

# Lecture Notes III

## Outline

1) Unconstrained optimization: one choice variable  
~~FOC~~  
~~SOC~~  
F.O.C  
first derivative test  
S.O.C  
 $N^{\text{th}}$  derivative test  
~~Examples~~

2) Unconstrained optimization: Multiple choice variables  
two or more  
2 variables: F.O.C  
S.O.C: first method  
S.O.C: second method (using the Hessian)

3 variables F.O.C  
S.O.C

~~Comparative Statics:~~

3) Examples

4) Comparative Statics

# Unconstrained optimization: One Choice Variable

$$\text{optimize}_x \quad y = f(x)$$

\* choose  $x$  that optimizes  $y$

\* optimization ~~is~~ refers to either maximization or minimization

↳ the optimal (most desirable) outcome  
 • might be maximizing profits  
 for instance, or

↳ minimizing costs

\* another example would be to

maximize returns on investment

or to minimize risks

~~I will explain the optimization problem in the context of maximization, but the method applies equally to minimization problems.~~

optimization  
(maximization)  
problem

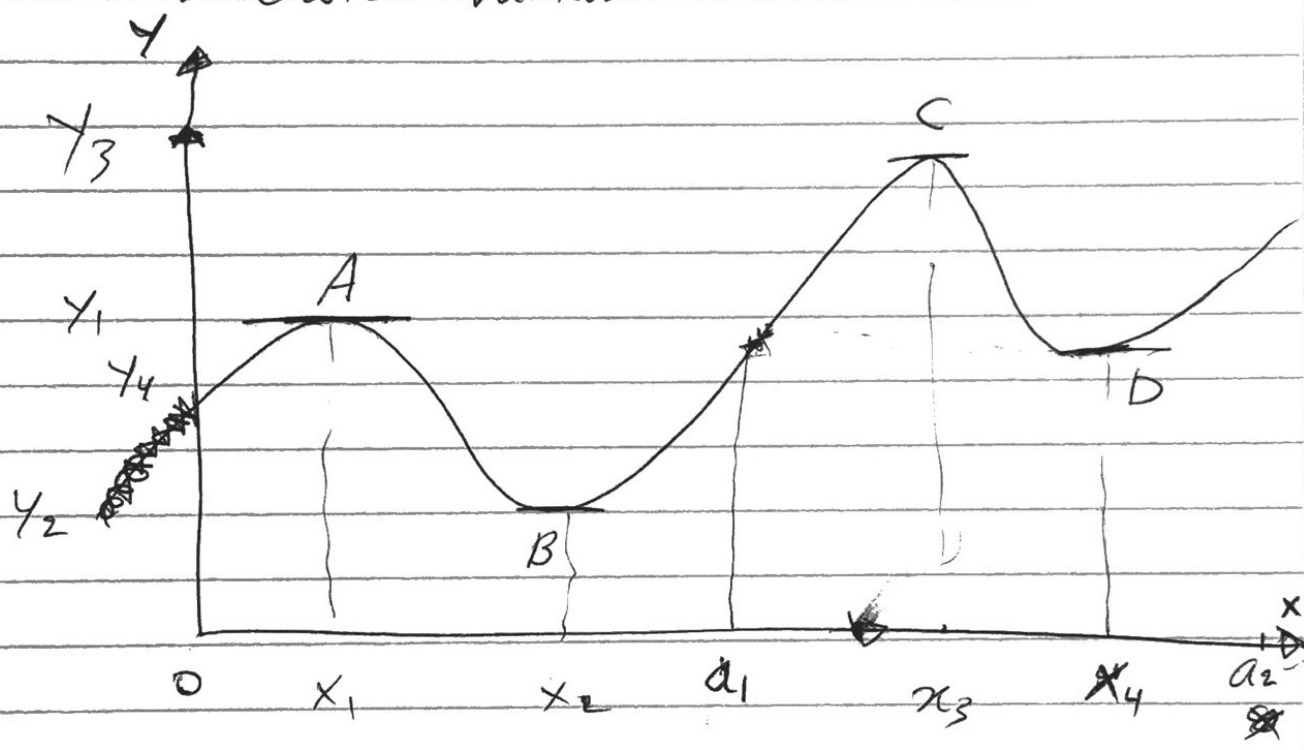
Notation

max<sub>x</sub>

$y = f(x)$

objective function

choice variable



\* point A represents a maximum over the domain  $[0, a_1]$

\* point C represents a maximum over the whole domain  $[0, \infty]$

\* point B represent a minimum over  $[0, \infty]$

\* point D represents a minimum over  $[a_1, \infty]$

~~\* a maximum or~~

(3)

\* we call point A a relative or local maximum, we call C an absolute or global maximum.

\* Similarly D represents a relative or local minimum, while B represents an absolute or global minimum.

~~\* any global maximum (minimum) is also ~~stable~~~~

\* In this course we won't focus on specifying whether a maximum or a minimum is relative or absolute (local or global)

\* Note that global optimums are also local

\* Terminology: optimum ~~refers~~ is the general term for maximum/minimum

Find the optimum point(s) : F.O.C

we use what is known as the F.O.C to find the optimum point(s).

F.O.C: set the first total differential equal to zero and solve for  $x$ .

$$y = f(x)$$

$$dy = \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} dx = 0$$

Since  $dx \neq 0$  then this condition only holds if  $\boxed{\frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} = 0}$

Thus in practice we use:

$$\boxed{\text{F.O.C: } \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} = 0}$$

Example 1:  $y = f(x) = x^2 - 4x + 4.$

the optimal value of  $y$  is associated with  $x^* = 2$  which is obtained as follows:

$$\text{F.O.C } \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2x - 4 = 0 \Rightarrow x^* = \frac{4}{2} = 2$$

$$y^* = x^{*2} - 4x^* + 4 = (2)^2 - 4(2) + 4 = 0$$

Example 2:  $y = f(x) = x^3 - 12x^2 + 36x + 8$

$$\text{F.O.C } 3x^2 - 24x + 36 = 0$$

$$3(x^2 - 8x + 12) = 0$$

$$3(x - 6)(x - 2) = 0$$

Thus  $x_1^* = 6$  and  $x_2^* = 2$

In this example we have two stationary points ( $x_1^* = 6$ ) and ( $x_2^* = 2$ ).

# First Derivative test and S.O.C

The F.O.C condition ~~f~~ helps us find the ~~of~~ stationary point(s) ( $x^*$ ) and the ~~optm~~ corresponding optimal value(s) ( $y^*$ ). However, it doesn't tell us whether this optimal is a maximum or a minimum.

To find that, we use ~~the~~ either the First Derivative Test, or the Second derivative test, ~~with~~ the latter is known as the Second order Condition (S.O.C).

### First Derivative test

\* if ~~f~~  $\frac{df(x)}{dx}$  changes its sign from positive to negative from the immediate left of  $x^*$  to its immediate right, then  $x^*$  represents a maximum

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{Max if } \lim_{x \rightarrow x^{*-}} f'(x) \text{ is +ve} \\ \text{and } \lim_{x \rightarrow x^{*+}} f'(x) \text{ is -ve} \end{array} \right.$$

\* Similarly  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{Min if } \lim_{x \rightarrow x^{*-}} f'(x) \text{ is -ve} \\ \text{and } \lim_{x \rightarrow x^{*+}} f'(x) \text{ is +ve} \end{array} \right.$

\* Neither maximum nor minimum if there is no change in the sign.

Example: Consider again

$$y = x^3 - 12x^2 + 36x + 8$$

F.O.C gave us two stationary points

$$x_1^* = 6 \quad \text{and} \quad x_2^* = 2$$

we have to check if  $x_1^* = 6$  pertains to a maximum or minimum

and whether  $x_2^* = 2$  pertains to a maximum or minimum.

Case of  $x_1^* = 6$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 6^-} f'(x) \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 6^-} 3(x-6)(x-2)$$

$$= 3(6^- - 6)(6^- - 2) < 0$$

-ve                      +ve

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 6^+} f'(x) = 3(6^+ - 6)(6^+ - 2) > 0$$

+ve                  +ve

Since the left limit change is negative and the right limit is positive  $\therefore x_1^* = 6$  pertains to a minimum.

~~Case of  $x_1^* = 2$~~

~~$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} 3(x-6)(x-2) \rightarrow 0$$

<0                  <0  
-ve                  -ve~~

~~$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} 3(x-6)(x-2)$$~~

Case of  $x_2^* = 2$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} 3(x-6)(x-2) = 3(2^- - 6)(2^- - 2) > 0$$

-ve                  -ve

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} 3(x-6)(x-2) = 3(2^+ - 6)(2^+ - 2) < 0$$

-ve                  +ve

Thus, maximum.

### Second Order Condition

- if  $d^2y < 0 \Rightarrow \text{Max}$
- if  $d^2y > 0 \Rightarrow \text{Min}$
- if  $d^2y = 0 \Rightarrow \text{Neither}$

Recall:  $d^2y = d(dy) = d(f'(x)dx)$

Since  $dx$  is a non-zero constant

then  $d(f'(x)dx) = f''(x)dx$

where  $f''(x) = \frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} \right)$

~~Thus, in practice it is sufficient to~~

Thus we can reformulate the above conditions

- if  $f''(x) < 0 \Rightarrow \text{max}$
- if  $f''(x) > 0 \Rightarrow \text{min}$
- if  $f''(x) = 0 \Rightarrow \text{Neither}$

Example:

Let's apply S.O.C to the same example

$$y = f(x) = x^3 - 12x^2 + 36x + 8$$

$$f'(x) = 3x^2 - 24x + 36 = 3(x-6)(x-2)$$

F.O.C  $f'(x) = 0 \Rightarrow x_1^* = 6, x_2^* = 2$

S.O.C  $f''(x) = \frac{\partial f'(x)}{\partial x}$

$$= 6x - 24$$

$$x_1^* = 6$$

$$x_2^* = 2$$

$$f''(6) = 6(6) - 24 \geq 0$$

$$f''(2) = 6(2) - 24 < 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  minimum

$\Rightarrow$  maximum

$\hookrightarrow$  Same conclusions as those obtained from first derivative test.

Example Revenue function  $R(Q) = 1200Q - 2Q^2$

Cost function:  ~~$C(Q)$~~

$$C(Q) = Q^3 - 61.25Q^2 + 1528.5Q + 2000$$

~~Find~~ a) Write down the profit function

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi &= R(Q) - C(Q) \\ &= 1200Q - 2Q^2 - (Q^3 - 61.25Q^2 + 1528.5Q + 2000) \\ &= -Q^3 + 59.25Q^2 - 328.5Q - 2000 \end{aligned}$$

b) Find the Stationary point(s),

$$F.O.C \quad \frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial Q} = 0$$

$$-3Q^2 + 118.5Q - 328.5 = 0$$

using the quadratic formula

$$\frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$Q_1^* = 3$$

$$Q_2^* = 36.5$$

b) Characterize these stationary point(s) or check whether the stationary point(s) pertain to a maximum or to a minimum.

$$S.O.C \quad \pi''(Q) = \frac{\partial^2 \pi}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial \pi}{\partial x} \right)$$

$$= -6Q + 118.5$$

$$Q_1^* = 3$$

$$\pi''(3) = -18 + 118.5 > 0 \Rightarrow \text{Minimum}$$

$$Q_2^* = 36.5$$

$$\pi''(36.5)$$

$$= -219 + 118.5 < 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  Maximum.

Opt

d) Find the optimal profit

$$\pi^*(36.5) = 16318,44$$

plug  $Q = 36.5$  in the main profit function obtained in part a).

## $N^{\text{th}}$ derivative test

if the first nonzero derivative value at  $x^*$  encountered is that of  $N^{\text{th}}$  derivative, then the ~~defining~~ <sup>optimal</sup> value of  $f(x^*)$  will be

\* ~~is~~

\* Max if  $N$  is even and  $f^{(N)}(x^*) < 0$

\* Min if  $N$  is even and  $f^{(N)}(x^*) > 0$

\* inflection point if  $N$  is odd

Notation:  $f'(x^*)$ : first derivative  
evaluated at  $x^*$

$f''(x^*)$  second derivative  
evaluated at  $x^*$

|  
|

$f^{(N)}(x^*)$   $N^{\text{th}}$  derivative evaluated  
at  $x^*$

Example:  $f(x) = (7-x)^4$

F.O.C  $f'(x) = 0 \Rightarrow -4(7-x)^3 = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow x^* = 7.$

S.O.C  $f''(x^*) = +12(7-x)^2 \Big|_{x^*=7}$   
 $= 12(7-7)^2 = 0$

Since  $f''(x^*) = 0$ , we have to find the third derivative

$f'''(x^*) = -24(7-x) \Big|_{x^*=7}$   
 $= 0$

$f^{(4)}(x^*) = +24 \Big|_{x^*=7} = 24 > 0$

$N = 4$   
 $N$  is even  
 $f^{(4)}(x^*) > 0$

Thus  $x^* = 7$   
 pertains to a Minimum

Unconstrained optimization with more than one choice variable.

The goal is to optimize (minimize or maximize) an objective function with more than one choice variable

$$\max (\min) z = f(x, y)$$

(Choose the values of  $x$  and  $y$  that leads to highest value of  $z$  (if you are maximizing) or the lowest ~~value~~ of  $z$  (if you are minimizing).)

As before, this involves two steps

- ① Finding the Stationary points (F.O.C)
- ② Checking whether the stationary points) pertain to a minimum or a maximum.

F.O.C

$$\begin{cases} Z_x = 0 \\ Z_y = 0 \end{cases}$$

System of two equations

and two unknowns (x and y).

where  $Z_x = \frac{\partial Z}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial f(x,y)}{\partial x}$   
 $Z_y = \frac{\partial Z}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial f(x,y)}{\partial y}$

or we can use  $f_x$  instead of  $Z_x$  and  $f_y$  instead of  $Z_y$

any notation of the above is valid.

you can solve this system ~~with~~

by substitution or matrix inverse method or Cramer's Rule.

S.O.C.

- Find the Hessian matrix, which is the matrix of the second derivatives

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & Z_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$$

- ~~For~~ Compute the leading principal minors

$$H_1 = [Z_{xx}]$$

$$H_2 = \begin{bmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & Z_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$$

- $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{if } |H_1| > 0 \text{ and } |H_2| > 0 \Rightarrow \text{Min} \\ \text{if } |H_1| < 0 \text{ and } |H_2| > 0 \Rightarrow \text{Max} \\ \text{if } |H_2| < 0 \Rightarrow \text{Saddle point.} \end{array} \right.$

(20)

Find the Stationary points and Classify them.

Example:  $z = f(x, y) = x^2 - 6x + 2xy + 2y^2 + 5$

$$\text{F.O.C} \quad \begin{cases} z_x = 2x - 6 + 2y = 0 \\ z_y = 2x + 4y = 0 \end{cases}$$

→ You can solve this system using matrix inverse method

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

→ alternatively you can use cramer's Rule -

-) OR you can use substitution method  
(which I will use here)

$$\begin{cases} 2x - 6 + 2y = 0 & \text{eq (1)} \\ 2x + 4y = 0 & \text{eq (2)} \end{cases}$$

$$2x = -4y \Rightarrow x = -2y$$

plug in eq (1)

$$2(-2y) - 6 + 2y = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow -2y = 6 \Rightarrow y^* = -3$$

plug  $y^* = -3$  in  $x = -2y$

$$x^* = -2(-3) = 6$$

Stationary point  $(x^*, y^*) = (6, -3)$

S.O.C

$$Z_x = 2x - 6 + 2y$$

$$Z_y = 2x + 4y$$

$$Z_{xx} = 2$$

$$Z_{xy} = Z_{yx} = 2$$

$$Z_{yy} = 4$$

$$\Rightarrow H = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|H_1| = |2| = 2 > 0$$

$$|H_2| = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 8 - 4 = 4 > 0$$

Since  $|H_1| > 0$  &  $|H_2| > 0 \Rightarrow \text{Min}$

Example:

$$z = f(x, y) = 8x^3 + 2xy - 3x^2 + y^2 + 1$$

$$\text{F.O.C} \begin{cases} z_x = 24x^2 + 2y - 6x = 0 & \text{eq(1)} \\ z_y = 2x + 2y = 0 & \text{eq(2)} \end{cases}$$

From eq(2)  $\boxed{x = -y}$

$$24(-y)^2 + 2y - 6(-y) = 0$$

$$= 24y^2 + 8y = 0$$

$$\cancel{8y} \quad 8y(3y + 1) = 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  two points

$$\hookrightarrow y^* = 0 \quad (8y = 0)$$

$$\hookrightarrow y^* = -\frac{1}{3} \quad (3y + 1 = 0)$$

Now  $\boxed{x = -y} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x_1^* = -0 = 0 \\ x_2^* = -(-\frac{1}{3}) = \frac{1}{3} \end{cases}$

Thus two Stationary Points

$$(x_1^*, y_1^*) = (0, 0)$$

$$(x_2^*, y_2^*) = \left(\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}\right)$$

S.O.C

$$Z_{xx} = 48x - 6$$

$$Z_{yy} = 2$$

$$Z_{xy} = 2$$

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 48x - 6 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

At  $(x_1^*, y_1^*) = (0, 0)$

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} -6 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad |H_1| = |-6| = -6 < 0$$

$$|H_2| = \begin{vmatrix} -6 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = -16 < 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  Saddle point.

$$\text{At } (x_2^*, y_2^*) = \left(\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}\right)$$

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 48\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) - 6 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|H_1| = |10| = 10 > 0$$

$$|H_2| = \begin{vmatrix} 10 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = 20 - 4 = 16 > 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  this point  $\left[\left(\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}\right)\right]$  pertains to a minimum.

Unconstrained optimization  
Three choice variables

$$\max(\min) \quad z = f(x, y, w)$$

$$\text{F.O.C} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} z_x = 0 \\ z_y = 0 \\ z_w = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

System of  
three equations  
three unknowns.

Solve for  $x^*, y^*, w^*$

$$\text{S.O.C:} \quad H = \begin{bmatrix} z_{xx} & z_{xy} & z_{xw} \\ z_{yx} & z_{yy} & z_{yw} \\ z_{wx} & z_{wy} & z_{ww} \end{bmatrix}$$

Leading principal Minors:

~~if  $H_1 < 0$~~

$$H_1 = [z_{xx}]$$

$$H_2 = \begin{bmatrix} z_{xx} & z_{xy} \\ z_{yx} & z_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$H_3 = \begin{bmatrix} z_{xx} & z_{xy} & z_{xw} \\ z_{yx} & z_{yy} & z_{yw} \\ z_{wx} & z_{wy} & z_{ww} \end{bmatrix}$$

if  $|H_1| > 0, |H_2| > 0, |H_3| > 0 \Rightarrow \text{Min}$   
if  $|H_1| < 0, |H_2| > 0, |H_3| < 0 \Rightarrow \text{Max}$

### More Examples:

- ① The height of a plant after  $t$  months is given by  $h(t) = \sqrt{t} - \frac{t}{2}$ ,  $t \in [0, 3]$ .

At what time is the plant at its highest? Test whether  $t^*$  is a maximizing solution.

Answer:  $\frac{\partial h(t)}{\partial t} = 0$

$$\frac{1}{2} t^{-\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{1}{2} = 0$$

$$t^{-\frac{1}{2}} = 1$$

$$(t^{-\frac{1}{2}})^{-2} = (1)^{-2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{t^* = 1}$$

~~The tree height at  $t^* = 1$~~

The ~~tree~~ height of the tree at  $t^* = 1$

$$h(1) = \sqrt{1} - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$S.O.C \quad \frac{\partial^2 h(t)}{\partial t^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\partial h(t)}{\partial t} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{1}{2} t^{-\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

$$= \underbrace{-\frac{1}{4}}_{-ve} t^{-\frac{3}{2}} < 0 \Rightarrow \text{Max.}$$

(2) A sports club plans to charter a plane. The charge for 60 passengers is 800 \$ each. For each additional person above 60, all travelers get a discount of 10 \$. The plane can take at most 80 passengers. as if 60+x ~~passengers~~ passengers fly, what is the total cost?

b) Find the number of passengers that maximizes the total airfare paid by the club members.

Answer: a) cost  $(60+x)(800-10x)$

explanation: \* if 61 passengers fly

$x=1$  and all passengers get

a 10 \$ discount. thus

$$(60+1)(800-10(1))$$

$$(61)(790)$$

↓

passengers

↘

fare after 10 \$ discount.

\* if 62 passengers fly  $x=2$

and all passengers get 20 \$ discount  
(10 \$ / additional



③ Show that a profit maximizing monopolist's output is unaffected by a proportional profit tax, but is affected by a tax of  $t$  \$ per unit of output.

Answer: (A) ~~10~~ No tax Case-

$$\begin{aligned} \pi &= \text{Revenue} - \text{Cost} \\ &= R(x) - C(x) \end{aligned}$$

F.O.C  $\frac{\partial \pi}{\partial x} = 0 \Rightarrow R'(x) - C'(x) = 0$

or  $MR = MC$

↳ profit maximizing condition with no tax.

## (B) Proportional tax (rate)

~~use~~ the

$$\pi = (1-t)(R(x) - C(x))$$

Net profit

$$\frac{\partial \pi}{\partial x} = (1-t)(R'(x) - C'(x)) = 0$$

Since  $0 < t < 1$ , the above equation holds if and only if

$$R'(x) - C'(x) = 0$$

$$MR - MC = 0$$

This again, produces the same profit maximizing condition as in case (A). ( $MR = MC$ )

Thus, a proportional tax don't affect the level of output since in both cases it is determined by

the Same Condition.

(C)  $t$  \$ per unit.

$$\pi = R(x) - C(x) - tx.$$

$$\frac{\partial \pi}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$R'(x) - C'(x) - t = 0$$

Thus  $(MR = MC + t)$

as obviously, this condition differs from that implied by the case (A) and thus the resulting output level ( $x^*$ ) will be different as well.

④ Consider the function

$$C(x, y) = \frac{x^2}{100} - 10x + \frac{y^3}{300} - 9y + 20600$$

• assume  $x \geq 0$  and  $y \geq 0$

a) find the stationary point(s).

b) Classify the stationary point(s)

obtained in part (a).

$$\begin{array}{l}
 C_x = 0 \\
 C_y = 0
 \end{array}
 \left. \begin{array}{l}
 \text{a)} \\
 \text{F.O.C}
 \end{array} \right\}
 \begin{array}{l}
 \frac{2x}{100} - 10 = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{x}{50} = 10 \Rightarrow \boxed{x^* = 500} \\
 \frac{3y^2}{300} - 9 = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{y^2}{100} = 9 \Rightarrow \boxed{y^* = \pm 30}
 \end{array}$$

however  $y \geq 0$ , thus we can  
exclude the  $y^* = -30$ , thus

$$\boxed{y^* = 30}$$

4) Consider the function

$$C(x, y) = \frac{x^2}{100} - 10x + \frac{y^3}{300} - 9y + 20600$$

\* assume  $x \geq 0$  and  $y \geq 0$

a) find the stationary point(s).

b) Classify the stationary point(s) obtained in part (a).

$$\begin{array}{l}
 C_x \circ \\
 \text{F.O.C} \\
 C_y \circ
 \end{array}
 \left. \begin{array}{l}
 \text{a)} \\
 \\
 \end{array} \right\}
 \begin{array}{l}
 \frac{2x}{100} - 10 = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{x}{50} = 10 \Rightarrow \boxed{x^* = 500} \\
 \frac{3y^2}{300} - 9 = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{y^2}{100} = 9 \Rightarrow \boxed{y^* = \pm 30}
 \end{array}$$

however  $y \geq 0$ , thus we can exclude the  $y^* = -30$ , thus

$$\boxed{y^* = 30}$$

$$b) \quad C_{xx} = \frac{\partial C_x}{\partial x} = 50$$

$$C_{xy} = \frac{\partial (C_x)}{\partial y} = 0$$

$C_{yx} = C_{xy}$  by Young's theorem

$$C_{yy} = \frac{\partial (C_y)}{\partial y} = \frac{y}{50}$$

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 50 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{y}{50} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$y^* = 30 \Rightarrow H \Big|_{\substack{x=x^* \\ y=y^*}} = \begin{bmatrix} 50 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{30}{50} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|H_1| = |50| = 50 > 0 \quad \left. \vphantom{|H_1|} \right\} \Rightarrow \text{Maximum}$$

$$|H_2| = 50 \times \frac{30}{50} = 30 > 0$$

5

Optimal timing: Timber Cutting Problem

Suppose that the value of timber is defined by according to the following increasing function of time:

$$V = 2^{t^2}$$

r is the interest rate and A is the present value of timber. Assume that both r and A are greater than zero.

- a) what is the optimal time to cut the timber for sale?
- b) Test whether  $t^*$  obtained in a) is a maximizing solution.

a)  $A = V e^{-rt} = 2^{t^2} e^{-rt}$

present value      future value      discount factor.

$$\text{F.O.C} \quad \frac{\partial A}{\partial t} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (2^{\sqrt{t}} e^{-rt}) = 0$$

$$= \left( \frac{\partial 2^{\sqrt{t}}}{\partial t} \right) \times e^{-rt} + 2^{\sqrt{t}} \frac{\partial e^{-rt}}{\partial t} = 0$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} t^{-\frac{1}{2}} \ln(2) \underbrace{2^{\sqrt{t}} e^{-rt}}_A + \underbrace{2^{\sqrt{t}} (-r)}_A e^{-rt} = 0$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} t^{-\frac{1}{2}} \ln(2) A - rA = 0$$

$$= A \left( \frac{1}{2} t^{-\frac{1}{2}} \ln(2) - r \right) = 0$$

Since  $A > 0$

then this relation holds if ~~and~~  
and only if  $\frac{1}{2} t^{-\frac{1}{2}} \ln(2) - r = 0$

~~The~~ solving for  $t$ , we get

$$t^* = \left( \frac{\ln(2)}{2r} \right)^2$$

~~Wrong~~

b) S.O.C       $\frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial t^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\partial A}{\partial t} \right)$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[ A \left( \frac{1}{2} t^{-1/2} \ln(2) - r \right) \right]$$

important  $A = 2^{rt} e^{-rt}$ , thus it is a function of  $t$ , so we have to use the product rule to compute the derivative above;

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{\partial A}{\partial t} \left[ \frac{1}{2} t^{-1/2} \ln(2) - r \right] \\ &\quad + A \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{1}{2} t^{-1/2} \ln(2) - r \right) \\ &= \frac{\partial A}{\partial t} \left( \frac{1}{2} t^{-1/2} \ln(2) - r \right) \\ &\quad + A \left( -\frac{1}{4} t^{-3/2} \ln(2) \right) \end{aligned}$$



# Comparative Statics

Comparative statics is concerned with the comparison of different equilibrium states that are associated with different sets of values of parameters and exogenous variables.

Example  $\begin{cases} Q^d = a - bP & \text{demand} \\ Q^s = -c + dP & \text{supply} \end{cases}$

Demand = Supply

$$a - bP = -c + dP \Rightarrow \boxed{P^* = \frac{a+c}{b+d}}$$

plug  $P^*$  in either  $Q^d$  or  $Q^s$ :

$$Q^* = \frac{ad - bc}{b+d}$$

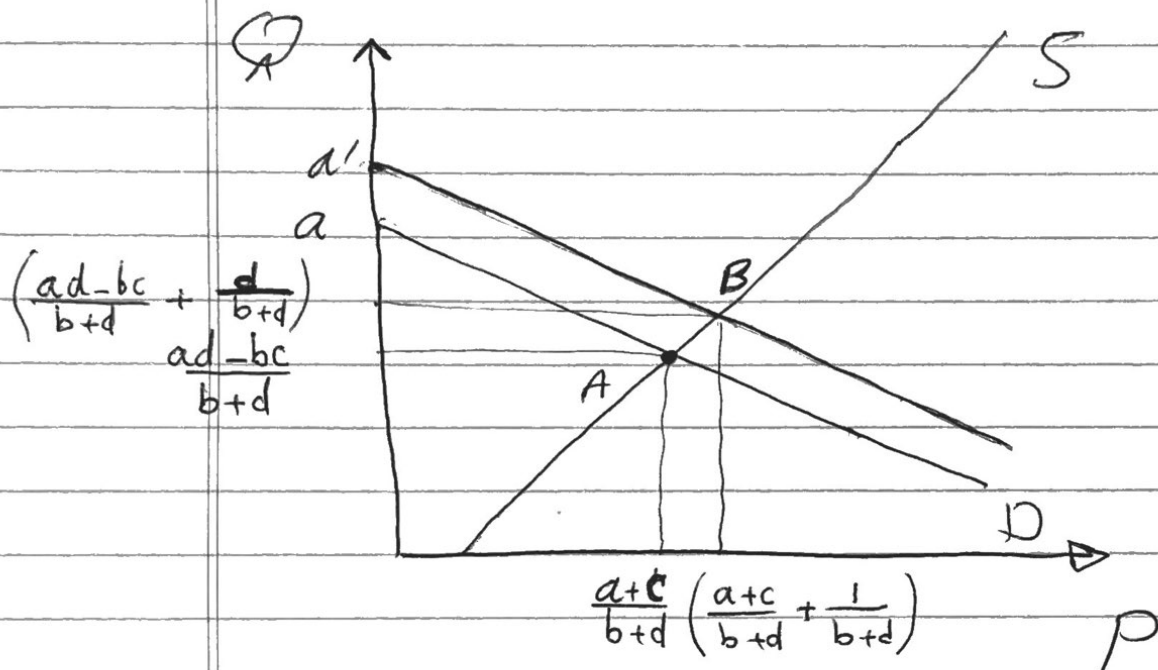
question Study the comparative statics with respect to  $a$ .

The question is asking us to find the rate of change of the equilibrium values of  $P$  and  $Q$  as  $a$  changes:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial P^*}{\partial a} = \frac{1}{b+d} \\ \frac{\partial Q^*}{\partial a} = \frac{d}{b+d} \end{array} \right.$$

interpretation: if  $a \uparrow$  by one unit, the equilibrium value of  $P^*$  changes by  $\frac{1}{b+d}$ . we can interpret  $\frac{\partial Q^*}{\partial a}$  in the same manner

# Graphical interpretation



if  $a \nearrow$  to  $a'$ ,  $P^* \nearrow$  by  $\frac{1}{b+d}$   
 and  $Q^* \nearrow$  by  $\frac{d}{b+d}$ .

So initial equilibrium  $P_1^* = \frac{a+c}{b+d}$

New equilibrium  $P_2^* = P_1^* + \frac{\partial P^*}{\partial a}$

$$= \frac{a+c}{b+d} + \frac{1}{b+d}$$

New equilibrium quantity:  $Q_2^* = Q_1^* + \frac{\partial Q^*}{\partial a}$

$$Q_2^* = \frac{ad-bc}{b+d} + \frac{d}{b+d}$$

Comparative Statics without the need to solve for the equilibrium values.

Example

Consider the same example: Study comparative statics w.r.t to  $a$ .

$$\begin{cases} Q = a - bP \\ Q = -c + dP \end{cases}$$

① rewrite <sup>the</sup> system of equations in the implicit function form

$$F^1: Q - a + bP = 0$$

$$F^2: Q + c - dP = 0$$

② use the following relationship:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial F^1}{\partial Q} & \frac{\partial F^1}{\partial P} \\ \frac{\partial F^2}{\partial Q} & \frac{\partial F^2}{\partial P} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial Q}{\partial a} \\ \frac{\partial P}{\partial a} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{\partial F^1}{\partial a} \\ -\frac{\partial F^2}{\partial a} \end{bmatrix}$$

Jacobian

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & b \\ 1 & -d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial Q}{\partial a} \\ \frac{\partial P}{\partial a} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -(-1) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & b \\ 1 & -d \end{bmatrix}}_A \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial Q}{\partial a} \\ \frac{\partial P}{\partial a} \end{bmatrix}}_x = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_d$$

$$A x = d$$

$$\boxed{A x = d}$$

we can solve ~~this~~ this system of equations either using the matrix inverse method or Cramer's Rule:

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial a} = \frac{|A_{11}|}{|A|} = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & -d \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} 1 & b \\ 1 & -d \end{vmatrix}} = \frac{-d}{-d-b} = \frac{d}{b+d}$$

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial a} = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} 1 & b \\ 1 & -d \end{vmatrix}} = \frac{-1}{-d-b} = \frac{1}{b+d}$$

~~Example 1~~

Example 2 Study the comparative statics w.r.t to  $G_0$ .

$$Y = C + I_0 + G_0$$

$$C = \alpha + \beta(Y - T)$$

$$T = \gamma + \delta Y$$

$$F^1: Y - C + I_0 + G_0 = 0$$

$$F^2: C - \alpha - \beta Y + \beta T = 0$$

$$F^3: T - \gamma - \delta Y = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial F^1}{\partial Y} & \frac{\partial F^1}{\partial C} & \frac{\partial F^1}{\partial T} \\ \frac{\partial F^2}{\partial Y} & \frac{\partial F^2}{\partial C} & \frac{\partial F^2}{\partial T} \\ \frac{\partial F^3}{\partial Y} & \frac{\partial F^3}{\partial C} & \frac{\partial F^3}{\partial T} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial Y}{\partial G_0} \\ \frac{\partial C}{\partial G_0} \\ \frac{\partial T}{\partial G_0} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{\partial F^1}{\partial G_0} \\ -\frac{\partial F^2}{\partial G_0} \\ -\frac{\partial F^3}{\partial G_0} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -\beta & 1 & \beta \\ -\delta & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_A \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \partial Y / \partial G_0 \\ \partial C / \partial G_0 \\ \partial T / \partial G_0 \end{bmatrix}}_X = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_d$$

$$\frac{\partial Y}{\partial G_0} = \frac{|A_1|}{|A|}$$

$$= \frac{\begin{vmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \beta \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -\beta & 1 & \beta \\ -\delta & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix}} = \frac{1}{1 - \beta + \beta\delta}$$

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial G_0} = \frac{|A_2|}{|A|} = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -\beta & 0 & \beta \\ -\delta & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -\beta & 1 & \beta \\ -\delta & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix}} = \frac{1}{1 - \beta + \beta\delta}$$

Similarly find

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial G_0} = \frac{|A_3|}{|A|} = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 & -1 \\ -\beta & 1 & 0 \\ -\delta & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -\beta & 1 & \beta \\ -\delta & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix}} = \frac{1}{1 - \beta + \beta\delta}$$