International Trade Summer 2012

Exercises 2

Problem 1: Suppose that the production functions of sector 1 and 2 are $Q_1 = K_1^{0.3} L_1^{0.7}$ and $Q_2 = K_2^{0.6} L_2^{0.4}$, respectively.

- a) Determine formally which of the two goods is capital intensive, that is, uses the higher captial/labor ratio for a given relative factor price.
- b) Derive the corresponding unit cost functions and explain why unit costs equal output prices. Then use these equalities to express factor prices as functions of output prices.
- c) Using your results from b), explain factor price equalization and verify the Stolper-Samuelson result.

Problem 2: A country's output vector is X = (2, 2, 1), the world's output vector is $X^w = (55, 100, 110)$, the price vector is p = (4, 4, 3), and the commonly used input output coefficients are

$$\left(\begin{array}{rrrr} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 \end{array}\right)$$

where the first row describes labor coefficients, the second row describes land coefficients, and the third row describes capital coefficients. All countries have identical homothetic preferences and balanced trade.

- a) Describe the country's pattern of commodity trade.
- b) Describe its pattern of trade in factor content.
- c) What are the equilibrium factor prices?

Problem 3: Carry out the empirical exercises that you find at the end of chapter 2 in the Feenstra book. You can download the data and stata do files at this URL: www.econ.ucdavis.edu/faculty/fzfeens/empirical/Chapter-2.zip