

Ec 11 Homework 3  
Professor R. Preston McAfee  
Winter 2007

CALTECH



1. Consider a cost function of producing an output  $q$  of the form  $c(q) = q^2 + 2q + 16$ . Determine:
  - a. Marginal cost
  - b. Average cost
  - c. Average variable cost
  - d. Graph the long run supply curve assuming the cost function is for a single plant, and can be replicated without change.
2. Consider two consumers and two goods, X and Y. Consumer 1 has utility  $u_1(x_1, y_1) = x_1 + y_1$  and Consumer 2 has utility  $u_2(x_2, y_2) = \min\{x_2, y_2\}$ . Consumer 1 has an endowment of  $(1, 1/2)$  and Consumer 2's endowment is  $(0, 1/2)$ .
  - a. Draw the Edgeworth box for this economy.
  - b. Find the contract curve, and the individually rational part of it. (You should describe these in writing and highlight them in the Edgeworth box.)
  - c. Find the prices that support an equilibrium of the system, and the final allocation of goods under those prices.

For questions 3-6 consider an orange juice factory that uses as inputs oranges and workers. If the factory uses  $x$  pounds of oranges and  $y$  workers per hour, it produces

$$T = 20 x^{0.25} y^{0.5}$$

gallons of orange juice.

3. Suppose oranges cost \$1 and workers cost \$10, what relative proportion of oranges and workers should the factory use?
4. Suppose a gallon of orange juice sells for \$1, how many units should be sold and what is the input mix to be used? What is the profit?
5. Generalize the previous exercise for a price of \$ $p$  per gallon of orange juice.
6. What is the supply elasticity?
7. For experiment 2.1, draw the demand, short-run supply (given actual number of restaurants) and long-run supply. [Hint: How many restaurateurs would open restaurants if the price is \*11 (that is, they can sell all they want at a price of \*11)? At a price of \*9?]. Find short and long run equilibrium prices and quantities.
8. (short answer) Why would a restaurant be willing to sell for a price less than its average total cost?
9. Over the course of the experiments, did entry respond to profits?