

## Exchange economy with cobb-douglas utility

Consider an exchange economy with two consumers ( $A, B$ ) and two goods ( $x, y$ ) in which the utility functions are:

$$U_A = x_A y_A, \quad U_B = x_B y_B.$$

The initial endowments of goods are:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{x}_A &= 90, & \bar{x}_B &= 30 \\ \bar{y}_A &= 35, & \bar{y}_B &= 25. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $P_x$  and  $P_y$  be the prices of goods  $x$  and  $y$  respectively. Obtain the Walrasian equilibrium allocation (use the normalization  $P_y = 1$ ).

## Solution

The supply of good  $x$  is  $\bar{x}_A + \bar{x}_B = 120$ .

The supply of good  $y$  is  $\bar{y}_A + \bar{y}_B = 60$ .

Equilibrium conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} x_A^* + x_B^* &= 120 = \bar{x}_A + \bar{x}_B \\ y_A^* + y_B^* &= 60 = \bar{y}_A + \bar{y}_B \end{aligned}$$

Normalization:  $P_y = 1$

Budget constraints:

$$\text{Consumer A: } P_x x_A + y_A = 90P_x + 35$$

$$\text{Consumer B: } P_x x_B + y_B = 30P_x + 25$$

Consumer A's problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{x_A, y_A} x_A y_A &\quad \text{s.t. } P_x x_A + y_A = 90P_x + 35 \\ L &= x_A y_A + \lambda(90P_x + 35 - P_x x_A - y_A) \end{aligned}$$

First-order conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial L}{\partial x_A} &= 0 \implies y_A - \lambda P_x = 0 \implies \lambda = y_A \frac{1}{P_x} \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial y_A} &= 0 \implies x_A - \lambda = 0 \implies \lambda = x_A \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda} &= 0 \implies 90P_x + 35 - P_x x_A - y_A = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Combining  $\lambda$  from the first two conditions

$$x_A = \frac{y_A}{P_x}$$

Substituting into the third condition

$$90P_x + 35 - P_x \frac{y_A}{P_x} - y_A = 0$$

Therefore, the demand for good  $y$  by consumer  $A$  is

$$y_A = 45P_x + \frac{35}{2}$$

Substituting this into the function of  $x_A$

$$x_A = (45P_x + \frac{35}{2}) \cdot \frac{1}{P_x}$$

Therefore, the demand for good  $x$  by consumer  $A$  is

$$x_A = 45 + \frac{35}{2P_x}$$

Consumer  $B$ 's problem:

$$\max_{x_B, y_B} x_B y_B \quad \text{s.t. } P_x x_B + y_B = 30P_x + 25$$

Consumer  $B$ 's demands:

$$y_B = 15P_x + \frac{25}{2}$$

$$x_B = 15 + \frac{25}{2P_x}$$

Equilibrium:

$$y_A + y_B = 60P_x + 30$$

$$\bar{y}_A + \bar{y}_B = 60.$$

Therefore, the solution of  $60P_x + 30 = 60$  will determine the equilibrium price of good  $x$ :

$$P_x = \frac{1}{2}$$

Substituting the price into the demands we obtain

$$x_A^* = 80 \quad y_A^* = 40$$

$$x_B^* = 40 \quad y_B^* = 20$$