

Homework04

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1 Problem 1

Answer:

The total revenue that the monopolist can get is that $u = x_1p_1 + x_2p_2$

Because the monopolist has zero marginal cost, We have no limit on x_1 and x_2 .

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial p_1} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial p_2} = 0 \Rightarrow p_1 = \frac{a_1}{2b_1}, p_2 = \frac{a_2}{2b_2}$$

The monopolist will not choose to price discriminate, so $p_1 = p_2$.

Then we can get that $a_1b_2 = a_2b_1$ or $\frac{a_1}{b_1} = \frac{a_2}{b_2}$.

2 Problem 2

Answer:

(a) We know that $b = 1000 - a$, so $U(a) = \sqrt{a} + \sqrt{1000 - a}$.

In order to maximize U , $\frac{dU}{da} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{a}} - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{1000 - a}} = 0 \Rightarrow a = 500$.

Because $b = 1000 - a = 500$, $a = b = 500$, $U_{max} = 20\sqrt{5}$. It's easy to show that U is the largest in this range.

(b) We know that $b = 1000 - a$, so $U(a) = -(\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{1000 - a})$.

In order to maximize U , $\frac{dU}{da} = \frac{1}{a^2} - \frac{1}{(1000 - a)^2} = 0 \Rightarrow a = 500$.

Because $b = 1000 - a = 500$, $a = b = 500$, $U_{max} = -\frac{1}{250}$. It's easy to show that U is the largest in this range.

(c) In this situation, if $a = b = 500$, then $U = \min(a, b) = 500$.

If $a \neq b$, we assume that $a < b$. Then we can get that $a < 500$ and $b > 500$, so $U = \min(a, b) = a < 500$.

So $U_{max} = 500$, and $a = b = 500$.

(d) In this situation, if $a = b = 500$, then $U = \max(a, b) = 500$.

If $a \neq b$, we assume that $a < b$. Then we can get that $a < 500$ and $b > 500$, so $U = \max(a, b) = b > 500$. ($0 \leq a, b \leq 1000$)

So $b = 1000$ and $a = 0$, or $a = 1000$ and $b = 0$, $U_{max} = 1000$. So she will give all of their money to A or all of their money to B.

(e) We know that $b = 1000 - a$, so $U(a) = a^2 + (1000 - a)^2 = 2a^2 - 2000a + 1000^2$.

In order to maximize U , we know that this is a parabolic function.

So $b = 1000$ and $a = 0$, or $a = 1000$ and $b = 0$, $U_{max} = 1000000$. It's easy to show that U is the largest in this range.

3 Problem 3

Answer:

(a) We know that $a = 1000 - 2b$, so $U(b) = 1000 - b$. ($0 \leq a \leq 1000, 0 \leq b \leq 500$)

We find that the bigger b is, the smaller the utility function U is. So in order to maximize U , $b = 0$.

Because $a = 1000 - 2b = 1000$, $a = 1000, b = 0$, $U_{max} = 1000$. It's easy to show that U is the largest in this range.

(b) We know that $a = 1000 - 2b$, so $U(b) = b - 1000$. ($0 \leq a \leq 1000, 0 \leq b \leq 500$)

We find that the bigger b is, the bigger the utility function U is. So in order to maximize U , $b = 500$.

Because $a = 1000 - 2b = 0$, $a = 0, b = 500$, $U_{max} = -500$. It's easy to show that U is the largest in this range.

(c) We know that $a = 1000 - 2b$, so $U(b) = 1000b - 2b^2$. ($0 \leq a \leq 1000, 0 \leq b \leq 500$)

In order to maximize U , $\frac{dU}{db} = 1000 - 4b = 0 \Rightarrow b = 250$.

Because $a = 1000 - 2b = 500$, $a = 500, b = 250$, $U_{max} = 125000$. It's easy to show that U is the largest in this range.

4 Problem 4

Answer:

(a) $\mathcal{L} = u^A + \lambda(u^B - \bar{u}) + \mu_1(x_1^A + x_1^B - w_1) + \mu_2(x_2^A + x_2^B - w_2)$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x_1^A} = \frac{\partial u^A}{\partial x_1^A} + \mu_1 = 0 \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x_2^A} = \frac{\partial u^A}{\partial x_2^A} + \mu_2 = 0 \Rightarrow MRS_A = \frac{\mu_1}{\mu_2}$$

Also we can get that $MRS_B = \frac{\mu_1}{\mu_2} = MRS_A$

$$MRS_A = \frac{\partial u^A / \partial x_1^A}{\partial u^A / \partial x_2^A} \Big|_{x_1^{A*}, x_2^{A*}} = \frac{x_2^{A*}}{x_1^{A*}} \quad MRS_B = \frac{\partial u^B / \partial x_1^B}{\partial u^B / \partial x_2^B} \Big|_{x_1^{B*}, x_2^{B*}} = \frac{x_2^{B*}}{2x_1^{B*}}$$

From the Lagrangian procedure, we know that $MRS_A = MRS_B \Rightarrow \frac{x_2^{A*}}{x_1^{A*}} = \frac{x_2^{B*}}{2x_1^{B*}}$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{x_2^{A*}}{x_1^{A*}} = \frac{10 - x_2^{A*}}{2(21 - x_1^{A*})} \text{ or } \frac{x_2^{B*}}{2x_1^{B*}} = \frac{10 - x_2^{B*}}{21 - x_1^{B*}}$$

(b) We know that in order to achieve the Walrath equilibrium,

$$\text{we have } \frac{\partial u^A / \partial x_1^A}{\partial u^A / \partial x_2^A} \Big|_{x_1^{A*}, x_2^{A*}} = \frac{\partial u^B / \partial x_1^B}{\partial u^B / \partial x_2^B} \Big|_{x_1^{B*}, x_2^{B*}} = \frac{p_1}{p_2} \Rightarrow \frac{x_2^{A*}}{x_1^{A*}} = \frac{x_2^{B*}}{2x_1^{B*}} = \frac{p_1}{p_2}$$

Also we have $x_1^{A*} + x_1^{B*} = 21, x_2^{A*} + x_2^{B*} = 10$.

$$p_1 x_1^{A*} + p_2 x_2^{A*} = p_1 w_1^A + p_2 w_2^A, p_1 x_1^{B*} + p_2 x_2^{B*} = p_1 w_1^B + p_2 w_2^B$$

We assume that $p_2 = 1$.

Then we can solve the equations, and we can get that:

$$x_1^{A*} = \frac{29}{2}, x_2^{A*} = \frac{58}{11}, x_1^{B*} = \frac{13}{2}, x_2^{B*} = \frac{52}{11}, p_1 = \frac{4}{11}, p_2 = 1$$