

3. Exchange economies with an Edgeworth box

(b) Graph the contract curve, the set of Pareto improvements, and the core

Endowments w

1. $w^A = (75, 25)$

2. $w^B = (25, 25)$

Preferences

1. Cobb-Douglas: $u^A(x^A) = x_1^A x_2^A$

2. Perfect substitutes:

$$U^B(x^B) = x_1^B + x_2^B$$

Plug endowment point into the utility functions

$$\bar{u}^A = 75 \cdot 25 = 1875, \quad \bar{u}^B = 25 + 25 = 50$$

This gives the equations for the indifference curves that intersect the endowment point:

$$1875 = x_1^A x_2^A$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2^A = \frac{1875}{x_1^A}$$

$$50 = x_1^B + x_2^B$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2^B = 50 - x_1^B$$

Rewrite the second equation in terms of x_1^A and x_2^A

$$\Rightarrow (50 - x_2^A) = 50 - (100 - x_1^A)$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2^A = 100 - x_1^A$$

The indifference curves intersect where these are equal

$$\frac{1875}{x_1^A} = 100 - x_1^A \Rightarrow x_1^A = \{25, 75\} \Rightarrow x_2^A = \{75, 25\}$$

So they intersect at (25, 75) and (75, 25). Note (25, 75) is outside the Edgeworth Box