

# Problem Set #7

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Econ 703: Mathematical Economics I  
Fall 2020

October 7, 2020

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## Question 1

Let  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be convex. We can prove that, for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k \geq 0$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i = 1$ , if  $x_1, \dots, x_k \in X$ , then  $\sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i x_i \in X$ .

**Proof.**

1. *Base step.* Suppose  $x_1, x_2 \in X$ . Since  $X$  is convex,  $(1 - \lambda)x_1 + \lambda x_2$  is also in  $X$  for all  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$
2. *Induction Step.* Assume that, for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i x_i \in X$ , where  $\sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i = 1$ . Let  $x_{k+1} \in X$  and  $\lambda' \in [0, 1]$ . Then, since  $X$  is convex,

$$(1 - \lambda')x_{k+1} + \lambda' \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i x_i$$

is also in  $X$ . Now, define

$$\lambda'_i = \begin{cases} \lambda' \lambda_i, & i \in \{1, \dots, k\} \\ 1 - \lambda', & i = k + 1 \end{cases}$$

Then,  $\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \lambda'_i x_i \in X$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \lambda'_i = 1$

$\therefore \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i x_i \in X$  for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  ■

## Question 2

Define  $C$  as the set of all convex combinations of  $S$ .

1. Suppose  $x \in C$ 
  - (a) By definition,  $\exists s_1, \dots, s_n \in S, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n \in [0, 1], \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = 1$  such that  $\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i s_i = x$
  - (b) Let  $X \supset S$  be a convex set. Since  $x \in S, x \in X$ . Since  $\text{co}S = \bigcap_{\alpha \in \Omega} X_\alpha$ , where  $\Omega$  is the set of all convex sets that contain  $S$ ,  $x \in S \wedge x \in X \Rightarrow x \in \text{co}S$
  - (c) Thus,  $x \in C \Rightarrow x \in \text{co}S$
2. Suppose  $x \in \text{co}S$ 
  - (a) Any intersection of convex sets is also convex, so  $\text{co}S$  is convex, so  $\exists y_1, \dots, y_m \in \text{co}S, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m \in [0, 1], \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i = 1$  such that  $\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i y_i = x$
  - (b) It is clearly apparent that  $\text{co}S \subseteq S$ , so  $y_1, \dots, y_m \in S$ . Then,  $x$  is a convex combination of elements of  $S$ . so  $x \in C$

$$\therefore \text{co}S \subseteq C$$

$$\therefore C = \text{co}S \blacksquare$$

## Question 3

Suppose  $X$  is convex.

1. Let  $x, y \in \text{cl}X$  and suppose  $\exists z = (1 - \lambda)x + \lambda y, z \notin \text{cl}X$
2. If  $x, y \in X$ , then, since  $X$  is convex,  $(1 - \lambda)x + \lambda y \in X \forall \lambda$ . Thus,  $x, y \in X \Rightarrow z \in \text{cl}X$
3. If  $x \in \text{cl}X, x \notin X$ , and  $y \in X$ , then  $x$  is a limit point of  $X$ . Then,  $\forall x' = (1 - \lambda')x + \lambda'y, x' \in X$  or  $x' = x$ . Thus, either  $z \in X$  or  $z$  is a limit point of  $x$ . Thus,  $z \in \text{cl}X$ .
4. If  $x, y \in \text{cl}X$  and  $x, y \notin X$ , then both  $x$  and  $y$  are limit points of  $X$ . Thus,  $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists x' \in B_\varepsilon(x), y' \in B_\varepsilon(y)$  such that  $x'$  and  $y'$  are both in  $X$  and are convex combinations of  $x$  and  $y$ . Then, either  $z$  is equal to  $x$  or  $y$ , or  $\exists \varepsilon$  such that  $x' \in B_\varepsilon(x), y' \in B_\varepsilon(y)$ , and  $z = (1 - \lambda')x' + \lambda'y'$  for some  $\lambda' \in [0, 1]$ . Thus,  $z \in \text{cl}X$

$\therefore$  by contradiction,  $\text{cl}X$  is convex  $\blacksquare$

## Question 4

1. Let  $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a concave function where  $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ .

(a) Let  $x_1, x_2 \in X$  and define  $y_1 = f(x_1)$  and  $y_2 = f(x_2)$ . Then,  $z_1 = (x_1, y_1)$  and  $z_2 = (x_2, y_2)$  are both in  $\text{hyp}f$

(b) Since  $X$  is convex and  $f$  is concave,  $\forall \lambda \in [0, 1]$ ,  $f((1 - \lambda)x_1 + \lambda x_2) \geq (1 - \lambda)f(x_1) + \lambda f(x_2)$

(c) Thus,

$$(1 - \lambda)x_1 + \lambda x_2 \in X \text{ and } (1 - \lambda)y_1 + \lambda y_2 \leq f((1 - \lambda)x_1 + \lambda x_2)$$

$$\text{so } (1 - \lambda)z_1 + \lambda z_2 \in \text{hyp}f$$

$$\therefore f \text{ concave} \Rightarrow \text{hyp}f \text{ convex}$$

2. Let  $\text{hyp}f$  be a convex hypograph of  $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , where  $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ .

(a) Let  $z_1, z_2 \in \text{hyp}f$ . Then,  $\forall \lambda \in [0, 1]$ ,  $(1 - \lambda)z_1 + \lambda z_2 \in \text{hyp}f$ . Then,

$$(1 - \lambda)x_1 + \lambda x_2 \in X \text{ and } (1 - \lambda)y_1 + \lambda y_2 \leq f((1 - \lambda)x_1 + \lambda x_2)$$

$$\text{Thus, } X \text{ is a convex set and, } \forall x_1, x_2 \in X, (1 - \lambda)f(x_1) + \lambda f(x_2)$$

$$f((1 - \lambda)x_1 + \lambda x_2) \geq (1 - \lambda)f(x_1) + \lambda f(x_2)$$

$$\therefore \text{hyp}f \text{ convex} \Rightarrow f \text{ concave}$$

$\therefore f$  is concave if and only if  $\text{hyp}f$  is convex ■

## Question 5

1. Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be closed, convex sets, and let  $X$  be compact

2. Fix  $y_0 \in Y$  and define  $A = \{y - x | x \in X\}$ . Let  $a_n$  be a sequence in  $A$  such that  $a_n = y_n - x_n$  for all  $n$

3. Since  $X$  is compact,  $\exists x_{n_k} \rightarrow x \in X$ , and  $y_n \rightarrow y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Thus,  $a_{n_k} \rightarrow a \in A$ . Therefore,  $A$  is closed and, given that  $X$  and  $Y$  are convex,  $A$  is also convex.

4. Since  $X$  and  $Y$  are disjoint,  $0 \notin A$ . Thus  $\exists H(p, \beta)$  that strictly separates  $A$  and  $\{0\}$ . Then, we can solve:

$$0 < \beta < p \cdot a$$

$$0 < \beta < p \cdot (y - x)$$

$$0 < \beta < p \cdot y - p \cdot x$$

$$p \cdot x < \beta + p \cdot x < p \cdot y$$

$\therefore \exists H(p, \alpha)$  that strictly separates  $X$  and  $Y$  ■

## Question 6

1. Suppose  $\exists x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $\inf_{\pi \in \Pi_A} \sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i(x_i) > 0$  and  $\inf_{\pi \in \Pi_B} \sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i(-x_i) > 0$

(a) Further suppose  $\exists \pi' \in \Pi_A \cap \Pi_B$

(b) If  $\sum_{i=1}^n \pi'_i x_i > 0$ , then  $\sum_{i=1}^n \pi'_i(-x_i) < 0$ . If  $\sum_{i=1}^n \pi'_i(-x_i) > 0$ , then  $\sum_{i=1}^n \pi'_i x_i < 0$

(c) Thus,  $\exists \pi' \in \Pi_A \cap \Pi_B \Rightarrow \nexists x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $\inf_{\pi \in \Pi_A} \sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i(x_i) > 0$  and  $\inf_{\pi \in \Pi_B} \sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i((-x_i)) > 0$

$\therefore$  By contradiction, if  $\exists x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $\inf_{\pi \in \Pi_A} \sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i(x_i) > 0$  and  $\inf_{\pi \in \Pi_B} \sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i((-x_i)) > 0$ , then  $\Pi_A \cap \Pi_B = \emptyset$

2. Suppose  $\Pi_A \cap \Pi_B = \emptyset$ , Therefore,  $\Pi_A$  and  $\Pi_B$  are disjoint.

(a) Since  $\Pi_A$  and  $\Pi_B$  are disjoint and both compact, convex sets in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $A = \Pi_A - \Pi_B$  is a compact, convex set where  $0 \notin A$ . Then, by the second theorem for a lecture,

$$\exists H(x^*, \beta) \text{ s.t. } 0 < \beta < a^* \cdot x^*$$

Where  $a^* = \inf_{\pi_A \in \Pi_A, \pi_B \in \Pi_B} \{\pi_A \cdot x^* - \pi_B \cdot x^*\}$  Then,  $a^* = \pi_A^* \cdot x^* - \pi_B^* \cdot x^*$ , where:

$$\pi_A^* = \inf_{\pi_A \in \Pi_A} \{\pi_A \cdot x^*\}, \text{ and } \pi_B^* = \sup_{\pi_B \in \Pi_B} \{\pi_B \cdot x^*\}$$

Then, we can solve  $0 < \beta < a^* \cdot x^*$  to derive  $\pi_B^* \cdot x^* < \beta + \pi_B^* \cdot x^* < \pi_A^* \cdot x^*$ . Define  $\alpha = \beta + \pi_B^* \cdot x^*$  and  $\overline{\alpha} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $\overline{\alpha}_i = \alpha \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . Thus,  $\forall \pi_A \in \Pi_A, \pi_B \in \Pi_B$ ,

$$\pi_B \cdot (x^* - \overline{\alpha}) \leq \pi_B^* \cdot x^* - \alpha < 0 < \pi_A^* \cdot x^* - \alpha \leq \pi_A \cdot (x^* - \overline{\alpha})$$

So  $(x^* - \overline{\alpha})$  is an agreeable trade.

$\therefore \Pi_A \cap \Pi_B = \emptyset \Rightarrow \exists x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $\inf_{\pi \in \Pi_A} \sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i(x_i) > 0$  and  $\inf_{\pi \in \Pi_B} \sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i(-x_i) > 0$

$\therefore$  There is an agreeable trade if and only if there is no common prior ■