

Problem 2

a)

Increasing RTS (consider that $\gamma q(L, K) > q(\gamma L, \gamma K)$)

b)

$$\frac{dq}{dL} = MP_L = 0.5L^{-0.5}K, \frac{dq}{dK} = L^{0.5}$$

b.1

$$\min_{[L,K]} 4000L + 8000K \text{ s.t. } q = L^{0.5}K = 1000$$

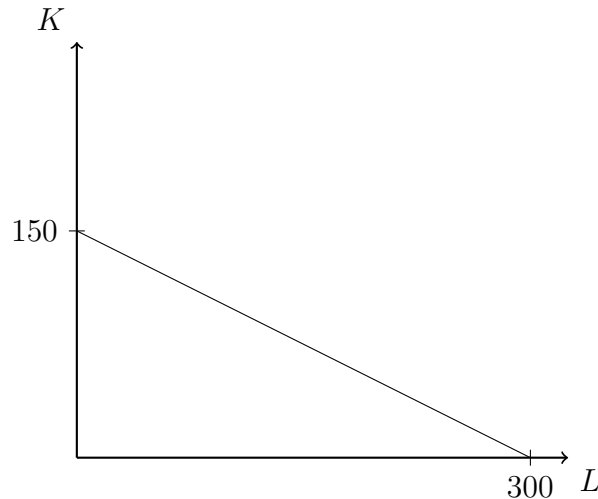
b.2,b.3,b.4

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L} &= 4000L + 8000K - \lambda[L^{0.5}K - 1000] \\ \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta L} &= 4000 - 0.5\lambda L^{-0.5}K = 0 \\ \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta K} &= 8000 - \lambda L^{0.5} = 0 \\ \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \lambda} &= L^{0.5}K - 1000 = 0 \\ \implies L^{-1}K &= 1 \\ \implies L &= K \\ \implies K &= 1000^{0.67} = 100 \\ \implies L &= 1000^{0.67} = 100\end{aligned}$$

b.5

To see 1000 patients, we have that the minimum cost is $4000(100) + 8000(100) = 1,200,000$.

c)



d)

The share on labor is equal to

$$\frac{\text{total spent on labor}}{\text{total costs}} = \frac{wL}{TC} = \frac{4000(100)}{1200000} = \frac{1}{3}$$

Similarly, the share on capital is equal to

$$\frac{\text{total spent on capital}}{\text{total costs}} = \frac{rK}{TC} = \frac{8000(100)}{1200000} = \frac{2}{3}$$

We notice that $q(L, K) = L^{0.5}K$, and that the share spent on labor is $\frac{0.5}{0.5+1} = \frac{1}{3}$, and that the share spent on capital is $\frac{1}{0.5+1} = \frac{2}{3}$.

In general, for $q(L, K) = L^\alpha K^\beta$, we have that the share spent on labor is $\frac{\alpha}{\alpha+\beta}$ and the share spent on capital is $\frac{\beta}{\alpha+\beta}$.

e),f),g)

These do not exist, for some reason.

h)

We solve for cost minimizing L, K and plug in the cost function.

i)

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{MP_L}{MP_K} &= \frac{w}{r} \\ \frac{0.5L^{-0.5}K}{L^{0.5}} &= \frac{w}{r} \\ \implies \frac{K}{2L} &= \frac{w}{r} \\ \implies K &= \frac{2wL}{r} \\ \implies q &= L^{0.5} \frac{2wL}{r} \\ &= L^{1.5} \frac{2wL}{r} \\ \implies L &= \left(\frac{rq}{2w}\right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \\ \implies q &= \left(\frac{rq}{2w}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} K \\ \implies K &= q \left(\frac{2w}{rq}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \\ &= \left(\frac{2wq^2}{r}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}\end{aligned}$$

j)

The clinic's total cost function is then $C(w, r, q) = w\left(\frac{rq}{2w}\right)^{\frac{2}{3}} + r\left(\frac{2wq^2}{r}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} = \left(\frac{1}{2}rwq^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)^{\frac{2}{3}} + (2wq^2r^2)^{\frac{1}{3}}$.

k)

We have that

$$\begin{aligned} AC &= \frac{C(w, r, q)}{q} \\ &= \frac{1}{q} \left[\left(\frac{1}{2} r w q^{\frac{1}{2}} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} + (2 w q^2 r^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} \right] \\ &= q^{-\frac{1}{3}} \left(\frac{1}{2} r w^{\frac{1}{2}} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} + q^{-\frac{1}{3}} (2 w r^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} \\ &= q^{-\frac{1}{3}} \left(\left(\frac{1}{2} r w^{\frac{1}{2}} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} + (2 w r^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} \right) \\ \implies \frac{dAC}{dq} &= -\frac{1}{3} q^{-\frac{4}{3}} \left(\left(\frac{1}{2} r w^{\frac{1}{2}} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} + (2 w r^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} \right) < 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, AC is decreasing with increased output, agreeing with our initial finding of economies of scale.