

- Convex set: $t\mathbf{x}_0 + (1 - t)\mathbf{x}_1 \in A \quad \forall \mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}_1 \in A, t \in [0, 1]$
- Superior set for \mathbf{x}_0 : $\{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in D \wedge f(\mathbf{x}) \geq f(\mathbf{x}_0)\}$
- Inferior set for \mathbf{x}_0 : $\{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} \in D \wedge f(\mathbf{x}) \leq f(\mathbf{x}_0)\}$
- Quasiconcave function: $f(t\mathbf{x}_0 + (1 - t)\mathbf{x}_1) \geq \min \{f(\mathbf{x}_0), f(\mathbf{x}_1)\} \quad \forall t \in [0, 1]$
- Strictly quasiconcave function: $f(t\mathbf{x}_0 + (1 - t)\mathbf{x}_1) > \min \{f(\mathbf{x}_0), f(\mathbf{x}_1)\} \quad \forall \mathbf{x}_0 \neq \mathbf{x}_1, t \in (0, 1)$
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- Concave shape: A line connecting two points is underneath
- Strictly concave shape: A line connecting two points is strictly underneath
- Convex shape: A line connecting two points is above
- Strictly convex shape: A line connecting two points is strictly above
- Homothetic function: level sets have the same slope along rays from the origin

Cobb-Douglas Utility Function: $u(x, y) = x^\alpha y^\beta$

1. Superior set is always convex?

2. Inferior set is always convex?

3. u is a quasiconcave function?

$$f(t\mathbf{x}_0 + (1-t)\mathbf{x}_1) \geq \min \{f(\mathbf{x}_0), f(\mathbf{x}_1)\} \quad \forall t \in [0, 1]$$

4. u is a strictly quasiconcave function?

$$f(t\mathbf{x}_0 + (1-t)\mathbf{x}_1) > \min \{f(\mathbf{x}_0), f(\mathbf{x}_1)\} \quad \forall \mathbf{x}_0 \neq \mathbf{x}_1, t \in (0, 1)$$

5. u is a quasiconvex function?

$$f(t\mathbf{x}_0 + (1-t)\mathbf{x}_1) \leq \max \{f(\mathbf{x}_0), f(\mathbf{x}_1)\} \quad \forall t \in [0, 1]$$

6. u is a strictly quasiconvex function?

$$f(t\mathbf{x}_0 + (1-t)\mathbf{x}_1) < \max \{f(\mathbf{x}_0), f(\mathbf{x}_1)\} \quad \forall \mathbf{x}_0 \neq \mathbf{x}_1, t \in (0, 1)$$

The level sets (indifference curves) have a ...

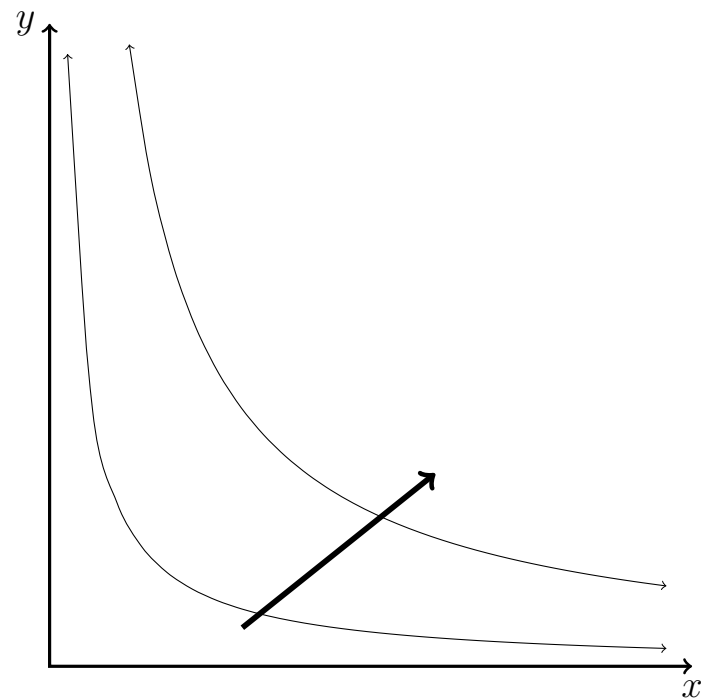
7. ...concave shape?

8. ...strictly concave shape?

9. ...convex shape?

10. ...strictly convex shape?

11. u is homothetic?



If both goods are “goods”, then the indifference curves are downward sloping and increasing to the upper right.

Perfect Substitutes Utility Function: $u(x, y) = ax + by$

1. Superior set is always convex?

2. Inferior set is always convex?

3. u is a quasiconcave function?

$$f(t\mathbf{x}_0 + (1-t)\mathbf{x}_1) \geq \min \{f(\mathbf{x}_0), f(\mathbf{x}_1)\} \quad \forall t \in [0, 1]$$

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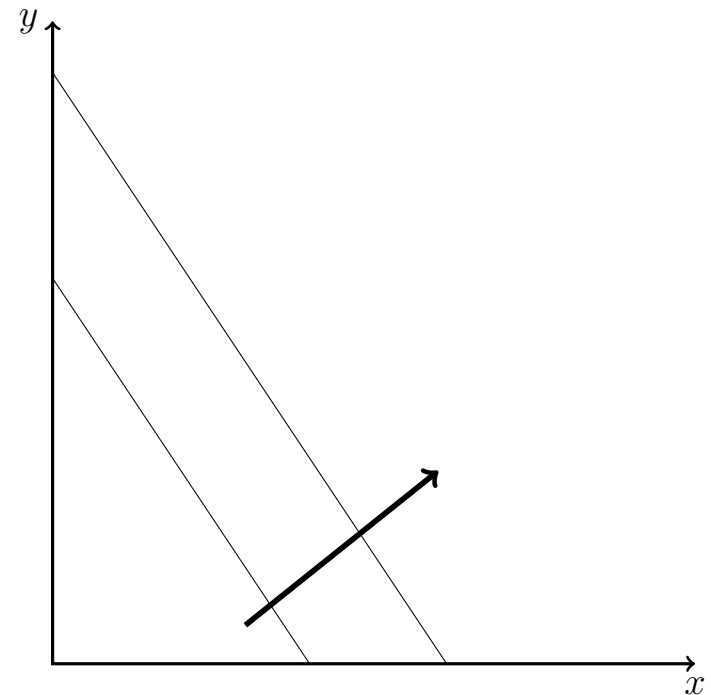
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9. ...convex shape?

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11. u is homothetic?



Perfect Complements Utility Function: $u(x, y) = \min\{f(x), g(y)\}$

1. Superior set is always convex?

2. Inferior set is always convex?

3. u is a quasiconcave function?

$$f(t\mathbf{x}_0 + (1-t)\mathbf{x}_1) \geq \min\{f(\mathbf{x}_0), f(\mathbf{x}_1)\} \quad \forall t \in [0, 1]$$

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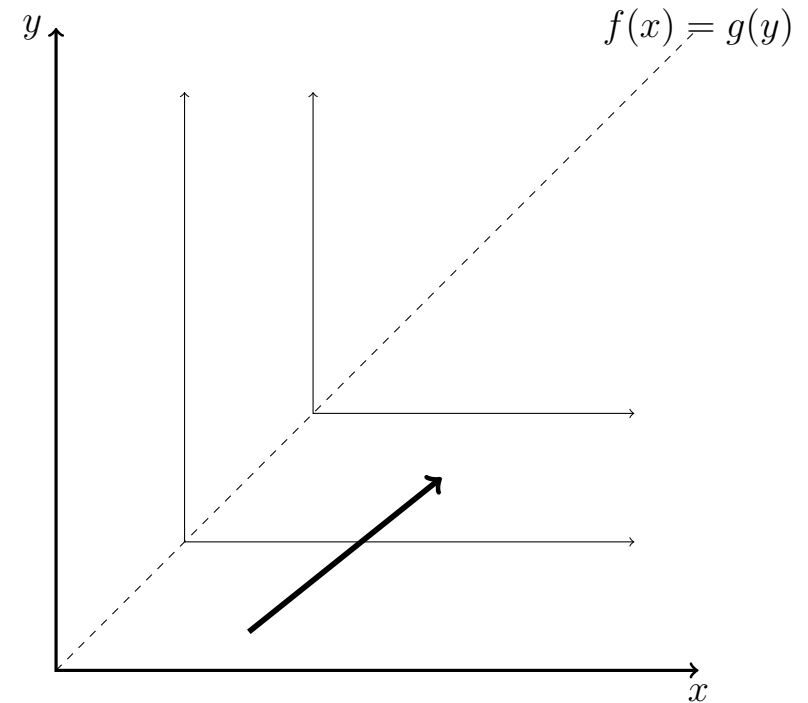
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11. u is homothetic?



Prefers Extremes Utility Function: $u(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$

1. Superior set is always convex?

2. Inferior set is always convex?

3. u is a quasiconcave function?

$$f(t\mathbf{x}_0 + (1-t)\mathbf{x}_1) \geq \min \{f(\mathbf{x}_0), f(\mathbf{x}_1)\} \quad \forall t \in [0, 1]$$

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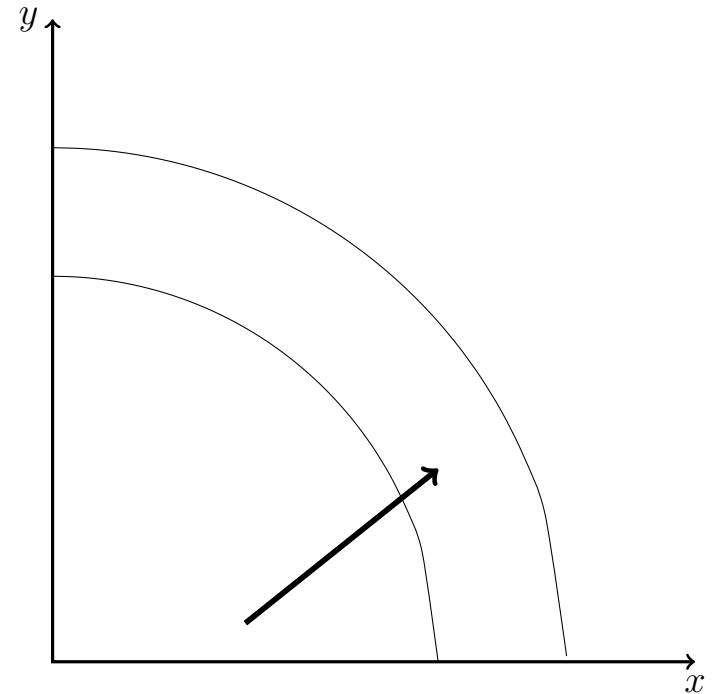
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8. ...strictly concave shape?

9. ...convex shape?

10. ...strictly convex shape?

11. u is homothetic?



Quasilinear Utility Function: $u(x, y) = x + \ln(y)$

1. Superior set is always convex?

2. Inferior set is always convex?

3. u is a quasiconcave function?

$$f(t\mathbf{x}_0 + (1-t)\mathbf{x}_1) \geq \min \{f(\mathbf{x}_0), f(\mathbf{x}_1)\} \quad \forall t \in [0, 1]$$

4. u is a strictly quasiconcave function?

$$f(t\mathbf{x}_0 + (1-t)\mathbf{x}_1) > \min \{f(\mathbf{x}_0), f(\mathbf{x}_1)\} \quad \forall \mathbf{x}_0 \neq \mathbf{x}_1, t \in (0, 1)$$

5. u is a quasiconvex function?

$$f(t\mathbf{x}_0 + (1-t)\mathbf{x}_1) \leq \max \{f(\mathbf{x}_0), f(\mathbf{x}_1)\} \quad \forall t \in [0, 1]$$

6. u is a strictly quasiconvex function?

$$f(t\mathbf{x}_0 + (1-t)\mathbf{x}_1) < \max \{f(\mathbf{x}_0), f(\mathbf{x}_1)\} \quad \forall \mathbf{x}_0 \neq \mathbf{x}_1, t \in (0, 1)$$

The level sets (indifference curves) have a ...

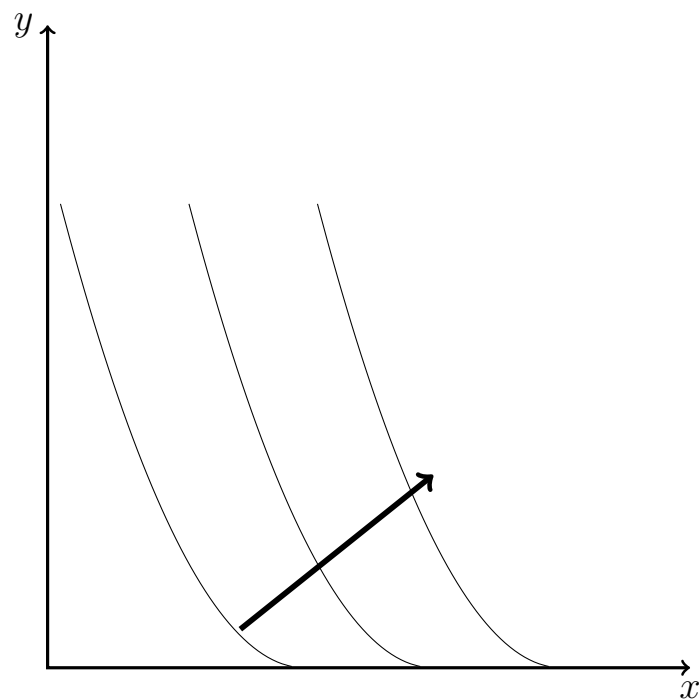
7. ...concave shape?

8. ...strictly concave shape?

9. ...convex shape?

10. ...strictly convex shape?

11. u is homothetic?



MRS Test

- $u(x, y) = x^\alpha y^\beta$

$$MRS(x, y) = \frac{\partial u / \partial x}{\partial u / \partial y}$$

- $u(x, y) = ax + by$

What happens to the MRS as $x \uparrow$?

$$\frac{\partial MRS}{\partial x} =$$

- $u(x, y) = \min\{f(x), g(y)\}$

What happens to the MRS as $y \downarrow$?

$$\frac{-\partial MRS}{\partial y} =$$

- $u(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$

- $u(x, y) = x + \ln(y)$