

The Kreps-Scheinkman game in mixed duopolies*

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Abstract

In this paper we extend the results of Kreps and Scheinkman (1983) to mixed-duopolies. We show that quantity precommitment and Bertrand competition yield Cournot outcomes not only in the case of private firms but also when a public firm is involved.

Keywords: Mixed duopoly, Cournot, Bertrand-Edgeworth.

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1 Introduction

One of the most cited papers in the oligopoly related theoretical literature is that of Kreps and Scheinkman (1983). In this seminal paper, the authors prove that Cournot competition leads to an outcome which is equivalent to the equilibrium of a two-stage game, where there is a simultaneous capacity choice after which price competition occurs. This is an important result given the popularity of the Cournot model, as it solves the price-setting problem represented by the mythical Walrasian auctioneer in quantity-setting games.

Since then, many papers dealt with this equivalence trying to exploit its boundaries. Firstly, Osborne and Pitchik (1986) relaxed the assumptions imposed on the demand and cost functions, while Davidson and Deneckere (1986) challenged the validity of the result

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by replacing the efficient rationing rule used by Kreps and Scheinkman (1983) with other rationing rules such as the proportional rationing rule and showed that the result does not hold for a certain set of parameters.¹ Deneckere and Kovenock (1996) showed that even under the efficient rationing rule the Kreps and Scheinkman (1983) result does not remain valid if the unit costs of the second stage are sufficiently asymmetric. Lepore (2009) determined a sufficient condition under which the Kreps and Scheinkman (1983) result still holds in case of asymmetric cost functions and different rationing rules. Furthermore, Reynolds and Wilson (2000) introduced demand uncertainty to the model and pointed out that equilibrium capacities are not equal to the Cournot quantities. In their model the uncertainty prevails only at the time when firms choose capacities. However, at the beginning of the second stage the demand is observed and prices are set in a deterministic way.² On the other hand, when uncertainty persists in the price-setting stage, de Frutos and Fabra (2011) illustrated that under certain assumptions the total welfare is equivalent to the Cournot case, yet the capacity levels are asymmetric even when firms are ex-ante identical.

Boccard and Wauthy (2000 and 2004) generalized Kreps and Scheinkman's (1983) result to multi-player markets assuming efficient rationing and identical cost functions. Moreover, under similar conditions Loertscher (2008) proved that the equivalence result holds when firms compete in the input and the output market at the same time. More recently, Wu, Zhu and Sun (2012) generalized the celebrated equivalency result by relaxing the assumptions imposed on the demand and cost functions.

In this paper we extend the Kreps and Scheinkman (1983) result to the case in which a private firm competes with a public firm, that is, to the case of a so-called mixed duopoly. The idea of mixed oligopolies as a possible form of regulation was introduced by Merrill and Schneider (1966). Its relevance stems from the possibility of increasing social welfare through the presence of a public firm in the market. Indeed, it is common to observe public and private firms competing in the same industry.³

As for studies of mixed oligopolies, the Cournot game was examined by Harris and Wiens (1980), Beato and Mas-Colell (1984), Cremer, Marchand and Thisse (1989) and de Fraja and Delbono (1989) among others. Balogh and Tasnádi (2012) studied the price-setting game for given capacities. Therefore, in order to extend the Kreps and Scheinkman (1983) result for mixed duopolies, the solution of the capacity game is required. Since Balogh and Tasnádi (2012) obtained different equilibrium prices from Kreps and Scheinkman (1983) for the respective second stage price-setting game, it is not at all obvious whether the first

¹For more about rationing rules see, for instance, Vives (1999) or Wolfstetter (1999).

²Lepore (2012) generalized Reynolds and Wilson (2000) results for a wide range of demand uncertainties with different rationing rules.

³A few notable examples for public firms are: the Kiwibank, which is a state owned commercial bank in New-Zealand; Amtrak, the railway company in USA; the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, which is owned by the Indian Government; the Norwegian Statoil, owned in 60% by the national government; or in the aviation industry Aeroflot, Air New-Zealand, Finnair, Qatar Airways are all owned in majority by their national government.

stage equilibrium capacities of the mixed version of the Kreps and Scheinkman (1983) game would result in the Cournot outcomes of the respective mixed quantity-setting game. For linear demand and cost functions this solution was given by Bakó and Tasnádi (2014), but that requires the private firm to be more cost-efficient than the public firm. However, as we will see, in the case of strictly convex cost and concave demand functions, which is much harder to analyze than the simple linear case, either any of the two firms can have a cost advantage or the firms can have the same cost functions in order to obtain the Kreps and Scheinkman (1983) result. A similar case distinction was made by Tomaru and Kiyono (2010), while investigating an analogous mixed timing game; in particular, they analyzed the strictly convex case and mentioned in a footnote that the linear case requires the additional assumption of a more efficient private firm for obtaining their result.

The importance of the validity of the Kreps and Scheinkman (1983) result for mixed duopolies can be emphasized by the fact that the literature on homogeneous goods mixed oligopolies focuses on quantity-setting games (for instance, in addition to the already cited works we refer the reader to Corneo and Jeanne, 1994; Pal, 1998; and Matsumura, 2003) in which models the determination of the market-clearing price is not explained endogenously. The current paper underpins the common practice of employing quantity-setting models for mixed duopolies. In addition, de Fraja and Delbono (1989) found the surprising result for mixed oligopolies that the mixed quantity-setting game with sufficiently many firms can result in lower social welfare than the quantity-setting game with an identical number of purely profit-maximizing firms, which shows that the mixed setting can produce certain unexpected results.⁴ Therefore, it is comforting that the Kreps and Scheinkman (1983) result is not destroyed by introducing the kind of asymmetry into the model associated with the different types of object functions of the public and private firms.

In the remainder of the paper we first present our setup and summarize known results on the mixed Cournot game followed by known results on the price-setting game. Employing these results, we determine the equilibrium capacity levels and conclude.

2 Framework and preliminaries

We consider mixed duopolies in which two firms, A and B , produce perfectly substitutable products. Firm A is a private firm and maximizes its profit, while firm B is a public firm and aims to maximize total surplus.

The market demand function is given by D on which we impose the following assumptions.

Assumption 1. (i) D intersects the horizontal axis at quantity a and the vertical axis at price b ; (ii) D is strictly decreasing, concave and twice-continuously differentiable on $(0, b)$;

⁴Recently, Ghosh and Manipushpak (2014) obtained also surprising results for the heterogeneous goods framework concerning the welfare comparison of price and quantity competition with socially concerned firms. See also Scrimatore (2014) on this issue.

(iii) D is right-continuous at 0 and left-continuous at b ; and (iv) $D(p) = 0$ for all $p \geq b$.

We shall denote by P the inverse demand function, that is $P(q) = D^{-1}(q)$ for $0 < q \leq a$, $P(0) = b$, and $P(q) = 0$ for all $q > a$.

Firms' cost functions are given by C_i ($i = A, B$) and are functions of the established capacities, which satisfy the following assumptions.

Assumption 2. (i) $C_i(0) = 0$; (ii) $C'_i(0) < b$ and (iii) C_i is strictly increasing, strictly convex and twice-continuously differentiable on $[0, \infty)$.

Hence, we impose assumptions on the demand and cost functions similar to Kreps and Scheinkman (1983). The two main differences are that we allow for non identical cost functions and that we require strictly convex cost functions instead of just convex cost functions.

2.1 The mixed Cournot duopoly

The mixed Cournot duopoly has been investigated extensively in the literature. This subsection describes the model and summarizes the results obtained by Tomaru and Kiyono (2010). The private firm is a profit-maximizer and its profit function is given by

$$\pi_A^C(q_A, q_B) = P(q_A + q_B)q_A - C_A(q_A), \quad (1)$$

while the public firm intends to maximize social welfare, hence its objective function is given by

$$\pi_B^C(q_A, q_B) = \int_0^{q_A+q_B} P(z)dz - C_A(q_A) - C_B(q_B). \quad (2)$$

In equilibrium firms produce quantities (or put it otherwise firms establish capacities and thereafter produce up to their capacity limits since production is at no cost), which satisfy the equation system derived from the first-order conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \pi_A^C(q_A, q_B)}{\partial q_A} &= P'(q_A + q_B)q_A + P(q_A + q_B) - C'_A(q_A) = 0, \\ \frac{\partial \pi_B^C(q_A, q_B)}{\partial q_B} &= P(q_A + q_B) - C'_B(q_B) = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

From Tomaru and Kiyono (2010) it follows that under Assumptions 1 and 2 the equation system (3) has a unique solution and that the mixed Cournot duopoly has a unique equilibrium in pure strategies. In particular, we impose the concavity of the demand function by Assumption 1, which implies their Assumption 3. A minor difference in the imposed assumptions is that Tomaru and Kiyono (2010) assume demand curves not intersecting the horizontal axis in contrast to condition (i) of Assumption 1. However, this does not change the fact that the firms' reaction functions are differentiable, strictly decreasing and posses

derivatives larger than -1 whenever they are positive. In our setting both reaction curves cut the respective axis at the horizontal intercept of the demand curve. Therefore, taking also point (ii) of Assumption 2 into account, the two firms' reaction curves have a unique interception point.⁵

We illustrate the equilibrium of the mixed Cournot duopoly by the following example.

Example 1. Let $P(q) = 1 - p$, $C_A(q_A) = \frac{1}{6}q_A^2$ and $C_B(q_B) = \frac{1}{4}q_B^2$.

It can be verified that the Nash equilibrium of Example 1 is given by $q_A = 1/5$ and $q_B = 8/15$, while the equilibrium of the standard Cournot duopoly is given by $q_A = 9/29$ and $q_B = 8/29$. Clearly, the mixed version of the Cournot duopoly results in larger outputs and social welfare.

2.2 The price-setting game

In this section we present the second stage price-setting game and briefly review the result obtained by Balogh and Tasnádi (2012) on the simultaneous-move mixed Bertrand-Edgeworth duopoly with capacity constraints in which firms can produce up to their capacity levels $k_A, k_B \in (0, a]$ at zero unit costs after setting their prices simultaneously.⁶ Taking capacities as given, firms choose their prices $p_i \in [0, b]$ ($i = A, B$) to maximize their payoffs.

To determine firms' demand and profit functions, we employ the efficient rationing rule.⁷ Let us denote the market clearing price by p^c and firm i 's ($i = A, B$) unique profit-maximizing price on its residual demand curve $D_i^r(p_i) = \max\{0, D(p_i) - k_j\}$ by p_i^m in case of $k_j < a$, where D_i^r equals the demand faced by firm i if it is the high-price firm ($j \neq i$).⁸ Let $\pi_i^r(p_i) = p_i D_i^r(p_i)$. Any price leads to zero profits on π_i^r in case of $k_j = a$, and therefore, for notational convenience we define p_i^m by 0 in this case. Hence,

$$p^c = P(k_A + k_B) \quad \text{and} \quad p_i^m = \min \left(\arg \max_{p \in [0, b]} \pi_i^r(p) \right).$$

It is worthwhile mentioning that p^c is indeed the market clearing price because we assumed that firms produce at zero costs up to their capacity limits. Furthermore, let p_i^d be the lowest price satisfying equation

$$p_i^d \min\{k_i, D(p_i^d)\} = \pi_i^r(p_i^m),$$

⁵See also Amir and De Feo (2014, Section 5).

⁶The main assumption is that firms have identical unit costs when production takes place. For the case of asymmetric unit costs in the price-setting stage we refer to Deneckere and Kovenock (1996).

⁷Suppose firm i charges the lowest price (p_i). If $k_i < D(p_i)$, not all consumers who want to buy from firm i are able to do so. The efficient rationing rule suggests that the most eager consumers are the ones who are able to purchase from firm i , that is the residual demand function of firm $j \neq i$ can be obtained by shifting the market demand function to the left by k_i . This rationing rule is called efficient because it maximizes consumer surplus. For more details we refer to Vives (1999) or Wolfstetter (1999).

⁸Deneckere and Kovenock (1992) define a similar price to p_i^m ; however, in a slightly different way since they include firm i 's capacity constraint in the profit-maximization problem with respect to D_i^r .

whenever this equation has a solution.⁹ Thus, by choosing p_i^d and selling $\min\{k_i, D(p_i^d)\}$, firm i generates the same amount of profit as it would by setting p_i^m and serving its residual demand.

Now we are coming back to the definitions of the firms' demand and profit functions, which already requires the tie-breaking rule specified and justified by Balogh and Tasnádi (2012). The firm which sets the lower price faces the market demand, while the firm with the higher price has a residual demand of $D_i^r(p_i) = \max\{0, D(p_i) - k_j\}$. In the case of $p_A = p_B$ the following tie-breaking rule is used for mixed duopolies: If prices are higher than a threshold \bar{p} , which equals either p_A^d if $p_A^m \geq p^c$ or 0 otherwise, then the demand is allocated in proportion of the firms' capacities, however if prices are not higher than \bar{p} , the public firm allows the private firm to serve the entire demand up to its capacity level in order to encourage the private firm to set lower prices.¹⁰ The employed tie-breaking can be justified by considering a game in which the public firm selects its tie-breaking rule in a social welfare maximizing manner prior to the price-setting stage.¹¹ Another way to think about the defensive behavior of the public firm in case of price ties at sufficiently low price levels, is to accommodate the private firm in being eager to undercut the public firm's price, which would result in prices like $p_A + \delta = p_B$ in a possible ε -equilibrium.¹² Formally,

$$\Delta_i(p_i, p_j) = \begin{cases} \min\{k_i, D(p_i)\} & \text{if } p_i < p_j, \\ \min\{k_i, D_i^r(p_i)\} & \text{if } p_i > p_j, \\ \min\{k_i, \frac{k_i}{k_i+k_j}D(p_i)\} & \text{if } p_i = p_j > \bar{p}, \\ \min\{k_i, D(p_i)\} & \text{if } p_i = p_j \leq \bar{p} \text{ and } i = A, \\ \min\{k_i, D_i^r(p_i)\} & \text{if } p_i = p_j \leq \bar{p} \text{ and } i = B. \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

The firms' objective functions are given by

$$\pi_A^B(p_A, p_B) = p_A \Delta_A(p_A, p_B) \quad (5)$$

and

$$\pi_B^B(p_A, p_B) = \int_0^{\min\{k_j, \max\{0, D(p_j) - k_i\}\}} R_j(q) dq + \int_0^{\min\{k_i, a\}} P(q) dq, \quad (6)$$

where $0 \leq p_i \leq p_j \leq b$ and $R_j(q) = (D_j^r)^{-1}(q)$.

⁹The equation defining p_i^d has a solution if and only if $p_i^m \geq p^c$, which will be the case in our analysis when we will refer to p_i^d .

¹⁰For prices higher than \bar{p} we could have used many other tie-breaking rules, e.g. the tie-breaking rule used by Kreps and Scheinkman (1983), the only requirement is that none of the firms should have the possibility to sell its entire capacity.

¹¹For more about the employed tie-breaking rule we refer to Balogh and Tasnádi (2012).

¹²In fact, it can be verified that the price-setting game in which the public firm does not accommodate the private firm has an ε -equilibrium close to the pure-strategy Nash equilibrium of the price-setting game with the tie-breaking rule assumed in this paper.

The solution of the price-setting game can be found in Balogh and Tasnádi (2012, Propositions 2 and 5). If $p_A^m \geq p^c$, then there are either two or three equilibria from which, as explained in Balogh and Tasnádi (2012),

$$p_A^* = p_B^* = p_A^d \quad (7)$$

is the plausible one since one of the other two possible equilibria is payoff dominated, while the other one would require the public firm to play a weakly dominated strategy implying its non-entry.

If, however $p_A^m < p^c$, then the set of equilibrium profiles equals

$$\{(p_A^*, p_B^*) \in [0, b]^2 \mid p_A^* = p^c \quad \text{and} \quad p_B^* \leq p^c\}. \quad (8)$$

Henceforward, we will refer to the first case ($p_A^m \geq p^c$) as the *strong private firm case* and to the latter ($p_A^m < p^c$) as the *weak private firm case*.

Hence, firms' equilibrium quantities are given by

$$q_A^* = \min\{k_A, D(p_A^*)\} \quad \text{and} \quad q_B^* = \min\{k_B, D_B^r(p_B^*)\}. \quad (9)$$

3 The mixed Kreps and Scheinkman game

In this section we determine the subgame perfect Nash equilibrium of the following two-stage game:

1. firms' choose their capacity levels $k_A, k_B \in [0, a]$ simultaneously at respective costs $C_A(k_A), C_B(k_B)$ and
2. firms play the mixed price-setting game discussed in Subsection 2.2.

We will refer to this capacity then price game as the mixed Kreps and Scheinkman game.

Theorem 1. *Under Assumptions 1, 2 and efficient rationing*

- (i) *the mixed Cournot duopoly has a unique equilibrium (q_A^*, q_B^*) ,*
- (ii) *in a subgame perfect equilibrium, assuming that in case of a strong private firm in the second stage (7) is played, the mixed Kreps and Scheinkman game has a unique first-stage equilibrium (k_A^*, k_B^*) and*
- (iii) *$(q_A^*, q_B^*) = (k_A^*, k_B^*)$.*

Proof. We divide our proof into five steps.

Step 1. We identify and describe the capacity regions in which the first-stage profit functions are defined by different expressions.

The equilibrium prices of the subgame given by (7) or (8) are functions of the first-stage capacity decisions. Based on Berge's Maximum Theorem the maximum residual profit $\pi_A^r(p_A^m)$ is continuous in (k_A, k_B) and since p_A^m is unique it is a continuous function of (k_A, k_B) as well.¹³ Therefore, p_A^d is continuous in (k_A, k_B) on subregion

$$\{(k_A, k_B) \in [0, a]^2 \mid p_A^m(k_B) \geq P(k_A + k_B)\},$$

i.e whenever p_A^d is well defined.¹⁴

Let us denote the set of capacity-profiles compatible with the weak private firm case by

$$K^c = \{(k_A, k_B) \in [0, a]^2 \mid p_A^m(k_B) \leq P(k_A + k_B)\}$$

and with the strong private firm case by

$$K^d = \{(k_A, k_B) \in [0, a]^2 \mid p_A^m(k_B) > P(k_A + k_B)\}.$$

Notice that K^c is a closed set, since p_A^m and P are continuous.

We need to consider p_A^m , which by definition is the price maximizing $p(D(p) - k_B)$.¹⁵ That is, p_A^m satisfies the following first-order condition:

$$\frac{\partial \pi_A^r}{\partial p}(p_A^m) = p_A^m D'(p_A^m) + D(p_A^m) - k_B = 0. \quad (10)$$

Based on Assumption 1, $\frac{\partial \pi_A^r}{\partial p}$ is strictly decreasing, p_A^m is unique and, as already mentioned, independent from k_A .

The boundary curve dividing the strong and the weak private firm case is given by $p_A^m(k_B) = P(k_A + k_B)$. For any given k_B , if k_A satisfies $p_A^m(k_B) = P(k_A + k_B)$, then for every capacity $k'_A \in [0, k_A)$ we have that $p_A^m(k_B) < P(k'_A + k_B)$, which is the case because the left-hand side is independent of k'_A and the right-hand side is decreasing in k'_A . Thus, for every k_B there exists a k''_A such that the projection of K^c at k_B equals $[0, k''_A]$.

We show that the boundary curve, which is defined by the implicit equation $p_A^m(k_B) = P(k_A + k_B)$, is strictly decreasing in (k_A, k_B) space. The implicit equation defining the boundary curve can be expressed as

$$D'(P(k_A + k_B))P(k_A + k_B) + k_A + k_B - k_B = 0$$

from which under Assumption 1 by the Implicit Function Theorem we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial k_B}{\partial k_A} &= -\frac{D''(P(k_A + k_B))P'(k_A + k_B)P(k_A + k_B) + D'(P(k_A + k_B))P'(k_A + k_B) + 1}{D''(P(k_A + k_B))P'(k_A + k_B)P(k_A + k_B) + D'(P(k_A + k_B))P'(k_A + k_B)} \\ &= -1 - \frac{1}{P'(k_A + k_B)(D''(P(k_A + k_B))P(k_A + k_B) + D'(P(k_A + k_B)))} < 0. \end{aligned}$$

¹³In fact, p_A^m is independent from k_A , and therefore, in what follows we consider p_A^m as a single variable function.

¹⁴Note that, if $p_A^m = p^c$, then $p_A^d = p^c$.

¹⁵Bear in mind that we have defined p_A^m separately for the case of $k_B = a$, ensuring that p_A^m is left-continuous at a .

Furthermore, let us divide K^d into subsets

$$\begin{aligned} K_1^d &= \left\{ (k_A, k_B) \in K^d \mid k_A \leq D(p_A^d(k_A, k_B)) \right\} \text{ and} \\ K_2^d &= \left\{ (k_A, k_B) \in K^d \mid k_A > D(p_A^d(k_A, k_B)) \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

where p_A^d has been defined in Subsection 2.2 for given capacity profiles lying in K^d . Henceforth, we omit the arguments k_A and k_B of functions p_A^d , p_A^m and p^c for notational convenience.

We turn to determining the projection of the set K_1^d at an arbitrarily fixed value of k_B . The condition $k_A \leq D(p_A^d)$ defining K_1^d is equivalent to $P(k_A) \geq p_A^d$, where by definition $p_A^d = (p_A^m(D(p_A^m) - k_B)) / k_A$ within K_1^d . We thus define:

$$f(k_A) = \frac{p_A^m(D(p_A^m) - k_B)}{k_A} - P(k_A) = \frac{c}{k_A} - P(k_A),$$

where $c = \pi_A^r(p_A^m)$ depends only on k_B .¹⁶ While the sign of f' is ambiguous, $f'' > 0$, that is f is strictly convex. Moreover, $\lim_{k_A \rightarrow 0^+} f(k_A) = \infty$ and $f(a) > 0$. Let us denote the capacity level on the boundary of sets K^c and K^d at k_B by k'_A , that is $p_A^m(k_B) = P(k'_A + k_B)$. It can be shown that $f(k'_A) < 0$, thus for any given k_B there exists a k''_A so that the projection of the set K_1^d equals $(k'_A, k''_A]$. Based on these results for any given k_B the private firms capacities can be partitioned into three regions $[0, k'_A] \times \{k_B\} \subset K^c$, $(k'_A, k''_A] \times \{k_B\} \subset K_1^d$ and $(k''_A, a] \times \{k_B\} \subset K_2^d$. Figure 1 illustrates the spatial arrangement of K^c , K_1^d and K_2^d for Example 1.

Step 2. We show that the first-stage equilibrium capacities cannot lie in K_2^d .

If $k_A \leq D(p_A^d)$, then

$$p_A^d k_A = p_A^m(D(p_A^m) - k_B) \iff p_A^d = \frac{p_A^m(D(p_A^m) - k_B)}{k_A}, \quad (11)$$

while for $k_A > D(p_A^d)$, p_A^d is defined by the minimum price satisfying equality

$$p_A^d D(p_A^d) = p_A^m(D(p_A^m) - k_B). \quad (12)$$

Note, however, that this latter case cannot be part of the equilibria, since p_A^d given by (12) is independent of k_A , and for that reason the private firm could increase its profit by choosing a lower capacity level equal to $k'_A = k_A - \varepsilon > D(p_A^d)$. Thus, in equilibrium $k_A \leq D(p_A^d)$ holds.

Step 3. We show that the first-stage equilibrium capacities cannot lie in K_1^d .

¹⁶Observe that in the strong private firm case $\pi_A^r(p_A^m) > 0$ and $D(p_A^m) - k_B > 0$.

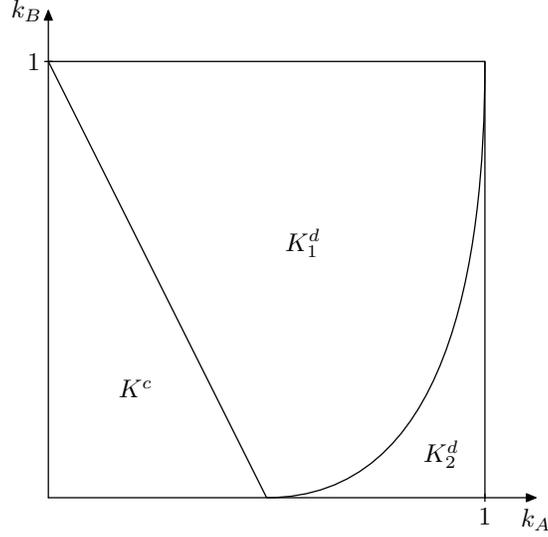


Figure 1: Set of capacities

Given the equilibrium prices, for any capacity profile (k_A, k_B) the firms' first-stage objective functions are

$$\bar{\pi}_A(k_A, k_B) = \begin{cases} p_A^d k_A - C_A(k_A) & \text{if } (k_A, k_B) \in K^d, \\ p^c k_A - C_A(k_A) & \text{if } (k_A, k_B) \in K^c \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

and

$$\bar{\pi}_B(k_A, k_B) = \begin{cases} \int_0^{D(p_A^d)} P(q) dq - C_A(k_A) - C_B(k_B) & \text{if } (k_A, k_B) \in K^d, \\ \int_0^{k_A + k_B} P(q) dq - C_A(k_A) - C_B(k_B) & \text{if } (k_A, k_B) \in K^c. \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

For simplicity we did not substitute the already determined expressions for functions p_A^d and p^c in the objective functions.

Since solutions from K^c and K_1^d dominate the capacity levels from K_2^d we focus our attention only on K^c and K_1^d . However, by determining $\frac{\partial}{\partial k_A} \bar{\pi}_A(k_A, k_B)$ on the interior of K_1^d we can exclude capacities belonging to K_1^d as well. To see this, consider the private firm's profit function on the above mentioned interval:

$$\bar{\pi}_A(k_A, k_B) = p_A^d k_A - C_A(k_A) = p_A^m (D(p_A^m) - k_B) - C_A(k_A),$$

thus

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial k_A} \bar{\pi}_A(k_A, k_B) = -C'(k_A) < 0.$$

Hence, π_A is decreasing in k_A on K_1^d for any given k_B , which implies that the equilibrium solution is necessarily in K^c .

Step 4. We show that the unique equilibrium (q_A^*, q_B^*) of the mixed Cournot duopoly lies in K^c and satisfies the first-order condition of the first-stage of the mixed Kreps and Scheinkman game.

Notice that within K^c the objective functions given by (13) and (14) are identical to (1) and (2) determined for the mixed Cournot duopoly case. We express the second period residual profit function defining p_A^m in terms of quantities and maximize

$$\pi_A^r(q_A) = P(q_A + k_B)q_A$$

with respect to q_A , where $k_B = q_B^*$, and let $k_A = q_A^*$. The solution is denoted as q_A^m . For this problem the sufficient first-order condition yields

$$P'(q_A^m + k_B)q_A^m + P(q_A^m + k_B) = 0. \quad (15)$$

Observe that $P(q_A^m + k_B)$ coincides with $p_A^m(k_B)$, since we have solved the same profit maximization problem in two different ways. Combining equation (15) and the first equation of (3), we get

$$P'(q_A^m + k_B)q_A^m + P(q_A^m + k_B) - C'_A(k_A) < P'(k_A + k_B)k_A + P(k_A + k_B) - C'_A(k_A) = 0$$

by Assumption 2. Therefore, since function $P'(q_A + k_B)q_A + P(q_A + k_B)$ is strictly decreasing in q_A on $[0, a - k_B]$ by Assumption 1 it follows that $q_A^m > k_A$, which in turn implies that $p_A^m(k_B) = P(q_A^m + k_B) < P(k_A + k_B)$. Thus, (q_A^*, q_B^*) lies in the interior of K^c .

Step 5. We show that the unique equilibrium of the mixed Cournot duopoly is indeed an equilibrium of the first-stage of the mixed Kreps and Scheinkman game.

As explained in Subsection 2.1 the first-order conditions given by (3) have a unique solution, now denoted by (k_A^*, k_B^*) , and thus the capacity-choice game can have at most one equilibrium in pure strategies with (k_A^*, k_B^*) as the potential equilibrium solution. We check that (k_A^*, k_B^*) is an equilibrium of the capacity-choice stage, which means that for both firms we have to exclude a unilateral and beneficial deviation in capacity falling into region K^d . Concerning the private firm, we have already seen that $\bar{\pi}_A(k_A^*, k_B^*) > \bar{\pi}_A(k_A, k_B^*)$ for any $(k_A, k_B^*) \in K^d$. Turning to the public firm, by increasing its capacity from k_B^* until the boundary of K^c decreases social welfare, and increasing k_B even further results in lower social welfare than in case of the mixed Cournot duopoly since $p_A^d(k_A^*, k_B) > P(k_A^*, k_B)$ for any $(k_A^*, k_B) \in K^d$. \square

Informally, Theorem 1 means that quantity precommitment and Bertrand competition yield Cournot outcomes not only in duopolies with private firms (see Kreps and Scheinkman, 1983) but also in mixed duopolies.

Since one may criticize the employed tie-breaking rule for letting the private firm serve the market before the public firm in case of price ties, it is comforting to know that Proposition 1 remains also valid if the other Pareto dominated Nash equilibrium not relying on the employed tie-breaking rule found by Balogh and Tasnádi (2012) is played by the firms in the price-setting stage.

Remark 1. *If the firms play in the price-setting stage a Pareto dominated Nash equilibrium given by*

$$\left\{ (p_A^*, p_B^*) \in [0, b]^2 \mid p_A^* = p_A^m \quad \text{and} \quad p_B^* \leq p_A^d \right\} \quad (16)$$

instead of the equilibrium given by (7), the statement of Theorem 1 remains valid.

Proof. Checking the proof of Theorem 1, if the firms played according to (16), the distinction between regions K_1^d and K_2^d as well as Step 2 would become superfluous, and replacing p_A^d with p_A^m in (13) and (14) would not change the analysis of Step 3. Otherwise the proof of Theorem 1 does not have to be altered to obtain Remark 1. \square

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