

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory  
ECN 100B (Section B), Fall 2019

Professor Brendan Price

Midterm Exam #2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ID number: \_\_\_\_\_

- Write your answers on the exam itself, using only the space provided for each question.
  - If you run out of space for a given question, write “see extra space” in the space provided for that question, then finish your answer on the extra graded pages. Make sure to write the problem number. You may lose credit if we can’t tell which question you’re answering.
  - We’ve also included one ungraded scrap page for pure scrap work. Answers written on this ungraded page will not be graded under any circumstances.
- You must show your work on every question that requires a calculation. We will award partial credit as appropriate. Correct results without adequate work will receive little or no credit.
- Simplify all mathematical expressions as much as possible.
- The exam is graded out of 50 points. Each question is worth the indicated number of points.
- You will have 80 minutes. You must drop your pen/pencil immediately when time is up.
- As a reminder: UC Davis has a strict code of Academic Conduct. Any violations, including copying or attempting to copy from another student, will result in a score of 0.
- Good luck!

**Do not turn this page until I tell you to start.**

1. **It takes two to tango (8 pt. total)**

Tango's not really static, but let's pretend it is. Answer each question based on the payoff matrix.

		Morgan	
		Giro	Ocho
Ada	Cabeceo	7, 3	1, 5
	Corrida	5, 2	-1, 3
	Cruzada	-5, 3	4, 3

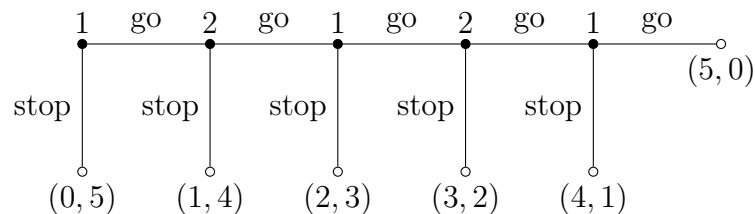
- a. (4 pt.) Circle every payoff that corresponds to a player's best response. Then identify all pure strategy Nash equilibria. (If there aren't any, write "none".)
- b. (2 pt.) Ada's best response against Giro is \_\_\_\_\_. Morgan's best response against Corrida is \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. (1 pt.) Does either player have a weakly dominant strategy? If so, which player and which strategy?
- d. (1 pt.) Does either player have a strictly dominated strategy? If so, which player and which strategy?

2. **True or false (6 pt. total)**

Indicate whether each of the following statements is true or false. (You don't have to explain why.)

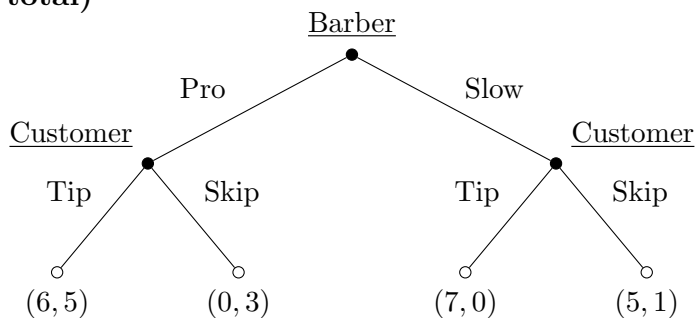
- a. (1 pt.) Every pure strategy is also considered a mixed strategy. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. (1 pt.) In game theory, each player's objective is to beat her opponent by getting a higher payoff than the other player gets. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. (1 pt.) If a static game has a dominant strategy solution, then it must have exactly one pure strategy Nash equilibrium. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. (1 pt.) The advantage of moving second is that the second mover can commit to playing a particular action. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. (1 pt.) A weakly dominant strategy is never a best response. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. (1 pt.) If a player flips a coin to decide whether she'll choose action *A* or action *B*, then she must be indifferent between *A* and *B*. \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Well, it *looks* like a centipede ... (4 pt. total)**



- a. (1 pt.) This game has \_\_\_\_\_ subgames.
- b. (2 pt.) Solve this game by backward induction, shading in the action chosen at every point. (You do not have to describe the strategies in words.)
- c. (1 pt.) In the subgame-perfect Nash equilibrium, the equilibrium payoffs are \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Amateur hour (6 pt. total)



- a. (2 pt.) This game has \_\_\_\_\_ decision nodes. The Customer has a total of \_\_\_\_\_ different strategies (“if-then” plans) to choose from.
- b. (2 pt.) Use backward induction to find the subgame-perfect Nash equilibrium. (Remember to describe each player’s complete “if-then” plan.) What are the equilibrium payoffs?

- c. (2 pt.) Consider the following pair of strategies:

*Barber’s strategy: “Pro”. Customer’s strategy: “Tip no matter what”.*

Is this a Nash equilibrium? If yes: is it subgame-perfect? If no: who isn’t playing a best response?

5. Petty theft (6 pt. total)

Early in his criminal career, The Sundance Kid is deciding whether to raid the family cookie jar.

		The Mom	
		Snooze	Accuse
The Kid	Thieve	8, 0	0, 3
	Leave	1, 7	1, 1

- a. (3 pt.) Suppose this is a static game, and suppose The Kid thinks there’s a 25% chance that Mom will play “Snooze” (otherwise she’ll play “Accuse”). Determine The Kid’s best response to this mixed strategy. (Show your work.) What is The Kid’s expected payoff?
- b. (3 pt.) Suppose The Kid moves first. In the space to the left, draw a clearly labeled game tree representing this game. If both players are rational, which action will The Kid pick? What are the equilibrium payoffs?

**6. Price-takers and price-makers (10 pt. total)**

Demand for taxi rides is given by  $p(Q) = 48 - 3Q$ , where  $Q$  is the total amount supplied by all firms. The number of firms will change throughout this problem, but each firm can supply  $q$  rides at a total cost  $C(q) = 12q$ . (All companies offer rides of identical comfort and quality.)

a. (2 pt.) Suppose that the market is perfectly competitive (i.e., there are many small firms). Compute the total quantity produced ( $Q_{comp}$ ) and the competitive price ( $p_{comp}$ ).

b. (2 pt.) Now suppose there is only one firm (Uber), which acts as a uniform-pricing monopolist. Compute the monopoly quantity ( $Q_{mono}$ ) and the monopoly price ( $p_{mono}$ ).

c. (4 pt.) Now suppose there are two firms (Uber and Lyft), which compete in a Cournot duopoly. Find firm 1's best-response function,  $q_1^* = BR_1(\hat{q}_2)$ . Then find the Nash equilibrium quantities  $q_1^*$  and  $q_2^*$ . Finally, compute the total quantity ( $Q_{duo} = q_1^* + q_2^*$ ) and the equilibrium price ( $p_{duo}$ ).

d. (2 pt.) Let's explore how social welfare varies across these three different market structures. Complete the table below by writing the word "largest", "smallest", or "medium" in each cell. (Use each word once per row, as I've done in the first row. You don't need to show work here.)

	perfect competition	uniform-pricing monopoly	Cournot duopoly
number of firms	largest	smallest	medium
consumer surplus			
price markup			
deadweight loss			

7. **Who's on first, What's on second (10 pt. total)**

Two firms play a Stackelberg game in which firm 1 (the leader) chooses its quantity  $q_1$ , and then firm 2 (the follower) chooses its quantity  $q_2$ . They sell identical goods, so they receive the same price for each unit sold. Market demand is given by

$$p(Q) = 20 - Q, \quad \text{where } Q = q_1 + q_2$$

The firms have identical cost functions, given by  $C_1(q_1) = 4q_1$  and  $C_2(q_2) = 4q_2$ .

a. (1 pt.) In Stackelberg games, is there first-mover advantage, second-mover advantage, or neither?

b. (3 pt.) Write firm 2's profit-maximization problem in terms of  $q_1$  and  $q_2$ . Then find firm 2's best-response function  $q_2^* = BR_2(q_1)$ , indicating its choice  $q_2^*$  as a function of firm 1's output.

c. (4 pt.) Now find  $q_1^*$ . What is the equilibrium price,  $p^*$ ? What is firm 1's profit?

d. (2 pt.) *Note: This problem is especially challenging. Finish the rest of the exam before attempting.*

Now suppose firm 2 must pay a fixed cost  $FC = 9$  if it wants to enter the market. (Firm 1 still has no fixed cost.) Assume firm 2 enters if it can make strictly positive profit (i.e., if  $\pi_2 > 0$ ), but otherwise it stays out (if  $\pi_2 \leq 0$ ). Find firm 1's profit-maximizing choice of output  $q_1^*$ .

## **EXTRA GRADED PAGE #1: DO NOT TEAR OFF**

If you need to use this extra space:

- On the exam itself, write “see extra space” next to the relevant question(s).
- On this page, clearly indicate which question(s) you are answering.

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## **EXTRA GRADED PAGE #2: DO NOT TEAR OFF**

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**UNGRADED SCRAP PAGE: DO NOT TEAR OFF**

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Do not tear off this page. You must return all scrap paper when you turn in your exam.