

Homework 7 Solutions

ECON 501B

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1. (a) Strict and assortative preferences. Thus μ^{NTU} is PAM.

(b) $\omega(i, j)$ has decreasing difference.
For ω twice differentiable, then ω has DD iff $\omega_{xy} \leq 0$; and ω has ID iff $\omega_{xy} \geq 0$
 $\omega_{ij} = 2\alpha(\alpha - 1)(i + j)^{\alpha-2} < 0$
 μ^{TU} is NAM.

(c) $W(\mu^{NTU}) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n (2i)^\alpha$
 $W(\mu^{TU}) = 2n(n + 1)^\alpha$

(d) Unsolvable. \therefore
 $\frac{W(\mu^{NTU})}{W(\mu^{TU})} \in [2^\alpha, 1]$
2. Lemma 1: If (x^*, q^*) solves problem (*), then there is a Pareto optimal allocation (x^*, m^*, q^*, z^*)
Proof:
Choose z^*, m^* such that $\forall j, z_j^* = c_j(q_j^*)$
and m^* satisfies $\sum_{i=1}^I m_i^* = \bar{\omega}_m - \sum_{j=1}^J c_j(q_j^*)$
So defined, the allocation is feasible.
Check, $\sum x_i^* = \sum q_j^*$ since (x^*, q^*) solves problem (*), and $\sum m_i^* = \bar{\omega}_m - \sum z_j^*$ by construction.
For any feasible (x, m, q, z) , if it Pareto dominates (x^*, m^*, q^*, z^*) then:
 $\sum (m_i + \phi_i(x_i)) > \sum (m_i^* + \phi_i(x_i^*))$
So $\bar{\omega} + S(x, q) = \bar{\omega}_m + \sum \phi_i(x_i) - \sum c_j(q_j)$ for all j such that $z_j \geq c_j(q_j)$
 $\geq \bar{\omega}_m + \sum \phi_i(x_i) - \sum z_j$
 $= \sum m_i + \sum \phi_i(x_i)$
 $> \sum (m_i^* + \phi_i(x_i^*))$
 $= \bar{\omega}_m + S(x^*, q^*)$
Contradicts that (x^*, q^*) solves problem (*).
- Lemma 2: If (x^*, m^*, q^*, z^*) is Pareto Optimal, then it induces a $v^* \in \mathcal{R}^I$ with $v^* \in Bd(\mathcal{U}(x^*, q^*))$
Proof:
Suppose (x^*, m^*, q^*, z^*) is Pareto Optimal and induces $v^* \in \mathcal{R}^I$
First, claim $\forall j : c_j(q_j^*) = z_j^*$
If $\exists j : c_j(q_j^*) < z_j^*$, keep everything fixed, giving $(z_j^* - c_j(q_j^*))$ to some consumer is a Pareto improvement.

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Second, } \sum v_i^* &= \sum m_i^* + \sum \phi_i(x_i) \\
&= \bar{\omega}_m + \sum \phi_i(x_i^*) - \sum z_j^* \\
&= \bar{\omega}_m + \sum \phi_i(x_i^*) - \sum c_j(q_j^*) \\
&= \bar{\omega}_m + S(x^*, q^*)
\end{aligned}$$

For any other feasible allocation (x, m, q, z) , $\sum v_i^* = \bar{\omega}_m + S(x^*, q^*) \geq \bar{\omega}_m + S(x, q)$ for all other x, q

$$\Rightarrow \sum v_i^* \geq \sum u_i(m_i, x_i)$$

Lemma 3: If (x^*, m^*, q^*, z^*) is Pareto optimal, then (x^*, q^*) solves problem (*)

Proof:

By contradiction:

Suppose (x^*, m^*, q^*, z^*) is Pareto Optimal but it does not solve problem (*):

Step 1 : $\exists(x, q)$ so that $\bar{\omega}_m + S(x, q) > \bar{\omega}_m + S(x^*, q^*)$ and $\sum x_i = \sum q_j$

Construct $m_i = \frac{1}{I}(\bar{\omega}_m + \sum z_j)$ and $z_j = c_j(q_j)$

So defined, $\sum m_i + \sum \phi_i(x_i) = \bar{\omega}_m + \sum \phi_i(x_i) - \sum c_j(q_j)$

$$= \bar{\omega}_m + \sum \phi_i(x_i) - \sum z_j$$

$$= \bar{\omega}_m + S(x, q)$$

$> \bar{\omega}_m + S(x^*, q^*)$ from assumption

$\sum m_i^* + \sum \phi_i(x_i)$ from Lemma 2

In conclusion, $\sum u_i(m_i, x_i) > \sum u_i(m_i^*, x_i^*)$

This means someone gets better off under (x, m, q, z)

Step 2: $(x^*, m^*, q^*, z^*) \rightarrow (x, m, q, z)$

Order consumers: $u(x_1, m_1) - u_1(x_1^*, m_1^*) \geq u(x_2, m_2) - u_1(x_2^*, m_2^*) \geq \dots \geq u(x_I, m_I) - u_I(x_I^*, m_I^*)$

It must be that $u(x_1, m_1) - u_1(x_1^*, m_1^*) > 0$

There is k such that:

for $i \leq k : u(x_i, m_i) - u_1(x_i^*, m_i^*) \geq 0$

for $i > k : u(x_i, m_i) - u_1(x_i^*, m_i^*) < 0$

The total surplus is higher than the total deficit:

$$\sum_{i=1}^k u_i(m_i, x_i) + \sum_{i=k+1}^I u_i(m_i, x_i) > \sum_{i=1}^k u_i(m_i^*, x_i^*) + \sum_{i=k+1}^I u_i(m_i^*, x_i^*)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^k [u_i(m_i, x_i) - u_i(m_i^*, x_i^*)] > \sum_{i=k+1}^I [u_i(m_i^*, x_i^*) - u_i(m_i, x_i)]$$

$\exists \alpha \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$\alpha \sum_{i=1}^k [u_i(m_i, x_i) - u_i(m_i^*, x_i^*)] > \sum_{i=k+1}^I [u_i(m_i^*, x_i^*) - u_i(m_i, x_i)]$$

Construct m'

For $i \leq k$, $m'_i = m_i - \alpha[u_i(m_i, x_i) - u_i(m_i^*, x_i^*)]$

For $i > k$, $m'_i = m_i + [u_i(m_i^*, x_i^*) - u_i(m_i, x_i)]$

Show that (x, m', q, z) Pareto dominates (x^*, m^*, q^*, z^*) :

1. (x, m', q, z) feasible
2. Everybody is as good as under (x^*, m', q^*, z^*)
3. Consumer 1 is strictly better off.

3. Suppose (x^*, m^*, q^*, z^*) and p^* forms a competitive equilibrium.
 Case A: $\sigma < p^*, q^* \rightarrow \infty$ no solution to firms maximization.

Case B: $\sigma = p^*, q^* = x^*, m^* = \bar{\omega}_m - p^*x$

Consumer Problem:

$$\max_x (\bar{\omega}_m - p^*x + \alpha + \beta \ln x)$$

FOC: $\beta/x^* \leq p^*$ with equality if $x^* > 0$

$$x^* = \beta/\sigma$$

Case C: $\sigma > p^*, q^* = 0, x^* = 0$

Utility is undefined at $x^* = 0$