

Homework 3

Collaborators: Alex Shen (as5gd), Sean Velhagen (spv5hq), Max Bresticker (mtb9sex)

Pledge: On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received help on this assignment

Signature: Alex Shen, Sean Velhagen, Max Bresticker

1. (a) Let L refer to the left-wing candidate and R refer to the right-wing candidate. Simply as a matter of their positions, L will always receive the $\frac{1}{4}$ to their left, and R will always receive the $\frac{1}{8}$ to their right. However, given a uniform distribution we only have to figure out \hat{x} , the location of the voter that is indifferent between the candidates, to determine the share each candidate receives.

Given the general utility function $v_i = r_i - T|x - l_i|$, utilities for a voter for L and R can be determined to equal $v_L = r_1 - T(x - \frac{1}{4})$ and $v_R = r_2 - T(\frac{7}{8} - x)$ respectively. Now we simply solve for x when $v_L = v_R$:

$$\begin{aligned} v_L &= v_R \\ r_1 - T(\hat{x} - \frac{1}{4}) &= r_2 - T(\frac{7}{8} - \hat{x}) \\ 2T(\hat{x}) &= r_1 - r_2 + \frac{9}{8}T \\ \hat{x} &= \frac{r_1 - r_2}{2T} + \frac{9}{16} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, L will receive \hat{x} of the vote, and R will receive $1 - \hat{x}$ of the vote.

Note: I have numbers written for some reason? Don't think it's possible to have simple numbers

- (b) Very similar process to before, simply change the function slightly.

$$\begin{aligned} r_1 - T(\hat{x} - \frac{1}{4})^2 &= r_2 - T(\frac{7}{8} - \hat{x})^2 \\ &tl; dr \\ r_1 - r_2 &= T(\hat{x} - \frac{1}{4})^2 - T(\hat{x} - \frac{7}{8})^2 \\ \frac{r_1 - r_2}{T} &= \hat{x}^2 - \frac{\hat{x}}{2} + \frac{1}{16} - \hat{x}^2 + \frac{7}{4}\hat{x} - \frac{49}{64} \\ \frac{r_1 - r_2}{T} + \frac{45}{64} &= \frac{5}{4}\hat{x} \\ \hat{x} &= \frac{4}{5}(\frac{r_1 - r_2}{T}) + \frac{9}{16} \end{aligned}$$

TODO: derive pls

- (c) Once again, we know that at the very least, L will always receive the voters spanning the $\frac{1}{4}$ to their left, and R will always receive the voters spanning the $\frac{1}{8}$ to their right. Given the changed distribution, we know that they will each receive $\frac{1}{8}$ of the votes at least.

To determine the rest, we need to determine how the votes in the middle are split. Thankfully, we already calculated the location of the indifferent voter \hat{x} in part A to be $\frac{r_1 - r_2}{2T} + \frac{9}{16}$ which we can reuse here. From this, we can then calculate how many votes from the "middle" each candidate gets by multiplying the "distance" to the indifferent voter from each candidate by the voter density within that region, $\frac{3}{4} * \frac{1}{\frac{7}{8} - \frac{1}{4}} = \frac{6}{5}$. We know that each candidate also receives $\frac{1}{8}$ from their base, and also since there are only 2 candidates, the number of votes from either candidate can be determined once we know one. We solve for the votes gained by the left candidate as followed:

$$\begin{aligned}
 votes_L &= \frac{6}{5}(\hat{x} - \frac{1}{4}) + \frac{1}{8} \\
 &= \frac{6}{5}(\frac{r_1 - r_2}{2T} + \frac{9}{16} - \frac{1}{4}) + \frac{1}{8} \\
 &= \frac{3}{5} * \frac{r_1 - r_2}{2T} + \frac{6}{5} * \frac{5}{16} + \frac{1}{8} \\
 votes_L &= \frac{3}{5} * \frac{r_1 - r_2}{2T} + \frac{1}{2} \\
 votes_R &= 1 - votes_L = \frac{3}{5} * \frac{r_2 - r_1}{2T} + \frac{1}{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

(d)

2. (a) To find Q_i , we first have to find the indifferent consumers between firm i and firms $i - 1$ and $i + 1$, called \hat{x}_L and \hat{x}_R . Using the utility equation $v_i = r - p_i - T|x - l_i|$, we can solve for both as follows:

$$r - p_{i-1} - T(\hat{x}_L - \frac{i-1}{n}) = r - p_i - T(\frac{i}{n} - \hat{x}_L) \quad \hat{x}_R$$