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# 国际贸易比较优势的 定量分析

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# 作者简介

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吴建伟, 1959 年出生。1983 年毕业于南京大学, 获经济学学士学位; 1986 年毕业于武汉大学, 获经济学硕士学位; 1994 年毕业于英国里丁大学, 获经济学博士学位。现任教于上海对外贸易学院。发表过各国间产业竞争和比较优势升级转换方面的论文多篇, 并编写过国际经济贸易论著。目前主要从事国际竞争力的定量分析和对我国金融市场效率水平的研究。

# 出版前言

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**为**了全面地、系统地反映当代经济学的全貌及其进程,总结与挖掘当代经济学已有的和潜在的成果,展示当代经济学新的发展方向,我们决定出版“当代经济学系列丛书”。

“当代经济学系列丛书”是大型的、高层次的、综合性的经济学术理论丛书。它包括四个子系列:(1)当代经济学文库;(2)当代经济学译库;(3)当代经济学教学参考书系;(4)当代经济学新知文丛。该丛书在学科领域方面,不仅着眼于各传统经济学科的新成果,更注重经济前沿学科、边缘学科和综合学科的新成就;在选题的采择上,广泛联系海内外学者,努力开掘学术功力深厚、思想新颖独到、作品水平拔尖的“高、新、尖”著作。“文库”力求达到中国经济学界当前的最高水平;“译库”翻译当代经济学的名人名著;“教学参考书系”主要出版国外著名高等院校 90 年代的通用教材;“新知文丛”则运用通俗易懂的语言,介绍国际上当代经济学的最新发展。

本丛书致力于推动中国经济学的现代化和国际标准化,力图在一个不太长的时期内,从研究范围、研究内容、研究方法、分析技术等方面逐步完成中国经济学从传统向现代的转轨。我们渴望经济学家们支持我们的追求,向这套丛书提供高质量的标准经济学著作,进而为提高中国经济学的水平,使之立足于世界经济学之林而共同努力。

我们和经济学家一起瞻望着中国经济学的未来。

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# 前 言

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**当**代世界贸易格局发生了一些重大变化,突出地表现为国际分工的基础由垂直型分工转变为水平型分工,贸易构成中制成品占据主导地位,发展中国家贸易地位的上升,以及区域性贸易的兴起。在此背景下,本书依据国际贸易经典理论,运用计量经济学的定量分析方法,对国际贸易理论与政策的一些前沿性问题进行研究。其内容主要包括:第一,建立衡量国际贸易比较优势的通用测算模型,以计算主要发展中国家贸易比较优势的类型及其变化。第二,通过对一些国际贸易理论和假说的实证检验,证明各国在实行合理的国际分工前提下能够实现各自的比较优势及其升级换代,还说明决定国际贸易数量、流向和利益分配的终极力量是国际比较利益,而非闭关自守性的产业保护政策或外部贸易保护主义的压力。因此,发展中国家的对外贸易能够继续增长并推动其自身的经济发展。



国际贸易理论是实践性和应用性很强的学科。无论是进行国际贸易理论的研究,还是制定政府经济贸易政策或是从事贸易经营活动,都需要把握当今国际贸易发展变化中的热点和大趋势。要做到这一点,就应熟悉应用型经济学的分析工具和方法,以揭示出贸易数据中蕴含的规律。由于历史的原因,我国国际贸易学界在一定程度上存在倚重定性研究、定量分析薄弱的问题。其结果是,使有些理论假说提法带有随意性和缺乏论证,甚至影响到决策的科学性。应当借鉴国际经济学界通用的研究方法,设立计量模型,对发展中国家的比较优势特别是外贸工业品中生产要素含量进行分析。实际检验的目的在于揭示国际贸易优势的差异和发展趋势,为对外经贸发展战略的制定提供坚实的基础。

国际贸易比较优势的实证分析可以用来检验一些重大的理论和政策争论。国内外经济学界流行着一种观点:面对国际保护主义和区域内经济一体化的压力,发展中国家外

贸的重点应转向南南经济合作。然而国际贸易的现实却是,南南贸易虽然起到了开拓新市场等方面的作用,然而南北贸易依然是发展中国家外贸的主要组成部分。国际贸易格局符合新古典贸易理论和比较优势论的原理:即南北贸易为发展中国家输入了资本和技术要素,并使其丰富的劳动力资源得到充分利用。南南贸易却容易造成资源配置上的浪费,因而高估南南贸易的作用是不可取的。

本书是作者对国际贸易比较优势系列性研究的总结,包含了在海外所做多项研究的内容。书中所介绍的统计计量方法具有实用性和可操作性,并结合对国际贸易趋势性的分析,对从事实际工作和政策制定的人士有一定的参考价值。它还涉及了当代国际贸易理论中许多有争议性的课题,适合经贸类师生们参阅。作者在研究过程中得到上海市教委 1995 年度“曙光计划”的资助,特此致谢。

由于探讨的内容较为广泛,加之文献资料的限制,书中难免存在一些缺陷。殷切希

望广大读者能提出批评意见,以推动这方面的研究。借此机会,我对关心本书出版的上海人民出版社陈昕社长,上海对外贸易学院王新奎院长和本书的责任编辑范蔚文先生表示由衷的谢意。

吴建伟

1996年8月

# ABSTRACT

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## THE QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The increasing competitiveness of newly industrial economies' exports and transformation of their patterns of foreign trade are major events of modern world trade. Based on empirical analyses, this book is an effort to explore the underlying forces to cause the changes in comparative advantage and to test relevant theoretical arguments. It focuses on analyzing the transformation of comparative advantage of developing countries' (LDCs) manufactured exports, including cross country tests. Distribution of trade benefits is always a central topics of trade theory, so it is also included in this study.

The first half of this book undertakes literature survey, and the second half undertakes quantitative studies to test theoretical hypotheses. The empirical tests are composed of demand and supply analyses, factor contents measure, revealed comparative advantage and terms of trade examinations.

These tests examine following major theoretical arguments. First, all arguments are related to a common theme: when more countries upgrade their exports from primary goods to manufactures and worsening the pressure of trade protectionism in developed markets, can LDCs as a whole still gain trade profits and accelerate economic growth through export-led expansion? Lewis repeats the engine of growth approach in the 1950s: the growth of LDCs' exports relies solely on developed countries' demand, and such links remain a quantum stable over a hundred years. When the engine, developed economies, slows down, the rest of world will slow down. The only solution is replacing the traditional South-North trade link with South-South trade. The neoclassical economists argue that the dominate factors of economic and trade growth are from supply rather than demand side. Given the differences in factor endowments, the South can enjoy trade benefits mainly from South-North trade. Second, Singer believes that the deterioration of terms of trade equally applies to LDCs' manufactured exports to developed countries. Meier points out that income terms of trade is more relevant to measure LDCs' gains from trade, while traditional

indicator of net terms of trade is misleading. Third, Balassa assumes that the upgrading of LDCs' comparative advantage follows a pattern of ladder of comparative advantage instead of reaches a stage of development simultaneously. Because the size of world market is expanding, the increase in volume of LDCs' exports can be absorbed. Lall doubts the continuous growth of developed markets, and the only feasible solution to accommodate LDCs' manufactured exports will be promotion of South-South trade.

Against the hypothesis of engine of growth, chapter five designs a demand equation to calculate the degree and stability of South-North trade and economic link. The outcome proves that South-North economic and trade links are unstable in history, and demand factor cannot fully explain the growth of LDCs' economy. Therefore, it is unrealistic to assume that the South's growth mechanically relies on the North's demand. In order to precisely measure comparative advantage, chapter six applies Korean input-output tables to compute the ranks and characteristics of factor contents of LDCs' manufactured exports. These tests reveal following facts: the varied ranks of factor contents

are consistent with the principle of neoclassical trade theory and ladder of comparative advantage approach, while abnormal ranks of factor contents are related to disturbance from protective trade regime; South-North trade is more beneficial than South-South trade in terms of efficient allocation of resources because the former contains higher ratio of labour factor and lower ratio of capital factor than the latter, because factor contents of LDCs' manufactured exports are closely related to the accumulation of economic factors, and supply factors can well explain patterns of their comparative advantage. The tests in chapter seven employ the technique of product analyses to further assess the distribution and changes in LDCs' comparative advantage in recent years. LDCs as a whole have disadvantage in exporting manufactures, but the degree of disadvantage has been reducing dramatically since the 1980s. Newly industrial economies have built up their competitiveness in certain capital and technology intensive goods. Another major finding is that intra-industrial trade emerges between newly industrial economies and between newly industrial economies and developed economies. The rising of intra-industrial trade will expand the size of world market

and offset the trade protectionism. Chapter eight is devoted to examine the debate whether and in what extent LDCs can gain benefits from increase in volume of their exports. The statistical results indicate that the trend of worsening net terms of the South's trade against the North reversed during the 1970s, and the former's terms of trade have actually been improving measured by income terms of exports. Furthermore, since the rate of growth of the South's labour productivity is higher than the North, the South's single factor term of trade has improved since the 1980s against the North. Thus, developing economies have been benefited from increase in the volume of exports and the improvement in their purchasing power of exports.

Two major conclusions can be drawn from testing the hypotheses related to LDCs' comparative advantage with empirical evidence. First, the product and direction of LDCs' foreign trade should keep consistent with their state of factor resources because supply rather than demand factors determine the growth of trade. Ladder of comparative advantage approach predicts that each country may adjust their pattern of foreign trade according to the transformation of its comparative



advantage. Such a dynamic adjustment procedure can lead to expansion of world market and to efficiently explore benefits from division of labour. Second, in consideration of size and stability of market, complementary of factors and intra-industrial trade, South-North trade is more beneficial than South-South trade.

I would be very grateful if readers could find useful reference for analyzing comparative advantage of China's foreign trade from this study. I also hope this book provides right methodology for the research on development of national and regional industries.