

**ECONOMICS 207**  
**SPRING 2008**  
**LABORATORY EXERCISE 5**  
**KEY**

**Problem 1.** Solve the following systems of equations for  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  using the method of substitution.  
a.

$$\{x_1 = 64, x_2 = 32\}$$

$$20x_1^{-2/3}x_2^{2/5} - 5 = 0$$

$$24x_1^{1/3}x_2^{-3/5} - 12 = 0$$

From the second equation,

$$\begin{aligned} 24x_1^{1/3}x_2^{-3/5} - 12 &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow x_1^{1/3}x_2^{-3/5} &= 12/24 = \frac{1}{2} \\ \Rightarrow x_1^{1/3} &= \frac{1}{2}x_2^{3/5} \\ \Rightarrow x_1^{-2/3} &= 4x_2^{-6/5} \end{aligned}$$

Substitute  $x_1^{-2/3} = 4x_2^{-6/5}$  into the first equation.

$$\begin{aligned} 20x_1^{-2/3}x_2^{2/5} - 5 &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow 20 \cdot 4x_2^{-6/5}x_2^{2/5} &= 5 \\ \Rightarrow x_2^{-4/5} &= 5/80 = 1/16 \\ \Rightarrow x_2^{4/5} &= 16 \\ \Rightarrow x_2 &= 16^{5/4} \\ \Rightarrow x_2 &= 32 \end{aligned}$$

Substitute  $x_2 = 32$  into  $x_1^{-2/3} = 4x_2^{-6/5}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} x_1^{-2/3} &= 4x_2^{-6/5} \\ \Rightarrow x_1^{-2/3} &= 4 \times 32^{-6/5} \\ \Rightarrow x_1^{2/3} &= \frac{1}{4} \times 32^{6/5} \\ \Rightarrow x_1^{2/3} &= 16 \\ \Rightarrow x_1 &= 64 \end{aligned}$$

So the solution is

$$x_1 = 64, x_2 = 32.$$

b.

$$\{x_1 = 49, x_2 = 32\}$$

$$70x_1^{-1/2}x_2^{2/5} - 40 = 0$$

$$56x_1^{1/2}x_2^{-3/5} - 49 = 0$$

From the second equation,

$$\begin{aligned} 56x_1^{1/2}x_2^{-3/5} - 49 &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow x_1^{1/2}x_2^{-3/5} &= 49/56 = 7/8 \\ \Rightarrow x_1^{1/2} &= \frac{7}{8}x_2^{3/5} \\ \Rightarrow x_1^{-1/2} &= \frac{8}{7}x_2^{-3/5} \end{aligned}$$

Substitute  $x_1^{-1/2} = \frac{8}{7}x_2^{-3/5}$  into the first equation.

$$\begin{aligned} 70x_1^{-1/2}x_2^{2/5} - 40 &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow 70 \cdot \frac{8}{7}x_2^{-3/5}x_2^{2/5} - 40 &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow 80x_2^{-1/5} &= 40 \\ \Rightarrow x_2^{1/5} &= 2 \\ \Rightarrow x_2 &= 32 \end{aligned}$$

Substitute  $x_2 = 32$  into  $x_1^{-1/2} = \frac{8}{7}x_2^{-3/5}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} x_1^{-1/2} &= \frac{8}{7}x_2^{-3/5} \\ \Rightarrow x_1^{-1/2} &= \frac{8}{7} \cdot 32^{-3/5} = \frac{1}{7} \\ \Rightarrow x_1 &= 49 \end{aligned}$$

So the solution is

$$x_1 = 49, x_2 = 32.$$

**Problem 2.** Solve the following systems of equations for  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  first using the method of substitution and then using the method of elimination.

a.

$$\{x_1 = -1, x_2 = -5\}$$

$$x_1 - 3x_2 = 14$$

$$3x_1 - 10x_2 = 47$$

### Methods of substitution

From the first equation,

$$x_1 - 3x_2 = 14 \Rightarrow x_1 = 3x_2 + 14.$$

Substitute  $x_1 = 3x_2 + 14$  into the second equation.

$$3x_1 - 10x_2 = 47$$

$$\Rightarrow 3(3x_2 + 14) - 10x_2 = 47$$

$$\Rightarrow 9x_2 + 42 - 10x_2 = 47$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = -5$$

Substitute  $x_2 = -5$  into  $x_1 = 3x_2 + 14$ .

$$x_1 = 3x_2 + 14$$

$$= -3 \times 5 + 14 = -1$$

So the solution is  $x_1 = -1$ ,  $x_2 = -5$ .

### Methods of elimination

Multiply the first equation by  $-3$  and add it to the second equation.

$$-3x_1 + 9x_2 + 3x_1 - 10x_2 = -3 \times 14 + 47$$

$$\Rightarrow -x_2 = 5$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = -5$$

Multiply the first equation by  $-10$  and add it to the second equation multiplied by  $3$ .

$$-10x_1 + 30x_2 + 9x_1 - 30x_2 = -14 \times 10 + 47 \times 3$$

$$\Rightarrow -x_1 = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = -1$$

So the solution is  $x_1 = -1$ ,  $x_2 = -5$ .

b.

$$\{x_1 = 10, x_2 = 3\}$$

$$3x_1 + 16x_2 = 78$$

$$4x_1 + 21x_2 = 103$$

### Methods of substitution

From the first equation,

$$3x_1 + 16x_2 = 78 \Rightarrow x_1 = (78 - 16x_2)/3.$$

Substitute  $x_1 = (78 - 16x_2)/3$  into the second equation.

$$4x_1 + 21x_2 = 103$$

$$\Rightarrow 4(78 - 16x_2)/3 + 21x_2 = 103$$

$$\Rightarrow 4(78 - 16x_2) + 63x_2 = 309$$

$$\Rightarrow 312 - 64x_2 + 63x_2 = 309$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = 3$$

Substitute  $x_2 = 3$  into  $x_1 = (78 - 16x_2)/3$ .

$$x_1 = (78 - 16x_2)/3$$

$$= (78 - 48)/3 = 10$$

So the solution is  $x_1 = 10, x_2 = 3$ .

### Methods of elimination

Multiply the first equation by  $-4$  and add it to the second equation multiplied by  $3$ .

$$-12x_1 - 64x_2 + 12x_1 + 63x_2 = 78 \times (-4) + 103 \times 3$$

$$\Rightarrow -x_2 = -3$$

$$\Rightarrow x_2 = 3$$

Multiply the first equation by  $-21$  and add it to the second equation multiplied by  $16$ .

$$-63x_1 + (16 \times 21)x_2 + 64x_1 - (21 \times 16)x_2 = -78 \times 21 + 103 \times 16$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = -1638 + 1648$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = 10$$

So the solution is  $x_1 = 10, x_2 = 3$ .

**Problem 3.** Solve the following system of equations for  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ , and  $x_3$  first using the method of substitution and then using the method of elimination.

$$\{x_1 = 2, x_2 = 2, x_3 = -1\}$$

$$-x_1 + x_2 - 3x_3 = 3$$

$$4x_1 - 5x_2 + 12x_3 = -14$$

$$6x_1 - 2x_2 + 19x_3 = -11$$

### Method of substitution

From the first equation,

$$-x_1 + x_2 - 3x_3 = 3 \Rightarrow x_1 = x_2 - 3x_3 - 3.$$

Substitute  $x_1 = x_2 - 3x_3 - 3$  into the second and third equation.

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{cases} 4x_1 - 5x_2 + 12x_3 = -14 \\ 6x_1 - 2x_2 + 19x_3 = -11 \end{cases} \\ \Rightarrow & \begin{cases} 4(x_2 - 3x_3 - 3) - 5x_2 + 12x_3 = -14 \\ 6(x_2 - 3x_3 - 3) - 2x_2 + 19x_3 = -11 \end{cases} \\ \Rightarrow & \begin{cases} 12 - x_2 = -14 \\ 4x_2 + x_3 = 7 \end{cases} \\ \Rightarrow & \begin{cases} x_2 = 2 \\ x_3 = -1 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$x_1 = x_2 - 3x_3 - 3 = 2 + 3 - 3 = 2.$$

So the solution is

$$x_1 = 2, x_2 = 2, x_3 = -1.$$

**Method of Elimination**

Multiply the first equation by 4 and add it to the second equation.

$$-4x_1 + 4x_2 - 12x_3 + 4x_1 - 5x_2 + 12x_3 = 12 - 14$$

That is,

$$-x_2 = -2 \Rightarrow x_2 = 2.$$

Multiply the first equation by 6 and add it to the third equation.

$$-6x_1 + 6x_2 - 18x_3 + 6x_1 - 2x_2 + 19x_3 = 18 - 11$$

That is,

$$4x_2 + x_3 = 7 \tag{1}$$

Multiply  $x_2 = 2$  by  $-4$  and add it to (1).

$$\begin{aligned} -4x_2 + 4x_2 + x_3 &= -8 + 7 \\ \Rightarrow x_3 &= -1 \end{aligned}$$

Then, add  $x_2 = 2$  multiplied by  $-1$  and  $x_3 = -1$  multiplied by 3 to the first equation.

$$\begin{aligned} -x_1 + x_2 - 3x_3 - x_2 + 3x_3 &= 3 - 2 + (-3) \\ \Rightarrow x_1 &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

So the solution is

$$x_1 = 2, x_2 = 2, x_3 = -1.$$

**Problem 4.** Find the derivatives of each of the following functions with respect to  $x$ .

a.  $y = 3x^2 + 2x^4$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 6x + 8x^3.$$

b.  $f(x) = 3x^2 + 5e^x$

$$f'(x) = 6x + 5e^x$$

c.  $f(x) = 5x^3 - 2\log[x]$

$$f'(x) = 15x^2 - \frac{2}{x}$$

d.  $f(x) = -3x^4 + 2x^3 + 3^x$

$$f'(x) = -12x^3 + 6x^2 + 3^x \ln 3$$

e.  $f(x) = 6x^{1/2} + 9x^{1/3} - 3x^{-2}$

$$f'(x) = 3x^{-1/2} + 3x^{-2/3} + 6x^{-3}$$

f.  $f(x) = 4x^{-2} - 3xe^x$

$$f'(x) = -8x^{-3} - 3e^x - 3xe^x$$

g.  $f(x) = 12x^{1/2} + 2x^3 \log[x]$

$$\begin{aligned} f' &= 6x^{-1/2} + 6x^2 \log[x] + 2x^3 \frac{1}{x} \\ &= 6x^{-1/2} + 6x^2 \log[x] + 2x^2 \end{aligned}$$

h.  $f(x) = (3x + 2)^3$  Find in two different ways.

**Method 1**

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= 3(3x + 2)^2 \cdot 3 \\ &= 9(3x + 2)^2 \end{aligned}$$

**Method 2**

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= 27x^3 + 3 \times (9x^2) \times 2 + 3 \times (3x) \times 4 + 8 \\ &= 27x^3 + 54x^2 + 36x + 8. \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= 81x^2 + 108x + 36 \\ &= 9(9x^2 + 12x + 4) \\ &= 9(3x + 2)^2 \end{aligned}$$

i.  $f(x) = \frac{x^2 + 2x}{4x^2}$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \frac{(2x + 2) \cdot (4x^2) - (x^2 + 2x) \cdot (8x)}{16x^4} \\ &= \frac{8x^3 + 8x^2 - 8x^3 - 16x^2}{16x^4} \\ &= \frac{-8x^2}{16x^4} \\ &= \frac{-1}{2x^2} \end{aligned}$$

j.  $f(x) = \frac{4x^2}{x^2 + 2x}$

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \frac{4x^2}{x^2 + 2x} = \frac{4x}{x + 2} = 4 - \frac{8}{x + 2} \\ f'(x) &= 8 \cdot \left( -\frac{1}{(x + 2)^2} \right) \\ &= \frac{8}{(x + 2)^2} \end{aligned}$$



**Problem 5.** Find the derivatives of each of the following functions with respect to  $x$ .

a.  $f(x) = (x^2 + 4x)^2$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= 2(x^2 + 4x) \cdot (2x + 4) \\ &= 4x(x + 4)(x + 2) \end{aligned}$$

b.  $f(x) = (5x - 3)(2x + 4)$  Show two ways.

**Method 1**

$$f(x) = (5x - 3)(2x + 4) = 10x^2 + 14x - 12$$

$$f'(x) = 20x + 14$$

**Method 2**

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= 5(2x + 4) + (5x - 3) \cdot 2 = 10x + 20 + 10x - 6 \\ &= 20x + 14 \end{aligned}$$

c.  $f(x) = 3e^{2x^2+3x}$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= 3e^{2x^2+3x} \cdot (4x + 3) \\ &= 9e^{2x^2+3x} + 12xe^{2x^2+3x} \end{aligned}$$

d.  $f(x) = 3x^2e^{2x^2+3x}$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= 6xe^{2x^2+3x} + 3x^2e^{2x^2+3x} \cdot (4x + 3) \\ &= 6xe^{2x^2+3x} + 3x^2(4x + 3)e^{2x^2+3x} \end{aligned}$$

e.  $f(x) = 12^x e^{2x^2+3x}$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= (12^x \ln 12) \cdot e^{2x^2+3x} + 12^x e^{2x^2+3x} \cdot (4x + 3) \\ &= (\ln 12) 12^x e^{2x^2+3x} + 12^x (4x + 3) e^{2x^2+3x} \end{aligned}$$

f.  $f(x) = \log[(x^3 - 4x)^2]$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \frac{1}{(x^3 - 4x)^2} \cdot [2(x^3 - 4x)(3x^2 - 4)] \\ &= \frac{2(3x^2 - 4)}{x^3 - 4x} \\ &= \frac{6x^2 - 8}{x^3 - 4x} \end{aligned}$$

g.  $f(x) = \frac{3xe^{2x}}{4x^2+2}$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \frac{(3e^{2x} + 6xe^{2x})(4x^2 + 2) - 3xe^{2x}(8x)}{(4x^2 + 2)^2} \\ &= \frac{3e^{2x} + 6xe^{2x}}{4x^2 + 2} - \frac{24x^2 e^{2x}}{(4x^2 + 2)^2} \\ &= \frac{3e^{2x}}{4x^2 + 2} + \frac{6xe^{2x}}{4x^2 + 2} - \frac{24x^2 e^{2x}}{(4x^2 + 2)^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{h. } f(x) = \frac{3x \log[2x^2]}{x^2 + 2x}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \frac{3x \log[2x^2]}{x^2 + 2x} \\ &= \frac{3 \log[2x^2]}{x + 2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= 3 \frac{\frac{1}{2x^2} \cdot (4x) \cdot (x + 2) - 3 \log[2x^2]}{(x + 2)^2} \\ &= \frac{6}{x(x + 2)} - \frac{3 \log[2x^2]}{(x + 2)^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{i. } f(x) = 2x^4 + 2xe^{3x^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= 8x^3 + 2e^{3x^2} + 2xe^{3x^2} \cdot (6x) \\ &= 8x^3 + 2e^{3x^2} + 12x^2e^{3x^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{j. } f(x) = \frac{3x^2e^x}{x^2+3}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \frac{(6xe^x + 3x^2e^x)(x^2 + 3) - 3x^2e^x \cdot (2x)}{(x^2 + 3)^2} \\ &= \frac{6xe^x + 3x^2e^x}{x^2 + 3} - \frac{6x^3e^x}{(x^2 + 3)^2} \end{aligned}$$

**Problem 6.** For each of the following, take the derivative with respect to  $x_1$ , set the derivative equal to zero and solve the resulting equation for  $x_1$ .

a.  $\{x_1 = 256\}$

$$f(x) = 256x_1^{3/8} - 3x_1$$

$$f'(x) = 256 \times \frac{3}{8}x_1^{-5/8} - 3$$

$$= 96x_1^{-5/8} - 3$$

$$f'(x) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 96x_1^{-5/8} - 3 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1^{-5/8} = 3/96 = 1/32$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1^{5/8} = 32$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = 32^{8/5}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = 256$$

b.  $\{x_1 = \frac{81}{16}\}$

$$f(x) = 108x_1^{1/4} - 8x_1$$

$$f'(x) = 108 \times \frac{1}{4}x_1^{-3/4} - 8$$

$$= 27x_1^{-3/4} - 8$$

$$f'(x) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 27x_1^{-3/4} - 8 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 27x_1^{-3/4} = 8$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1^{3/4} = 27/8$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = (27/8)^{4/3}$$

$$\Rightarrow x_1 = \frac{81}{16}$$

$$c. f(x) = 75px_1^{1/3} - 4x_1$$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= 75 \times \frac{1}{3} px_1^{-2/3} - 4 \\ &= 25px_1^{-2/3} - 4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow 25px_1^{-2/3} - 4 &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow x_1^{-2/3} &= 4/(25p) \\ \Rightarrow x_1 &= (4/(25p))^{-3/2} \\ \Rightarrow x_1 &= \frac{125}{8} p^{3/2} \end{aligned}$$