

Econ 1BB3 Summary

Natural experiments: observing data before and after a natural change

Productivity Production Frontier (PPF): graph that compares production of 2 things by a given firm (person, country, factory, etc.); it is drawn by plotting points at the 2 locations where the production of each of the goods is at a maximum $(0, y_{\max})$ & $(x_{\max}, 0)$; when not given, it is assumed constant opportunity cost, which means a linear slope; in reality, it is bowed out because you cannot put computer engineers on a farm

Autarky: when a firm does not trade with other firms

In autarky, a firm can produce under its PPF, but not over it. However, producing under its PPF is inefficient.

Opportunity cost:

- what is given up to produce one more of a good
- slope of the PPF (inverse of the slope if you account the fact that economists don't know how to graph properly)
- When analyzing a PPF, the opportunity cost of one good is given in terms of the other good
- To find it, take a point or segment on the PPF and choose a common timeframe of production between the two goods (i.e. goods/hours), then find out how much of each is produced after the duration.
- *Opportunity cost of good A is how much of good B you would sacrifice to produce 1 A; B/A*

Price of trade: a price range that 2 people can agree on for a given trade that is below the opportunity cost of the buyer and above the opportunity cost of the seller

Microeconomics: effect on consumers and firms; includes government policies

Macroeconomics: effect on economy (unemployment, inflation, growth, etc.)

Positive statement: don't have to be true, but measurable fact; no bias "too" or "improve" give away

Normative statement: immorality, etc.

Reasons for Disagreements:

- Values: (not monetary) personal opinion, policies
- Scientific judgement: taxes
- Perception and reality: doesn't exist

Specialization implies that the opportunity cost is different. Just think: would you ask an engineer to work on a farm?

Absolute advantage: who can make more of one of the goods (disregard opportunity cost)?

Comparative advantage: who has the lower opportunity cost?

Substitute: similar products that are almost the same; when the price of one causes increase in demand in the other

Compliment: prices of 2 products rise simultaneously, like mice and keyboards

Inferior goods: cheap things that you only buy because you can't afford the normal/luxury goods, such as Mac-and-cheese

Luxury goods: really expensive goods that are particularly affected too much by increasing prices

Normal goods: other stuff

Quantity demanded:

- Affected by:
 - Price
 - Income
 - Prices of other goods (i.e. substitutes and compliments)
 - Tastes (including scientific discoveries about benefits of product)
 - Expectation of future prices or future income
- Keeping everything the same, the **law of demand** says that demand falls as price increases
- Increases cause right shift; decreases cause left shift (think about the change in the area under the curve for smart cookies who know integration)

Quantity Supplied:

- Affected by:
 - Price
 - Input prices
 - Technology
 - Expectations
- Increases cause right shift; decreases cause left shift

Rarely will both the supply and demand curves shift simultaneously.

Comparative statistics: comparing before and after

Stock variable: snapshot

Flow variable: over period of time

GDP:

- Each transaction can be in multiple categories
- $Y = C + I + G + NX$
 - Consumption
 - Investment

- Government spending
 - Net eXports (Exports – imports)
 - Transactions can be in different categories based on intention
- Each good is only calculated *once*. If it's moved into a different category, it means you add it to the new category and subtract it from the previous category

S_p : public saving = $T - G$

Transfer funds (a.k.a. transfer payments): funds provided by government that do not count as GDP, such as a pension

Intermediate good: a partially produced good or good in storage that is meant to be sold later. It would count as investment. It does not change the GDP when it leaves the investment category, since GDP should not be counted multiple times

Gross National Product (GNP): total value of all goods and services produced by a country's citizens domestically or foreign in a given period

- who, rather than GDP's where
- $GNP = GDP + NR - NP$ (Net payment outflow to foreign assets)
- NR: Net revenue from citizens abroad
- NP: Net payment outflow to foreigners in the country

Capital: durable goods, i.e. physical wealth and money

Nominal GDP: increases when prices and output increases

Real GDP: increases when output increases;

Diminishing Marginal Product: adding more units of labour decreases the marginal product, unless constant returns to scale

Catch-up effect: how developing countries have higher growth rate than developed countries, caused by diminishing marginal product

Basket: fixed amount of goods consumers will consume annually (doesn't include luxury goods)

Consumer Price Index (CPI):

- Fixed quantities, change in prices
- Prices of goods and services bought by typical consumers
- cost of $\frac{\text{basket}_{\text{current}}}{\text{basket}_{\text{base}}}$
- It sucks because: keep in mind that surveys are only done every 10 years
 - Consumer substituting products for cheaper/more effective products due to changing prices
 - New goods that weren't around during survey, such as smart phones

- Unmeasured quality change (such as technology in cars)

GDP Deflator:

- a measure of the price level
- Fixed prices, changing quantity
- Prices of goods and services produced domestically
- $100 \times \frac{\text{GDP}_{\text{nominal}}}{\text{GDP}_{\text{real}}}$

To calculate the current value of a historic price, use the following equation:

$$\frac{\text{CPI}_{\text{current}}}{\text{CPI}_{\text{historic}}} = \frac{x}{\text{price}_{\text{historic}}}$$

Inflation rate:

- %Δ price level from one year to the next
- Assuming p represents GDP deflator, you can calculate inflation rate using the following

formula: $\frac{P_{\text{current}} - P_{\text{last year}}}{P_{\text{last year}}} \times 100\%$

Interest rate: opportunity cost of currently available funds

Real interest rate: interest rate with inflation

Nominal interest rate: interest rate without inflation

Nominal interest rate = Real Interest Rate + inflation

If there is a tax, it will be on the nominal.

In a closed economy, savings = investment

Inward-oriented policies: policies that encourage domestic sales over exporting

Chapter 7 – Production and Growth

Production function: $Y = A \cdot F(K, L, H, N)$

Advancements (technology)

Kapital (physical capital): machinery or capital equipment

Labour

Human capital: knowledge/skills, e.g. understanding how to use company's accounting software

Natural resources

You can express the production function in terms of the output per worker due to constant rate of returns:

$$\frac{Y}{L} = A \cdot F\left(\frac{K}{L}, 1, \frac{H}{L}, \frac{N}{L}\right)$$

High population growth reduces GDP because it causes capital to have to be spread more thinly because you have to divide all the available capital amongst the newcomers.

Kremer: larger population results in larger technological productivity

Malthus: population only expands to the agricultural capacity to support it

Constant Returns to scale: increased input by a factor causes the output to increase by the same factor; $xY = AF(xL, xK, xH, xN)$

Government Policies that raise productivity and living standards

1. Encourage saving [K]
2. Allow foreign investment [K] (foreign investment is better than no investment)
3. More spending on education [H], although it may result in emigration due to brain drain
4. Improve property rights and reduce political instability [K,A]
5. Free trade [A]
6. Research & development [K,A] through grants, patent system

Chapter 8 – Financial System

Market for Loanable funds: investments, bonds, etc.

If government gives tax exemption on them, firms will invest more, affecting demand

Intermediary: institutions that provide bonds or stocks

Equity finance: sales of stocks

Debt finance: sales of bonds

Think “debt” because when there is some financial instability, bondholders get money first.

National Income Accounting Identity: $Y = C + I + G$

Y: GDP

C: Consumption

I: Investment

G: Government purchases

$S = I$

S: Savings

Private savings (S_p): higher with higher interest rate

Government savings (S_g): depends on tax and government purchases

Saving: putting money on banks, stocks, or bonds (Supply)

Investments: the other part of investments (demand)

Supply curves for people are different; think people selling bonds from people

Liquidity: Money > mutual funds > bonds > fine arts / houses

Term: Length of time until a bond matures

Crowding out: Increases in government spending => decreases in private spending

Chapter 9 – Unemployment

Structural unemployment: long run from change in labour costs, since loss in number of total jobs

Frictional unemployment: seasonal, sectoral, searching; short/long run from taking time between jobs from sectoral shifts (when work is no longer needed for something, such as a machine); it takes time for people to get the job that they want; decrease this time and decrease the unemployment

Cyclical unemployment: short run from large drop-off in demand by entire economy, such as recession (business cycles); only unemployment that is not **natural unemployment**—think unnatural

To be considered part of the adult population, you cannot be considered institutionalized (army—illegal to violate contract and leave work, seniors' home, jail)

Employment rate = number of employed/adult population

Unemployment rate = number of unemployed/labour force

Chapter 10 – Monetary System

Bank Reserves: what the bank keeps in vaults, etc.

Fractional-reserve banking: a banking system in which a bank holds only a fraction of deposits as reserves (the rest is lent out for a higher interest rate than the increase from savings)

Reserve ratio: the fraction that is lent out

Money multiplier: $1/\text{reserve ratio}$; used to calculate the amount of money

Asset: stored value

Unit of account: relative value; cost of one item in comparison to cost of another without the actual cost (i.e. A is more expensive than B)

Intrinsic value:

Fiat money: money without intrinsic value, such as paper money

Know current governor of the bank of Canada.

Sterilization: Bank of Canada buys Canadian money and uses the money to buy government bonds to support the Canadian exchange rate without making the supply fall

Good:

Exports: goods and services produced domestically and sold abroad, e.g. tourism

Imports: produced abroad, sold domestic

Trade balance: affected by:

- Trade barriers (i.e. Government trade policies): controlling how much crosses border, e.g. tariffs
- Exchange rate
- Transportation costs
- Regular factors that affect Q_d , such as:
 - Price
 - Tastes
 - Income

Bank rate: rate of interest BoC charges Banks who borrow from them

Chapter 11 – Money, Growth, and Inflation

Money: set of assets in an economy that people regularly use to buy goods; has 3 functions:

1. **Medium of exchange:** buyers give to sellers to purchase goods
2. **Unit of account:** common measure of prices in given economy
3. **Store of value:** transfers purchasing power from present to future

Wealth: total assets, including savings/investments

Income: flow variable

Nominal: numerical

Real: physical units

Velocity of money: number of times a given dollar is used in a transaction: $V = \frac{P \times Y}{M}$, P = Price level, Y = real GDP (Q_{output}), M = $Q_{\$}$, $Y \times P$ = nominal GDP

Price level (not GDP Deflator): $P = \frac{GDP_n}{GDP_r}$

Inflation tax: revenue the government raises by printing money

Shoe-leather costs: resources you spend to avoid the constantly falling real value of your money within a society with a high interest rate

Menu costs: the cost of printing new price lists, catalogues, menus, etc., to change them to accommodate rising inflation costs

Fisher Effect: when increase in interest rate becomes the same as that for the nominal interest rate, to essentially balance the real interest rate to a consistent amount

Classical Dichotomy: nominal interest rate \neq real interest rate

Chapter 12 – Open-Economy

Net Capital Outflow (NCO): purchase of foreign assets by domestic residents – purchase of domestic by foreign; most complicated because 2 diagrams, 5 curves; affected by:

Purchasing Power Parity (PPP): exchange rates should equalize prices of goods in countries

Chapter 13

Tariff: import tax

Import Quota:

When the government imposes a tariff, it doesn't change the market for loanable funds

Chapter 14 – Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply

Aggregate demand:

- GDP [$Y = C + I + G + NX$]
- Negative slope because of:
 - Wealth Effect: illusion of feeling wealthier when prices go down ($C \uparrow$)
 - Interest Rate Effect: liquidity preference theory: put money into money or bonds?
 - Real Exchange Rate Effect:

Aggregate supply:

- Production Function [$Y = A \cdot F(K, L, H, N)$]
- Long Run:
- Short Run:

Stagflation:

Liquidity Preference Theory:

Long-Run Aggregate Supply (LRAS): \hat{Y}

$$Y = A \cdot F(K, L, H, N)$$

Short-Run Aggregate Supply (SRAS):

$$Y = \hat{Y} + a(P - P^e)$$

$$Y - \hat{Y} = aP - aP^e$$

- $aP = Y - \hat{Y} + eP^e$
- $$P = \frac{Y - \hat{Y} + eP^e}{a}$$
 - a is a constant
 - P^e is the expected price level
 - What is the behaviour of P when P^e increases? decreases?
- Positively-sloped because:
 - Sticky Wage Theory
 - Sticky Price Theory
 - Misperceptions theory
- Shifts when LRAS curve shifts or expectations of price level changes

Nominal wage: dollars earned/hour (W)

Real wage: W/P

Business Cycles: economic fluctuations are irregular and unpredictable

Recession: 2 consecutive quarters of declining GDP OR moving from Peak-trough on a stylized business cycle diagram

Chapter 15

2 Types of Equilibrium:

Fiscal Policy: government changes spending or taxation

Monetary Policy: changes in money supply

Shift Variables e.g.

AD: Government can shift the following

$$Y = \underbrace{C}_{\text{taxes}} + \underbrace{I}_{\Delta r} + \underbrace{G}_{\text{duh}} + \underbrace{NX}_{\text{RER}}$$

$$\text{SRAS: } Y = \hat{Y} + a(P - \underline{P^e})$$

$$\text{LRAS: } Y = A \cdot f(K, L, H, N) \leftarrow \text{all are variables that shift the LRAS as well as the SRAS}$$

- **If gov't does nothing:** use Labour market story or sticky wage theory, where SRAS shifts to LR
- **Gov't steps in:**
 - **Monetary:** ΔM_S
 - **Fiscal:** ΔG OR $\Delta \text{Consumption Taxes}$

MPC: Marginal propensity to consume; ratio of household consumption to saving

Multiplier effect = $1/(1 - \text{MPC})$

Contractionary: fiscal policy that decreases AD