

Complex Networks - Equilibrium and Vulnerability Analysis with Applications

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Existence of equilibrium for a Walrasian pure
exchange economy with utility functions:
duality and Lagrangean theory

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Competitive economic equilibrium

Definition

Let $\bar{p} \in P$ and $\bar{x} \in M(\bar{p}) = \prod_{a=1}^n M_a(\bar{p})$. The pair (\bar{p}, \bar{x}) is a competitive equilibrium of a pure exchange economic market with utility function if and only if:
for all $a = 1, \dots, n$

$$u_a(\bar{x}_a) = \max_{x_a \in M_a(\bar{p})} u_a(x_a), \quad (1)$$

and for all $j = 1, 2, \dots, l$:

$$z^j(\bar{p}) = \sum_{a=1}^n (\bar{x}_a^j(\bar{p}) - e_a^j) \leq 0. \quad (2)$$

Characterization Theorem

Theorem

The pair (\bar{p}, \bar{x}) is a competitive equilibrium if and only if

$$\sum_{a=1}^n \langle -\nabla u_a(\bar{x}_a), x_a - \bar{x}_a \rangle + \langle \sum_{a=1}^n (e_a - \bar{x}_a), p - \bar{p} \rangle \geq 0$$

$$\forall (p, x) \in P \times \prod_{a=1}^n M_a(\bar{p}), \quad (3)$$

where:
$$P = \left\{ p \in \mathbb{R}_+^l : \sum_{j=1}^l p^j = 1 \right\},$$

$$M_a(\bar{p}) = \left\{ x_a \in \mathbb{R}^l : x_a^j \geq 0 \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, l, \sum_{j=1}^l \bar{p}^j (x_a^j - e_a^j) \leq 0 \right\}.$$

Existence result

Theorem

- ▶ u_a is strictly concave and $u_a \in C^1(\mathbb{R}_+^I)$,
- ▶ $\forall x_a \in M_a(p) : \nabla u_a(x_a) \neq 0, \quad \forall p \in P$ and
 $\forall x_a \in \partial M_a(p) : \frac{\partial u_a(x_a)}{\partial x_a^s} > 0, \text{ when } x_a^s = 0, \quad \forall p \in P,$
- ▶ $-\nabla u_a(x_a)$ is strongly monotone: $\exists \nu > 0$ such that
 $\langle -\nabla u_a(x_a) + \nabla u_a(y_a), x_a - y_a \rangle \geq \nu \|x_a - y_a\|^2 \quad \forall x_a, y_a \in M_a(p).$

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Then there exists (\bar{p}, \bar{x}) solution to quasi-variational inequality:

$$\sum_{a=1}^n \langle -\nabla u_a(\bar{x}_a), x_a - \bar{x}_a \rangle + \langle \sum_{a=1}^n (e_a - \bar{x}_a(\bar{p})), p - \bar{p} \rangle \geq 0,$$

$$\forall (p, x) \in P \times M(\bar{p}).$$

Sketch of Proof

For all $p \in P$ and for all $a = 1, \dots, n$, we consider the variational inequality:

$$\langle -\nabla u_a(\bar{x}_a), x_a - \bar{x}_a \rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall x_a \in M_a(p), \quad (4)$$

$$M_a(p) = \left\{ x_a \in \mathbb{R}^l : x_a^j \geq 0 \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, l, \sum_{j=1}^l p^j (x_a^j - e_a^j) \leq 0 \right\}.$$

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Since the operator is strongly monotone there exists a unique solution \bar{x}_a to variational inequality (4).

We define the demand function:

$$p \rightarrow \bar{x}_a.$$

Then we consider:

$$\left\langle \sum_{a=1}^n (e_a - \bar{x}_a(p)), p - \bar{p} \right\rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall p \in P. \quad (5)$$

Since P is a closed and bounded set, if we prove that, for all $a = 1, \dots, n$, $\bar{x}_a(\cdot)$ is a continuous function on P , then variational inequality (5) admits at least a solution $\bar{p} \in P$.

Let $p \in P$ be fixed and let $\{p_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset P$ such that $p_n \rightarrow p$.

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The sequence $\{M_a(p_n)\}$ converges to $M_a(p)$ in Mosco's sense:

- (M_1) for any $x_a \in M_a(p)$ there exists a sequence $\{(x_a)_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ strongly converging to x_a such that $(x_a)_n \in M_a(p_n)$ for all n ,
- (M_2) for any $\{(x_a)_{k_n}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ weakly converging to x_a , such that $(x_a)_{k_n} \in M_a(p_{k_n})$, then the weak limit x_a belongs to $M_a(p)$.

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Donato, M., Vitanza, "Quasi-variational inequality approach of a competitive economic equilibrium problem with utility function", *Mathematical Models and Methods in Applied Sciences*, 2008.

Second Step

$$\bar{x}_a(p_n) \rightarrow \bar{x}_a(p),$$

where, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$:

$$\langle -\nabla u_a(\bar{x}_a(p_n)), x_a - \bar{x}_a(p_n) \rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall x_a \in M_a(p_n). \quad (6)$$

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From (M_1) there exists $\{(y_a)_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that:

$$(y_a)_n \in M_a(p_n), \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} (y_a)_n = \bar{x}_a(p). \quad (7)$$

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In (6) we replace x_a by $(y_a)_n$ and from strongly monotonicity of the operator of inequality (6) it follows:

$$\|\bar{x}_a(p_n) - y_a(p_n)\| \leq \frac{\|-\nabla u_a(y_a(p_n))\|}{\nu}. \quad (8)$$

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Since $\{(-\nabla u_a(y_a))_n\}$ and $\{(y_a)_n\}$ are converging, by (8) there exist k and h such that:

$$\|\bar{x}_a(p_n)\| \leq \frac{\|-\nabla u_a(y_a(p_n))\|}{\nu} + \|(y_a)_n\| \leq \frac{h}{\nu} + k.$$

Hence there exists a subsequence $\{\bar{x}_a(p_{k_n})\}$ of $\{\bar{x}_a(p_n)\}$ such that:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \bar{x}_a(p_{k_n}) = y_a.$$

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It results that y_a is a solution to variational inequality:

$$\langle -\nabla u_a(y_a), x_a - y_a \rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall x_a(p) \in M_a(p). \quad (9)$$

In fact: from condition (M_2) it follows that $y_a \in M_a(p)$.

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In fact: from condition (M_2) it follows that $y_a \in M_a(p)$.

By (M_1) : for all $x_a \in M_a(p)$:

$$\exists \{(x_a)_n\} : (x_a)_n \in M_a(p_n), \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} (x_a)_n = x_a.$$

For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$:

$$\langle -\nabla u_a(\bar{x}_a(p_{k_n})), (x_a)_{k_n} - \bar{x}_a(p_{k_n}) \rangle \geq 0, \quad (10)$$

by taking $n \rightarrow +\infty$ we get (9).

By the uniqueness of solution to (9) we have: $y_a = \bar{x}_a$.

Then every subsequence of $\{\bar{x}_a(p_n)\}$ converges to the same limit $\bar{x}_a(p)$. Hence

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The demand function $\bar{x}_a(p)$ is continuous on P , then there exists \bar{p} solution to variational inequality:

$$\left\langle \sum_{a=1}^n (e_a - \bar{x}_a(p)), p - \bar{p} \right\rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall p \in P.$$

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So there exists $(\bar{p}, \bar{x}(\bar{p}))$ solution to quasi-variational inequality; then there exists a Walrasian competitive equilibrium.

Some Remarks on Basic Assumptions

Jofre A., Rockafellar R.T., and Wets R.J.-B., *A Variational Inequality Scheme for Determining an Economic Equilibrium of Classical or Extended Type*, Variational Analysis and Applications, 2005.

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$$\Rightarrow \sum_{a=1}^n \langle -\nabla u_a(\bar{x}_a), x_a - \bar{x}_a \rangle + \left\langle \sum_{a=1}^n (e_a - \bar{x}_a), p - \bar{p} \right\rangle \geq 0$$

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⇒ Walras' law:

$$\langle p, \bar{x}_a(p) - e_a \rangle = 0.$$

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⇒ Walras' law:

$$\langle p, \bar{x}_a(p) - e_a \rangle = 0.$$

- ▶ Each agent is endowed with a positive quantity of at least one commodity:

$$\forall a = 1, \dots, n \quad \exists j : e_a^j > 0.$$

Lagrangian theory

Theorem

$(\bar{p}, \bar{x}) \in P \times M(\bar{p})$ is a competitive equilibrium if and only if for all $a = 1, \dots, n$ there exist:

$$\bar{\alpha}_a \in \mathbb{R}_+^l, \quad \bar{\beta}_a \in \mathbb{R}_+ \setminus \{0\}, \quad \bar{\gamma} \in \mathbb{R}_+^l,$$

such that

$$i) \quad \langle \bar{\alpha}_a, \bar{x}_a \rangle = 0, \quad \bar{\beta}_a \langle \bar{p}, e_a - \bar{x}_a \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \bar{\gamma}, \bar{p} \rangle = 0;$$

$$ii) \quad \begin{cases} \frac{\partial u_a(\bar{x}_a)}{\partial x_a^j} = \bar{\beta}_a \bar{p}^j - \bar{\alpha}_a^j & \forall j = 1, \dots, l; \\ \sum_{a=1}^n (e_a^j - \bar{x}_a^j) = \bar{\gamma}^j & \forall j = 1, \dots, l \\ \bar{\beta}_a = \sum_{j=1}^l \left(\frac{\partial u_a(\bar{x}_a)}{\partial x_a^j} + \bar{\alpha}_a^j \right). \end{cases}$$

Sketch of Proof

Let (\bar{p}, \bar{x}) be a competitive equilibrium.

First step

\bar{x}_a is a solution to $\langle -\nabla u_a(\bar{x}_a), x_a - \bar{x}_a \rangle \geq 0 \quad \forall x_a \in M_a(\bar{p}),$

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then \bar{x}_a is a solution to optimization problem:

$$\min_{x_a \in M_a(\bar{p})} \Phi_{\bar{x}_a}(x_a) = \Phi_{\bar{x}_a}(\bar{x}_a) = 0$$

where $\Phi_{\bar{x}_a}(x_a) = \langle -\nabla u_a(\bar{x}_a), x_a - \bar{x}_a \rangle \quad \forall x_a \in \mathbb{R}^l$,

$$M_a(\bar{p}) = \left\{ x_a \in \mathbb{R}^l : x_a^j \geq 0 \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, l, \sum_{j=1}^l \bar{p}^j (x_a^j - e_a^j) \leq 0 \right\}.$$

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We associate the Lagrangean function:

$$\mathcal{L}_a^{(1)} : \mathbb{R}^l \times \mathbb{R}^l \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_a^{(1)}(x_a, \alpha_a, \beta_a) = \Phi_{\bar{x}_a}(x_a) - \langle \alpha_a, x_a \rangle - \beta_a \langle \bar{p}, e_a - x_a \rangle$$

Theorem

Let us $(X, \|\cdot\|)$ and $(Y, \|\cdot\|)$ be real normed spaces; $\widehat{S} \subseteq X$, $f : \widehat{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ $g : \widehat{S} \rightarrow Y$ such that (f, g) convex-like; let the ordering cone C of Y be closed. If $\bar{x} \in S$ is a minimal solution of the primal problem

$$\min_{x \in S} f(x). \quad (11)$$

where $S = \{x \in \widehat{S} : g(x) \in -C\} \neq \emptyset$

and the generalized Slater condition is satisfied, i.e. there is a vector $\widehat{x} \in \widehat{S}$ with $g(\widehat{x}) \in -\text{int}C$, then there exists $\bar{u} \in C^*$ such that (\bar{x}, \bar{u}) is a saddle point of the Lagrange functional associated to the problem (11):

$$\mathcal{L}(\bar{x}, u) \leq \mathcal{L}(\bar{x}, \bar{u}) \leq \mathcal{L}(x, \bar{u}), \quad \forall x \in \widehat{S}, u \in C^*. \quad (12)$$

Jahn J., **Introduction to the theory of nonlinear optimization**, Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, New York, 1996.

By Lagrangean Theory there exist $(\bar{\alpha}_a, \bar{\beta}_a) \in \mathbb{R}'_+ \times \mathbb{R}_+$ s. t.:

$$\mathcal{L}_a^{(1)}(\bar{x}_a, \alpha_a, \beta_a) \leq \mathcal{L}_a^{(1)}(\bar{x}_a, \bar{\alpha}_a, \bar{\beta}_a) \leq \mathcal{L}_a^{(1)}(x_a, \bar{\alpha}_a, \bar{\beta}_a)$$

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We deduce:

$$\langle \bar{\alpha}_a, \bar{x}_a \rangle = 0 \quad \bar{\beta}_a \langle \bar{p}, e_a - \bar{x}_a \rangle = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial u_a(\bar{x}_a)}{\partial x_a^j} = \bar{\beta}_a \bar{p}^j - \bar{\alpha}_a^j \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, l;$$

By Lagrangean Theory there exist $(\bar{\alpha}_a, \bar{\beta}_a) \in \mathbb{R}_+^l \times \mathbb{R}_+$ s. t.:

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$$\frac{\partial u_a(\bar{x}_a)}{\partial x_a^j} = \bar{\beta}_a \bar{p}^j - \bar{\alpha}_a^j \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, l;$$

And, since $\sum_{j=1}^l \bar{p}^j = 1$, it results:

$$\bar{\beta}_a = \sum_{j=1}^l \left(\frac{\partial u_a(\bar{x}_a)}{\partial x_a^j} + \bar{\alpha}_a^j \right) \quad \bar{\beta}_a \neq 0.$$

Second step

$\bar{p} \in P$ is a solution to $\left\langle \sum_{a=1}^n (e_a - \bar{x}_a(\bar{p})), p - \bar{p} \right\rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall p \in P,$

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where $\Psi_{\bar{p}}(p) = \langle \sum_{a=1}^n (e_a - \bar{x}_a), p - \bar{p} \rangle \quad \forall p \in \mathbb{R}^l,$

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$$P = \left\{ p \in \mathbb{R}_+^l : \sum_{j=1}^l p^j = 1 \right\}.$$

We associate the Lagrangean function:

$$\mathcal{L}_a^{(2)} : \mathbb{R}^l \times \mathbb{R}^l \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\mathcal{L}^{(2)}(p, \gamma, \delta) = \Psi_{\bar{p}}(p) - \langle \gamma, p \rangle - \delta \left(\sum_{j=1}^l p^j - 1 \right)$$

By Lagrangean Theory there exist $(\bar{\gamma}, \bar{\delta}) \in \mathbb{R}_+^I \times \mathbb{R}_+$ such that:

$$\mathcal{L}^{(2)}(\bar{p}, \gamma, \delta) \leq \mathcal{L}^{(2)}(\bar{p}, \bar{\gamma}, \bar{\delta}) \leq \mathcal{L}^{(2)}(p, \bar{\gamma}, \bar{\delta}).$$

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Since $\bar{p} \in P$, we deduce:

$$\langle \gamma, p \rangle = 0 \quad \bar{\gamma}^j = \sum_{a=1}^n (e_a^j - \bar{x}_a^j) - \bar{\delta}, \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, l.$$

By Lagrangean Theory there exist $(\bar{\gamma}, \bar{\delta}) \in \mathbb{R}_+^l \times \mathbb{R}_+$ such that:

$$\mathcal{L}^{(2)}(\bar{p}, \gamma, \delta) \leq \mathcal{L}^{(2)}(\bar{p}, \bar{\gamma}, \bar{\delta}) \leq \mathcal{L}^{(2)}(p, \bar{\gamma}, \bar{\delta}).$$

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Moreover, by Walras' law it follows:

$$0 = \langle \bar{\gamma}, \bar{p} \rangle = \sum_{a=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^l \bar{p}^j (e_a^j - \bar{x}_a^j) - \bar{\delta} \sum_{j=1}^l \bar{p}^j = \bar{\delta},$$

then:

$$\bar{\gamma}^j = \sum_{a=1}^n (e_a^j - \bar{x}_a^j), \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, l, \quad \bar{\delta} = 0.$$

Moreover we get:

- ▶ for all $a = 1, \dots, n$ there exists j^* such that $\bar{\alpha}_a^{j^*} = 0$
- ▶ for $j = 1, \dots, l$ there exists a^* such that $\bar{\alpha}_{a^*}^j = 0$.

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Conversely, if $\bar{x}, \bar{p}, \bar{\alpha}_a, \bar{\beta}_a, \bar{\gamma}$, with $\bar{\alpha}_a \in \mathbb{R}_+^l, \bar{\beta}_a \in \mathbb{R}_+ \setminus \{0\}, \bar{\gamma} \in \mathbb{R}_+^l$, are such that:

$$i) \quad \langle \bar{\alpha}_a, \bar{x}_a \rangle = 0, \quad \bar{\beta}_a \langle \bar{p}, e_a - \bar{x}_a \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \bar{\gamma}, \bar{p} \rangle = 0;$$

$$ii) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial u_a(\bar{x}_a)}{\partial x_a^j} = \bar{\beta}_a \bar{p}^j - \bar{\alpha}_a^j \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, l; \\ \sum_{a=1}^n (e_a^j - \bar{x}_a^j) = \bar{\gamma}^j \quad \forall j = 1, \dots, l \\ \bar{\beta}_a = \sum_{j=1}^l \left(\frac{\partial u_a(\bar{x}_a)}{\partial x_a^j} + \bar{\alpha}_a^j \right). \end{array} \right.$$

then (\bar{x}, \bar{p}) is a competitive equilibrium.

Remarks

The importance of the multipliers α^* , γ^* , derives from the fact that they are able to describe the behavior of the market:

if there exist a^* and j^* such that:

▶ $\bar{\alpha}_{a^*}^{j^*} > 0$ it follows: $\bar{x}_{a^*}^{j^*} = 0$,

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▶ $\bar{\gamma}^{j^*} > 0$ it follows: $\bar{p}^{j^*} = 0$, $\sum_{a=1}^n e_a^j > \sum_{a=1}^n \bar{x}_a^j$

and for all $a = 1, \dots, n$:

$$\bar{x}_a^{j^*} > 0, \quad \frac{\partial u_a(\bar{x}_a)}{\partial x_a^{j^*}} = 0$$

Example

We consider a pure exchange economy with two agents ($a = 1, 2$) and two goods ($j = 1, 2$).

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Each agent has an utility function:

$$u_1(x_1) = -\frac{1}{2}(x_1^1)^2 - \frac{1}{2}(x_1^2)^2 + 4x_1^1 + 8x_1^2,$$

$$u_2(x_2) = -\frac{1}{2}(x_2^1)^2 - \frac{1}{2}(x_2^2)^2 + 12x_2^1 + 5x_2^2,$$

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Our aim is to find a competitive equilibrium (\bar{x}, \bar{p}) by using the characterization with the Lagrangean multipliers.

We find \bar{p} , \bar{x} , $\bar{\alpha}$, $\bar{\beta}$, $\bar{\gamma}$ such that:

$$\bar{\alpha}_a \in \mathbb{R}'_+, \quad \bar{\beta}_a \in \mathbb{R}_+ \setminus \{0\}, \quad \bar{\gamma} \in \mathbb{R}'_+,$$

and

$$i) \quad \langle \bar{\alpha}_a, \bar{x}_a \rangle = 0, \quad \bar{\beta}_a \langle \bar{p}, e_a - \bar{x}_a \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \bar{\gamma}, \bar{p} \rangle = 0;$$

$$ii) \quad \begin{cases} \frac{\partial u_a(\bar{x}_a)}{\partial x_a^j} = \bar{\beta}_a \bar{p}^j - \bar{\alpha}_a^j & \forall j = 1, \dots, l; \\ \sum_{a=1}^n (e_a^j - \bar{x}_a^j) = \bar{\gamma}^j & \forall j = 1, \dots, l \\ \bar{\beta}_a = \sum_{j=1}^l \left(\frac{\partial u_a(\bar{x}_a)}{\partial x_a^j} + \bar{\alpha}_a^j \right). \end{cases}$$

From conditions:

$$\frac{\partial u_a(\bar{x}_a)}{\partial x_a^j} = \bar{\beta}_a \bar{p}^j - \bar{\alpha}_a^j, \quad \sum_{a=1}^n (e_a^j - \bar{x}_a^j) = \bar{\gamma}^j \quad (13)$$

it follows:

$$\begin{cases} (\bar{\beta}_1 + \bar{\beta}_2) \bar{p}^1 = \bar{\gamma}^1 + (\bar{\alpha}_1^1 + \bar{\alpha}_2^1) + 6 \\ (\bar{\beta}_1 + \bar{\beta}_2) \bar{p}^2 = \bar{\gamma}^2 + (\bar{\alpha}_1^2 + \bar{\alpha}_2^2) + 7 \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

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By (14) it results $\bar{\beta}_1 + \bar{\beta}_2 > 0$, $\bar{p}^1 > 0$, $\bar{p}^2 > 0$. Since $\langle \bar{\gamma}, \bar{p} \rangle = 0$ we have $\bar{\gamma}^1 = \bar{\gamma}^2 = 0$ and

$$\begin{cases} \bar{p}^1 = \frac{1}{(\bar{\beta}_1 + \bar{\beta}_2)} (\bar{\alpha}_1^1 + \bar{\alpha}_2^1 + 6) \\ \bar{p}^2 = \frac{1}{(\bar{\beta}_1 + \bar{\beta}_2)} (\bar{\alpha}_1^2 + \bar{\alpha}_2^2 + 7) \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

From (15) and (13) we have:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bar{x}_1^1 = 4 - \frac{\bar{\beta}_1}{(\bar{\beta}_1 + \bar{\beta}_2)} (\bar{\alpha}_1^1 + \bar{\alpha}_2^1 + 6) + \bar{\alpha}_1^1 \\ \bar{x}_1^2 = 8 - \frac{\bar{\beta}_1}{(\bar{\beta}_1 + \bar{\beta}_2)} (\bar{\alpha}_1^2 + \bar{\alpha}_2^2 + 7) + \bar{\alpha}_1^2 \\ \bar{x}_2^1 = 12 - \frac{\bar{\beta}_2}{(\bar{\beta}_1 + \bar{\beta}_2)} (\bar{\alpha}_1^1 + \bar{\alpha}_2^1 + 6) + \bar{\alpha}_2^1 \\ \bar{x}_2^2 = 5 - \frac{\bar{\beta}_2}{(\bar{\beta}_1 + \bar{\beta}_2)} (\bar{\alpha}_1^2 + \bar{\alpha}_2^2 + 7) + \bar{\alpha}_2^2 \end{array} \right. \quad (16)$$

From (16) by considering the system

$$\bar{\beta}_a \langle \bar{p}, e_a - \bar{x}_a \rangle = 0 \quad \forall a = 1, 2,$$

we have that $\bar{\alpha}_a^j = 0$ for all $a = 1, 2$, $j = 1, 2$ and $\bar{\beta}_1 = \frac{34}{51} \bar{\beta}_2$.

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Moreover from

$$\bar{\beta}_a = \sum_{j=1}^I \left(\frac{\partial u_a(\bar{x}_a)}{\partial x_a^j} + \bar{\alpha}_a^j \right)$$

we have:

$$\bar{\beta}_1 = \frac{26}{5}, \quad \bar{\beta}_2 = \frac{39}{5}.$$

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Hence the competitive equilibrium (\bar{p}, \bar{x}) is:

$$\bar{p} = \left(\frac{6}{13}, \frac{7}{13} \right), \quad \bar{x}_1 = \left(\frac{9}{5}, \frac{26}{5} \right), \quad \bar{x}_2 = \left(\frac{42}{5}, \frac{4}{5} \right).$$

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