

Optimal Policy under Dollar Pricing

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Inflation: Dynamics, Expectations, and Targeting
July 13, 2021

- “Dominant currency paradigm”
 - world prices **set in dollars** (Goldberg-Tille'08) [▶ show](#)
 - world prices **sticky in dollars** (Gopinath'15)
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- What are implications of DCP for
 - ① float vs. peg? (Friedman'53)
 - ② capital controls? (Blanchard'17)
 - ③ Fed's policy and exorbitant privilege? (Bernanke'17, Gourinchas-Rey'07)
 - ④ gains from cooperation? from currency areas? (Mundell'61)

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- Relevant from both **normative** and **positive** perspectives [▶ show](#)
 - can DCP rationalize policies followed by open economies?

- New Keynesian open economy model

This Paper

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 - 1 optimality of inflation targeting for non-U.S. economies
 - 2 global monetary cycle
 - 3 no case for capital controls
 - 4 conflict of interests between the U.S. and RoW

▶ show

Relation to the Literature

- Empirical evidence:

- prices are sticky in dollars: Goldberg & Tille (2008), Gopinath & Rigobon (2008), Gopinath, Itskhoki & Rigobon (2010), Gopinath (2016)
- international spillovers under DCP: Cravino (2014), Zhang (2018), Ilzetzki, Reinhart & Rogoff (2019), Gopinath et al (2019)

- Theories of currency choice:

- Krugman (1980), Corsetti & Pesenti (2002), Bacchetta & van Wincoop (2005), Engel (2006), Goldberg & Tille (2008), Chahrour & Valchev (2017), Gopinath & Stein (2017), Drenik, Kirpalani & Perez (2018), Mukhin (2018)

- Optimal policy in open economy:

- PCP/LCP: Clarida, Gali & Gertler (2001, 2002), Devereux & Engel (2003), Benigno & Benigno (2003), Gali & Monacelli (2005), De Paoli (2009), Engel (2011), Corsetti, Dedola & Leduc (2010, 2018)

- DCP: Corsetti & Pesenti (2007), Devereux, Shi & Xu (2007), Goldberg & Tille (2009), Casas, Diez, Gopinath & Gourinchas (2017)

⇒ much more general setup, different intuition, new results...

▶ cf

- capital controls: Jeanne & Korinek (2010), Bianchi (2011), Farhi & Werning (2012, 2013, 2016, 2017), Costinot, Lorenzoni & Werning (2014)

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 - demand for products, labor supply and risk-sharing
 - nested CES w/ macro elasticity θ , micro elasticity ε , home bias $1 - \gamma$
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- To isolate new policy motives assume:
 - A1:** production subsidies $\tau_i = \frac{\varepsilon - 1}{\varepsilon}$, $\tau_i^* = 1$ and no markup shocks
⇒ *eliminate monopolistic distortion and the terms-of-trade externality*
 - A2:** payoffs of assets D_t^h are independent from monetary policies
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⇒ *monetary policy does not aim to complete asset markets*
- **Lemma:** the flexible-price equilibrium [▶ show](#)
 - (a) is efficient from the perspective of individual economy,
 - (b) can be implemented under PCP by targeting $\pi_{iit} = 0$.

NON-U.S. MONETARY POLICY

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- 3 Optimal policy is *time consistent*
- 4 Same optimal policy as under PCP despite inefficient outcome: [▶ show](#)
 - PCP: given export prices, MP achieves optimal exports $Y_{it}^* = h_t(P_{iit}/\mathcal{E}_{it})$
 - DCP: given export prices, MP **cannot** affect exports $Y_{it}^* = h_t(P_{it}^*)$

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 - **Lemma**: decentralized export prices are constrained efficient under DCP
 - robust to Kimball demand, heterogenous firms, endogenous currency choice

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- Trilemma:** trade-off is worse under DCP, but fixed ER is suboptimal

— cf. Rey'2013, Gourinchas'2018, Kalemli-Ozcan'2019

ADDITIONAL FISCAL INSTRUMENTS

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- Augment monetary policy with state-contingent capital controls [▶ show](#)

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Given the optimal monetary policy, capital controls do not insulate other economies from U.S. spillovers and are not used by the planner.

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⇒ capital controls are not a panacea against all kinds of foreign spillovers

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- **Corollary**: The optimal **cooperative** capital controls are generically non-zero and target economies that **import** depressed/overheated goods

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- The optimal policy is “robust” in terms of targets (cf. FGI'2014)
 - invariant to parameters/details of the model
- Can be implemented with alternative instruments. . .
 - but export tax is crucial as the Lerner symmetry does not hold (Barbiero-Farhi-Gopinath-Itskhoki'2019)

OPTIMAL U.S. POLICY

Proposition (U.S. policy)

Assume fully sticky prices and complete markets. Then optimal U.S. monetary policy rule balances *three motives*:

$$\Gamma \cdot p_{iit} + \gamma \Xi \cdot \int p_{jt}^* dj + \gamma \epsilon \cdot nx_{it} = 0.$$

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- **General case**: the U.S. can benefit or lose from DCP relative to RoW
 - **Special case**: complete markets + log-linear preferences + no intermediates

Proposition (Welfare)

In the special case, if countries' openness γ is sufficiently low, then the welfare of the U.S. under DCP is higher relative to other countries.

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- Monetary cooperation harms the U.S. and benefits the RoW:
 - country-specific shocks \Rightarrow conflict of interests, no first-best
 - common shocks \Rightarrow cooperation = non-cooperation = first-best

Cooperative Policy

- Global planner maximizes total welfare across countries
 - *U.S. welfare* is a trivial fraction of global welfare
 - *U.S. monetary policy* has global effects

Proposition (Cooperative policy)

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- Monetary cooperation harms the U.S. and benefits the RoW:
 - country-specific shocks \Rightarrow conflict of interests, no first-best
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- **Corollary:** forming **currency union** can benefit its members

① Optimality of Inflation Targeting

- robust and simple non-U.S. policy despite inefficient ToT & output gap

② Global Monetary Cycle

- “fear of floating” and *partial* peg to the dollar

③ No Case for Capital Controls

- inefficient against U.S. spillovers despite AD externalities

④ Motives of U.S. Policy

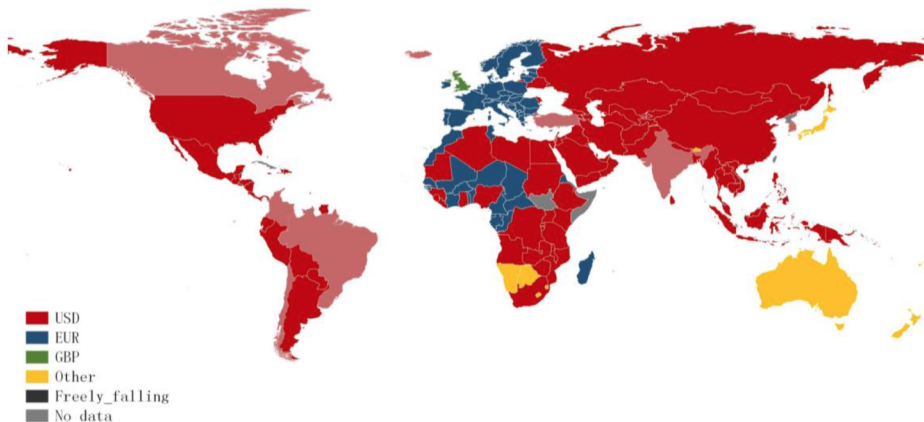
- optimal to partially internalize spillovers on the RoW

⑤ Benefits from Cooperation

- currency union as a substitute for unsustainable global cooperation

APPENDIX

Dollar as an Anchor Currency

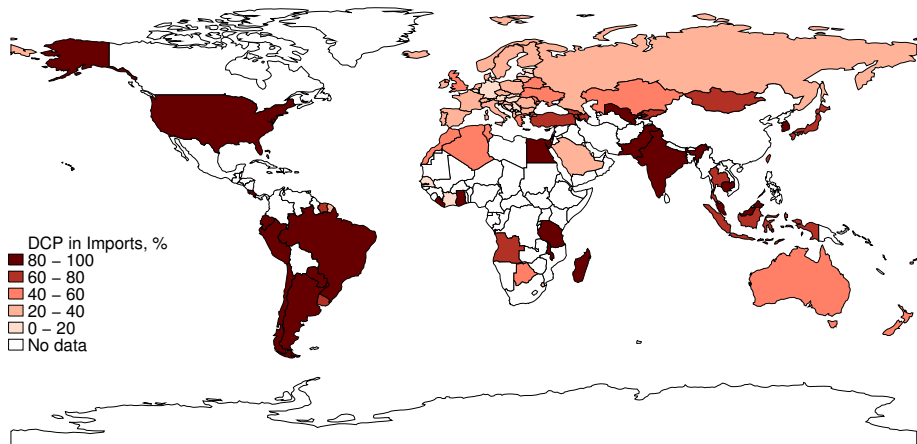


Source: Ilzetzi, Reinhart and Rogoff (2017)

► Motivation

► GMC

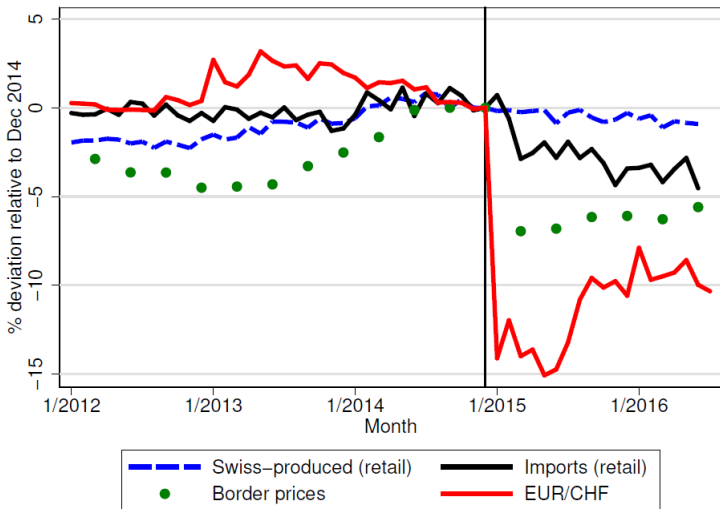
DCP in Imports



Source: Boz et al. (2020)

[▶ back](#)

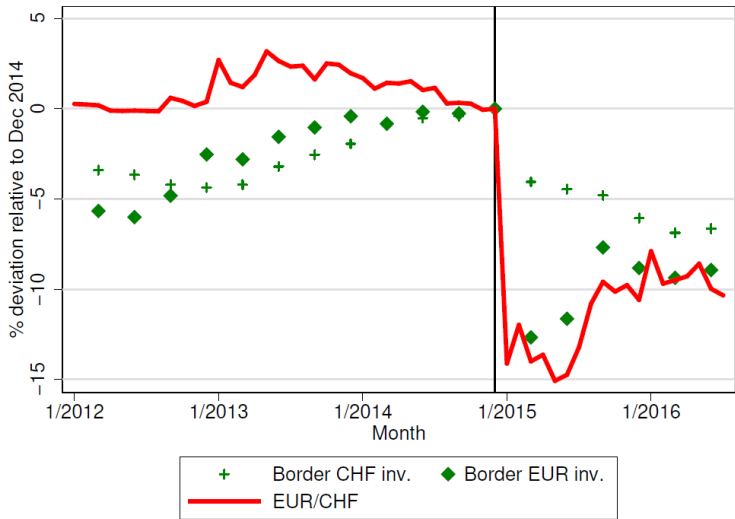
Pass-Through into Border and Retail Prices



Source: Auer, Burstein, and Lein (2018)

[▶ back](#)

Pass-Through into Border and Retail Prices



Source: Auer, Burstein, and Lein (2018)

[▶ back](#)

- Preferences:

$$\mathbb{E} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t U(C_{it}, N_{it}, \xi_{it})$$

- Consumption aggregator:

$$C_{it} = \left[(1 - \gamma)^{\frac{1}{\theta}} C_{iit}^{\frac{\theta-1}{\theta}} + \gamma^{\frac{1}{\theta}} C_{it}^*{}^{\frac{\theta-1}{\theta}} \right]^{\frac{\theta}{\theta-1}}, \quad C_{it}^* = \left(\int C_{jit}^{\frac{\varepsilon-1}{\varepsilon}} dj \right)^{\frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon-1}}$$

— macro elasticity θ vs. micro elasticity $\varepsilon > 1$

- Budget constraint:

$$P_{it} C_{it} + \mathcal{E}_{it} \sum_{h \in H_{it}} Q_t^h B_{it+1}^h = W_{it} N_{it} + \Pi_{it} + \mathcal{E}_{it} \sum_{h \in H_{it-1}} (Q_t^h + D_t^h) B_{it}^h + \mathcal{E}_{it} \psi_{it}$$

- \mathcal{E}_{it} is the nominal exchange rate against the dollar
- H_{it} is an arbitrary set of traded assets
- ψ_{it} is a commodity/ToT/wealth/financial shock

- CRS technology:

$$Y_{it} = A_{it}F(L_{it}, X_{it})$$

— for simplicity, same bundle of intermediates X_{it} as in consumption

- Rotemberg price setting:

- 1 **Local currency** in domestic market:

$$\max_{\{P_t\}} \mathbb{E} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \Theta_{it} \left[(P_t - \tau_i MC_{it}) \left(\frac{P_t}{P_{iit}} \right)^{-\varepsilon} Y_{iit} - (1 - \gamma) \frac{\varphi}{2} \left(\frac{P_t}{P_{t-1}} - 1 \right)^2 W_{it} \right]$$

- 2 **Dollars** in foreign markets:

$$\max_{\{P_t\}} \mathbb{E} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \Theta_{it} \left[(\mathcal{E}_{it} P_t - \tau_i^* MC_{it}) \left(\frac{P_t}{P_{it}^*} \right)^{-\varepsilon} Y_{it}^* - \gamma \frac{\varphi}{2} \left(\frac{P_t}{P_{t-1}} - 1 \right)^2 W_{it} \right]$$

— $\Theta_{it} \equiv \beta^t \frac{U_{C_{it}}}{P_{it}}$ is the nominal SDF

— $Y_{iit} \equiv C_{iit} + X_{iit}$ and $Y_{it}^* \equiv \int (C_{ijt} + X_{ijt}) dj$ are demand shifters

— τ_i and τ_i^* are time-invariant subsidies to domestic firms and exporters

Market Clearing

- Goods market:

$$A_{it}F(L_{it}, X_{it}) = (1-\gamma) \left(\frac{P_{iit}}{P_{it}} \right)^{-\theta} (C_{it} + X_{it}) + \gamma \left(\frac{P_{it}^*}{P_t^*} \right)^{-\varepsilon} \int \left(\frac{\mathcal{E}_{jt} P_t^*}{P_{jt}} \right)^{-\theta} (C_{jt} + X_{jt}) dj$$

- Labor market:

$$N_{it} = L_{it} + \frac{\varphi}{2} (1-\gamma) \pi_{iit}^2 + \frac{\varphi}{2} \gamma \pi_{it}^{*2}$$

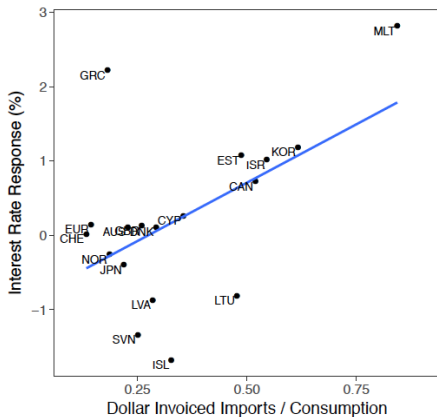
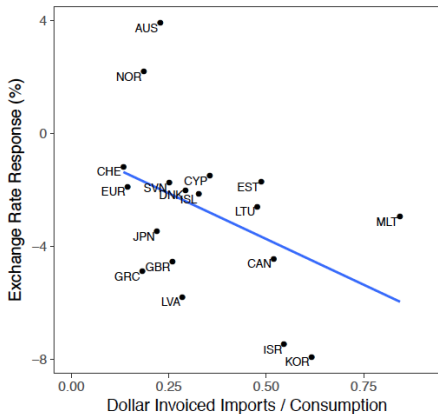
- Asset markets:

$$\int B_{it+1}^h di = 0, \quad \forall h \in H_t, \quad B_{it}^i = 0$$

- Country's budget constraint:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{h \in H_t} Q_t^h B_{it+1}^h - \sum_{h \in H_{t-1}} (Q_t^h + D_t^h) B_{it}^h \\ &= \gamma \left[P_{it}^* \left(\frac{P_{it}^*}{P_t^*} \right)^{-\varepsilon} \int \left(\frac{\mathcal{E}_{jt} P_t^*}{P_{jt}} \right)^{-\theta} (C_{jt} + X_{jt}) dj - P_t^* \left(\frac{\mathcal{E}_{it} P_t^*}{P_{it}} \right)^{-\theta} (C_{it} + X_{it}) \right] + \psi_{it}. \end{aligned}$$

DCP vs. Response to Fed's Shocks



Source: Zhang (2018)

▶ GMC

Comparison to the Literature

	DSX	CP	GT	CDGG	EM
Environment:					
# of countries	two		three	SOE	continuum
preferences	log-linear				general
intermediates	no				yes
asset markets	complete				arbitrary
prices	fully sticky			Calvo	Rtmberg/Calvo
terms-of-trade	exogenous to MP				endogenous
currency choice	rationalized	exogenous			endogenous

Non-U.S. policy:

optimal target	price stabilization				
allocation	inefficient				
implementation	inward-looking				outward-looking
exchange rates	floating				partial peg
capital controls	—				inefficient
trade policy	—				efficient

U.S. policy motives:

import prices	yes			—	yes
dynamic ToT	no			—	yes
welfare effects	negative	—	ambiguous	—	ambiguous
cooperative policy	yes			—	yes

Papers: Devereux, Shi & Xu (2007), Corsetti & Pesenti (2007), Goldberg & Tille (2009), Casas, Diez, Gopinath & Gourinchas (2018), Egorov & Mukhin (2019) [▶ back](#)

Non-U.S. Planner's Problem

$$\max_{\{\mathcal{E}_{it}, B_{it}^h, C_{it}, L_{it}, \pi_{iit}^*, \pi_{it}^*\}} \mathbb{E} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t U(C_{it}, L_{it} + \frac{\varphi}{2}(1-\gamma)\pi_{iit}^2 + \frac{\varphi}{2}\gamma\pi_{it}^{*2}, \xi_{it})$$

$$(RS) \quad \mathbb{E}_t \Theta_{it, t+1} \frac{\mathcal{E}_{it+1}}{\mathcal{E}_{it}} \frac{Q_{t+1}^h + D_{t+1}^h}{Q_t^h} = 1$$

$$(BC) \quad \sum_{h \in H_t} Q_t^h B_{it+1}^h - \sum_{h \in H_{t-1}} (Q_t^h + D_t^h) B_{it}^h \\ = \gamma \left[P_{it}^* \left(\frac{P_{it}^*}{P_t^*} \right)^{-\varepsilon} \int \left(\frac{\mathcal{E}_{jt} P_t^*}{P_{jt}^*} \right)^{-\theta} (C_{jt} + X_{jt}) dj - P_t^* \left(\frac{\mathcal{E}_{it} P_t^*}{P_{it}^*} \right)^{-\theta} (C_{it} + X_{it}) \right] + \psi_{it}$$

$$(MC) \quad A_{it} F(L_{it}, X_{it}) = (1-\gamma) \left(\frac{P_{iit}}{P_{it}} \right)^{-\theta} (C_{it} + X_{it}) + \gamma \left(\frac{P_{it}^*}{P_t^*} \right)^{-\varepsilon} \int \left(\frac{\mathcal{E}_{jt} P_t^*}{P_{jt}^*} \right)^{-\theta} (C_{jt} + X_{jt}) dj$$

$$(PC) \quad \pi_{iit} (\pi_{iit} + 1) W_{it} = -\kappa \left(P_{iit} - \frac{\varepsilon \tau_i}{\varepsilon - 1} MC_{it} \right) \frac{Y_{iit}}{1-\gamma} + \beta \mathbb{E}_t \Theta_{it, t+1} \pi_{iit+1} (\pi_{iit+1} + 1) W_{it+1}$$

$$(PC) \quad \pi_{it}^* (\pi_{it}^* + 1) W_{it} = -\kappa \left(\mathcal{E}_{it} P_{it}^* - \frac{\varepsilon \tau_i^*}{\varepsilon - 1} MC_{it} \right) \frac{Y_{it}^*}{\gamma} + \beta \mathbb{E}_t \Theta_{it, t+1} \pi_{it+1}^* (\pi_{it+1}^* + 1) W_{it+1}$$

where $\frac{X_{it}}{L_{it}} = g \left(\frac{-U_{Nit}}{U_{Cit}} \right)$, $\Theta_{it, t+\tau} = \beta^\tau \frac{U_{Cit+\tau} P_{it}}{U_{Cit} P_{it+\tau}}$, $\frac{MC_{it}}{P_{it}} = \frac{h \left(\frac{-U_{Nit}}{U_{Cit}} \right)}{A_{it}}$, $Y_{it}^* \equiv \int (C_{ijt} + X_{ijt}) dj$

Planner's Problem w/ Capital Controls

$$\max_{\{\mathcal{E}_{it}, \tau_{it+1}^h, B_{it}^h, C_{it}, L_{it}, \pi_{it}, \pi_{it}^*\}} \mathbb{E} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t U(C_{it}, L_{it} + \frac{\varphi}{2}(1-\gamma)\pi_{it}^2 + \frac{\varphi}{2}\gamma\pi_{it}^{*2}, \xi_{it})$$

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Domestic Dollarization

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- 1 Optimal monetary target:
 - currency of invoicing \gg country of origin
- 2 Capital controls:
 - AD externality
 - subsidize assets that pay in states with $\mathcal{E}_{it} P_{iit}^* > P_{iit}$
- 3 Export tariffs:
 - AD externality
 - boost exports in states with $\mathcal{E}_{it} P_{iit}^* > P_{iit}$

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⇒ monetary policy does not aim to complete asset markets
- **Lemma 2:** the flexible-price equilibrium $\varphi = 0$
 - (a) is efficient from the perspective of individual country,
 - (b) can be implemented under PCP by targeting $\pi_{iit} = 0$.

- Consider a simplified setup:
 - one-period model
 - discretionary policy
 - no intermediates

- Define **local** and **external** wedges :

$$\bar{\tau}_{ii} \equiv 1 + \frac{1}{A_i} \frac{U_{N_i}}{U_{C_{ii}}}, \quad \bar{\tau}_i^* \equiv 1 + \frac{\varepsilon_i}{\varepsilon_i - 1} \frac{S_i}{A_i} \frac{U_{N_i}}{U_{C_i^*}}$$

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 - distinguishes DCP from PCP

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- Observation 1:** given P_i^* , MP has no effect on exports
- Observation 2:** given $\bar{\tau}_{ii} = 0$, P_i^* is constrained efficient
 - relaxed planner's problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{C_{ii}, C_i^*, N_i, S_i} \quad & U(C_{ii}, C_i^*, N_i) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & A_i N_i = C_{ii} + h(S_i^{-1}) C^* + A_i \pi(S_i^{-1}) \\ & C_i^* = S_i^{-1} h(S_i^{-1}) C^* + \sum_h D^h B_i^h + \psi_i \end{aligned}$$

- optimal export price coincides with the decentralized one:

$$S_i^{-1} = \operatorname{argmax}_{S^{-1}} \left[\varepsilon_i S^{-1} - \frac{W_i}{A_i} \right] h(S^{-1}) C^* - \pi(S^{-1}) W_i$$

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- Robust to *endogenous* firms' currency choice
 - exporters use foreign intermediates and do pricing-to-market
 - strong complementarities \Rightarrow exporters coordinate on DCP (Mukhin'2018)