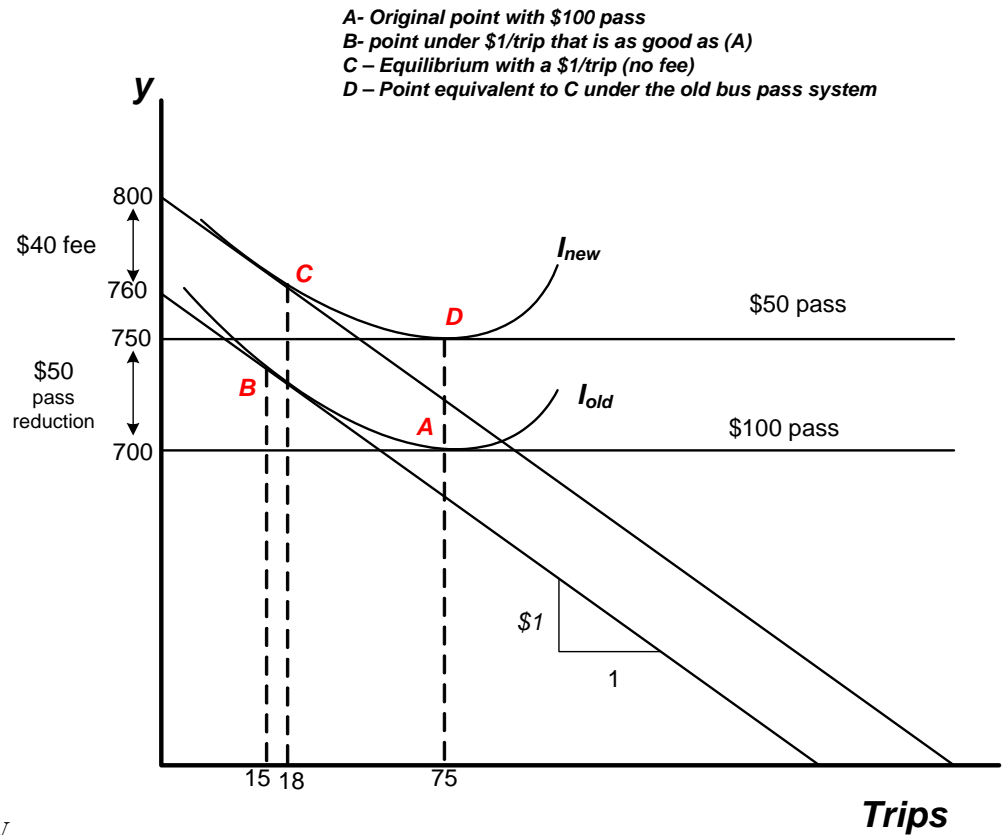


ECON 460 Spring 2014
Assignment 1: CV-EV handout KEY

1. Myrtle has \$800 per month to spend on Transit (X) and all other goods (Y). She currently buys a bus pass for \$100 and rides 75 times per month. If she didn't buy the pass, bus rides would cost \$2/ride. Myrtle is offered to join a Transit program that would allow her to pay a membership fee and then could ride the bus for \$1 per trip. The most Myrtle would pay for the membership is \$40. and then she would ride 15 times a month. If she were given the membership for free, she would ride the bus 18 times per month. Myrtle also reveals that she would be indifferent between a free membership (and \$1 per ride) versus simply having the traditional bus pass reduced to \$50 per month (flat rate), where she would again choose to ride the bus 75 times a month.
- (a) Using all the information provided, draw all the relevant budget constraints and indifference curves. Be sure to label all equilibrium points and have a legend that explains each point (in one or two sentences).
 - (b) Calculate her CV Ans: -60
 - (c) Calculate her EV. Ans: -50



2. Skippy has the following utility function: $u = x^{1/3}y^{2/3}$ and faces the budget constraint: $M = p_x x + p_y y$.

(a) Find Skippy's demand functions, indirect utility and expenditure.

$$x = \frac{M}{3p_x}, y = \frac{2M}{3p_y}$$

indirect utility function is

$$U_i = \left(\frac{M}{3p_x}\right)^{1/3} \left(\frac{2M}{3p_y}\right)^{2/3} = \frac{2^{2/3}M}{4p_x^{1/3}p_y^{2/3}}$$

U_i tells you the utility number for any given budget and prices. The Expenditure Function is

$$\begin{aligned} E &= \frac{3p_x^{1/3}p_y^{2/3}}{2^{2/3}} \cdot U_i & i = old, new \\ E &= 1.89p_x^{1/3}p_y^{2/3}U_i \end{aligned}$$

(b) Suppose $M = 120$, $P_y = 1$ and $P_x = 4$. What is Skippy's optimal x , y and utility number? If the price of x was lowered to 2 what would be her x , y and utility number

$$\begin{aligned} x_{old} &= 10, y_{old} = 80, u_{old} = 40 \\ x_{new} &= 20, y_{new} = 80, u_{new} = 50.4 \end{aligned}$$

(c) What is the most Skippy would pay to have P_x lowered to 2? **USE EXPENDITURE FUNCTION** with new p_x and old utility

$$\begin{aligned} E &= 1.89p_x^{1/3}p_y^{2/3}U_i \\ E &= 1.89p_x^{1/3}U_i & (p_y = 1) \\ U_{i=old} &= 40, & p_x = 2 \\ CV &= 120 - E \\ CV &= 120 - 1.89(2)^{1/3}(40) = 24.74 \end{aligned}$$

(d) Suppose $M = 120$, $P_y = 1$ and $P_x = 4$. How much additional income would Skippy need to be as well off as if the price of x had fallen to 2? **USE EXPENDITURE FUNCTION** with old p_x and new utility

$$\begin{aligned} E &= 1.89p_x^{1/3}p_y^{2/3}U_i \\ E &= 1.89p_x^{1/3}U_i & (p_y = 1) \\ U_{i=new} &= 50.4, & p_x = 4 \\ EV &= E - 120 \\ EV &= 1.89(4)^{1/3}(50.4) - 120 = 31.2 \end{aligned}$$