

Klausur: Bargaining, Arbitration, Mediation Sommersemester 2010

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Permitted aid: Pocket calculator (non-programmable)

This exam comprises 3 exercises. Answer all of them.

Exercise 1 (20 minutes):

Please indicate on your answer sheet whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Each correct answer yields **2 points**, incorrect answers yield **-1 points**, and no answer results in **0 points**.

- 1) With an infinite horizon, alternating offers Rubinstein game between two players, there is always a first mover advantage.
- 2) A mediator who is employed after a break-down of negotiations can impose a settlement.
- 3) In an Edgeworth-box, if the initial endowment is located on the contract curve there is no room for Pareto-improvement.
- 4) The axioms on which Nash based his Nash bargaining solution include individual rationality and Pareto efficiency.
- 5) Nash (1950) has shown that, if the solution of an asymmetric bargaining problem satisfies certain axioms, then this solution is unique and maximizes the Nash product.
- 6) According to the Nash bargaining solution, the outcome of a player, ceteris paribus, is increasing in the other party's threat point.
- 7) A player's risk attitude has no influence on the slope of the Pareto frontier in Nash bargaining.
- 8) Axiomatic bargaining theory allows for predicting the outcome of negotiations without specifying the bargaining procedure.
- 9) In game theory, the term "strategy" describes an action taken by a player at one specific point in time during the play of a game.
- 10) Laboratory experiments showed that, in the Ultimatum game, subjects in general split the amount at stake according to the subgame perfect equilibrium.



Exercise 2 (16 minutes):

Two players, A and B, bargain over how to split a pie. In any of the games it is player A who makes the first offer. Both players receive nothing if negotiations fail. Draw the game tree and find the subgame perfect equilibrium shares.

- a) The players face two bargaining rounds. In round 1 the pie amounts to 200 MU (monetary units), in round 2 its size reduces to 50 MU.
- b) The pie size is 100 chips worth \$2 each. Consider two rounds of bargaining. A and B have equal discount rates of $\delta = 0.25$, i.e., any payoff x is worth δx after one rejection.

Exercise 3 (24 minutes):

A monopolistic firm F transforms a single input factor L into a good Y . The production function is $Y(L) = L$. The inverse demand for Y is $p(Y) = 50 - Y$, where p denotes the price for Y . The firm is risk-neutral, payoff-maximizing and rational. Further assume that the input factor L is sold by a monopoly supplier U who seeks to maximize her revenues wL , where w denotes the factor price.

- a) Derive the efficient input level L^* .
- b) Specify both parties' payoff functions.

Assume that L is set to $L = 25$ in the following.

- c) The parties now bargain over w . In the event of no settlement, both parties earn nothing. What is the optimal wage rate w^* according to the Nash bargaining solution?
- d) Assume that negotiations in c) broke down and the two parties now employ an arbiter who executes conventional arbitration. The arbiter A offers her services for free. Both parties can simultaneously propose a wage rate to the arbiter. Denote F 's proposal by w_F and that of U by w_U . A is impartial by assumption and imposes the average of the two proposals as a settlement. What are the Nash equilibrium wage rates submitted by F and U , respectively? What is the settlement w_A imposed by A ?
- e) Do any of the two parties F or U have an interest in contracting upon conventional arbitration as executed in d) before starting to bargain in c)? Why, or why not?