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Strategic Climate Policy with Offsets and Incomplete Abatement: Carbon Taxes versus Cap-and-Trade*

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Abstract:

This paper provides a first analysis of a “policy bloc” of fossil fuel importers which implements an optimal coordinated climate policy, faces a (non-policy) fringe of other fuel importers, and a bloc of exporters, and purchases offset from the fringe. We compare a carbon tax and a cap-and-trade scheme for the policy bloc, which in either case is accompanied by an efficient offset mechanism for reducing emissions in the fringe. The policy bloc is then shown to prefer a tax over a cap, since only a tax leads to a lower fuel export price and by more when the policy bloc is larger. Offsets are also more favorable to the policy bloc under a tax than under a cap. The optimal offset price under a carbon tax is below the tax rate, while under a cap and free quota trading the offset price must equal the quota price. The domestic carbon and offset prices are both higher under a tax than under a cap when the policy bloc is small. When the policy bloc is larger, the offset price can be higher under a cap. Fringe countries gain by mitigation in the policy bloc, and more under a carbon tax since the fuel import price is lower.

JEL Classification: Q31; Q38; Q54; Q58; H23

Key words: Climate policy; carbon taxes, cap-and-trade schemes; carbon emissions; strategic trade policy.

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1. Introduction

Today, only countries under Annex 1 of the Kyoto Protocol who have extended the validity of the Protocol up to 2020, at KOP18 in Doha, in December 2012, have policies which include formal climate policy targets. These countries might at later stages be joined by other high-income countries (including Canada, Japan and the U.S.), and perhaps also by some major emerging economies (among which China and South Africa have already signaled a willingness to impose greenhouse gas (GHG) pricing in the relatively near future). What seems not achievable, anytime soon, is a set of comprehensive and coordinated climate policies for all GHG emitters globally.

The countries with formal climate policies have agreed to binding emissions caps for the period 2013-2020; but these countries comprise less than 20 percent of global GHG emissions. Current policy includes two “offset” schemes. The most important of these is the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), whereby abatement of carbon emissions, to comply with the overall cap, can be purchased from countries that do not have a climate policy.¹ An objective of the CDM is to make it easier (and less costly) for emitters in the policy countries to abide by their emissions caps.

A climate policy could, alternatively, take the form of a carbon tax. No comprehensive carbon tax policy is so far used or seriously contemplated.² Most observers see little difference between a climate policy involving a carbon tax, and a cap-and-trade (c-a-t) scheme with (expected)

¹ The other scheme is Joint Implementation which involves some Annex B countries purchasing offsets from other countries within this bloc.

² A few smaller nations, including the Scandinavian countries already from the early 1990s, have enacted unilateral and relatively comprehensive carbon taxes. But these countries constitute a too small fraction of global emissions to matter globally.

emissions as under a tax. Some differences are still widely recognized; they all speak in favor of a tax over a cap.³

This paper focuses on differences between taxes and caps that have so far been less widely discussed. First, carbon taxes and c-a-t work differently when policy countries are net fossil fuel importers, and exporters behave strategically. Secondly, offset schemes may work differently under the two policies. Both differences, it is shown, tend to favor taxes over c-a-t for the countries implementing (or benefiting from) a climate policy.

In my model it is assumed that all countries can be split into two main groups, importers and exporters of fossil fuels. Most countries belong to the first group, including virtually all countries that may wish to establish a climate policy. The exporting group is smaller, notably the OPEC countries, and Russia including some previous Soviet republics. Importers consist of a “policy bloc” which pursues a climate policy (those Annex 1 countries that have extended the Kyoto Protocol); and a “fringe” with no policy (the “rest of the world”). The latter group acts without coordination, each perceiving no market power in fuel markets.

The producer and policy blocs are each assumed to coordinate their policies fully *within* their bloc, but not *across* blocs. The solution concept is static non-cooperative Nash Equilibrium (NE) in simultaneous strategies, for both models treated (in sections 2 and 3 respectively), in focusing

³ Under uncertainty the effects differ as only emissions vary under a tax, and only the emissions price under a cap. From Weitzman (1974), when uncertainty takes the form that benefits (in terms of reduced climate change) of mitigation policy are less uncertain than costs in the short run (which, arguably, is the case in practice), a tax solution is preferred. See also Hoel and Karp (2001, 2002), Pizer (2002), and Karp and Costello (2004) for dynamic analyses. Secondly, the government’s ability to recuperate income may be greater under a tax as many or most emissions permits are handed out for free to emitters under a cap. A third, politically important, difference is in terms of transparency of gains and losses to different affected parties. Under c-a-t it is easier to obscure these distributional implications. This may be a political reason why many countries seem to opt for c-a-t solutions, despite of the drawbacks pointed out.

on short-run demand and supply relations. In both models the exporter sets a fuel export tax. In the first model, the policy bloc sets a carbon tax and offset price; and in the second model the policy bloc sets an emissions cap. Dynamic issues, in particular the exhaustibility of fossil fuels and the dynamics of climate change, are not studied.⁴ Sinn's (2008) "green paradox" argument that carbon pricing could lead to increased emissions in the short run, is also not addressed.⁵

The policy bloc establishes an offset scheme for inducing abatement in the fringe, with two potential motivations. First, overall emissions can thus be further reduced, perhaps more cheaply than through mitigation in policy countries alone. Secondly, reduced fuel demand in the fringe may help reduce aggregate fuel demand and thus the fuel export price. Under c-a-t, I assume that the market for quotas is competitive with the same trading price for the policy bloc and fringe. Fringe country emitters are then paid an amount per abated emissions equal to the quota price facing policy country emitters. Under a carbon tax, it is less obvious how an offset market should be modeled. I assume that offsets are purchased from fringe countries by the policy bloc at a given offset price, set by this bloc, which clears the offset market in fringe countries. This offset price could, in principle, be either higher or lower than the carbon tax charged to policy bloc emitters. Importantly also, we assume no informational problems in implementing offsets and that all offsets are "additional".

⁴ This requires a dynamic model for a more complete analysis. A large literature here exists; see e.g. Bergstrom (1982), Karp (1984), Karp and Newbery (1991), Wirl (1994), Rubio and Escriche (2001), Salo and Tahvonen (2001), Rubio (2005), Liski and Tahvonen (2004); and more recently Karp and Zhang (2010) and Wirl (2012).

⁵ The profile of future carbon taxes is here important. When the future carbon tax is expected to increase rapidly, an increase in the general level of carbon taxation could induce Sinn's paradox by raising emissions in the short run. Also, if climate policy partly implies supporting development of backstops for replacing fossil fuels, emissions may be worsened in the short run; see e.g. Strand (2007), Hoel (2010), and Ploeg and Withagen (2013).

The preference for taxes over c-a-t for fuel importers has been shown in earlier papers by Berger, Fimreite, Golombek and Hoel (1992), and Berg, Kverndokk and Rosendahl (1997). Strand (2011) considers two fuels, one imported (oil) and one produced by consumer countries. Importers' oil demand is then somewhat elastic under a cap, allowing some rent extraction by importers. A tax here still dominates a cap for fuel importers. A possible objection to the current model is its static nature; this issue is elaborated further in the final section, with reference to follow-up work.

2. Model 1: The Policy Bloc Sets a Carbon Tax

2.1 Basics

Assume the following aggregate utility function related to fossil-fuel consumption for countries with a climate policy (the “policy bloc”):

$$(1) \quad W_1 = R_1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\gamma}{h} R_1^2 - pR_1 - hcR - q_1 \Delta R_F,$$

where $\gamma > 0$, and h identifies the relative size of the policy bloc in total fuel demand, while the complement, $1-h$, represents the relative size of the fringe. The policy bloc and fringe are assumed to be identical apart from their relative “sizes”, represented by h . An increase in h implies a proportional increase in both equilibrium fuel demand for given import prices, and in the externality cost experienced from GHG emissions. An interpretation is that all individuals' preferences are identical, and h represents the share of the global fuel-demanding population that resides in the policy bloc. While not by itself very realistic (and see comments at the end of section 5), this assumption facilitates the analysis of changes in relative sizes of policy bloc and fringe, a highly policy-relevant issue.

p is the fossil fuel import price. R_1 is the fossil-fuel consumption for the policy bloc, R is global fossil-fuel consumption, while hc represents the climate externality cost per unit of global fossil fuel consumption for policy bloc countries. Equation (1), and other demand and supply functions, take “linear-quadratic” forms standard in the literature (and as in related work by Strand (2011), Karp, Siddiqui and Strand (2013); and Wirl (2012)). We assume (with little loss of generality) that fossil-fuel importers produce no fuels, and that producer countries consume no fossil fuels and export all their production.

Let R_F denote fuel consumption in the fringe. The last term in (1) represents an assumption that the countries in the policy bloc are able to induce a reduction of the fringe’s fossil fuel consumption and thus carbon emissions, below the “business-as-usual” level, through a subsidy (or “offset price”) q_1 to those units of fossil fuel consumption in the fringe with the smallest net productive yield (implying that abatement in the fringe is efficient). This term gives the net outlay by the policy bloc, related to incentive payments from the policy bloc to the fringe, given that all offsets in the fringe are purchased at price q_1 , posted by the policy bloc. Such payments represent a mechanism under a carbon tax scheme that corresponds closely to an offset market under a c-a-t scheme (such as the CDM). q_1 should however be interpreted somewhat differently from the trading price under a c-a-t scheme. In particular, it need not be identical to the domestic tax on emissions. Under c-a-t, market arbitrage will ensure identical carbon trading prices for all carbon units, which does not necessarily hold in the tax case.

In model 1 the policy bloc uses two instruments. First, it sets an excise tax, t_1 , per unit of the imported fossil fuel. This leaves the consumer fuel price in these countries at $p+t_1$. Fossil fuels are imported and consumed by many small competitive agents. The public demanding fossil fuels in this group of countries maximizes

$$(2) \quad V_1 = R_1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\gamma}{h} R_1^2 - (p + t_1) R_1$$

with respect to R_1 , yielding the demand level

$$(3) \quad R_1 = h \frac{1 - p - t_1}{\gamma}.$$

γh is the inverse demand sensitivity of fossil fuels with respect to price in the policy bloc.

The “fringe” of fuel-importing countries with no climate policy (with subscripts F) has aggregate utility function (given no transfers from the policy bloc)

$$(4) \quad W_{F0} = R_{F0} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\gamma}{1-h} R_{F0}^2 - p R_{F0} - (1-h)cR,$$

where subscript 0 denotes no transfers. $(1-h)c$ is the climate-related externality of global fossil fuel consumption for the fringe. These countries in aggregate behave competitively. In the absence of transfers these countries would maximize

$$(5) \quad V_{F0} = R_{F0} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\gamma}{1-h} R_{F0}^2 - p R_{F0}$$

with respect to R_{F0} , yielding the first-order condition

$$(6) \quad R_{F0} = \frac{(1-h)(1-p)}{\gamma},$$

where $\gamma/(1-h)$ is the inverse demand sensitivity for the fringe. The slope of the (global) aggregate demand function is $1/\gamma$.

The second instrument of the policy bloc is to pay a subsidy q_1 per unit of offsets (“foregone fossil fuel consumption”) in the fringe; i. e., the difference between the fuel consumption that would have materialized had it not been for this subsidy, and actual fuel consumption in the fringe.⁶ The fringe thus reduces its fossil fuel consumption below the “benchmark” (6). The fuel price at the margin for the fringe equals $p+q_1$, where the policy bloc makes up this difference through a subsidy to fringe fuel consumers. The induced fuel consumption in the fringe is then

$$(7) \quad R_F = \frac{1-h}{\gamma}(1-p-q_1).$$

The subsidy is assumed to be paid only on the amount of fuel consumption avoided in the fringe by the incentive payment, called $\Delta R_F = R_{F0} - R_F$, given by

$$(8) \quad \Delta R_F = \frac{1-h}{\gamma}q_1.$$

Aggregate fossil-fuel demand, from both blocs combined, is now

$$(9) \quad R = R_1 + R_F = h \frac{1-p-t_1}{\gamma} + (1-h) \frac{1-p-q_1}{\gamma} = \frac{1-p-h t_1 - (1-h)q_1}{\gamma}.$$

Assume a single (unified) producer country or region with aggregate utility function

$$(10) \quad W_2 = \Pi_2 + s_1 R - c_2 R,$$

where Π_2 is net profit of its petroleum producers, $s_1 R$ is excise tax revenue for fuel exporting countries, while $c_2 R$ denotes negative emissions externalities for the exporter bloc. Individual fuel exporters are price takers with profit functions

⁶ This requires full additionality; see comments in section 5.

$$(11) \quad \Pi_2 = (p - s_1)R - p_0R - \frac{1}{2}\phi R^2,$$

where p_0 is a lower bound on marginal fuel extraction cost. Maximizing (11) with respect to R yields the fossil-fuel supply function

$$(12) \quad p = p_0 + s_1 + \phi R.$$

ϕ (> 0) represents the (inverse) supply sensitivity of petroleum output.

The externality cost of one unit of carbon emissions is hc for the policy bloc, and $(1-h)c$ for the fringe. Individual fringe countries are small and ignore this factor in their own decisions. The global externality cost per fossil fuel unit equals $c+c_2$, which would correspond to a Pigou tax imposed by a benevolent global regulator, given that markets are otherwise competitive.

Solving (9) and (12) for R and p as functions of the tax parameters t_1 , q_1 and s yields

$$(13) \quad R = \frac{1 - p_0 - s_1 - ht_1 - (1-h)q_1}{\gamma + \phi},$$

$$(14) \quad p = \frac{\gamma}{\gamma + \phi}(p_0 + s_1) + \frac{\phi}{\gamma + \phi}(1 - ht_1 - (1-h)q_1).$$

We derive fuel demand for each bloc as functions of s , t_1 and q_1 , as follows:

$$(15) \quad R_1 = \frac{h}{\gamma(\gamma + \phi)} [\gamma(1 - p_0 - s_1) - (\gamma + (1-h)\phi)t_1 + (1-h)\phi q_1]$$

$$(16) \quad R_F = \frac{1-h}{\gamma(\gamma + \phi)} [\gamma(1 - p_0 - s_1) + \phi ht_1 - (\gamma + \phi h)q_1].$$

A higher q_1 increases R_1 (but lowers R), since p is reduced thus incentivizing higher policy bloc fuel demand. Indeed, this is the basic purpose for the policy bloc of “subsidizing offsets” in the fringe.

2.2 The policy bloc solution

An authority representing the entire policy bloc sets t_1 and q_1 to maximize W_1 in (1), considering its own fuel demand response (15), the aggregate fuel demand response (13), and the export price response (14), to changes in t_1 and q_1 ; while the exporter tax, s_1 , is taken as exogenous. The solution concept is (static) non-cooperative Nash Equilibrium (NE) where the policy bloc sets carbon tax and offset price, and the exporter bloc sets a fuel export tax; each taking the other’s strategy variable(s) as exogenous.

Appendix 1 now shows the following result.

Proposition 1: The static NE solution in t_1 and q_1 for the policy bloc is given by the following solutions, expressed as functions of s_1 :

$$(17) \quad t_1 = \frac{2h\gamma}{2(\gamma + \phi)^2 - h(1+h)\phi^2} [\phi(1 - p_0 - s_1) + (\gamma + \phi)c]$$

$$(18) \quad q_1 = \frac{h\gamma}{2(\gamma + \phi)^2 - h(1+h)\phi^2} [\phi(1 - p_0 - s_1) + (\gamma + \phi)c] = \frac{1}{2}t_1.$$

$q_1 < t_1$ is here a general result. More specifically, our ratio of one-to-two follows from the linear-quadratic structure of the model and is not general. When h is small, t_1 and q_1 are both small: the policy bloc then neither charges high domestic carbon taxes nor induces much offsets in the fringe, for two separate reasons. First, with low h , the climate externality for the policy bloc, hc ,

and the related “Pigou” tax, is small. Secondly, market power of the policy bloc in the fossil fuel market is then small.

The reason why the offset incentive price, q_1 , is lower than the domestic carbon tax t_1 in the policy bloc, is that offset payments go to foreigners, which reduces the attractiveness of foreign offsets, relative to domestic mitigation via the carbon tax t_1 . The policy bloc acts as a monopsonistic purchaser of offsets from fringe countries (which act non-cooperatively), and limits its offset purchases to maximize its net return from such purchases.

When the offset price instead is exogenous (and not necessarily optimal), we have

$$(19) \quad t_1 = \frac{h}{(\gamma + \phi)^2 - h^2 \phi^2} [\gamma(\gamma + \phi)c + \gamma\phi(1 - p_0 - s_1) + (1 - h)\phi^2 q_1].$$

When q_1 is higher (corresponding to a larger volume of offsets), t_1 is set higher in response. Intuitively, more offsets in the fringe leads to a lower fuel export price which makes a higher carbon tax in the policy bloc advantageous.

2.3 The exporter solution

The exporter bloc maximizes bloc welfare, W_2 , with respect to its fuel export tax s_1 , given the supply function (12) from its individual producers, and the price relation (14). Still invoking the NE concept, t_1 and q_1 are taken as given by the exporter.

I now solve for s_1 , p and R , as functions of the carbon tax t_1 and offset subsidy rate q_1 set by the policy bloc. The following result emerges, shown in Appendix A.

Proposition 2: The static NE solution for s_1 is the following function of t_1 and q_1 :

$$(20) \quad s_1 = \frac{\gamma}{2\gamma + \phi} (1 - p_0 - ht_1 - (1 - h)q_1) + \frac{\gamma + \phi}{2\gamma + \phi} c_2.$$

As expected, s_1 is reduced in response to increased t_1 and q_1 . This effect is stronger for t_1 (q_1) when $h > (<) 1/2$, so that the fraction of the policy bloc in total fuel demand is greater (smaller) than one half. Interestingly, when offsets are used ($q_1 > 0$), the exporter's fuel tax is lower.

2.4 Overall Nash Equilibrium

Simultaneously solving (17), (18) and (20) for t_1 , q_1 and s_1 gives the following result.

Proposition 3: The simultaneous, static, NE for the non-cooperative tax-setting game between the policy bloc and the fuel exporting bloc is characterized by

$$(21) \quad t_1 = \frac{2h\gamma}{D_1} [\phi(1 - p_0 - c_2) + (2\gamma + \phi)c] = 2q_1$$

$$(22) \quad s_1 = \frac{1}{D_1} \{ [2\gamma(\gamma + \phi) - h(1+h)\gamma\phi](1 - p_0) + [2(\gamma + \phi)^2 - h(1+h)\phi^2]c_2 - h(1+h)\gamma^2c \},$$

where

$$D_1 = (\gamma + \phi)[2(2\gamma + \phi) - h(1+h)\phi].$$

To interpret these expressions we rely on simulations based on simplifying parametric assumptions; and comparative-static results; all presented in section 4.

Two further features are considered. First, the “incentivized emissions” level describes net emissions as an outcome of incentive mechanisms applied (t_1 , and q_1), both in the policy bloc and in the fringe. This emission level corresponds notionally to a cap discussed under model 2 in the next section. It can be defined by

$$(23) \quad R_{r1} = R_1 - \Delta R_F = \frac{1}{\gamma} \left[h(1 - p) - \frac{1}{2}(1 + h)t_1 \right].$$

This magnitude is simulated in section 4, in some parametric cases. In all cases studied, $R_{II} > 0$ (optimal emissions in the policy bloc always exceed emissions offset by the fringe).

The second feature is abatement in the policy bloc versus fringe (in terms of reducing R), via the tax and offset policies applied. From (13) (noting that $t_1 = 2q_1$), R is reduced more (less) in the policy bloc than in the fringe given that $h > (<) 1/3$. Thus in particular, when $h = 1/3$ it is optimal for the policy bloc to implement equally much abatement in each of the two blocs.

3. Model 2: The Policy Bloc Uses Cap-and-Trade

3.1 Basics

In the second model, the policy bloc sets a cap on its emissions, still taking fringe demand as exogenous. This cap can be achieved in part through offsets purchased from the fringe by the policy bloc, which give room for higher emissions within the policy bloc for a given cap. Call the cap R_P , and the amount of offsets R_{FP} . Emissions by the policy bloc, R_1 , are then given by $R_P + R_{FP}$ (offsets allow for policy-bloc emissions above the cap). Denote fringe emissions by R_F , and fringe emissions in the (counterfactual, but here still well defined) case with no offsets by R_{F0} ; then $R_F = R_{F0} - R_{FP}$. Total emissions, R , are given alternatively as $R_1 + R_F$, or $R_P + R_{F0}$. I assume free trading of emissions rights within the policy bloc at a single quota price t_2 (applying parallel symbols with the tax case). As a condition for offset market equilibrium in the quota market, emission offsets need to be purchased from the fringe at price t_2 : domestic emitters in the policy bloc must be indifferent between abating one unit of emissions, and purchasing one unit of offsets whereby abatement is avoided.

The equilibrium concept is simultaneous NE where the policy bloc determines the *quantity of fuel demand* and the exporter sets the fuel export tax. In calculating its optimal fuel demand

(including any offsets), the policy bloc takes the export tax as given, as in model 1. The main difference from model 1 is that the exporter, in setting its optimal export tax, takes *net fuel demand by the policy bloc* (incorporating any demand reduction induced in the fringe by the offset policy), and not the carbon price, as given.

I put two constraints on the number of allowable offsets, R_{FP} . First, R_{FP} must be non-negative. Secondly, R_{FP} cannot exceed abatement in the fringe, given a uniform carbon price t_2 enforced in the fringe. A carbon price no greater than t_2 would then implement the offset quota R_{F0} . As under model 1, I assume efficient offsets: for emissions that are offset through incentive payments from the policy bloc to the fringe, the mitigation cost is lower than for any one unit of residual emissions (where offsets are not taking place).⁷ We can treat the strategy of the policy bloc as setting the quota trading price of emission rights (or tax) within the bloc, which is dual to the quantity solution. The basic strategy of the fringe is also the same in this case as under policy.

A consequence is that the *amount* of offsets in the fringe, to be financed by the policy bloc, is still given by (8). The *offset price* is however different here. Use of c-a-t (and with no “quota discounts” for offsets as discussed in the final section) requires the offset price in the fringe to equal the domestic quota price in the policy bloc countries (equivalent to the tax t_2) as a condition for market clearing in the quota market. In the last expression in (1), q_2 is then replaced by the domestic trading price in the policy bloc, t_2 . No similar constraint on the offset trading price was imposed in model 1, where the policy bloc implemented offsets directly via transfer payments to fringe countries, and the offset trading price could be set freely.

3.2 Importer solution

⁷ This is not an obvious outcome, since the unit incentive pay by policy bloc emitters to the fringe, t_2 , is generally higher than the carbon price that would otherwise implement the actual offsets taking place in the fringe.

(10)-(16) from model 1 are still valid. The fuel demand functions of the policy bloc and the fringe, as viewed by each, are still given by (3) and (6), where t in (3) is interpreted as the quota price within the c-a-t scheme in the policy bloc. Policy-bloc fuel demanders (and emitters) still maximize profits given the fuel price including the quota price, serving as a “tax” within the policy bloc. The strategy of the policy bloc itself can also be viewed as very similar to model 1. This is because the tax and c-a-t solutions are formally identical for fuel consuming countries facing a given fuel import price, under full certainty and with full auctioning of emissions quotas. (15) can be interpreted, alternatively, as the condition for optimal energy demand R_1 , or for optimal quota price t , in either case taking the fuel import price, p , from (12), and s as exogenous.

Proposition 4: When the importer bloc uses a c-a-t policy with optimal offsets and assuming free offset trading, the constrained optimal quota price, t_2 , expressed in terms of the exporter tax, s_2 , equals the offset price and is given by

$$(24) \quad t_2 = \frac{h^2 \gamma}{(\gamma + \phi)^2 - h^2 \phi^2} \{ \phi(1 - p_0 - s_2) + (\gamma + \phi)c \} = q_2.$$

Moreover, the solution entails

$$(25) \quad p + t_2 = m$$

where m is the marginal productivity of energy use in both the policy bloc and the fringe.

Proof: See the appendix.

The appendix demonstrates that the constrained optimal solution for the importer takes the form of a corner solution where a maximum number of offsets is utilized for the given offset price,

which equals the carbon trading price within the c-a-t scheme in the policy bloc. This result has a simple intuitive explanation: For a given cap (which effectively constrains energy consumption within the policy bloc) and given that offsets and quotas are sold at the same price, the policy bloc wishes to consume as much fossil energy as possible which means that it uses offsets to the maximum extent (for given offset price). This is different from Section 2, where the offset price was independently optimized, and set lower than that tax. The offset amount was then also lower for any given (policy bloc-internal) carbon price.

Comparing (24) to (17), $t_2 < t_1$ (for any given export tax s); but the difference is small when h is close to one. When h is low, by contrast, the difference is greater; and t_2/t_1 tends to zero as h goes to zero.

All net offset market rent is here captured by fringe emitters. This follows from the assumption of perfect competition and free arbitrage in the offset market, so that all units in that market (whether domestic in the policy bloc or purchased from the fringe) need to be traded at a uniform price.

Offsets are in general more costly to the policy bloc in this case than under model 1 (where they could be bought at a “discount” relative to the domestic carbon tax t_1); here they must be paid at full cost t_2 . But this also serves to reduce the internal carbon price within the policy bloc, t_2 , below t_1 in model 1.

3.3 Exporter solution

For fuel exporters, c-a-t is more dramatically different from a carbon tax solution for the policy bloc. Exporters no longer face an importer tax, but instead a cap by the policy bloc, in amount R_p . Instead of (9), the exporter faces the aggregate fuel demand function

$$(26) \quad R = R_1 + R_F = R_p + R_{F0} = R_p + (1-h) \frac{1-p}{\gamma}$$

R_p , the emissions cap set by the policy bloc, includes possible offsets purchased by the policy bloc from the fringe, so that actual policy bloc emissions may exceed R_p by the amount of offsets. The exporter now takes R_p as fixed, and only the baseline demand by the fringe, R_{F0} , as variable. We have the following result, shown in the appendix:

Proposition 5: When the policy bloc chooses a c-a-t solution, the optimal strategy of the exporter bloc is to set its export tax s according to

$$(27) \quad s_2 = \frac{\gamma}{(2-h)\gamma + (1-h)\phi} (1-p_0 - ht_2 - (1-h)q_2) + \frac{(1-h)(\gamma + \phi)}{(2-h)\gamma + (1-h)\phi} c_2.$$

Comparing (27) to (20), we find $s_2 > s_1$ (from model 1) for any given t_2 and q_2 . The exporter is (much) more aggressive in setting its export excise tax when the importer chooses a c-a-t policy, than when it chooses a tax policy. The difference is greater when h (the share of the policy bloc among all fuel demanders) is larger. Simulations, discussed in section 4 below, also indicate that $s_2 > s_1$ more generally.

The export price, p , can be expressed as

$$(28) \quad p - p_0 = \frac{\gamma + (1-h)\phi}{(2-h)\gamma + (1-h)\phi} (1-p_0 - ht_2 - (1-h)q_2) + \frac{(1-h)\gamma}{(2-h)\gamma + (1-h)\phi} c_2$$

Comparing to the carbon tax case, p is greater here for any given t (where $t = t_1$ is the carbon tax in model 1, and $t = t_2$ the quota price in model 2). We find:

$$(29) \quad \frac{dp}{dh} = \frac{\gamma^2}{[\gamma + (1-h)(\gamma + \phi)]^2} (1 - p_0 - ht_2 - (1-h)q_2 - c_2) - \frac{\gamma + (1-h)\phi}{\gamma + (1-h)(\gamma + \phi)} \frac{d(ht_2)}{dh}$$

This expression is always positive for given ht_2 (so that t_2 falls proportionately). But it is also positive when ht_2 increases in h , provided that the first term dominates the second. This is always so when h is initially small; t_2 is then also small (from (30) below); and $d(ht_2)$ must consequently be small. We thus find that *when h is small at the outset, the export price always increases when the policy bloc comprises a larger fraction of total fuel demand* (h increases). This is diametrically opposite to the conclusion under model 1, where the policy bloc used a carbon tax. We find, in the simulations in section 4 below, that p can increase in h , also for larger h values (when c is low).

It is important to stress that the behavior of the policy bloc is formally identical in the two models (except for the constraint $t_2 = q_2$ only in model 2); despite the fact that the policy bloc sets a tax in the first, and a cap in the second model. It occurs because the two problems, maximizing with respect to the cap, and to the tax, yield the same result *for given behavior of the exporter*. It follows from duality of the tax and cap solutions: both implement the same allocation under competitive conditions. The difference between the two models lies in *the response of a non-competitive exporter to the chosen policy bloc strategy, tax or cap*.

3.4 Overall Equilibrium

Overall equilibrium is found by solving (24) and (27) for t_2 and s_2 (noting that $q_2 = t_2$).

Proposition 6: Given that the importer bloc uses a c-a-t policy with free offset trading, and the exporter sets an optimal fuel export tax, the static NE (t_2, s_2) combination is given by

$$(30) \quad t_2 = \frac{h^2 \gamma}{D_2} \{ [(2-h)\gamma + (1-h)\phi]c + (1-h)\phi(1-p_0 - c_2) \}$$

$$(31) \quad s_2 = \frac{(1-h)[(\gamma + \phi)^2 - h^2 \phi^2]c_2 + \gamma[\gamma + (1-h^2)\phi](1-p_0) - h^2 \gamma^2 c}{D_2}$$

where

$$D_2 = (\gamma + \phi)[2\gamma + (1-h^2)\phi] - h[(\gamma + \phi)^2 - h^2 \phi^2].$$

t_2 here tends to c as h tends to one. t_2 is always rising in h for low h , but could fall or rise for larger h ; this is found in comparative static results, and in simulations in section 4 below.

$s_2 = s_1$ from model 1 for $h = 0$ and no climate policy. When $h > 0$, $s_2 > s_1$ and more so when h is higher. The exporter adopts a more aggressive taxation strategy the higher is h , since the fuel demand elasticity faced by the exporter is lower (as less of fuel demand is variable).

Consider implications of the overall solution for the optimal “cap” to be set, analogously to the amount of “incentivized emissions” (from (23)) under model 1. The optimal cap, R_{C2} , is

$$(32) \quad R_{C2} = R_1 - \Delta R_F = \frac{1}{\gamma} [h(1-p) - t_2].$$

Simulations in section 4 show that $R_{C2} > 0$ independent of h . This is similar to what was found in model 1. The intuition is also here that for low h (where, conceivably, the cap could be negative) the emissions price is too low to really matter in terms of emissions reductions.

Compare also here the amounts of abatement taking place in the policy bloc versus in the fringe.

From (13), (15) and (16) and inserting $q_2 = t_2$ we now simply have

$$(33) \quad R_1 = \frac{h}{2}(1-s-t_2) = hR$$

$$(34) \quad R_F = \frac{1-h}{2}(1-s-t_2) = (1-h)R .$$

Thus in this case fuel demand in the policy bloc and fringe are proportional to bloc size. This is simply a consequence of fuel consumption being efficiently allocated across fuel-consuming countries in this case, from (25).⁸

4. Comparative Statics with Simulations

I will now discuss some key comparative-static results given changes in two key exogenous parameters, h (the share of fuel importers with a climate policy) and c (the global externality of GHG emissions for fuel importers).⁹ These are illustrated by model simulations in a simple numerical example where $p_0 = c_2 = 0$ (the exporter's fuel supply function has intercept at zero, and no negative climate impacts on the exporter), and $\gamma = \varphi = 1$ (demand and supply functions for fossil fuels are equally sloped).¹⁰ In figures 1-8, all model 1 variables are in blue (except q_1 which is in green), and all model 2 variables are in red. Figures 1-3 illustrate solutions as functions of h (the fraction of the fuel demand market represented by the policy bloc), for three alternative values of c : $= 0$ (no climate concern); $= 1/4$ ("medium" climate concern); and $= 1/2$ ("high" climate concern). Five variables are shown in figures 1-3: clockwise from upper left t and q (the carbon tax and offset price); s (the exporter fuel tax); p (fuel export price); and R

⁸ This is an idealized model where the offset markets are assumed to function perfectly; in particular, all units of excess emissions in the fringe are perfectly offset using the offset price t_2 . This is clearly not realistic; see the discussion of this issue in the conclusion below.

⁹ I thank Sauleh Siddiqui for invaluable help in creating the simulations and figures.

¹⁰ The exact comparative-static results are not reproduced; they can be obtained from the author upon request.

(consumed amount of the resource); all as functions of h (the policy bloc as share of fuel-demanding countries).

When $c = 0$ (figure 1), everything is driven by strategic concerns. As noted, $q_1 = \frac{1}{2} t_1$. Both are higher than $q_2 (= t_2)$. While t_1 and $q_2 (= t_2)$ differ also for small h , the difference is greater for larger h .¹¹ The carbon price of the policy bloc is dramatically higher under a carbon tax than under c-a-t when h is high. While the carbon tax increases strongly in h , the quota price in the c-a-t case also increases in h up to a certain point, but is reduced when h increases further. Two factors give opposite effects on t_2 : a higher h makes the policy bloc more collusive and more aggressive in its pricing; but a higher h also makes the exporter (much) more aggressive which reduces the scope for rent extraction by the policy bloc. Interestingly, the policy bloc's carbon price is always positive even as there is no climate concern in this case.

----- Figure 1 in about here -----

Fossil fuel consumption drops in h , only slightly in the tax case, and more dramatically in the cap case, as the exporter price then increases drastically. The tax case is “good” for importers as the import price is substantially reduced when h increases.

Figures 2 and 3 (“intermediate” and “high” climate concern) differ more from figure 1 as h grows. This is because a climate concern of the policy bloc affects policy very little when h is small, but much more when h is high: the carbon tax and quota price are then also much higher. In particular, the quota price under c-a-t rises uniformly in h . q_2 now (slightly) exceeds q_1 for high h (greater than about 0.65 for $c = \frac{1}{4}$; and greater than about 0.6 for $c = \frac{1}{2}$). This more

¹¹ As noted, however, the model is less suitable for describing what happens under a cap solution for high h values.

aggressive carbon pricing strategy of the policy bloc leads to a greater reduction in both the import price, and total fossil fuel consumption, when h increases.

----- Figures 2 and 3 in about here -----

Generally, $t_1 > t_2$ for all values of h and c . This difference is however not uniformly greater when h is higher. Two main factors explain this. First, $s_2 > s_1$ always, and the difference is greater when h is higher. The importer's optimal response is to set $t_1 > t_2$ (when the exporter tax, and thus the export price, is lower).¹² The second factor is related to the functioning of the offset market. In the tax case, under model 1, the domestic carbon tax in the policy bloc is independent of the offset price (effective within the fringe); there is no direct effect of the offset market on the domestic carbon tax. In model 2, by contrast, the offset carbon price must equal the carbon price within the policy bloc. This puts downward pressure on the carbon price when the policy bloc is small and the fringe is large (h small), and the offset market is a large share of total abatement. When the fringe is small (h large), by contrast, this factor is less important (as the offset market is also less important). There is then less downward pressure on the carbon price from an offset market under the cap.

These two factors work in opposite directions with respect to $\Delta t = t_1 - t_2$ when h increases. When $c = 0$, Δt increases strongly in h . When $c = 1/4$, Δt increases but more slowly over a large range for h . When $c = 1/2$, Δt is reduced for higher h .

¹² In the limit as h tends to unity, under a cap the NE solution in this model entails the exporter setting the export price at its maximal level choking off demand. The carbon quota price is then equal to zero. This is an unrealistic economic model; see Strand (2010) for elaboration and discussion of alternative equilibrium concepts.

As noted, $t_1 = 2q_1$, while $t_2 = q_2$. Still, $q_2 < q_1$ for low h and/or low c ; but $q_2 > q_1$ when both h and c are high. When h is low, the dominating factor is the “drag” (toward low carbon prices) from the constraint $t_2 = q_2$ under c-a-t. When h is high, by contrast, the offset market is small and pricing in that market means little for efficiency within the policy bloc. When c is high (and the quota price high under c-a-t for high h), $q_2 = t_2$ then implies $q_2 > q_1$ in such cases.

The more general comparative-static results show that t_1 rises, while both s_1 and R in model 1 fall, when both h and c increase.¹³ The same holds when c changes in model 2. Effects of h on t_1 and s_2 as h are slightly more complex. When c is small, $dt_2/dh > 0$ always when h is small; and $dt_2/dh < 0$ always when h is large. When c is high, t_2 rises uniformly in h . s_2 always rises in h when c is small, and always falls in h when c is high and h already high. This confirms the main results from the simulations in figures 1-3.

Figure 4 shows “incentivized quotas” R_{I1} in (23), and R_{C2} in (32) for the simulated example. Under my numerical example these two expressions are found as

$$(23a) \quad R_{I1} = \frac{h}{2} \left[1 - s_1 - \frac{1}{2}(3-h)t_1 \right]$$

$$(32a) \quad R_{C2} = h(1 - s_2 - R) - t_2.$$

R_{C2} corresponds to the optimal quota (accounting for offsets) set by the policy bloc in model 2. R_{I1} has a similar interpretation in model 1 (except that a government-managed offset scheme is here assumed instead of a free offset trading scheme). “Optimal quotas” are similar in the two models for low h (slightly greater in model 2); but are much smaller in model 2 for high h .

¹³ Analytical results can be obtained from the author upon request.

----- Figure 4 in about here -----

Figures 5-7 show welfare levels for the policy bloc, fringe and exporter bloc under models 1-2. Most strikingly, for both policy bloc and fringe, utility is everywhere higher in model 1 than in model 2. As is easily verified, this result holds generally and does not rely on the chosen parameter values. For the policy bloc, the difference in outcome under the two models grows with h , as seen from the figures. In a relevant example, $h = 1/4$ (as for Annex B under the Kyoto Protocol), the difference in utility for the policy bloc is small, and it matters little to the policy bloc whether a tax or a c-a-t solution is chosen. When the policy bloc is larger, the difference can be large, and the choice of policy regime a major concern for the policy bloc.¹⁴ Exporter welfare is greater with c-a-t than with carbon taxes, for h values up to a maximum point. For even higher h values, the aggression in exporter fuel price setting (as fuel demand becomes less elastic) backfires, as fuel output tends to zero when h tends to one.

----- Figures 5-7 in about here -----

We finally simulate net welfare of fringe countries due to offsets (disregarding climate effects), expressed by B_F , which takes the form

$$(35) \quad B_F = \frac{1-h}{2} q^2,$$

where q is the generic offset price, given by $t_1/2$ from (21) under model 1, and by t_2 from (30) under model 2. Simulations for three alternative values of c ($= 0, 1/4, \text{ and } 1/2$) are shown in figure 8. For moderate values of h (< 0.6) the welfare gain to the fringe from an offset market is

¹⁴ For such c values or higher, utilities tend to be negative in the model, for both fuel-consuming blocs. This is due to the large negative externalities from emissions. It would then have been better to have no fossil fuels available at all. This is not realistic, but follows from my assumption that the choke price of fossil fuels is quite low ($= 1$ and thus only twice the externality value for $c = 0.5$), and the demand function linear.

everywhere greater under a tax than under c-a-t. This mirrors results for q from figures 1-3: wherever $q_1 > (<) q_2$ welfare gains from offsets are greater (smaller) under model 1.

----- Figure 8 in about here -----

5. Conclusions and Final Comments

This paper has analyzed a carbon tax versus an emissions cap with free quota trading (c-a-t) as alternative climate policy strategies for a fossil fuel-importing “climate policy bloc” facing a fuel-importing group of countries (a “fringe”), with no climate policy, and a fuel-exporting bloc which sets its fuel export tax optimally. The optimal carbon price in the policy bloc is influenced by both a climate (“Pigouvian”) motive, and a strategic motive whereby the policy bloc influences the exporter’s fuel price through its tax or cap. A positive carbon tax leads to a lower fuel import price, which benefits all fuel importers including the fringe. The tax is set higher when the policy bloc is larger, for two reasons: the “Pigou” element is then greater; and the strategic element, whereby the tax reduces overall fuel demand and the fuel export price, is greater.

I find that a carbon tax is always preferred over a c-a-t policy by fuel importers, mainly because fuel exporters charge a lower fuel price under a carbon tax than under c-a-t. Under c-a-t, once a cap has been set, overall fuel demand is less sensitive to the fuel export price than under a carbon tax. This gives a monopolistic exporter an incentive to set its export price higher under c-a-t than under a carbon tax, and this hurts all importers. Having an offset market is also more advantageous to the policy bloc under a carbon tax in my model, because the offset price can be set lower than the tax, while unified trading makes price differentiation between domestic quotas and offsets infeasible under c-a-t. The fringe also fares better under a carbon tax, and more so

when the policy bloc is larger and the fringe smaller. A small fringe benefits more from being a “free rider” on a (relatively high) carbon tax set by the larger policy bloc, which pushes the fuel export price down.

To my knowledge this paper represents the first attempt in the literature to analyze optimal offset policies in the context of a global model of strategic GHG mitigation policy. Being a first attempt, the analysis is stylized. Offset markets are assumed to be fully efficient, with the “best” projects always implemented, and all offsets additional. My assumption that when the fringe faces an offset price equal to q , the mitigation in the fringe is the same as it would be when facing this level of carbon tax, is not realistic. Several problems with the CDM have been uncovered, including lack of additionality (many projects would have been implemented even without CDM financing; see Hagem (1996), Fischer (2005); Flues, Michaelowa and Michaelowa (2010)), manipulation of baselines (Wirl, Huber and Walker (1998), Fischer (2005), Strand and Rosendahl (2012)), and leakage (Rosendahl and Strand (2011)); which all limit the global abatement effects of CDM projects.

Offset markets are assumed to be designed differently in the two cases. In the carbon tax case offsets are purchased directly by a central authority, with a single offset price that may differ from the carbon tax. In the c-a-t case, by contrast, the offset mechanism is market-based and of a standard CDM type. In my view these are logical ways of organizing an offset market in the two cases; but they are not the only ways. In one sense, my model can be seen as “stacked against” the c-a-t solution and in favor of the tax solution by allowing the policy bloc to price discriminate in the offset market only in the tax case. One might alternatively consider ways in which to differentiate the “domestic” and “foreign” markets under c-a-t, allowing for different prices in the two sub-markets also with private trading. Some authors, including Castro and

Michaelowa (2010), and Klemick (2012), have discussed offset “discounts” (the purchaser of an offset can increase its emissions by only a fraction of the purchase), which might be preferable when offsets are not fully additional. Bargaining over net returns from individual CDM projects might also be relevant. With project bargaining, market arbitrage will no longer hold for offset quotas, which will be priced lower, as discussed by Bréchet, Ménière and Picard (2011) who stress that a greater bargaining power to project sponsors makes offsets more attractive for the policy bloc. One may also question whether a totally separate sub-market for offsets (managed e.g. by governments) can provide the same degree of efficiency as an integrated, private, domestic and foreign c-a-t market. The wider implications of alternative offset market mechanisms should remain as a priority topic for future research, given that non-policy countries continue to play important roles for global GHG mitigation. In realistic cases, offsets might then be found to represent a less attractive option for a policy bloc, so that their optimal volume is smaller. However, given a large fringe, offsets might still play a significant role.

Considering the overwhelming evidence in favor of tax over cap solutions, in this and most other modeling contexts, a natural question is, why are c-a-t solutions at all used? I will not enter a deep discussion, only note that in various policy contexts there are strong biases against solutions that put a direct price (or tax) on energy resources, and in favor of more roundabout and indirect, and less efficient, solutions. Heavy political economy issues often seem to lie behind: in the U.S. and many other countries, biases against taxes in general; in the EU, succumbing to political pressure from industry lobbies to spare energy-intensive sectors from any burden of the EU-ETS (demanding c-a-t systems with high levels of free allocations); and in many other countries strong populist pressure not to tax (but often rather subsidize) fuels and electricity. Hopefully, this analysis can serve as an additional reminder that energy tax solutions can be highly

beneficial, and where one key additional argument (relative to standard ones) is offered, namely the effects on fuel price setting and thus terms of trade which, independently of other factors, make tax solutions unambiguously favorable for fuel importers.

My model is highly simplified and could be changed or expanded in other ways than those already discussed. I here only briefly mention a few possibilities.

A) Static analysis, while fossil energy extraction and climate change are both inherently dynamic processes. A key question is whether main results, such as preference of a tax over a cap in climate policy for fuel importers, carries over to a dynamic context. Some ongoing research indicates that they do. Wirl (2012) has recently shown that taxes are chosen over caps in a corresponding dynamic model of two monolithic blocs but no fringe.¹⁵ Work is also in progress on the (analytically more intriguing) dynamic case with a fuel importing fringe. See Karp, Siddiqui and Strand (2013), with results pointing in the same direction.¹⁶

B) No fuel production in consuming countries, and no fuel consumption in fuel-producing countries. Changing this would eliminate some extreme cases (including non-existence of positive resource extraction under c-a-t for $h = 1$), but would otherwise leave main results intact.

C) Only one fuel. Strand (2011) considers two differentiated fuels in a model of two blocs only (exporters and importers). This changes conclusions slightly, by making the ex post fuel demand function more elastic under c-a-t. While this increases the attractiveness of the c-a-t solution, the basic preference for taxes still remains.

¹⁵ Wirl (2012) shows that taxes are dominant dynamic instruments also for exporters, as we have assumed here.

¹⁶ The examples simulated in this paper show that the exporter always chooses a tax; and that the policy bloc in response chooses a tax for at least a long initial period (50-100 years). Note that neither Wirl (2012) nor Karp, Siddiqui and Strand (2013) include offset markets. A related, much earlier unpublished paper is Karp (1988).

D) A monopolistic fuel exporter dictates the fuel export price; and there is no fringe of competitive fuel suppliers. Starts of analysis incorporating competitive fringe fuel supply are found in Keutiben (2010), and Karp, Siddiqui and Strand (2013).

E) All fuel-importing regions are equally averse to climate change; and have equal utility loss (relative to population size) per unit of carbon emissions. With different loss parameters, countries' incentives to join the policy bloc will generally vary among countries. The climate impact factor for the policy bloc, here h_c , will then also be a more complex function of h .

F) Climate costs are linear in total emissions. More plausibly, climate costs are strictly convex in emissions. With a quadratic cost function we would get an additional quadratic term in (1), reducing the optimal t_1 and t_2 ; and more so the larger is the policy bloc (and h). In other respects, however, little would change. Also, since climate is a slow-moving variable, convexity is likely not to have a serious impact on policy when considering only relatively short periods (such as a year). In dynamic long-run models (Wirl (2012) and Karp, Siddiqui and Strand (2013)) convexity plays a larger role, making policy more restrictive over time.

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Simulations: Figures 1-8

Figure 1: Carbon prices, export tax, import price and fuel demand, as functions of h for $c = 0$

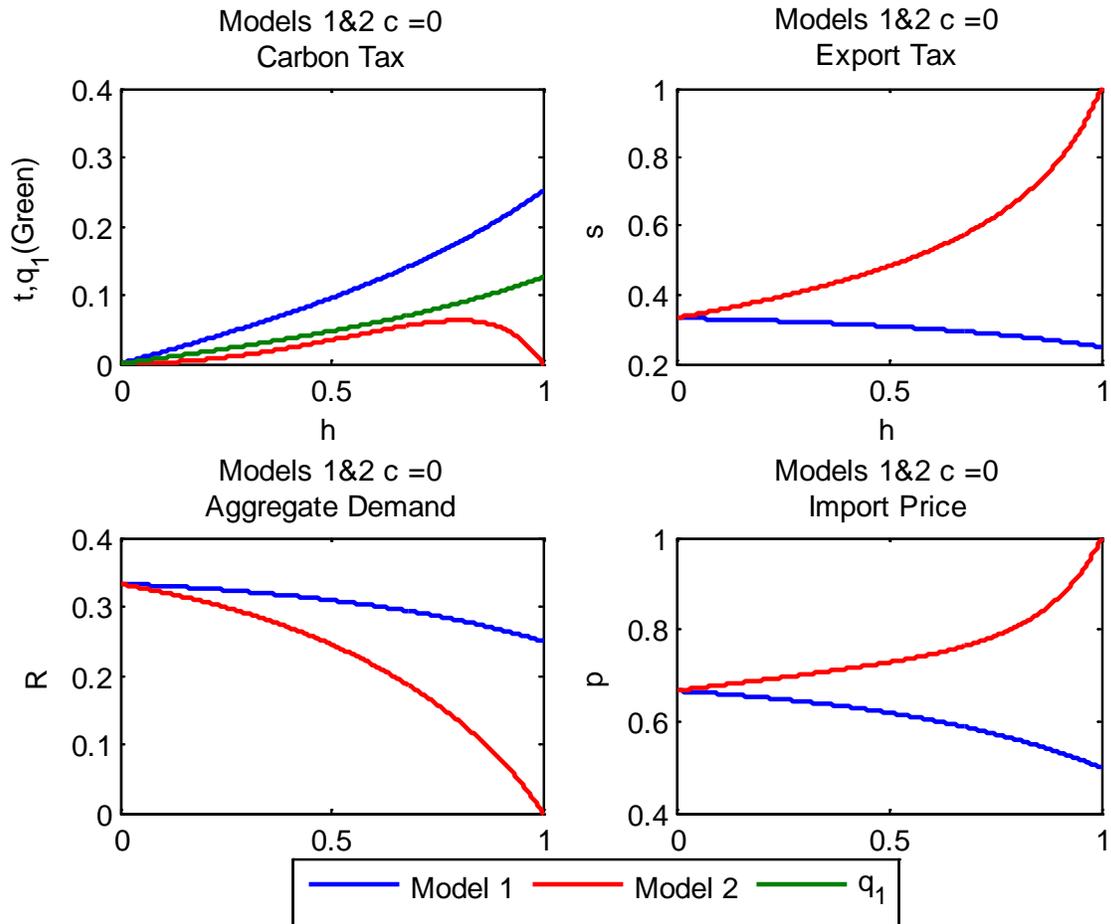


Figure 2: Carbon prices, export tax, import price and fuel demand, as functions of h for $c = 0.25$

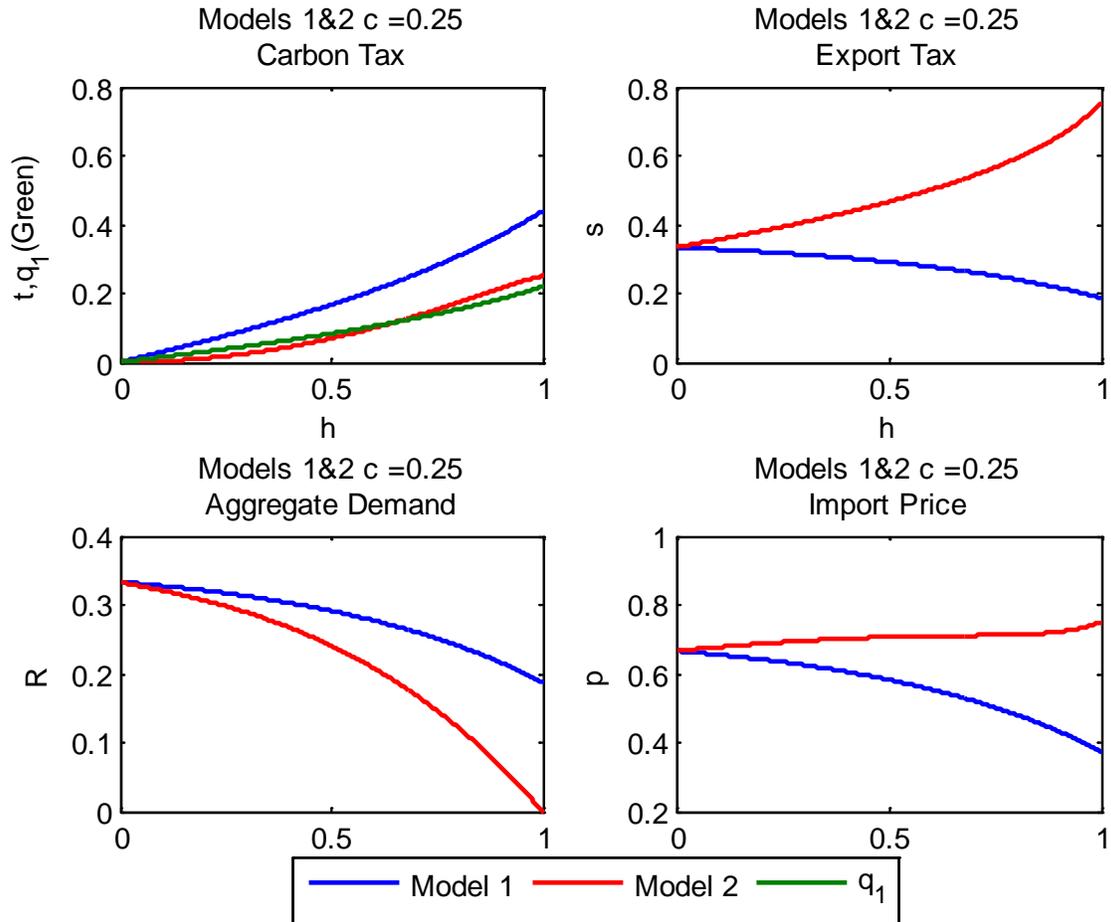


Figure 3: Carbon prices, export tax, import price and fuel demand, as functions of h for $c = 0.5$

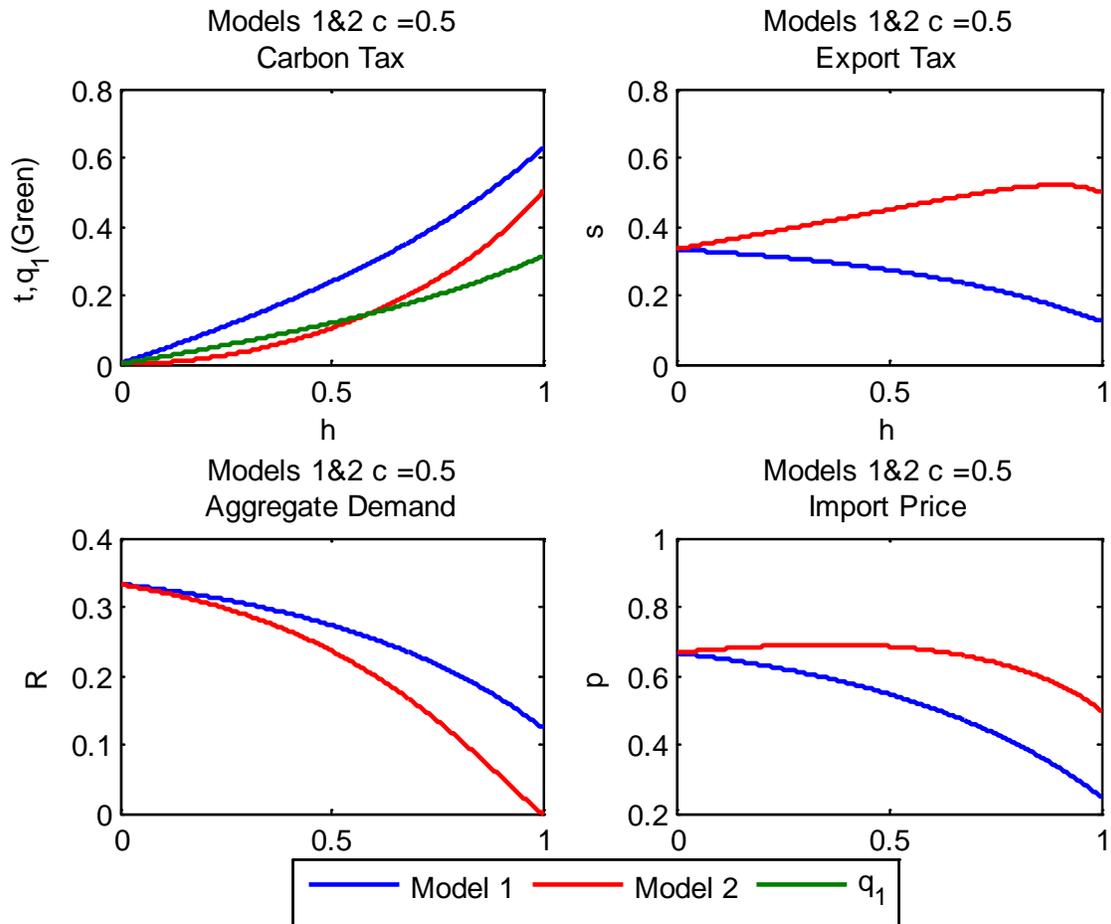


Figure 4: Size of “cap quota” under carbon tax and c-a-t scheme, as function of h , for different c values

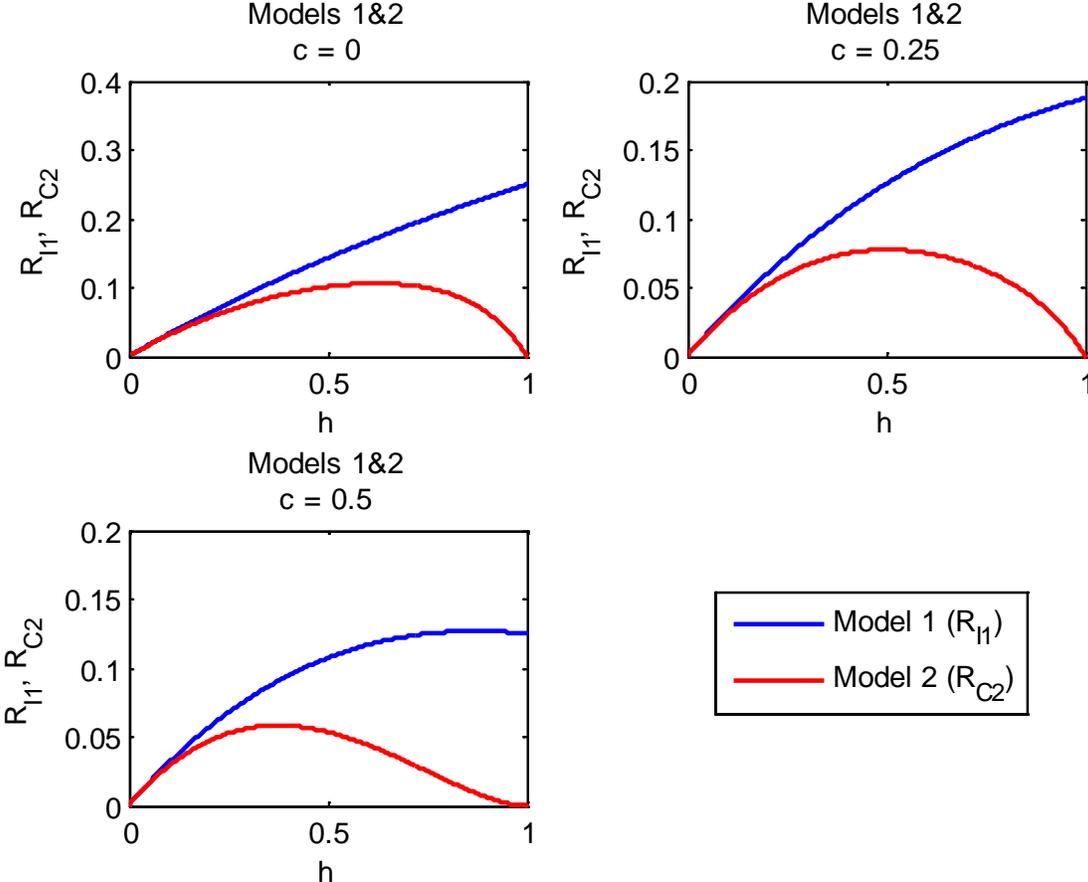


Figure 5: Welfare of (importer) policy bloc, fringe, and exporter bloc, as functions of h , for $c = 0$

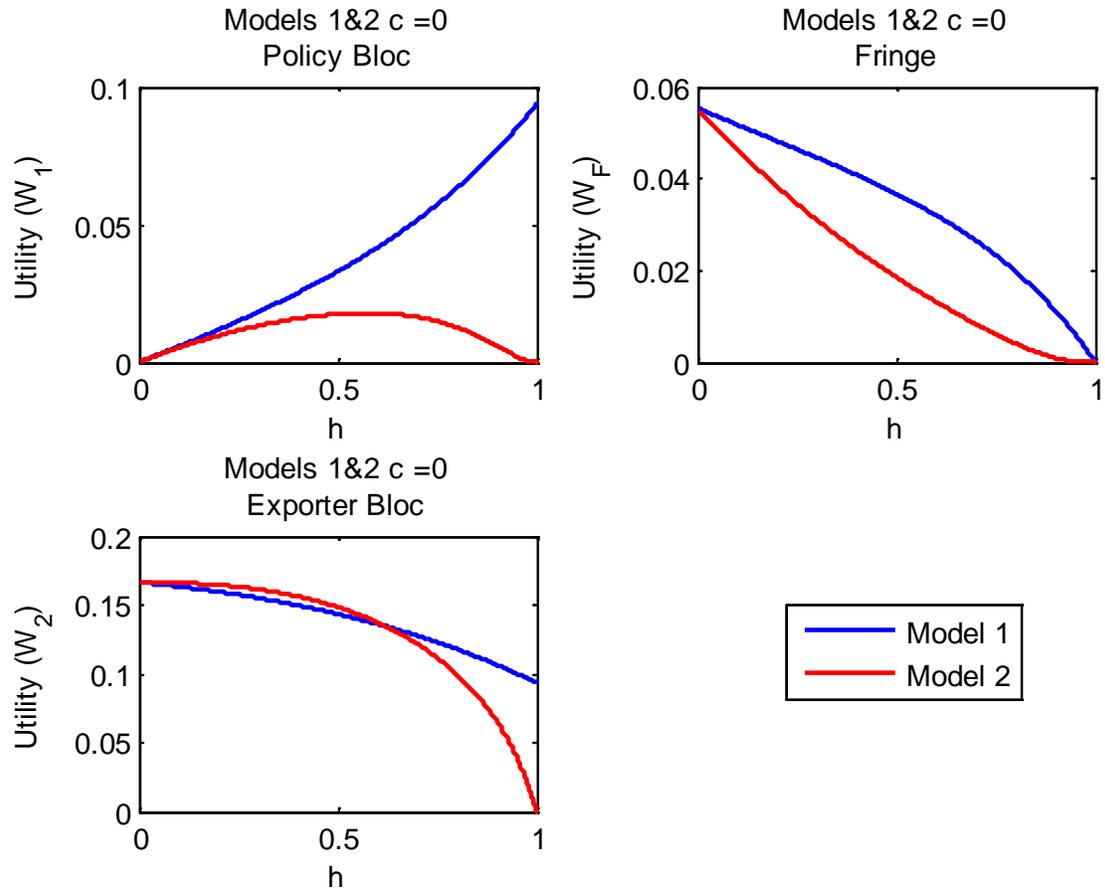


Figure 6: Welfare of importer policy bloc, fringe, and exporter bloc, as functions of h , for $c = 0.25$

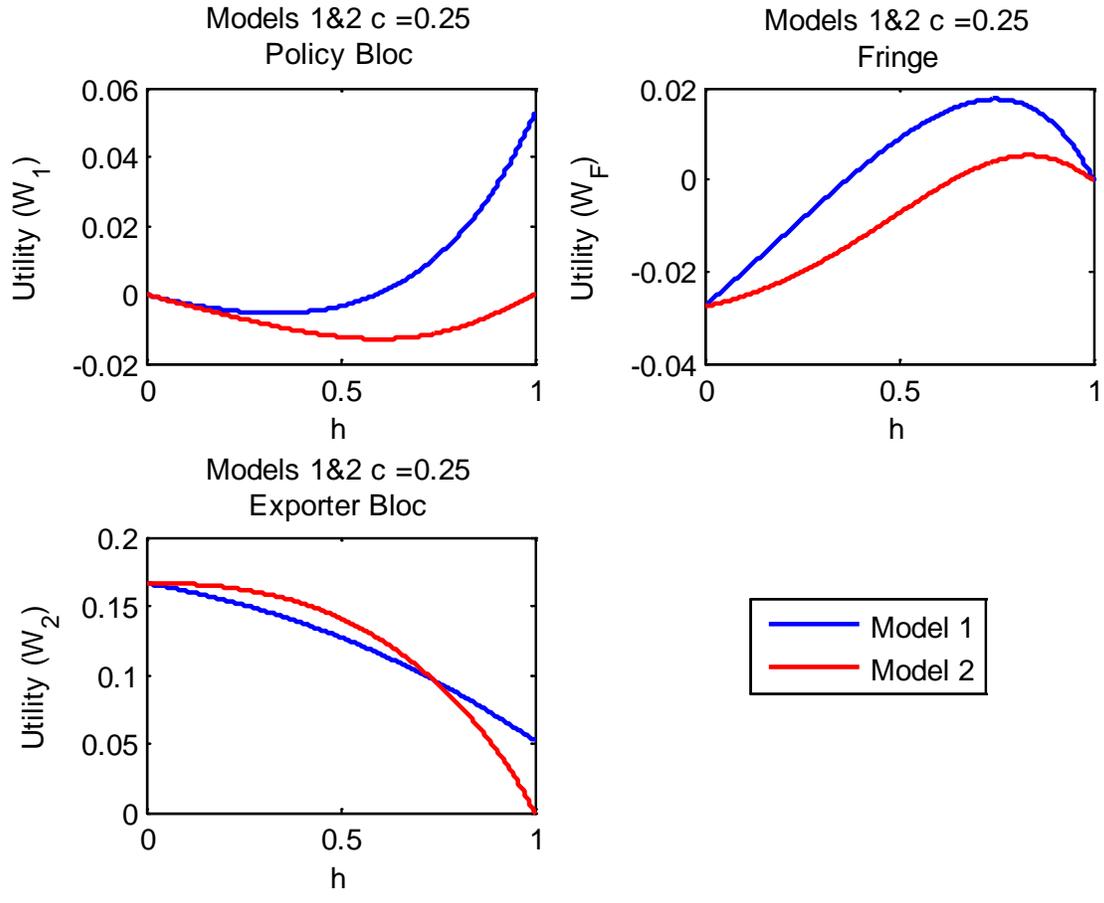


Figure 7: Welfare of importer policy bloc, fringe, and exporter bloc, as functions of h , for $c = 0.5$

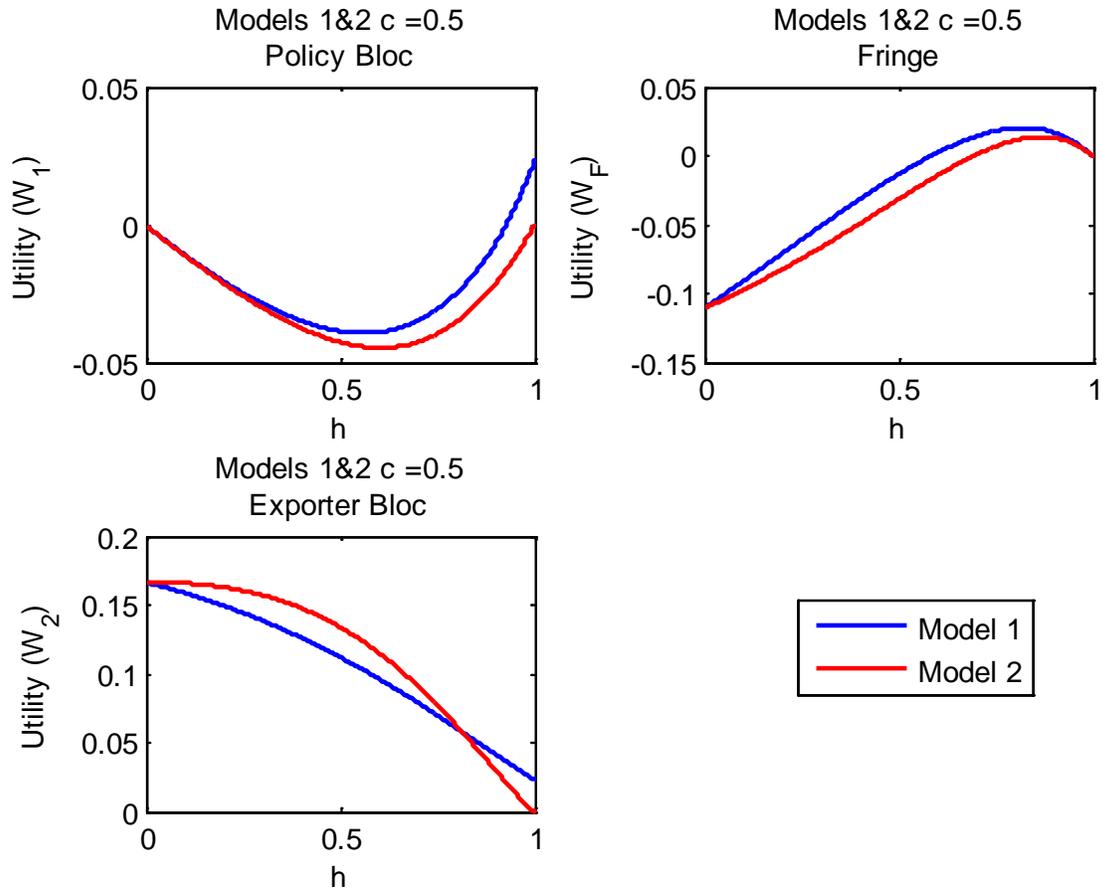
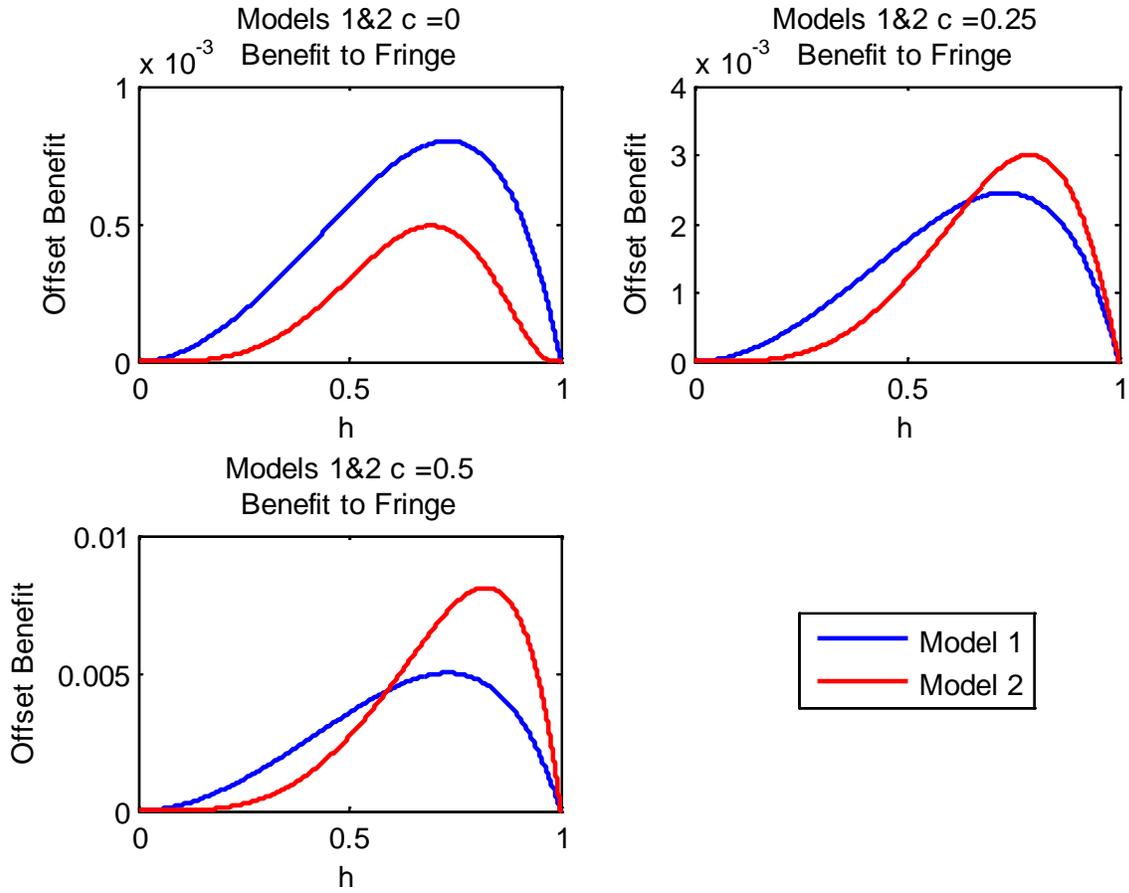


Figure 8: Welfare effect to fringe of offset market under models 1 and 2, for alternative values of h and c



Appendix: Analytical results and proofs

Proof of Proposition 1:

Maximizing (1) with respect to t_1 and q_1 , given (13)-(15), yields the following set of first-order conditions for the policy bloc:

$$(A1) \quad \frac{dW_1}{dt_1} = (1 - \gamma_1 R_1 - p) \frac{\partial R_1}{\partial t_1} - R_1 \frac{\partial p}{\partial t_1} - hc \frac{\partial R}{\partial t_1} = 0$$

$$(A2) \quad \frac{dW_1}{dq_1} = (1 - \gamma_1 R_1 - p) \frac{\partial R_1}{\partial q_1} - R_1 \frac{\partial p}{\partial q_1} - hc \frac{\partial R}{\partial q_1} - 2 \frac{1-h}{\gamma} q_1 = 0,$$

where we recognize from (3) that

$$1 - \gamma_1 R_1 - p = t_1.$$

(A1)-(A2) solve simultaneously for t_1 and q_1 , and with the respective partial derivatives are found from (13)-(15). Together this yields (17)-(18). Q.E.D.

Proof of Proposition 2:

The first-order condition for the exporter bloc is

$$(A3) \quad \frac{dW_2}{ds} = (p - p_0 - \phi R - c_2) \left(-\frac{1}{\gamma + \phi} \right) + R \frac{\gamma}{\gamma + \phi} = 0,$$

which yields:

$$(A4) \quad R = \frac{p - p_0 - c_2}{\gamma + \phi}.$$

(13), (14) and (A4) together yield the desired solution, (20). Q.E.D.

Proof of Proposition 4:

Differentiating (1) with respect to t and q in this case gives the following set of equations:

$$(A5) \quad \frac{dW_1}{dt_2} = (1 - \gamma_1 R_1 - p) \frac{\partial R_1}{\partial t_2} - R_1 \frac{\partial p}{\partial t_2} - hc \frac{\partial R}{\partial t_2} - \frac{(1-h)}{\gamma} q_2 = 0.$$

$$(A6) \quad \frac{dW_1}{dq_2} = (1 - \gamma_1 R_1 - p) \frac{\partial R_1}{\partial q_2} - R_1 \frac{\partial p}{\partial q_2} - hc \frac{\partial R}{\partial q_2} - \frac{1-h}{\gamma} t_2 = 0.$$

As before (13)-(15) must be invoked to find partial derivatives. The system (A5)-(A6) constitutes a saddle-point solution, where the partial derivative with respect to t_2 provides a partial maximum, and the partial with respect to q_2 provides a partial (local) minimum, with solution $q_2 = 0$. Thus (A5), but not (A6), can be invoked to find an optimal solution. (A5) takes the form

$$(A7) \quad t_2 = -\frac{1-h}{h}q_2 + \frac{h\gamma}{(\gamma+\phi)^2 - h^2\phi^2} \{ \phi(1-p_0-s) + (\gamma+\phi)c \}$$

(A7) solves alone for t_2 , observing also $q_2 \leq t_2$ (q_2 cannot exceed t_2 since all realized offsets must have cost less than or equal to t_2). Optimality then requires that q_2 (= marginal cost of energy abatement in the fringe) be set at its highest possible level = t_2 . Setting $q_2 = t_2$ we find (24).

(25) is found realizing that both the policy bloc and fringe face a marginal energy cost of $p + t_2$, which must be the marginal energy productivity in both regions. Q.E.D.

Proof of Proposition 5:

We solve (12) and (26) for p and R to yield

$$(A8) \quad p = \frac{1}{\gamma + (1-h)\phi} [\gamma(p_0 + s) + \gamma\phi R_p + (1-h)\phi]$$

$$(A9) \quad R = \frac{\gamma}{\gamma + (1-h)\phi} R_p + \frac{1-h}{\gamma + (1-h)\phi} (1-p_0-s)$$

The exporter takes (A8)-(A9) and R_p as given, and faces the following responses to changes in s :

$$(A10) \quad \frac{\partial p}{\partial s} = \frac{\gamma}{\gamma + (1-h)\phi}, \quad \frac{\partial R}{\partial s} = -\frac{1-h}{\gamma + (1-h)\phi}.$$

This yields the following condition for the exporter's optimal strategy in this case:

$$(A11) \quad \frac{dW_2}{ds} = (p - p_0 - \phi R - c_2) \left(-\frac{1-h}{\gamma + (1-h)\phi} \right) + R \frac{\gamma}{\gamma + (1-h)\phi} = 0,$$

with the corresponding optimal condition on R :

$$(A12) \quad R = \frac{1-h}{\gamma + (1-h)\phi} (p - p_0 - c_2).$$

The exporter considers R_p as exogenous. R_p is still set optimally by the policy bloc, as part of the market equilibrium, with t_2 as the equilibrium emissions quota price. R and p are still determined by (13)-(14). We then find s , p and R as functions of t_2 and q_2 , and in particular, (27). Q.E.D.