 2$ ; and (iii)  $s_L \equiv \alpha_1/\gamma_1 - \alpha_2/\gamma_2 > 0$ .

**Proposition 6** *Suppose that Assumption 2 holds. Then, in any competitive equilibrium with employment in both sectors, the more able workers with  $q_L \geq q_L^*$  are employed in sector 1 and the less able workers with  $q_L \leq q_L^*$  are employed in sector 2, for some  $q_L^* \in S_L$ . If  $s_H > 0$  ( $s_H < 0$ ), the more able managers with  $q_H \geq q_H^*$  are employed in sector 1 (sector 2) and the less able managers with  $q_H \leq q_H^*$  are employed in sector 2 (sector 1), for some  $q_H^* \in S_H$ .*

To describe the equilibrium once the sorting pattern has been settled, we invoke factor-market clearing, continuity of worker wages, continuity of managerial salaries, and the zero-profit conditions. For concreteness, let us focus on the case in which  $s_H > 0$  so that the more able managers sort to industry 1; the opposite case can be handled similarly.

It proves convenient to define  $e_{Hi}(q_H) = q_H^{\beta_i/(1-\gamma_i)}$  as the effective managerial input of a manager with ability  $q_H$  who works in sector  $i$ . Then the aggregate supplies of effective managerial input in sectors 1 and 2 are

$$H_1 = \bar{H} \int_{q_H^*}^{q_{H \max}} q_H^{\frac{\beta_1}{1-\gamma_1}} \phi_H(q_H) dq_H, \quad (22)$$

and

$$H_2 = \bar{H} \int_{q_{H \min}}^{q_H^*} q_H^{\frac{\beta_2}{1-\gamma_2}} \phi_H(q_H) dq_H, \quad (23)$$

respectively. Note that  $H_1/\bar{H}$  depends only on  $q_H^*$  and is a monotonically decreasing function, and  $H_2/\bar{H}$  also depends only on  $q_H^*$  and is monotonically increasing.

Consider now the supply and demand for effective labor in sector 1, where we define  $e_{Li}(q_L) = q_L^{\alpha_i/\gamma_i}$  as the effective labor provided by a worker of ability  $q_L$  in sector  $i$ . From the labor demand equation (15), a firm in sector 1 combines a manager with  $e_{Hi}$  units of effective managerial input with  $e_{Hi}(\gamma_i p_i/w_i)^{1/(1-\gamma_i)}$  units of effective labor. Therefore, the  $H_1$  units of effective managerial input that are hired into sector 1 are combined with  $H_1(\gamma_1 p_1/w_1)^{1/(1-\gamma_1)}$  units of effective labor. Noting the definition of  $H_1$  and equating the demand for effective labor in sector 1 with the supply of effective labor among those with ability above  $q_L^*$ , we have

$$\bar{H} \left( \frac{\gamma_1 p_1}{w_1} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_1}} \int_{q_H^*}^{q_{H \max}} q_H^{\frac{\beta_1}{1-\gamma_1}} \phi_H(q_H) dq_H = \bar{L} \int_{q_L^*}^{q_{L \max}} q_L^{\frac{\alpha_1}{\gamma_1}} \phi_L dq_L. \quad (24)$$

A similar condition applies in sector 2, where labor-market clearing requires

$$\bar{H} \left( \frac{\gamma_2 p_2}{w_2} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_2}} \int_{q_{H \min}}^{q_H^*} q_H^{\frac{\beta_2}{1-\gamma_2}} \phi_H(q_H) dq_H = \bar{L} \int_{q_{L \min}}^{q_L^*} q_L^{\frac{\alpha_2}{\gamma_2}} \phi_L dq_L. \quad (25)$$

Continuity of the wage schedule at  $q_L^*$  requires that

$$w_1 (q_L^*)^{\frac{\alpha_1}{\gamma_1}} = w_2 (q_L^*)^{\frac{\alpha_2}{\gamma_2}}. \quad (26)$$

The salary function for managers must also be continuous and firms that hire managers with ability  $q_H^*$  must earn zero profits in either sector. Together, these considerations imply

$$\bar{\gamma}_1 p_1^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_1}} w_1^{-\frac{\gamma_1}{1-\gamma_1}} (q_H^*)^{\frac{\beta_1}{1-\gamma_1}} = \bar{\gamma}_2 p_2^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_2}} w_2^{-\frac{\gamma_2}{1-\gamma_2}} (q_H^*)^{\frac{\beta_2}{1-\gamma_2}}. \quad (27)$$

Equations (24)-(27) comprise four equations that can be used to solve for the two wage anchors,  $w_1$  and  $w_2$ , and the two cutoffs,  $q_L^*$  and  $q_H^*$ . The effective supply of managers in sectors 1 and 2,  $H_1$  and  $H_2$ , can then be solved from (22) and (23). Finally, the salary anchors for the managers can be computed from the zero-profit conditions, which imply

$$r_i = \bar{\gamma}_i p_i^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}} w_i^{-\frac{\gamma_i}{1-\gamma_i}} \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2. \quad (28)$$

This completes our characterization of the supply-side equilibrium for an economy that faces prices  $p_1$  and  $p_2$ .

#### 4.1 Pattern of Trade

As before, we need an expression for an economy's relative outputs in order to conduct the comparative static analysis that reveals the pattern of trade between countries that differ in their relative factor endowments or in their distributions of factor types. The  $H_i$  units of effective managers employed in sector  $i$  collectively produce  $X_i = H_i (\gamma_i p_i)^{\gamma_i/(1-\gamma_i)} w_i^{-\gamma_i/(1-\gamma_i)}$  units of good  $i$ . Each effective unit of managerial input is paid a salary of  $r_i$  in sector  $i$  and—by continuity of the salary function— $r_1/r_2 = (q_H^*)^{-s_H}$  (see (21)). Using this condition together with (24)-(25) and (27)-(28), we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{X_1}{X_2} &= \frac{r_1 H_1 (1 - \gamma_2) p_2}{r_2 H_2 (1 - \gamma_1) p_1} \\ &= \frac{(1 - \gamma_2) p_2 \int_{q_H^*}^{q_H^{\max}} q_H^{\frac{\beta_1}{1-\gamma_1}} \phi_H(q_H) dq_H}{(1 - \gamma_1) p_1 \int_{q_H^{\min}}^{q_H^*} q_H^{\frac{\beta_2}{1-\gamma_2}} \phi_H(q_H) dq_H} (q_H^*)^{-s_H}. \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

Similar to the case of homogeneous managers, the first line of (29) reflects the fact that the aggregate salaries of all managers in sector  $i$  absorb a fraction  $1 - \gamma_i$  of revenue. And the second line implies that, since  $s_H > 0$  in the case under consideration,  $X_1/X_2$  is a decreasing function of  $q_H^*$ . Therefore, to identify the pattern of trade, we need only find which country allocates more effective managerial input to sector 1 relative to its aggregate endowment of managers; that is, how  $q_H^*$  varies with factor endowments.<sup>16</sup>

The system of equations (24)-(27) that applies with Cobb-Douglas productivity is quite similar to the system (6)-(9) that applies when managers are homogeneous, except that now we need

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<sup>16</sup>Note that in the opposite case, when  $s_H < 0$ , managers with  $q_H \geq q_H^*$  sort into sector 2 while managers with  $q_H \leq q_H^*$  sort into sector 1. As a result,  $X_1/X_2$  is an increasing function of  $q_H^*$ .

to use the effective managerial input in a sector in place of the pure number of managers. In other words, the multiplicative separability of the productivity function allows us to construct an aggregate measure of managerial input that plays the same role as does the number of managers when managers are equally productive. We can do so, because there are no forces present in the Cobb-Douglas case to induce any particular pattern of matching within either sector. It stands to reason that the determinants of the trade pattern with heterogeneous managers but Cobb-Douglas productivity are analogous to those we found for the case of homogeneous managers. In the appendix, we prove

**Proposition 7** *Suppose that Assumption 2 holds. Then if  $\phi_L^A(q_L) = \phi_L^B(q_L)$  for all  $q_L \in S_L^A = S_L^B$ ,  $\phi_H^A(q_H) = \phi_H^B(q_H)$  for all  $q_H \in S_H^A = S_H^B$ , and  $\bar{H}^A/\bar{L}^A > \bar{H}^B/\bar{L}^B$ , country A exports the manager-intensive good.*

**Proposition 8** *Suppose that Assumption 2 holds and  $\bar{H}^A/\bar{L}^A = \bar{H}^B/\bar{L}^B$ . Then, (i) if  $\phi_H^A(q_H) = \phi_H^B(q_H)$  for all  $q_H \in S_H^A = S_H^B$  and  $\phi_L^A(q_L)$  is a rightward shift of  $\phi_L^B(q_L)$  for some  $\lambda > 1$ , then country A exports good 1 if and only if  $\alpha_1 > \alpha_2$ ; (ii) if  $\phi_L^A(q_L) = \phi_L^B(q_L)$  for all  $q_L \in S_L^A = S_L^B$  and  $\phi_H^A(q_H)$  is a rightward shift of  $\phi_H^B(q_H)$  for some  $\lambda > 1$ , then country A exports good 1 if and only if  $\beta_1 > \beta_2$ .*

In short, the Heckscher-Ohlin theorem applies when countries have similar distributions of factor types but differ in their relative aggregate endowments of managers versus workers. Alternatively, if the relative factor endowments are the same in the two countries but they differ in their distributions of one of the factors, then the country with the rightward-shifted distribution of a factor exports the good produced by the industry in which productivity responds more elastically to that factor's ability.

## 4.2 Effects of Trade on Income Distribution and Measured Productivity

Our results on income distribution also carry over straightforwardly from the case with homogeneous managers to that with manager heterogeneity but Cobb-Douglas productivity. First note that within-industry income distribution is not affected by world trade inasmuch as the elasticity of the wage schedule for workers employed in a given industry is constant. As a result, (20) implies that  $w(q'_L)/w(q''_L) = (q'_L/q''_L)^{\alpha_i/\gamma_i}$  for  $q'_L, q''_L \in Q_{Li}$  and (21) implies that  $r(q'_H)/r(q''_H) = (q'_H/q''_H)^{\beta_i/(1-\gamma_i)}$  for  $q'_H, q''_H \in Q_{Hi}$ . Second, relative rewards of workers and managers that are employed in different industries do change with trade, inasmuch as the wage and salary anchors  $w_i$  and  $r_i$  change. In the appendix we prove

**Proposition 9** *Suppose that Assumption 2 holds and  $s_H \approx 0$ . When  $\hat{p}_1 > 0$ , (i)  $\hat{w}_1 > \hat{w}_2$ ; (ii) if  $\gamma_1 \approx \gamma_2$ , then  $\hat{w}_1 > \hat{p}_1 > \hat{r}_1 \approx \hat{r}_2 > 0 > \hat{w}_2$ ; (iii) if  $\gamma_1 > \gamma_2$  and  $s_L \approx 0$ , then  $\hat{w}_1 \approx \hat{w}_2 > \hat{p}_1 > 0 > \hat{r}_1 \approx \hat{r}_2$ ; (iv) if  $\gamma_1 < \gamma_2$  and  $s_L \approx 0$ , then  $\hat{r}_1 \approx \hat{r}_2 > \hat{p}_1 > 0 > \hat{w}_1 \approx \hat{w}_2$ .*

Proposition 9 can be understood by recognizing that the model with heterogeneous workers and managers contains a blend of Stolper-Samuelson and Ricardo-Viner forces. When  $s_H \approx 0$ , there is no difference in the suitability of the various managers for employment in one sector versus the other, because the comparative advantage associated with greater ability of the input just offsets the comparative advantage associated with greater quantity. Then, it is as if managers are a perfectly mobile, homogeneous factor. When  $s_L$  also is small, the Stolper-Samuelson forces will dominate, and workers in both industries will see a gain in real income if the relative price of the labor-intensive good rises and will see a loss in real income if the relative price of the labor-intensive good falls. In contrast, if factor intensities are approximately the same in the two industries, the Stolper-Samuelson forces will be muted, and the partial specificity of workers arising from the comparative advantage of ability in sector 1 will govern the income responses. Then, workers will benefit in real terms when the relative price of the good they produce rises and will lose in real terms if the relative price of this good falls. Also note that similar considerations imply that if  $s_H > 0$  but  $s_L \approx 0$  and  $\gamma_1 \approx \gamma_2$ , the economy behaves like one with sector-specific managers and perfectly mobile labor. Then  $\hat{r}_1 > \hat{p}_1 > \hat{w}_1 \approx \hat{w}_2 > 0 > \hat{r}_2$ , i.e., managers in the expanding sector gain, managers in the contracting sector lose, and workers may gain or lose in real terms depending on their consumption pattern. Finally, similarly to Proposition 4, an increase in the price of good 1 raises overall wage inequality, because it does not change relative wages within sectors and it increases wages of the more able, better-paid workers employed in sector 1 relative to the less able, lower-paid workers in sector 2.

Turning to the effects of trade on measured productivity, our conclusions also are reminiscent of those we have seen before. Recalling that

$$X_i = \bar{H} \left( \frac{\gamma_i p_i}{w_i} \right)^{\frac{\gamma_i}{1-\gamma_i}} \int_{q_H \in Q_{Hi}} q_H^{\beta_i/(1-\gamma_i)} \phi_H(q_H) dq_H, \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2,$$

we can substitute the labor market clearing conditions (24) and (25) to write output in sector  $i$  as

$$X_i = \bar{L}^{\gamma_i} \bar{H}^{1-\gamma_i} \left( \int_{q_L \in Q_{Li}} q_L^{\alpha_i/\gamma_i} \phi_L(q_L) dq_L \right)^{\gamma_i} \left( \int_{q_H \in Q_{Hi}} q_H^{\beta_i/(1-\gamma_i)} \phi_H(q_H) dq_H \right)^{1-\gamma_i}.$$

Since the aggregate factor inputs in sector  $i$  are  $L_i = \bar{L} \int_{q_L \in Q_{Li}} \phi_L(q_L) dq_L$  and  $H_i = \bar{H} \int_{q_H \in Q_{Hi}} \phi_H(q_H) dq_H$ , we can write measured TFP as

$$\begin{aligned} A_i &= \frac{\left( \int_{q_L \in Q_{Li}} q_L^{\alpha_i/\gamma_i} \phi_L(q_L) dq_L \right)^{\gamma_i} \left( \int_{q_H \in Q_{Hi}} q_H^{\beta_i/(1-\gamma_i)} \phi_H(q_H) dq_H \right)^{1-\gamma_i}}{\left( \int_{q_L \in Q_{Li}} \phi_L(q_L) dq_L \right)^{\gamma_i} \left( \int_{q_H \in Q_{Hi}} \phi_H(q_H) dq_H \right)^{1-\gamma_i}} \\ &= \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ q_L^{\alpha_i/\gamma_i} \mid q_L \in Q_{Li} \right] \right)^{\gamma_i} \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ q_H^{\beta_i/(1-\gamma_i)} \mid q_H \in Q_{Hi} \right] \right)^{1-\gamma_i}. \end{aligned}$$

Now take the case in which  $s_H > 0$ . Then an increase in  $p_1$  causes sector 1 to expand by attracting both more workers and more managers; i.e., both  $q_L^*$  and  $q_H^*$  decline. The movement

of marginal factors from sector 2 to sector 1 reduces the average ability of both factors in both industries. As a result, measured productivity falls in both sectors. However, if  $s_H < 0$ , sector 1 attracts the best workers but the worst managers. As this sector expands, average worker ability declines but average manager ability grows. In this case, TFP can rise or fall in either industry and possibly can move in opposite directions in the two industries.

## 5 Strong Complementarities between Heterogeneous Factors

The Cobb-Douglas case is special, because when alternative worker teams are paired with a given manager, their relative productivity is independent of the ability of that manager.<sup>17</sup> In such circumstances, the matching of workers and managers is not determined by the requirements for a competitive equilibrium. We depart now from multiplicative separability in order to study productivity functions that induce a determinate pattern of matching in each industry. In particular, we adopt

**Assumption 3** (i)  $S_H = [q_{H \min}, q_{H \max}]$ ,  $0 < q_{H \min} < q_{H \max} < +\infty$ ; (ii)  $\psi_i(q_H, q_L)$  is strictly increasing, twice continuously differentiable, and *strictly* log supermodular for  $i = 1, 2$ .

This assumption implies that  $\psi_{iH}(q_H, q_L) / \psi_i(q_H, q_L)$  is increasing in  $q_L$  and  $\psi_{iL}(q_H, q_L) / \psi_i(q_H, q_L)$  is increasing in  $q_H$ , where  $\psi_{iF}(q_H, q_L)$  is the partial derivative of  $\psi_i(q_H, q_L)$  with respect to  $q_F$ ,  $F = H, L$ .

Proceeding as before, we first find the labor demand per manager by a firm in sector  $i$ , taking as given the common ability of the team of workers and the ability of the manager. We substitute the optimal labor demand  $\ell(q_H, q_L)$  into the expression for profits to derive the profit function,

$$\tilde{\pi}_i(q_H, q_L) = \bar{\gamma}_i p_i^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}} \psi_i(q_H, q_L)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}} w(q_L)^{-\frac{\gamma_i}{1-\gamma_i}} - r(q_H). \quad (30)$$

Each firm chooses the ability of its workers and the ability of its manager so as to maximize profits taking the wage and salary schedules as given, while free entry dictates that realized profits for active firms are zero. The wage schedule  $w(q_L)$  is continuous and strictly increasing for all  $q_L \in S_L$  and the salary schedule  $r(q_H)$  is continuous and strictly increasing for all  $q_H \in S_H$ .<sup>18</sup>

We solve the firm's profit-maximization problem in two stages. First, given  $q_H$ , the firm chooses the most suitable workers, deriving thereby the profits

$$\Pi_i(q_H) = \max_{q_L \in S_L} \tilde{\pi}_i(q_H, q_L), \text{ for } q_H \in S_H, \ i = 1, 2. \quad (31)$$

<sup>17</sup>In fact, this property is shared by any productivity function that is multiplicatively separable in the ability levels of the two factors.

<sup>18</sup>The productivity function  $\psi_i(\cdot)$  is strictly increasing for  $i = 1, 2$ . Therefore if  $w(\cdot)$  were discontinuous at some  $q_L$ , then there would be no demand for workers with abilities just above or just below  $q_L$ . Moreover, if the wage function were not strictly increasing, there would be no demand for some positive measure of workers. If, for example,  $w(\cdot)$  were flat or declining over some interval beginning at  $q_L$ , there would be no demand for workers in an interval bounded below by  $q_L$ . Analogous arguments apply to the salary schedule  $r(\cdot)$ .



Second, it chooses  $q_H$  to maximize  $\Pi_i(q_H)$ . We show in the appendix that the solution to this problem results in equilibrium allocation sets  $Q_{Li}$  and  $Q_{Hi}$  that must be unions of closed intervals, where  $Q_{Fi}$  is the set of types of factor  $F$  that sorts to industry  $i$ , for  $F = H, L$  and  $i = 1, 2$ . Moreover, there is positive assortative matching (PAM) within each sector; that is, in each industry the better workers are matched with the better managers (see Eeckhout and Kircher, 2012). It can happen, however, that when comparing a more able manager employed in sector 2 and a less able manager employed in sector 1, the latter oversees better workers than the former. In other words, PAM may fail *across sectors*, as we shall see in several examples below.

Let  $m_i(q_H)$  denote the solution to (31). Then

$$m(q_H) = \begin{cases} m_1(q_H) & \text{for } q_H \in Q_{H1} \\ m_2(q_H) & \text{for } q_H \in Q_{H2} \end{cases}.$$

The equilibrium pairings in sector  $i$  are

$$M_i = [\{q_H, q_L\} \mid q_L \in m_i(q_H) \text{ for all } q_H \in Q_{Hi}],$$

where  $M_i$  is a closed graph consisting of a union of connected sets  $M_i^n$  such that  $m_i(q_H)$  is continuous and strictly increasing in each set but may jump discontinuously between them.

Now consider an equilibrium with incomplete specialization, so that both  $Q_{H1}$  and  $Q_{H2}$  are of positive measure. Then  $\Pi_i(q_H) = 0$  for all  $q_H \in Q_{Hi}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , which implies

$$r(q_H) = \bar{\gamma}_i p_i^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}} \psi_i[q_H, m_i(q_H)]^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma_i}} w[m_i(q_H)]^{-\frac{\gamma_i}{1-\gamma_i}} \text{ for all } q_H \in Q_{Hi}, \quad i = 1, 2. \quad (32)$$

Continuity of the wage and salary schedules implies that both functions are differentiable almost everywhere. Moreover, profit maximization and (32) imply that, at all interior points of a connected subset  $M_i^n$  of  $M_i$ , the salary function  $r(\cdot)$  and the wage function  $w(\cdot)$  are differentiable; see the appendix for proof. It follows that the solution to (31) must satisfy the first-order condition

$$\frac{m(q_H) \psi_{iL}[q_H, m(q_H)]}{\gamma_i \psi_i[q_H, m(q_H)]} = \varepsilon_w(m(q_H)) \text{ for all } \{q_H, m(q_H)\} \in M_i^{n,int}, \quad n \in N_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \quad (33)$$

where  $M_i^{n,int}$  is the interior of  $M_i^n$ . Also, (32) and (33) imply that

$$\frac{q_H \psi_{iH}[q_H, m(q_H)]}{(1 - \gamma_i) \psi_i[q_H, m(q_H)]} = \varepsilon_r(q_H) \text{ for all } \{q_H, m(q_H)\} \in M_i^{n,int}, \quad n \in N_i, \quad i = 1, 2. \quad (34)$$

Note the similarity between these equations and (18) and (19), which apply in the Cobb-Douglas case. The difference is that now the elasticities of productivity with respect to a factor's ability depend on the worker-manager combinations that occur in equilibrium.

It remains to describe the sorting conditions at boundary points between some  $M_1^n$  and some  $M_2^{n'}$ . Let  $q_L^\dagger$  be some such boundary point, so that workers with ability just above  $q_L^\dagger$  sort to one

sector while workers with ability just below  $q_L^\dagger$  sort to the other. For this, we require the wage function  $w(q_L)$  to be at least as steep to the right of  $q_L^\dagger$  as to the left; otherwise the firms that employ workers with abilities just below  $q_L^\dagger$  could earn positive profits by hiring slightly more able workers and likewise firms that hire workers with abilities above  $q_L^\dagger$  could earn profits by hiring slightly less able workers. By a similar argument, the salary function  $r(q_H)$  must be (weakly) steeper just to the right of any boundary point  $q_H^\dagger$  than just to the left of such a point.

We turn next to the factor-market clearing conditions. To this end, define  $\mathbf{Q}_{Hi}(q_H)$  as the set of all managers that sort to sector  $i$  whose ability does not exceed  $q_H$ . Similarly, define  $\mathbf{Q}_{Li}(q_L)$  as the set of workers that sort to sector  $i$  whose ability does not exceed  $q_L$ . A profit-maximizing firm in sector  $i$  that hires workers of ability  $q_L$  and managers of ability  $q_H$  demands  $\ell(q_H, q_L) = [\gamma_i r(q_H)] / [(1 - \gamma_i) w(q_L)]$  workers per manager. Since the matching function is everywhere increasing, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} & \bar{H} \int_{q \in \mathbf{Q}_{Hi}(q_{Hi}^{\min})} \frac{\gamma_i r(q)}{(1 - \gamma_i) w[m(q)]} \phi_H(q) dq + \bar{H} \int_{q_{Hi}^{\min}}^{q_H} \frac{\gamma_i r(q)}{(1 - \gamma_i) w[m(q)]} \phi_H(q) dq \\ &= \bar{L} \int_{q \in \mathbf{Q}_{Li}[m(q_{Hi}^{\min})]} \phi_L(q) dq + \bar{L} \int_{m(q_{Hi}^{\min})}^{m(q_H)} \phi_L(q) dq \quad \text{for all } q_H \in (q_{Hi}^{\min}, q_{Hi}^{\max}), \quad i = 1, 2, \end{aligned}$$

where the left-hand side represents the labor demanded by all firms in sector  $i$  hiring managers with ability not exceeding  $q_H$  and the right-hand side represents the measure of workers available to be teamed with those managers. Since the left-hand side is differentiable in  $q_H$ , this equation implies that the matching function  $m(q_H)$  also is differentiable at points in  $(q_{Hi}^{\min}, q_{Hi}^{\max})$ . That being the case, we can differentiate the labor-market clearing condition with respect to  $q_H$  to derive a differential equation for the matching function, namely

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{H} \frac{\gamma_i r(q_H)}{(1 - \gamma_i) w[m(q_H)]} \phi_H(q_H) &= \bar{L} \phi_L[m(q_H)] m'(q_H) \\ \text{for } \{q_H, m(q_H)\} &\in M_i^{n, \text{int}}, \quad n \in N_i, \quad i = 1, 2. \end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

Equations (33), (34) and (35) comprise three differential equations that are satisfied in any competitive equilibrium by the wage schedule  $w(q_L)$ , the salary schedule  $r(q_H)$ , and the matching function  $m(q_H)$ . Together with the zero-profit condition and a set of boundary conditions, these equations can be used to characterize an equilibrium allocation.

Let us consider first the possibility that the set of workers that sorts to each sector comprises a single, connected interval, and similarly for managers. That is, we consider equilibria that are characterized by two thresholds,  $q_L^*$  and  $q_H^*$ , such that all workers with ability less than  $q_L^*$  sort to some sector while all workers with ability greater than  $q_L^*$  sort to the other, and all managers with ability less than  $q_H^*$  sort to some sector while all managers with ability greater than  $q_H^*$  sort to the other. Note that we do not insist that the better workers and better managers sort to the same sector, nor do we claim that all competitive equilibria are characterized by such a simple sorting pattern.

When the set of workers employed in sector  $i$  comprises a single, connected interval, (33) implies

$$\ln w_i(q_L) - \ln w_i(q_{L0}) = \int_{q_{L0}}^{q_L} \frac{\psi_{iL}[\mu(x), x]}{\gamma_i \psi_i[\mu(x), x]} dx, \quad \text{for all } q_L, q_{L0} \in Q_{Li}, \quad (36)$$

where  $\mu(\cdot)$  is the inverse of  $m(\cdot)$  (and the latter function is invertible in sector  $i$  due to strict log supermodularity of  $\psi_i(\cdot)$ ). Similarly, when the set of managers employed in sector  $i$  comprises a single connected interval, (34) implies

$$\ln r_i(q_H) - \ln r_i(q_{H0}) = \int_{q_{H0}}^{q_H} \frac{\psi_{iH}[x, m(x)]}{(1 - \gamma_i) \psi_i[x, m(x)]} dx, \quad \text{for all } q_H, q_{H0} \in Q_{Hi}. \quad (37)$$

We see from (36) that the relative wage of the more able of any pair of workers employed in a given sector rises if all workers with abilities between the two are rematched with better managers than before. Similarly, from (37), the relative salary of the better manager in a pair that is employed in the same sector rises if the matches improve for all managers with abilities intermediate between the two. These observations reflect the complementarity between worker and manager ability that is implied by (strict) log supermodularity of the productivity functions.

Our next task is to describe sufficient conditions for the existence of a threshold equilibrium. The following proposition provides such conditions.

**Proposition 10** *Suppose that Assumption 3 holds.*

(i) *If*

$$\frac{\psi_{iH}(q_H, q_{L\min})}{(1 - \gamma_i) \psi_i(q_H, q_{L\min})} > \frac{\psi_{jH}(q_H, q_{L\max})}{(1 - \gamma_j) \psi_j(q_H, q_{L\max})} \quad \text{for all } q_H \in S_H, \quad i \neq j, \quad i = 1, 2,$$

*then in any competitive equilibrium with employment of managers in both sectors, the more able managers with  $q_H \geq q_H^*$  are employed in sector  $i$  and the less able managers with  $q_H \leq q_H^*$  are employed in sector  $j$ , for some  $q_H^* \in S_H$ .*

(ii) *If*

$$\frac{\psi_{iL}(q_{H\min}, q_L)}{\gamma_i \psi_i(q_{H\min}, q_L)} > \frac{\psi_{jL}(q_{H\max}, q_L)}{\gamma_j \psi_j(q_{H\max}, q_L)} \quad \text{for all } q_L \in S_L, \quad i \neq j, \quad i = 1, 2,$$

*then in any competitive equilibrium with employment of workers in both sectors, the more able workers with  $q_L \geq q_L^*$  are employed in sector  $i$  and the less able workers with  $q_L \leq q_L^*$  are employed in sector  $j$ , for some  $q_L^* \in S_L$ .*

Part (i) of the proposition states that all high-ability managers—those with indexes above some threshold—will sort to sector  $i$  if the ratio of the elasticity of productivity with respect to manager ability to the elasticity of output with respect to managerial time is higher in that sector when a given manager is teamed with the economy's *least able* workers than the similar elasticity ratio that applies for sector  $j$  when the manager instead is teamed with the economy's *most able* workers. In such circumstances, the combinations of workers and managers cannot overturn the forces that we

have previously identified that indicate sorting of the best managers to sector  $i$ .<sup>19</sup> Part (ii) of the proposition has a similar interpretation for labor sorting; the condition ensures that the ranking of sectors by elasticity ratio cannot be overturned even after allowing for the workers' most favorable pairing in one sector compared to their least favorable pairing in the other.

If the conditions for Proposition 10 are satisfied, then the top tier of managers sorts to some sector as does the top tier of workers, although the sector chosen by the best workers need not be the same as that chosen by the best managers. We refer to a sorting pattern that has both top managers and top workers employed in the same sector as an  $HH/LL$  equilibrium (for “high-high” and “low-low”) and one that has the more able managers employed in the same sector as the less able workers as an  $HL/LH$  equilibrium (for “high-low” and “low-high”). We will see examples of both types of equilibrium in what follows.

Our next proposition provides sufficient conditions for the existence of an equilibrium with an  $HH/LL$  sorting pattern. These conditions impose less severe requirements on the productivity function than those in Proposition 10, although we do not mean to imply by this that an  $HH/LL$  equilibrium is in any sense more “likely” than an  $HL/LH$  equilibrium.<sup>20</sup> In the appendix we prove

**Proposition 11** *Suppose that Assumption 3 holds. If*

$$\frac{\psi_{1H}(q_H, q_L)}{(1 - \gamma_1)\psi_1(q_H, q_L)} > \frac{\psi_{2H}(q_H, q_L)}{(1 - \gamma_2)\psi_2(q_H, q_L)} \text{ for all } q_H \in S_H, \quad q_L \in S_L,$$

and

$$\frac{\psi_{1L}(q_H, q_L)}{\gamma_1\psi_1(q_H, q_L)} > \frac{\psi_{2L}(q_H, q_L)}{\gamma_2\psi_2(q_H, q_L)} \text{ for all } q_H \in S_H, \quad q_L \in S_L,$$

then in any competitive equilibrium with employment of managers and workers in both sectors, the more able managers with  $q_H \geq q_H^*$  are employed in sector 1 and the less able managers with  $q_H \leq q_H^*$  are employed in sector 2, for some  $q_H^* \in S_H$ ; the more able workers with  $q_L \geq q_L^*$  are employed in sector 1 and the less able workers with  $q_L \leq q_L^*$  are employed in sector 2, for some  $q_L^* \in S_L$ .

The difference in the antecedents in Proposition 10 and 11 is that, in the former we compare the elasticity ratio for each factor when it is combined with the least able type of the other factor in one sector versus the most able type in the other sector, whereas in the latter we compare the

<sup>19</sup>The strict log supermodularity of  $\psi_i(\cdot)$  implies that  $\psi_{iH}(q_H, q_L)/\psi_i(q_H, q_L)$  is increasing in  $q_L$  for every value of  $q_H$ . Therefore, if the inequality condition in part (i) of the proposition holds, we must have

$$\frac{\psi_{iH}(q_H, q_L)}{(1 - \gamma_i)\psi_i(q_H, q_L)} > \frac{\psi_{jH}(q_H, q'_L)}{(1 - \gamma_j)\psi_j(q_H, q'_L)} \text{ for all } q_H \in S_H \text{ and all } q_L, q'_L \in S_L, \quad i \neq j.$$

Then, the ratio of elasticities for a given manager is greater in sector  $i$  than in sector  $j$  for a given manager irrespective of the matches that form in one sector or the other. In this case, the most able managers sort to the sector where the ratio of elasticity of productivity with respect to managerial ability to the elasticity of output with respect to manager quantity is (unambiguously) highest. Under the condition of part (ii) of the proposition, an analogous argument can be made regarding the workers.

<sup>20</sup>The sufficient conditions in the two propositions also impose restrictions on the factor-intensity parameters  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$ , which are in general easier to satisfy for an  $HL/LH$  equilibrium than for an  $HH/LL$  equilibrium.

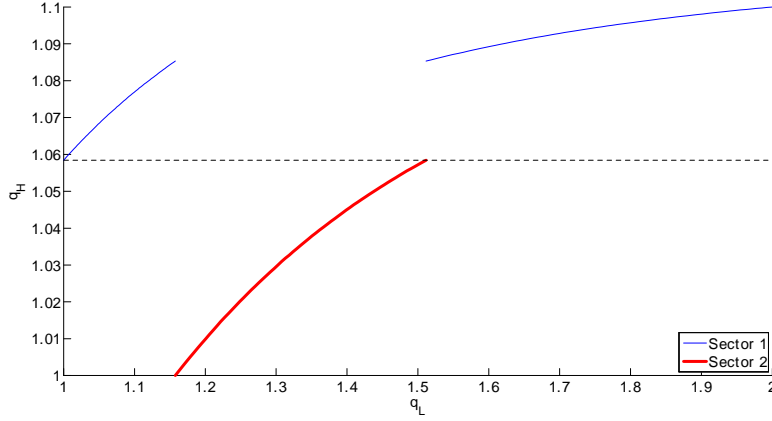


Figure 3: Matching: The most and least able workers and the most able managers sort into sector 1

elasticity ratios for common partners in the two sectors. The difference arises, because an *HH/LL* equilibrium has PAM within *and across* industries, while an *HL/LH* equilibrium has PAM only within industries. In an *HL/LH* equilibrium, an able manager in sector  $i$  might be tempted to move to sector  $j$  despite a generally greater responsiveness of productivity to ability in  $i$ , because the better workers have incentive to sort to  $j$ , and with log supermodularity of  $\psi_j(\cdot)$ , the able manager stands to gain most from this superior match. In contrast, in an *HH/LL* equilibrium, the able manager in sector  $i$  would find less able workers to match with were she to move to sector  $j$ , so the temptation to switch sectors in order to upgrade partners is not present.

Propositions 10 and 11 provide sufficient conditions for the existence of a threshold equilibrium in which the allocation set for each factor and industry comprises a single, connected interval. These conditions are not necessary, however, so a threshold equilibrium can arise even if they are not satisfied. Nonetheless, not all parameter configurations give rise to equilibria with such a simple sorting pattern. An example of a more complex sorting pattern is illustrated in Figure 3.<sup>21</sup> In this example, the most able and least able workers sort to sector 1 while an intermediate interval of worker types sort to sector 2. The firms in sector 1 hire the economy's most able managers whereas those in sector 2 hire those with ability below some threshold level. Notice that graphs  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  display the general properties that we described above; they are unions of connected sets, with a matching function  $m(q_H)$  that is continuous and increasing within any such set. The figure reflects a "sorting reversal" for workers that arises because the elasticity ratio for labor is higher in sector 1 when worker ability is low or high, but higher in sector 2 for a middle range of abilities. Of course, other sorting patterns besides that depicted in Figure 3 also are possible.

Armed with an understanding of the forces that drive factor sorting, we will turn shortly to the relationship between factor endowments and trade and the effects of trade on the wage and salary distributions. But before that, it will prove helpful to examine how matching and factor prices are determined for some connected intervals of worker and manager types employed in a given sector.

<sup>21</sup>The functional forms and parameter values underlying this example are presented in Lim (2013).

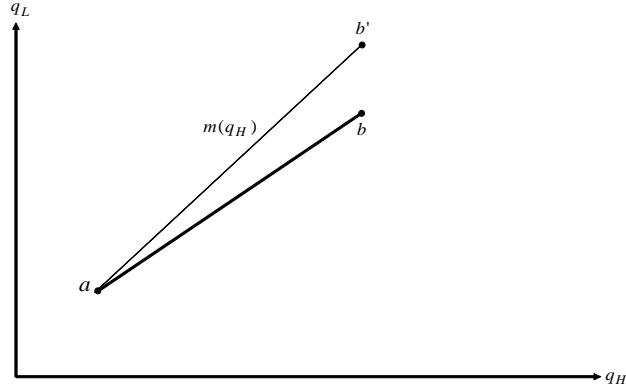


Figure 4: Shift in the matching function when  $q_L^b$  rises to  $q_L^{b'}$

### 5.1 Matching and Factor Price Determination in an Allocation Set

Consider the subset of factors employed and matched in some sector comprising the interval of managers  $Q_H = [q_{Ha}, q_{Hb}]$  and the interval of workers  $Q_L = [q_{La}, q_{Lb}]$ .<sup>22</sup> Matching between these factors and all wages and salaries are determined by a system of differential equations together with the relevant boundary conditions.<sup>23</sup> Our aim is to characterize a solution to the system comprising (33)-(35) for  $q_H \in Q_H$  and  $q_L = m(q_H) \in Q_L$  that also satisfies the zero-profit condition (32) and the boundary conditions,  $m(q_{Hz}) = q_{Lz}$ ,  $z = a, b$ . The solution to this system, which is unique, is developed in more detail in the appendix.

The solution has several notable properties. First, when the price of final output increases by some proportion, all wages for workers in  $Q_L$  and all salaries for managers in  $Q_H$  rise by this same proportion, while the matching of workers and managers in  $M_i^n$  remains the same. Second, when the ratio of the number of managers to workers increases by some proportion  $\hat{\eta}$ , the wages of all workers in  $Q_L$  rise by the proportion  $(1 - \gamma)\hat{\eta}$ , while the salaries of all managers in  $Q_H$  fall by the proportion  $\gamma\hat{\eta}$ . This too has no effect on the matching of workers and managers in  $M_i^n$ . See Lemma 1 in the appendix for a formal statement and proof of these results.

Next consider how changes in the boundary points affect matching and factor rewards. Figure 4 illustrates how the matching function shifts, for example, when the uppermost boundary of the interval of workers rises from  $q_{Lb}$  to  $q_{Lb'}$ . Lemma 2 in the appendix establishes that, when (32)-(35) are satisfied for a given productivity function  $\psi(\cdot)$  and given parameters  $p, \gamma, \bar{H}$  and  $\bar{L}$  but different boundary points, then the corresponding matching functions can intersect at most once.

<sup>22</sup>We omit for now the subscripts that identify the sector of employment, because we will be examining only this single group of workers and managers.

<sup>23</sup>With Cobb-Douglas productivity, as in Section 4, matching between workers and managers is indeterminate and all wages and salaries dictated by the conditions for full employment, which require constant elasticities of the two factor-price schedules. Now, optimal matching depends on factor prices and factor productivities depend on the matches, which generates the system of interdependent, differential equations.

Moreover, if such an intersection exists, the solution with the steeper matching function at the point of intersection also has lower wages and higher salaries for all ability levels that are common to the two settings; see Lemma 6 in the appendix. In the figure, the matching functions that apply before and after the increase in the upper boundary of worker ability necessarily intersect at  $(q_{Ha}, q_{La})$ . By Lemma 2, we know that this can be the only intersection of the two curves, and then the fact that a manager with ability  $q_{Hb}$  initially matches with a group of workers with ability  $q_{Lb}$  but ultimately matches with a group of ability  $q_{Lb'}$  implies that the matching function shifts upward everywhere in the interior of  $M_t^n$ , as shown. Finally, Lemma 6 implies that wages fall for all workers with  $q_L \in [q_{La}, q_{Lb}]$  as a result of the addition of workers at the upper end of the interval.

The rematching depicted in Figure 4 has implications for within-industry wage and salary inequality. Using (36) and (37) with  $q_{L0} = q_{La}$  and  $q_{H0} = q_{Ha}$ , we see that the wage schedule rises with ability more slowly after the upper bound on worker ability increases to  $q_{Lb'}$ . This is so, because the original worker types are matched with less able managers after the expansion in the interval of workers and, while the downgrades are detrimental to the productivity of all workers, they are especially so for those with greater ability. Consequently, wage inequality among workers with  $q_L \in [q_{La}, q_{Lb}]$  narrows. Meanwhile, the managers all find better matches than before, which raises their productivity, but especially so for the most able among them. Therefore, salary inequality grows.

Similar reasoning can be used to find the shift in the matching function—and the wage and salary responses—for changes in the other boundary points. For example, if the lower boundary of the interval of managers rises from  $q_{Ha}$  to  $q_{Ha'}$ , the matching function shifts downward (thereby connecting a point to the right of  $a$  in Figure 4 with point  $b$ ), and thus the manager types that remain in the sector find themselves teamed with less able workers while all workers in  $Q_L$  find improved matches with managers. Such rematching narrows the salary distribution while exacerbating wage inequality. The key intuition is that, when the matches improve for some set of types of a factor, the marginal products rise proportionally more for those types that are more able, in view of the complementarities that are present.

We are ready to turn our attention to the sources of comparative advantage and the impact of trade on wages and salaries.

## 5.2 Pattern of Trade

Consider the pattern of trade in an environment with sorting and matching. We note first that two countries that share identical and homothetic preferences and similar distributions of factor types but different relative factor endowments will not engage in trade unless the two industries have different factor intensities. More formally, we state

**Proposition 12** *Suppose that Assumption 3 holds,  $\phi_H^A(q_H) = \phi_H^B(q_H) > 0$  for all  $q_H \in S_H^A = S_H^B = S_H$ ,  $\phi_L^A(q_L) = \phi_L^B(q_L) > 0$  for all  $q_L \in S_L^A = S_L^B = S_L$ , and  $\gamma_1 = \gamma_2 = \gamma$ . Then  $X_1^A/X_2^A = X_1^B/X_2^B$  for all  $\bar{H}^A/\bar{L}^A$  and  $\bar{H}^B/\bar{L}^B$ .*

We present the proof of this proposition here in the main text, because it helps to clarify the economics of the result and what follows.

**Proof.** To prove the result, we examine the equilibrium response to an increase in the endowment ratio  $\bar{H}/\bar{L}$  at given relative prices. The initial equilibrium is characterized by sets  $Q_{Li}$  and  $Q_{Hi}$  for  $i = 1, 2$ , a matching function  $m(q_H)$  that is strictly increasing in each of  $Q_{H1}$  and  $Q_{H2}$ , and wage and salary functions  $w(q_L)$  and  $r(q_H)$  that are continuous and strictly increasing in  $S_L$  and  $S_H$ , respectively. These various functions satisfy (32)-(35) and an appropriate set of boundary conditions. Now suppose that the endowment ratio  $\bar{H}/\bar{L}$  increases by some proportion  $\hat{\eta}$ . Let us conjecture that the sets  $Q_{Li}$  and  $Q_{Hi}$  for  $i = 1, 2$  and the matching function  $m(q_H)$  remain unchanged. Meanwhile, let the wage schedule rise by the proportion  $(1 - \gamma)\hat{\eta}$  and let the salary schedule fall by the proportion  $\gamma\hat{\eta}$ , so that the factor-price ratio  $w[m(q_H)]/r(q_H)$  increases by the proportion  $\hat{\eta}$  for all  $q_H \in S_H$ . With these changes in factor prices, every firm increases its labor demand (per manager) by the proportion  $\hat{\eta}$ , irrespective of the ability of its managers. Thus, the labor-market clearing condition (35) continues to be satisfied. Clearly, the new wage and salary schedules are continuous and strictly increasing and they satisfy the first-order conditions, (33) and (34), and the zero-profit condition (32). So, the new factor prices and the original matching function and allocation sets indeed constitute an equilibrium after the increase in  $\bar{H}/\bar{L}$ . Output grows in both sectors by the same proportion,  $\gamma\hat{\eta}$ , and thus relative outputs do not change. ■

When the industries differ in their factor intensities, the above construction—with equiproportionate growth in both sectors, more workers per manager everywhere, and no change in matching—does not work. Then a change in relative factor endowments does, in general, necessitate a change in the composition of output. We focus on the case in which two countries that differ (only) in relative factor endowments both display threshold equilibria; that is, in each country an interval of the more able workers sorts to one sector while the remaining workers sort to the other, and similarly for managers. We do not require that the more able workers sort to the same sector as the more able managers, so we allow here for either an  $HH/LL$  equilibrium or an  $HL/LH$  equilibrium.

Let us begin with the latter. Suppose, for concreteness, that country  $A$  is relatively well endowed with managers compared to country  $B$  ( $\bar{H}^A/\bar{L}^A > \bar{H}^B/\bar{L}^B$ ) and that industry 1 is relatively manager intensive compared to industry 2 ( $\gamma_1 < \gamma_2$ ). Figure 5 depicts the qualitative features of the inverse matching functions in such circumstances. In the figure, the solid curves depict the matches that occur in country  $A$  when the more able workers with abilities  $q_L \in [q_L^*, q_{L\max}]$  sort to industry 1 and match there with the less able managers with abilities  $q_H \in [q_{H\min}, q_H^*]$ . As previously noted, the equilibrium features PAM within each sector but not across sectors. The broken curves in the figure represent the matches that occur in country  $B$ . We show in the appendix that the threshold  $q_L^*$  always is smaller in the country that is relatively abundant in managers and the threshold  $q_H^*$  is larger in that country if and only if industry 1 is manager intensive; i.e., the country with more managers per worker employs a greater fraction of its managers and a greater fraction of its workers in the manager-intensive sector. As is apparent from the figure and Lemma 3 in the appendix (that allows at most one crossing within a sector), the inverse matching function



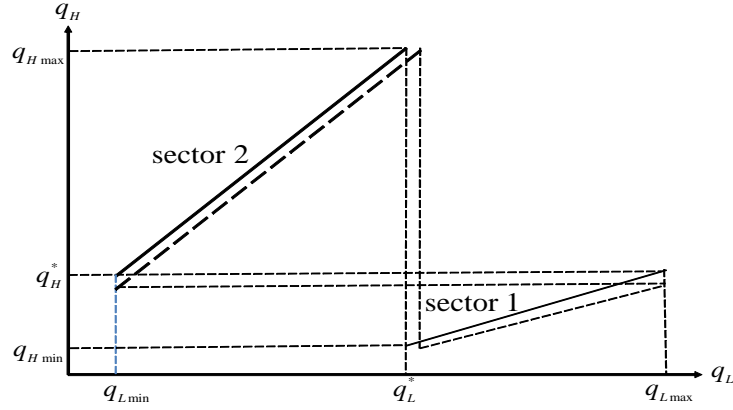


Figure 5: Sorting and matching: HL/LH equilibrium

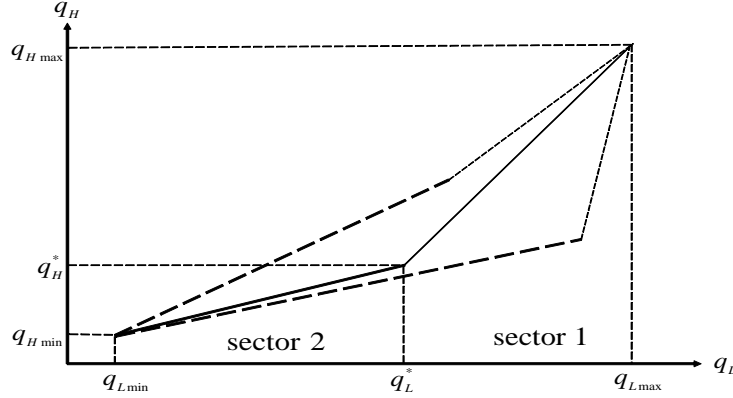


Figure 6: Sorting and matching: HH/LL equilibrium

for country  $B$  must lie below that for country  $A$ , both for the set of worker and manager types that are employed in sector 1 in both countries and for the set of worker and manager types that are employed in sector 2 in both countries. Among these types, the managers in country  $B$  achieve better matches than their counterparts of similar ability in country  $A$ , whereas the workers in country  $B$  achieve worse matches than their counterparts of similar ability in country  $A$ . Just the opposite is true about the relative positions of the matching functions and the comparisons of the matches when sector 2 is the more manager intensive. In either case, country  $A$ —with its relative abundance of managers—always exports the manager-intensive good.

Now consider an  $HH/LL$  equilibrium in which the best workers and the best managers sort to sector 1. The (inverse) matching function for such an equilibrium is continuous, monotonically increasing, and has a slope that rises at the threshold  $q_L^*$ , such as the one depicted for country  $A$  by

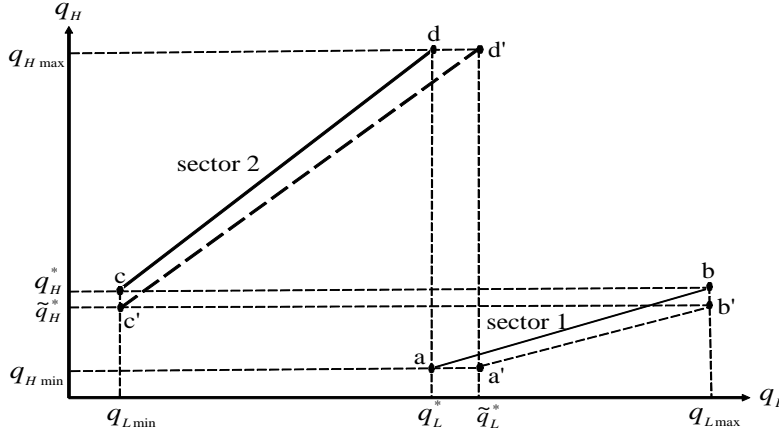


Figure 7: Effects of a rise in  $p_2$  on matching:  $HL/LH$  equilibrium

the solid curve in Figure 6. We show in the appendix that if  $\bar{H}^A/\bar{L}^A > \bar{H}^B/\bar{L}^B$  then the threshold ability levels  $q_L^*$  and  $q_H^*$  both are greater in country  $A$  than in country  $B$  if and only if industry 2 is the labor-intensive sector. Again, the country that is relatively abundant in managers devotes greater fractions of its managers and workers to production in the manager-intensive sector. It is not clear whether managers of a given quality find better matches in country  $A$  or in country  $B$ , or whether workers do so; the figure shows with broken curves the two possible outcomes when  $\bar{H}^A/\bar{L}^A > \bar{H}^B/\bar{L}^B$  and  $\gamma_1 > \gamma_2$ . In any case, the manager-abundant country exports the manager-intensive good.

We summarize in

**Proposition 13** *Suppose that: (i) Assumption 3 holds; (ii) countries  $A$  and  $B$  are identical except for  $\bar{H}^A/\bar{L}^A > \bar{H}^B/\bar{L}^B$ ; (iii) both countries are characterized by threshold equilibria with a single cutoff for workers  $q_L^*$  and for managers  $q_H^*$ ; and (iv)  $\gamma_1 \neq \gamma_2$ . Then country  $A$  exports the manager-intensive good.*

### 5.3 Effects of Trade on Income Distribution

The strong complementarities between factors that are implied by strict log supermodularity of the productivity function induce PAM within sectors, as we have seen. The matches are fully determined in the general equilibrium, unlike what occurs for Cobb-Douglas productivity, and so changes in relative price generated by the opening of trade affect within-sector matching and the within-sector income distribution. We turn now to the question of how trade affects these outcomes.

The opening of trade elevates the relative price of a country's export good. For concreteness, consider the country that exports good 2. In Figure 7, the solid curves  $cd$  and  $ab$  depict the (inverse) matching function prior to the opening of trade for the case of an  $HL/LH$  equilibrium in which the

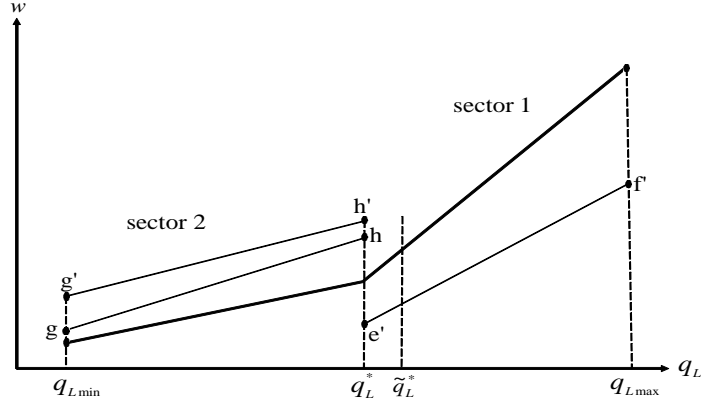


Figure 8: Effects of a rise in  $p_2$  on wages: HL/LH equilibrium

more able workers sort to industry 1. Now let  $p_2$  rise as a result of trade. This draws managers and workers into sector 2, so that  $q_H^*$  falls and  $q_L^*$  rises.<sup>24</sup> The new boundary points are represented by  $c'$ ,  $d'$ ,  $a'$  and  $b'$ . As is evident from the figure, the new inverse matching function (represented by the broken curves) lies below the old for all worker and manager types that remain in their original industry of employment after the opening of trade. As a result, the opening of trade allows all managers except those that switch sectors to achieve better matches than before, while causing all workers except those that switch sectors to realize worse matches than before.

Proposition 14 summarizes these effects of trade on matching for the case of an *HL/LH* equilibrium and reports the implications for wage and salary inequality.

**Proposition 14** *Suppose that: (i) Assumption 3 holds and (ii) the initial equilibrium is a threshold equilibrium with an HL/LH sorting pattern. Then an increase in  $p_2$  (a) raises the labor cutoff  $q_L^*$  and reduces the manager cutoff  $q_H^*$  so that more workers and more managers are employed in sector 2; (b) worsens the matches for all workers except those that switch from sector 1 to sector 2; (c) improves the matches for all managers except those that switch from sector 1 to sector 2; (d) reduces within-industry wage inequality in both sectors and overall wage inequality in the economy; and (e) increases within-industry salary inequality in both sectors and overall salary inequality.*

In what follows, we discuss the effects of an increase in  $p_2$  on the wage distribution; the effects on the salary distribution can be understood similarly.

Consider Figure 8, where the unlabeled thick curve represents the wage schedule in an initial equilibrium. On impact—that is, prior to any resource reallocation—wages for workers with  $q_L \in [q_{L,\min}, q_L^*)$  rise in proportion to the increase in  $p_2$ . These higher wages are depicted by the thin

<sup>24</sup>Before any factor reallocation, the increase in  $p_2$  raises the value marginal product of the marginal workers and managers in sector 2 relative to those in sector 1. As factors reallocate, marginal products change and rematching occurs. But we show in the appendix that these secondary effects cannot overturn the impact effects, so that  $q_H^*$  must fall and  $q_L^*$  must rise in the setting described by the figure.

curve  $gh$  in the figure. Were matching in each sector to remain the same despite the movement of workers and managers from sector 1 to sector 2, we could trace the shadow wage schedule for sector 2 beyond  $gh$  and find the intersection with the wage schedule for sector 1 in order to identify the new cutoff ability level. However, the matching functions in each sector do not remain the same in the wake of a price change, as we have already seen.

Let us refer back to Figure 7 and suppose, counterfactually, that as the cutoff for managers declines to its new equilibrium level at  $\tilde{q}_H^*$  there is no change in the cutoff for workers. Were this to be so, the new inverse matching function would comprise a curve connecting points  $c'$  and  $d$  in sector 2, along with a curve connecting points  $a$  with  $b'$  in sector 1. Such a shift would imply a flatter relationship between wages and ability in each sector, considering the strict log supermodularity of the productivity functions. Moreover, the new inverse matching function would be flatter at point  $a$  than the old. By Lemma 6 in the appendix (as discussed in Section 5.1), the wage of a worker with ability  $q_L^*$  employed in sector 1 would fall. We indicate this drop in wage by the point  $e'$  in Figure 8 and draw the curve  $e'f'$  to represent the slower rise of wages as a function of ability. Meanwhile, in sector 2, the inverse matching function is steeper at point  $d$  of Figure 7, where workers of ability  $q_L^*$  match with managers of ability  $q_{H\max}$ . So the wage of a worker with ability  $q_L^*$  employed in sector 2 would be at a point such as  $h'$  in Figure 8, higher than before. Since wages rise at a slower pace in this sector too, the hypothetical wage curve for sector 2 must be above  $gh$ , such as at  $g'h'$  in the figure.

We see that our counterfactual assumption of no change in the cutoff for workers cannot be sustained. The gap in wages between points  $e'$  and  $h'$  induces movement of workers from sector 1 to sector 2. This generates an additional rotation of the two segments of the matching function in Figure 7 to curves between points  $a'$  and  $b'$  for sector 1 and between points  $c'$  and  $d'$  in sector 2. Compared to the matching that would occur without a change in  $q_L^*$ , there is a further worsening of matches for workers, so that wages rise even more slowly than along  $e'f'$  and  $g'h'$  in Figure 8. The movement of workers from sector 1 to sector 2 makes the inverse matching function steeper in sector 2 and flatter in sector 1 for the manager with ability  $\tilde{q}_H^*$ . The former implies a decline in the wage of the worker with ability  $q_{L\min}$  to a point below  $g'$  and a flattening of the wage schedule for workers in sector 1. The latter implies a rise in the wage of the worker with ability  $q_{L\max}$  and a steepening of the wage schedule relative to  $e'f'$ . Together, these shifts eliminate the gap in wages for the (new) marginal worker with ability  $\tilde{q}_L^*$ .

Evidently, wage inequality falls among workers originally in industry 2 and among those remaining in industry 1. Take for example any two workers  $q_L'$  and  $q_L''$  such that  $q_{L\min} \leq q_L' < q_L'' \leq q_L^*$ . Both workers see their match deteriorate as a result of the increase in the price of good 2, but the rematching harms the worker with ability  $q_L''$  by relatively more due to the presence of strong complementarities between factor types. The same is true for any pair of workers with abilities between  $\tilde{q}_L^*$  and  $q_{L\max}$ . Finally, consider a pair of workers that switch sectors; i.e., those that have ability levels between  $q_L^*$  and  $\tilde{q}_L^*$ . The relative wage of the less able worker in this pair must rise, because the elasticity of the wage schedule in (33) is determined after the price change by the

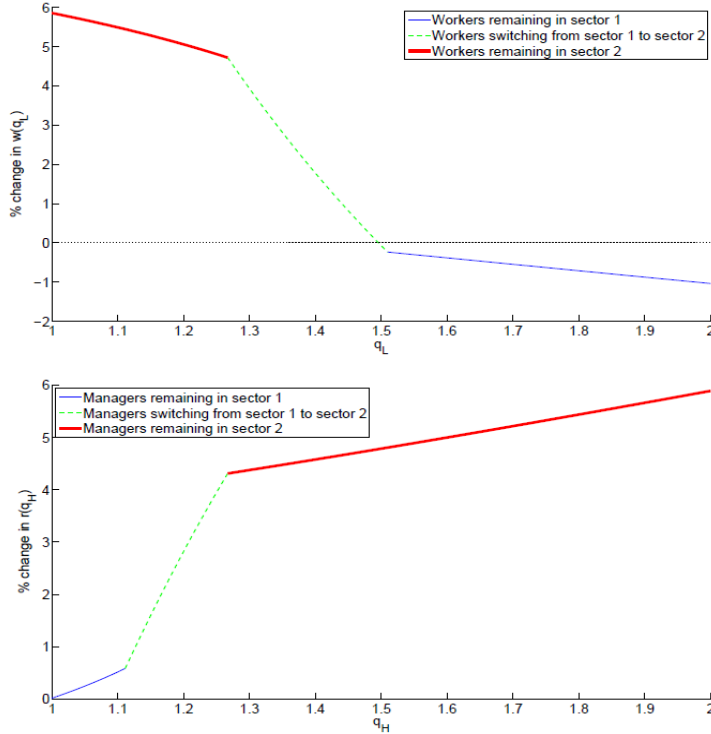


Figure 9: Effects of a 5% increase in  $p_2$  on wages and salaries in an  $HL/LH$  equilibrium

elasticity of the productivity function in sector 2, whereas before it was determined by the elasticity of the productivity function in sector 1. Since the more able workers sort to sector 1, it must be that the former elasticity is smaller than the latter. It follows that wage inequality declines also among workers that switch sectors and therefore among all workers in the economy; see Figure 9 for an example.

What is the overall effect of the price change on the welfare of the various workers? There are several possibilities that can emerge, as can be seen in the numerical simulations presented by Lim (2013). First, if sector 1 is labor intensive and the difference in factor intensities across sectors is large relative to the specificity of the heterogeneous factors, then the Stolper-Samuelson forces dominate. In such circumstances, real wages decline for all workers while real salaries increase for all managers. Of course, if sector 2 is the labor-intensive industry, then the opposite outcomes are possible, with real gains for all workers and losses for all managers.

Figure 9 depicts the wage and salary responses for a less extreme case.<sup>25</sup> Here, sector 2 is labor intensive and  $p_2$  rises by 5%. All workers initially in sector 2 see their wages rise and those at the bottom end of the ability distribution enjoy a wage hike in excess of 5%. Meanwhile, the workers who remain in sector 1 suffer a decline in wages despite the rise in the price of the labor-intensive goods. These workers suffer from their comparative disadvantage in the expanding sector. As for managers, those at the top end of the ability distribution gain the most and some see salary

<sup>25</sup>See Lim (2013) for the parameter values and functional forms that underlie this figure.

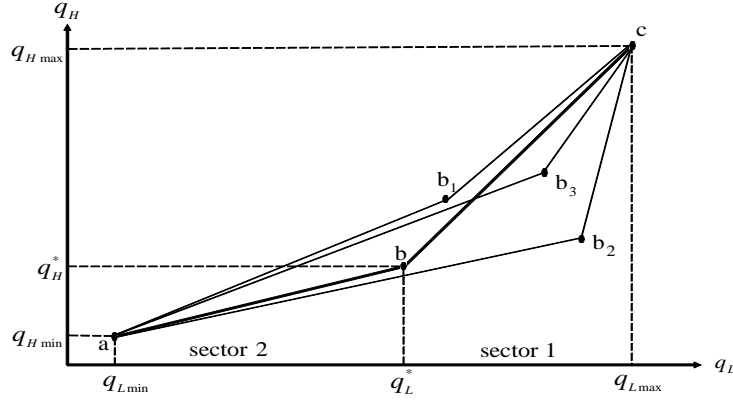


Figure 10: Impact of a rise in  $p_2$  on matching: HH/LL equilibrium

improvements in excess of 5%. Those at the bottom of the ability distribution enjoy welfare gains only if they devote little of their income to the export good. The figure shows the widening of salary inequality among managers.

A host of other possible configurations can emerge, but all can be understood similarly with reference to the relevant factor intensities and sector specificities; see Lim (2013) for examples. Rather than dwell on these cases, we turn now to the wage and salary effects of trade in an *HH/LL* equilibrium. Recall the matching and sorting patterns for such an equilibrium that were displayed in Figure 6. We show in the appendix that, when the price of good 2 rises in such a setting, sector 2 expands by attracting both additional workers and additional managers. It follows that both  $q_L^*$  and  $q_H^*$  rise. In this case, the implications for matching vary according to whether the movement of workers or the movement of managers dominates.

Figure 10 illustrates the various possibilities.<sup>26</sup> The thick curve  $abc$  represents the initial inverse matching function. Now suppose that  $q_L^*$  rises only modestly, while  $q_H^*$  rises more dramatically.<sup>27</sup> Then the new equilibrium would be represented by an inverse matching function such as  $ab_1c$ . In the event, all workers' matches improve following the price increase, whereas all managers see their matches deteriorate. Alternatively, the inflow of workers to sector 2 can be large relative to that for managers, in which case  $q_L^*$  could expand greatly compared to the expansion in  $q_H^*$ . This possibility is illustrated by the inverse matching function  $ab_2c$  in the figure, and it implies a deterioration in match quality for all workers and an improvement for all managers. Finally, the inverse matching function  $ab_3c$  depicts an intermediate case. Notice that the matches improve for all workers initially in sector 2 but deteriorate for all those remaining in sector 1.

Let us focus on the case where the outcome is an inverse matching function such as  $ab_1c$  to discuss the implied wage and salary responses. Since workers' matches improve, wages rise faster

<sup>26</sup>Lim (2013) provides numerical examples of each along with the underlying parameter values.

<sup>27</sup>This outcome plausibly arises when sector 2 is considerably more manager intensive than sector 1.

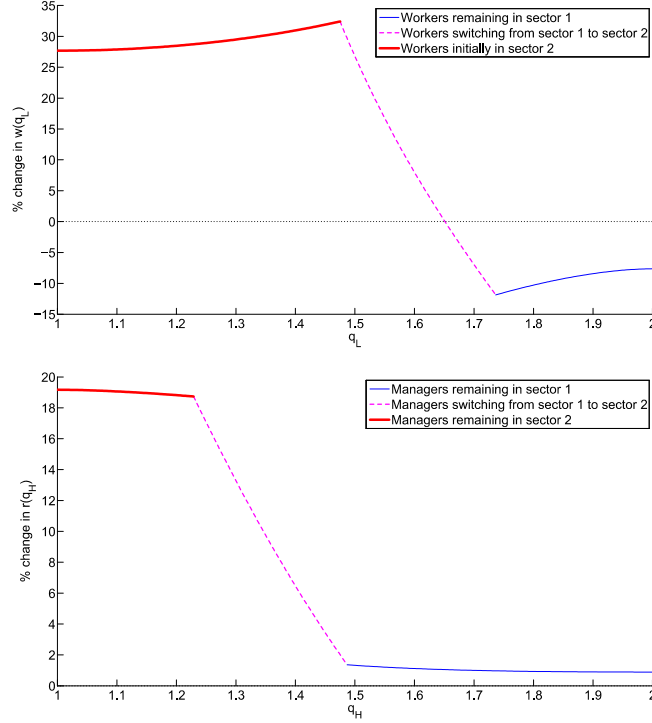


Figure 11: Effects of a 20% increase in  $p_2$  on wages and salaries in an  $HH/LL$  equilibrium

with ability than before. Since managers' matches deteriorate, the opposite is true of managerial salaries. Notice that the inverse matching function has a steeper slope at point  $a$  in the new equilibrium than before the price change. It follows from Lemma 6 that the wage of the least able workers must rise. These workers benefit directly from the increase in  $p_2$  and indirectly from the improvement in their matches. The direct benefit alone matches the proportional increase in price, so these workers enjoy real income gains. At the opposite end of the spectrum, the most able workers must lose. The change in  $p_2$  has no direct effect on their value marginal product. Since the new inverse matching function is flatter at point  $c$  than the initial function, Lemma 6 implies that these workers suffer a decline in nominal wages. The gain in real income for the least able workers and the loss for the most able workers represents a narrowing of wage inequality across sectors, whereas the improved matching implies that wages are more unequal within each sector.

Figure 11 presents another example drawn from Lim (2013). Notice that the least able workers enjoy real income gains, though not as large as for those more able than themselves who initially were employed in the same sector. Meanwhile, the most able workers lose, but not as much as those less able than themselves who remain in sector 1. The figure also shows the effect on managerial salaries. In this example, all managers realize income gains in terms of good 2 but losses in terms of good 1. These gains are smaller and the losses larger as we move up the salary distribution. A decline in  $r(q_{H \min})/p_2$  is guaranteed in this case, because the direct effect for the least able managers is a salary increase proportional to the rise in  $p_2$ , but the steepening of the

inverse matching function at  $a$  implies that their salaries must fall relative to the price of what they produce. The rise in  $r(q_{H\max})/p_1$  also is guaranteed, because the inverse matching function is flatter at point  $c$  than before. Finally, we know that the new salary function is flatter than the old both for managers initially in sector 2 and for those that remain in sector 1, because the deterioration in match quality hits especially hard for the more able managers in any sector.

If the inverse matching function instead is qualitatively like that depicted by  $ab_2c$  in Figure 10, then the outcomes are just the opposite. Low-ability managers gain from an increase in  $p_2$ , because their value marginal product rises in proportion to the price hike and rises further as a result of the rematching. High-ability managers lose in real terms, because  $r(q_{H\max})/p_1$  falls. All wages rise, albeit less than in proportion to the price increase. The wage hikes are proportionally greatest for those at the bottom end of the ability distribution. As a result of these factor price responses, wage inequality declines both within and between sectors, whereas salaries become more unequal within sectors, but those at the bottom who are employed in sector 2 gain relative to those at the top who are employed in sector 1.

Finally, if the inverse matching function is like that depicted by  $ab_3c$ , then the outcomes are a mix of those described above. In this case, all workers initially employed in sector 2 must benefit from the price increase, while all managers initially employed in sector 1 must lose. The low-ability managers and the high-ability workers both gain in compensation relative to the price of good 1, but lose relative to the price of good 2. Lim (2013) provides numerical examples.

Clearly, by allowing for worker and manager heterogeneity and strong complementarities between these factors, we can accommodate a rich set of possible effects of globalization on the wage and salary distributions. Some forces are familiar. For example, trade tends to benefit the factor (managers or workers) used intensively in the export industry. And trade tends to benefit those types of each factor that have a comparative advantage in the export sector. But other forces are new. Trade can improve the matches for some factor in one sector or in both. If it does so, the productivity of the factor will rise beyond what is predicted by the usual forces, and especially so for the more able types. Predictions about which types will gain or lose—and about whether the income distribution will widen or narrow in response to an opening of trade—may require detailed information about technologies, factor intensities, and distributions of talent and know-how.

## 5.4 Effects of Trade on Measured Productivity

We conclude this section with a brief discussion of the effects of trade on measured productivity. We shall see that the subtle implications of rematching introduce ambiguities here, just as they do for the links between trade and factor prices.

As before, we measure productivity using factor quantities and the Cobb-Douglas nature of the production technology. In particular, we write

$$X_i = A_i L_i^{\gamma_i} H_i^{1-\gamma_i},$$



where  $L_i$  and  $H_i$  are aggregate employment of workers and managers, respectively, in sector  $i$ , and  $A_i$  captures TFP. The firms in sector  $i$  devote a fraction  $\gamma_i$  of their revenues to wages and the remaining fraction to salaries. It follows that  $\gamma_i p_i X_i = \int_{q \in Q_{Li}} w(q) \phi_L(q) dq$  and  $(1 - \gamma_i) p_i X_i = \int_{q \in Q_{Hi}} r(q) \phi_H(q) dq$ . Using these expressions together with the expressions for aggregate employment of workers and managers in each sector, we can write

$$A_i = \gamma_i^{-\gamma_i} (1 - \gamma_i)^{-(1-\gamma_i)} \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{w(q_L)}{p_i} \middle| q_L \in Q_{Li} \right] \right)^{\gamma_i} \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{r(q_H)}{p_i} \middle| q_H \in Q_{Hi} \right] \right)^{1-\gamma_i}.$$

Evidently, measured productivity in a sector varies with the average own-product real wage paid to the workers employed there and the average own-product real salary paid to managers. These averages reflect, of course, the average marginal products of the various factor types.

Consider, for example, a country that has an  $HH/LL$  sorting pattern, such as that depicted in Figure 6. We know that an increase in  $p_2$  draws more of both factors into sector 2. The workers and managers that change sector raise the average marginal products everywhere, because these marginal workers and managers have higher abilities than those initially employed in sector 2 and lower abilities than those that remain employed in sector 1. If matching were to remain as before, then measured TFP would rise in both sectors. This is much the same as for the case of Cobb-Douglas productivity, which we considered previously in Section 4.<sup>28</sup>

But, as we know, the matches do not remain the same, and the rematching impacts the marginal productivity of every manager and worker. Consider further the example of factor-price responses that is depicted in Figure 11. In sector 2, own-product real wages rise and own-product real salaries decline. This reflects an improvement in match quality for the workers initially employed in sector 2 and a deterioration in match quality for the managers there. The former raises measured TFP and the latter lowers it, with the net effect depending in a complex way on factor intensities and the densities of the factor distributions. Meanwhile, the own-product real wages fall in sector 1 and the own-product real salaries rise there, as a result of the rematching that occurs. Again, the net effects are ambiguous. More generally, the rematching of factors in a sector raises the productivity of one factor while reducing it for the other. The effects of trade on measured TFP are thus bound to be an empirical matter.

## 6 Labor Market Frictions

Until now, we have assumed that labor markets flawlessly and costlessly allocate the various types of labor to their most efficient uses. Of course, the smooth functioning of labor markets is notoriously suspect and worker heterogeneity would only seem to exacerbate the potential difficulties. In this section, we show how a simple form of search frictions can be incorporated into the analysis. The extension allows us to discuss the distribution of unemployment rates across the ability spectrum

<sup>28</sup>Note, however, that if a country has an  $HL/LH$  sorting pattern, the expansion of sector 2 leads to an improvement in average worker ability but a decline in average manager ability in both sectors. Then, even without considering the effects of rematching, the implications for measured TFP are ambiguous.

alongside the distribution of wages.

To keep things simple, we continue to assume a frictionless market for managers. In other words, firms can hire managers of whatever ability and in whatever numbers they wish by offering a competitive salary.<sup>29</sup> But firms must search for workers and workers for jobs. We follow Peters (1991, 2000), Acemoglu and Shimer (1999), Burdett et al. (2001), Eeckhout and Kircher (2010a), and others in modeling labor-market frictions with “directed search,” whereby firms pay to post “vacancies” that specify the wage they offer to those they wish to hire. We extend this approach to allow for worker heterogeneity and multiple hires per firm.

Suppose, as before, that the output in industry  $i$  of a production unit comprising a manager of ability  $q_H$  and  $\ell$  workers of ability  $q_L$  is given by (1). A firm (or entrepreneurial manager) hires workers by posting vacancies. Each such posting costs  $c_i$  units of the the firm’s final output. The posting lists the ability level  $q_L$  that the firm is targeting and the wage  $\omega$  that it will be pay to any employee of this type. We assume that the firm can commit to these job attributes, in the sense that it will not hire workers with ability different from the posted level nor attempt to renegotiate its wage offering after it meets with a job applicant.<sup>30</sup> The firm chooses  $v$ , the number of its vacancies, to maximize profits.

Workers are risk neutral. Each worker applies for a single job of his choosing.<sup>31</sup> Workers consider only the jobs for which they are qualified, inasmuch as firms are committed not to hire types different from those targeted in their announcements. Among these jobs, each worker applies for the position that offers the greatest expected income. In equilibrium, workers must be indifferent among the range of openings posted for their type.

Let  $s$  be the number of workers seeking jobs at a firm that has posted  $v$  vacancies. We assume that search results in the consummation of  $M(s, v)$  jobs, where

$$M(s, v) = Bs^\tau v^{1-\tau}, \quad (38)$$

$B > 0$  captures the efficiency of labor market, and  $0 < \tau < 1$ .<sup>32</sup> For the firm, the probability of filling any given vacancy is  $\delta_v(s/v) = B(s/v)^\tau$ , whereas for the worker the probability of a

<sup>29</sup>Perhaps the best way to justify this assumption is to imagine the manager as an entrepreneur, as in Lucas (1978). Then it is the manager that searches for employees and her salary amounts to the residual profits after wages and hiring costs are paid. Alternatively, one might think of the second factor as being *capital*, instead of managers, in which case an assumption that firms can readily find machines of the quality they desire is not so hard to swallow.

<sup>30</sup>Alternatively, we could allow a firm to post a wage schedule and to hire any worker it happens to meet at the wage specified by the schedule. If each vacancy generates at most one meeting with a job applicant, then it is never optimal for the firm to induce applications from more than one type of worker; see Eeckhout and Kircher (2010a, 2010b) for proof of this assertion in related environments. In such circumstances, there is no loss of generality in assuming that the firm targets only one type of worker. Shimer (2005) studies a setting in which one vacancy can result in multiple meetings with potential employees. Then, in the general, it is optimal for any firm to induce applications from several different types. We do not explore this possibility here.

<sup>31</sup>This assumption is common in the literature on direct search. Galenianos and Kircher (2009) describe settings in which the restriction to one application per worker does not change the qualitative predictions of the model.

<sup>32</sup>The job-search literature refers to  $M(s, v)$  as a “matching function” but we eschew that terminology so as to avoid confusion with the function that “matches” workers and managers,  $q_L = m(q_H)$ . The Cobb-Douglas form for  $M(\cdot)$  is common in the literature, and is implicitly coupled with the usual restriction that  $B$  is sufficiently small to imply meeting probabilities below unity for both vacancies and workers.

successful application is  $\delta_s(s/v) = B(s/v)^{-(1-\tau)}$ . The former is increasing in  $s/v$ , while the latter is decreasing in  $s/v$ ; i.e., a firm's chances of filling a vacancy improve and a worker's chances of landing a job decline with the number of applicants per posting.

Now let  $w(q_L)$  be the *expected wage* that workers of type  $q_L$  obtain in equilibrium, which each firm takes as given. A firm must offer at least this expected wage or it will find itself without applicants; and it has no reason to offer more. In equilibrium, a firm with  $v$  vacancies that offers a wage  $\omega$  targeted to workers with ability  $q_L$  attracts  $s$  applicants, where  $s$  is such as to make the applicants indifferent between the firm's openings and their other opportunities; i.e.,  $s$  solves  $\delta_s(s/v)\omega = w(q_L)$ . Using (38), this can be rewritten as

$$\frac{s}{v} = \left[ \frac{B\omega}{w(q_L)} \right]^{\frac{1}{1-\tau}}. \quad (39)$$

Equation (39) is the main building block in a model with directed search; it ties the wage announcement  $\omega$  to the endogenous number of applications per vacancy  $s/v$ , which in turn determines the firm's fill rate,  $\delta_v(s/v)$ .<sup>33</sup> Given the expected wage  $w(q_L)$ , the firm can use (39) to compute the number of workers that will seek its employment and thus the number of workers  $\ell = M(s, v)$  that it will succeed in hiring. Again using (38), together with (39), we see that a firm that posts  $v$  vacancies targeted at workers with ability  $q_L$  and offer is a wage of  $\omega$  succeeds in hiring  $\ell$  workers, where

$$\ell = B^{\frac{1}{1-\tau}} \left[ \frac{\omega}{w(q_L)} \right]^{\frac{\tau}{1-\tau}} v.$$

Evidently, hires are proportional to the number of vacancies and rise with the firm's wage offer relative to the workers' outside option.

Using (39), the firm's employment level (per manager) can alternatively be expressed as a function of  $s$ , namely

$$\ell = \frac{w(q_L)}{\omega} s. \quad (40)$$

Since (39) gives a relationship between  $s$  and  $v$ , we may think of (40) as a constraint on the number of vacancies the firm must post if it wishes to hire  $\ell$  workers with ability  $q_L$ .

Now consider the profit-maximization problem facing a firm with a manager of ability  $q_H$  that chooses to operate in industry  $i$ . The firm pays  $p_i c_i v$  to post  $v$  vacancies and pays  $\omega$  to each of the  $\ell$  workers that it eventually hires. Its profits are given by

$$\pi_i = p_i \psi_i(q_H, q_L) \ell^{\gamma_i} - \omega \ell - p_i c_i v - r(q_H),$$

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<sup>33</sup>Peters (1991, 2000) and Burdett et al. (2001) provide microfoundations for a relationship similar to (39). They begin by assuming a finite number of jobs and vacancies and then allow the economy to grow large without bound. This generates a balls-and-urns type function for applicants per vacancy, rather than the Cobb-Douglas form that is more commonly assumed. Galenianos and Kircher (2012) extends their setup to generate CES and Cobb-Douglas matching functions. With but a few exceptions, the literature on directed search specifies the matching function individually for each vacancy, and we follow in this tradition.

where  $r(q_H)$  as before represents the manager's salary. Then, using (39) and (40), we can re-express its profits as

$$\pi_i = p_i \psi_i(q_H, q_L) \left[ \frac{w(q_L)}{\omega} s \right]^{\gamma_i} - w(q_L) s - p_i c_i \left[ \frac{w(q_L)}{B\omega} \right]^{\frac{1}{1-\tau}} s - r(q_H). \quad (41)$$

Consider first the firm's optimal choice of wage offer. The first-order condition with respect to  $\omega$  implies

$$\frac{w(q_L)}{\omega} = \left[ \frac{(1-\tau) \gamma_i \psi_i(q_H, q_L) B^{\frac{1}{1-\tau}}}{c_i s^{1-\gamma_i}} \right]^{\frac{(1-\tau) \gamma_i}{1-(1-\tau) \gamma_i}}. \quad (42)$$

Substituting this into the profit function (41) yields

$$\pi_i = p_i \varphi_i(q_H, q_L) s^{\zeta_i} - w(q_L) s - r(q_H),$$

where

$$\varphi_i(q_H, q_L) \equiv [1 - (1-\tau) \gamma_i] \left[ \frac{(1-\tau) \gamma_i}{c_i} \right]^{\frac{(1-\tau) \gamma_i}{1-(1-\tau) \gamma_i}} B^{\frac{\gamma_i}{1-(1-\tau) \gamma_i}} \psi_i(q_H, q_L)^{\frac{1}{1-(1-\tau) \gamma_i}}$$

and

$$0 < \zeta_i \equiv \frac{\tau \gamma_i}{1 - (1-\tau) \gamma_i} < 1.$$

Notice that this expression for profits has the same mathematical properties as the profit function  $\pi_i = p_i \psi_i(q_H, q_L) \ell^{\gamma_i} - w(q_L) \ell - r(q_H)$  that we encountered in Section 5, because if  $\psi_i(q_H, q_L)$  satisfies part (ii) of Assumption 3 (i.e., it is strictly increasing, continuously differentiable, and strictly log supermodular) so too does  $\varphi_i(q_H, q_L)$ , and  $\zeta_i$  like  $\gamma_i$  is between zero and one.<sup>34</sup> In other words, the firm's choice about the number of job applications to invite in a setting with search frictions is much like its choice about the number of workers to hire in a setting without them. The first-order condition for  $s$  implies

$$s = \left[ \frac{\delta_i p_i \varphi_i(q_H, q_L)}{w(q_L)} \right]^{\frac{1}{1-\zeta_i}}, \quad (43)$$

which generates the profit function

$$\pi_i(q_H, q_L) = \bar{\zeta}_i p_i^{\frac{1}{1-\zeta_i}} \varphi_i(q_H, q_L)^{\frac{1}{1-\zeta_i}} w(q_L)^{-\frac{\zeta_i}{1-\zeta_i}} - r(q_H),$$

where  $\bar{\zeta}_i \equiv \zeta_i^{\frac{\zeta_i}{1-\zeta_i}} (1 - \zeta_i)$ . This expression has much the same form as (30), which applies in the absence of search frictions. Finally, the analog to the labor-market clearing condition from before is the requirement that the aggregate number of applications induced by firms operating in industry

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<sup>34</sup>Note too that if  $\psi_i(q_H, q_L)$  is a product of power functions, as in Section 4, so too is  $\varphi_i(q_H, q_L)$ . And if  $\psi_i(q_H, q_L)$  has a constant elasticity of substitution between  $q_H$  and  $q_L$ , so too does  $\varphi_i(q_H, q_L)$ .

$i$  and targeting workers of ability  $q_L$  must equal the number of workers with that ability level that sort to the sector in search of a job. With these observations, we conclude that the equilibrium expected wage function  $w(q_L)$ , salary function  $r(q_H)$  and matching function  $q_L = m(q_H)$  can be characterized as the solution to three differential equations analogous to (33)-(35), a zero profit condition analogous to (32), and a set of boundary conditions. Evidently, comparative advantage again derives from a country's relative factor endowments and its distributions of worker and manager ability. Moreover, since  $\zeta_1 > \zeta_2$  if and only if  $\gamma_1 > \gamma_2$ , the cross-sectoral differences in factor intensities interact with differences in factor endowments to determine the pattern of trade in much the same way as before. The search frictions themselves are not an independent source of comparative advantage so long as these frictions are similar in the two sectors.<sup>35</sup>

The model with search frictions features varying employment rates across the distribution of ability levels. In order to discuss the impact of trade on employment, we combine (42), the optimal choice of the wage offer, with (43), a firm's desired number of applications per manager, to derive

$$\omega(q_L) = B^{-\gamma_i} \left( \frac{1-\tau}{\tau p_i c_i} \right)^{-(1-\tau)\gamma_i} w(q_L)^{1-(1-\tau)\gamma_i}.$$

The expected wage  $w(q_L)$  must be an increasing function of ability. It follows that, among workers that seek employment in a given industry  $i$ , those with greater ability see higher posted wages for the jobs they pursue. Next, we substitute this expression for  $\omega(q_L)$  into (40) to derive an expression for the employment rate for workers of ability  $q_L$ , namely

$$\frac{\ell}{s} = B^{\gamma_i} \left( \frac{1-\tau}{\tau c_i} \right)^{(1-\tau)\gamma_i} \left[ \frac{w(q_L)}{p_i} \right]^{(1-\tau)\gamma_i}. \quad (44)$$

Since the expected wage on the right-hand side is an increasing function of ability, we conclude that so too is the employment rate among workers seeking jobs in a given industry. We record our findings in

**Proposition 15** *Suppose that Assumption 3 holds. Let  $q'_L, q''_L \in Q_i$ , with  $q'_L > q''_L$ . Then the job listings targeted to workers with ability  $q'_L$  offer a higher wage and a greater probability of employment than those targeted to  $q''_L$ . The opening of trade causes wage inequality and employment inequality to move in the same direction.*

In a setting with search frictions, the opening of trade affects differently the employment rates at different ability levels. Let us consider just one example to illustrate how the analysis can be performed. Suppose a country has an *HL/LH* sorting pattern such as that depicted in Figure 5 and that the country exports good 2. The opening of trade generates an increase in  $p_2$ . Figure 7 shows the effects of such a price change on the matching of worker and manager types in each sector. As we have seen, the workers who do not switch sectors find themselves teamed with a less

<sup>35</sup>If the number of meetings in (38) varies by sector, then it is immediate from the definition  $\zeta_i \equiv \tau_i \gamma_i / (1 - (1 - \tau_i) \gamma_i)$  that the search process constitutes an additional source of comparative advantage.

able manager than before. Now, Figure 9 can be interpreted as illustrating the predicted impact on *expected* wages. The figure shows an increase in  $w(q_L)/p_2$  for some of the least able workers, who sort to sector 2, a decline in  $w(q_L)/p_2$  for some moderately able workers that sort to sector 2, and a decline in  $w(q_L)/p_1$  for the most able workers, who sort to sector 1.

We refer now to equation (44), which applies in the presence of search frictions. The equation implies that the employment rate rises for the aforementioned group of least able workers while it falls for those with moderate and high ability. Overall, the distribution of employment rates becomes more equal across the worker population. Of course, the effects of trade on the distribution of employment would be just the opposite if the country instead imported good 2. Evidently, trade can widen or narrow the inequality in employment rates across the ability distribution according to the sorting pattern that is realized and the comparative advantage of the country. The determinants of these outcomes in an economy with directed search are similar to the determinants of wage inequality in an economy that has frictionless labor markets.

## 7 Concluding Remarks

In this paper, we have extended the familiar two-sector, two-factor model of international trade to include heterogeneous factors of production. In a model with factor heterogeneity, we can examine the determinants of factor sorting to industries and the determinants of factor matching within industries. When the productivity of a production unit depends on both the manager's and workers' abilities—and particularly when there are strong complementarities between the two—the forces that guide sorting and matching become inextricably linked. The economy-wide patterns of factor assignment can be subtle and complex even in the presence of strong complementarities that dictate positive assortative matching within every sector.

A model with heterogeneous factors allows a more complete analysis of the distributional effects of trade than is possible in one with homogeneous factors. In particular, we can ask how the opening of trade or trade liberalization affects the wage and salary distributions over the entire range of compensation levels. In general, there are three considerations that determine the effects of trade on the income of a particular individual. First, as in the standard Heckscher-Ohlin world with homogeneous factors, there is the question of whether the export sector is intensive in the use of workers or managers. Second, as in the standard Ricardo-Viner world with factor specificity, there is the question of whether an individual's type generates a personal comparative advantage in the export sector or the import-competing sector. Finally, and most novel, there is the question of how trade affects the individual's match with other factors of production. If a change in trade conditions causes a worker to rematch with a better manager than before, then his productivity will improve and his wage will receive an upward boost. If instead a worker's match deteriorates, then his wage may suffer. Interestingly, the effects of trade on wage or salary inequality across sectors may run counter to the effects on inequality within a sector.

We have shown that the Heckscher-Ohlin theorem extends to a setting with heterogeneous

factors provided that the countries share similar distributions of worker and managerial talent. But we have also noted how differences in the distributions of talent can be an independent source of comparative advantage. A country that has more able workers than another—in the sense of a rightward shift in the talent distribution—will produce relatively more of the good for which productivity responds more elastically to ability. We have also seen how trade affects measured TFP in settings where individuals’ talents are not fully observable to the analyst. The equilibrium sorting pattern dictates whether the marginal factors that enter or exit an industry as the result of trade are more or less productive than the average.

Finally, we have extended the model to include search frictions. In a simple setting with directed search, firms create vacancies and specify the type of workers they seek and the wages they are willing to pay. Here, trade affects not only the distribution of wages but also the distribution of employment rates across the heterogeneous population of workers. We provide an example in which the main insights from the earlier analysis carry over without modification to an environment with unemployment. But much work remains to elucidate the connection between trade and the efficiency of matching and to understand how globalization affects equilibrium unemployment rates for different types of workers.

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