ECON 3070 Problem Set 3

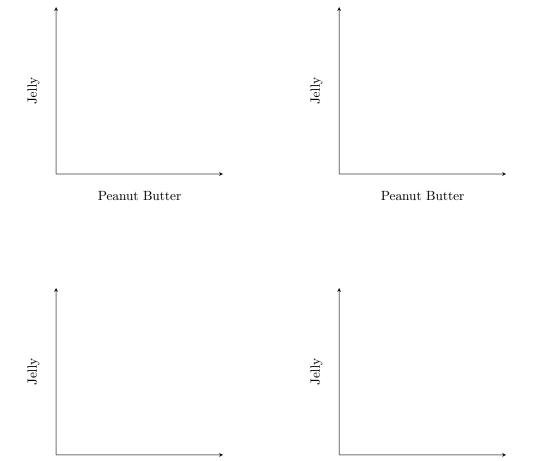
Chapter 3

1. With peanut butter on the x-axis, and jelly on the y-axis, draw a set of at least two indifference curves to represent the following types of preferences:

- (a) I like both peanut butter and jelly, and always get the same additional satisfaction from an ounce of peanut butter as I do from 2 ounces of jelly.
- (b) I like peanut butter, but neither like nor dislike jelly.
- (c) I like peanut butter, but dislike jelly.

Peanut Butter

(d) I like peanut butter and jelly, but I only want 2 ounces of peanut butter for every ounce of jelly.



Peanut Butter

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- 2. For each of the utility functions below, answer the following questions.
 - (i) Is the assumption that more is better satisfied for both goods?
 - (ii) What is the marginal utility for each of the goods?
 - (iii) Does the marginal utility of x diminish, remain constant, or increase as the consumer buys more x? Explain.
 - (iv) What is the marginal rate of substitution (MRS) of x for y?
 - (v) Is the $MRS_{x,y}$ diminishing, constant, or increasing as the consumer substitutes more x for y along an indifference curve?

(a)
$$U(x,y) = 10x - 0.5x^2 + 20y - y^2$$
 (c) $U(x,y) = xy^2$

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(b)
$$U(x,y) = 6x^{1/3}y^{2/3}$$

(d)
$$U(x,y) = \sqrt{x} + 2\sqrt{y}$$