

Numeric example for Ch 9: "Buying and Selling" Handout in Class Jul 23

Recall: Slutsky Substitution and Income Effect for $u(x_1, x_2) = x_1 x_2$

We assume $p_1 = 2, p_2 = 2$ but now, **m is no longer given**. Instead, there is now an endowment point of $E(8,2)$ given, and by selling this endowment m is generated.

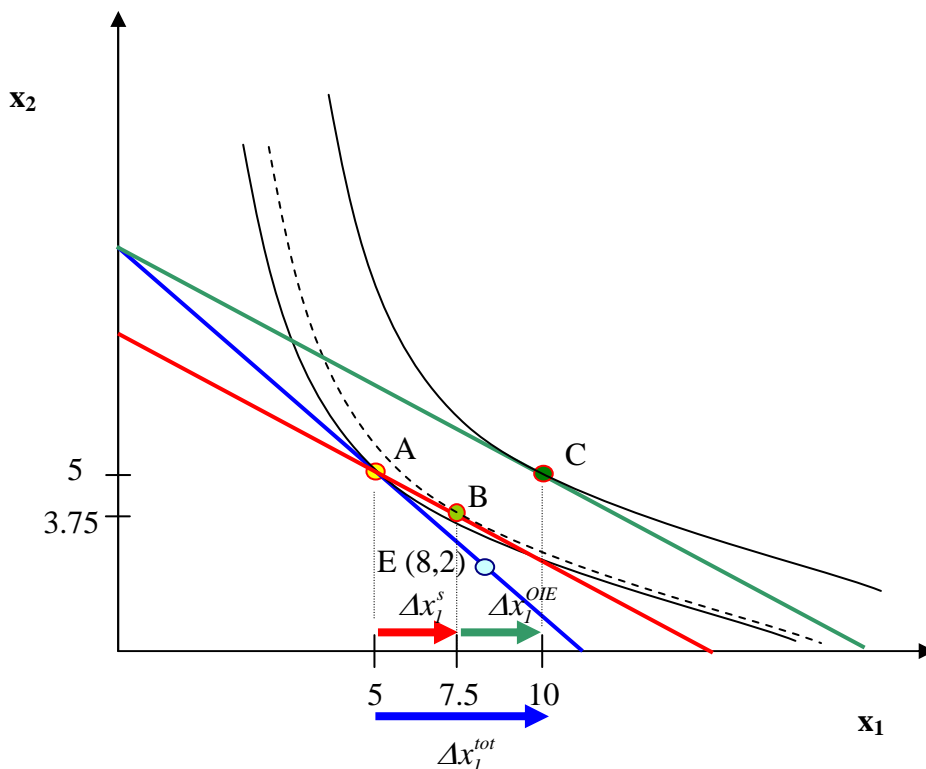
This leads to an income of $p_1 \omega_1 + p_2 \omega_2 = m$, or: $2 \cdot 8 + 2 \cdot 2 = 20$.

The demands of

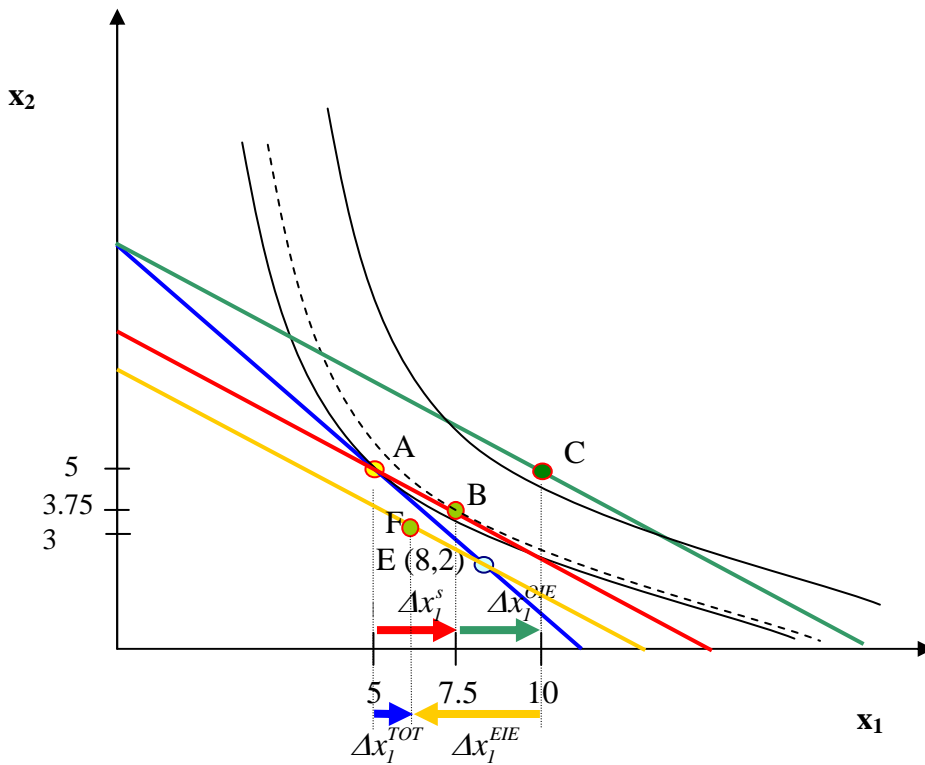
$$x_1 = \frac{m}{2p_1} \text{ and } x_2 = \frac{m}{2p_2}$$

are already known (we use Lagrangian to find individual demands).

We proceed as before (and find B and C as well as the substitution effect and the (now: ordinary) income effect).



What is still left to be done is the computation of the final equilibrium in F after a re-evaluation of m generated by E at new prices. Graphically, we shift the green budget line through C back through E , which gives the budget line at new prices that E , and along this budget line we find the optimal bundle F :



At new prices, the value of E is $p_1' \omega_1 + p_2 \omega_2 = \tilde{m}$, or: $1 \cdot 8 + 2 \cdot 2 = 12$.

Knowing this, we compute

$$x_1^F = \frac{\tilde{m}}{2p_1'} = \frac{12}{2} = 6, \text{ and } x_2^A = \frac{\tilde{m}}{2p_2} = \frac{12}{4} = 3.$$

We reach point $F(6,3)$.

Last, we compute the Endowment Income Effect (which is the demand change from C to F):

$$\Delta x_1^{EIE} = x_1^F - x_1^C = 6 - 10 = -4.$$

This is represented through the yellow arrow. Note that

(1) the endowment income effect is always opposed to the ordinary income effect,

(2) since the consumer is a net seller of good 1, he faces a large income decrease due to the decrease in p_1 . In other words: E contains 8 units of good 1, and the individual loses \$8 through the price decrease when selling E at new prices. In turn, since she is also a consumer, she also benefits from the price decrease in A , which is \$5 in terms of income. The result is a positive total effect (slight increase in demand for good 1). This result is not predictable by just checking the Slutsky equation (buying/selling version of it):

$$\frac{\Delta x_1}{\Delta p_1} = \underbrace{\frac{\Delta x_1^s}{\Delta p_1}}_{(-)} + \underbrace{(\omega_1 - x_1)}_{(+)} \underbrace{\frac{\Delta x_1^m}{\Delta m}}_{(+)} \quad \text{Note that the two signs are different (we need to know the magnitude of each effect to see the net effect.)}$$