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... Loss of consumer's surplus.

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Graphically:

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Graphically:



 $D_r(p_b)$ = demand for rail trips, given price of bus p_b

- initially (p_r, q_r) at C
- finally (p_r', q_r' = 0) at B as if price > p_r' (choke price)
 ∴ zero demand
- \therefore area ABC is the loss of Consumer Surplus, $\triangle CS$.

But what happens in the bus market?



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New demand for bus trips $D_b(p_r')$

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Then $\triangle CS$ = area EFHG is *not* a social benefit of rail closure consumers' surplus measures what consumers are willing to pay, in excess of what they are actually called on to pay, to consume a good.

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Remember: the demand curve for railway travel already included the rail passengers' realisation of the alternative travel opportunity of using the bus instead.

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Remember: the demand curve for railway travel already included the rail passengers' realisation of the alternative travel opportunity of using the bus instead.

Or, the social loss that would be caused by closing the *bus* service would be greater if there were no alternative rail service than if there were such a service.

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DGH, the amount of CS for buses, merely measures how much worse off the <u>bus travellers would be if the bus</u> were closed down too.

ΔCS with a good measures a change in consumers' welfare only if the change in surplus is caused by a change in that good's price or availability, not changes in a substitute's or a complement's price or availability.

Price Changes and Δ CS: Conclusion

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The increase of the area of consumers' surplus in the other good (bus) $(P_y = \text{constant})$ is *not* to be regarded as a gain of consumers' surplus consequent upon the rise in P_x , the train.

This increase is simply the consequence of consumers' bettering themselves by switching from the higher priced good x to substitute good y.

Provided supply prices are constant, then the ceteris paribus conditions are met, and the partial analysis depicts the consumers' gains wholly within the area of the demand curve of the good whose price has risen—irrespective of the resulting magnitude and direction of the shifts in demand for all other goods in the economy. •

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Multipliers are measures of the impacts on other markets, but are wrong for two reasons:

- They may lead to double counting of benefits, which should be net of costs, not gross.
- They may measure transfers, as seen above.

[See DoF 3.11; see also C&B Ch. 13, on Economic Impact Analysis]

Week 4

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Page 8

A fall in the price of X results in a contraction of the demand for Y: The goods X and Y are substitutes: Pepsi and Coke?



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$\Delta CS?$

 Δ social welfare? = ΔCS_X only. (Pepsi) Ignore the induced change in CS_Y . (Coke)

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So long as *price = marginal cost*, and doesn't change in response to a project, then *indirect* (i.e. in another market) net marginal social cost or benefit equals zero.



Pecuniary External Effects [C&B pp.134, 147, 155, 167–169; FP Ch. 11.2.2] occur—

if the price change whose effects are being evaluated itself causes, as an indirect effect via market mechanisms, a change in some other price.

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Example of indirect market effects (PEEs):

The price of commuting to Sydney from the Blue Mountains rises.

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The price of commuting to Sydney from the Blue Mountains rises. The first effect is to reduce the number of train trips. The second effect is to make Katoomba less attractive as a dormitory suburb of Sydney's because of the higher travel costs.

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Katoomba Rail and Renting Δ CS in Housing:



Katoomba: Dynamics and Changer in Surplus

Fall in $P_H \rightarrow P_H' \rightarrow$ increase in $D_R \rightarrow D_R(P_H')$

 \rightarrow new quantity of trips Q'_R

Fall in consumers' surplus in railway market (/////)

Rise in consumers' surplus in housing market (\\\\\)

.:. net effect on consumers is (////) – (\\\\), a reduction in consumers' surplus

 \therefore net effect on society (cons. + prod.) = Δ CS in rail-travel market, since housing markets changes cancel.

Area \\\\ is a transfer: from landlords to tenants.



Katoomba: Dynamics

A: $(P_R, Q_R) \& (P_H, Q_H)$ initial B: $(P_R', Q_R') \& (P_H', Q_H')$ final C: $(P_R, Q_R') \& (P_H, Q_H')$ old prices, new quantities D: $(P_R', Q_R) \& (P_H', Q_H)$ new prices, old quantities A preferred to C \Rightarrow losses of A \rightarrow B \ge losses of C \rightarrow B B preferred to D \Rightarrow losses of A \rightarrow B \le losses of A \rightarrow D \therefore losses of C \rightarrow B \le losses of A \rightarrow B \le losses of A \rightarrow D $\therefore Q_R'(P_R' - P_R) - Q_H'(P_H - P_H') \le$ losses of A \rightarrow B \le $Q_R(P_R' - P_R) - Q_H(P_H - P_H')$

Page 15

Katoomba cont.

e.g. Initially

$$P_R =$$
 \$5/trip
 $P_H =$ \$50/week rent $\} \rightarrow$ 10,000 trips/week = Q_R
1,000 tenants = Q_H

Katoomba cont.

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1,000 tenants = Q_H Finally

$$P'_R$$
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980 tenants = Q'_{H} \$47.50/week rent = P'_{H}

 Q'_R

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$$\begin{array}{ll} P_R = & \$5/\text{trip} \\ P_H = & \$50/\text{week rent} \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow & \begin{array}{l} 10,000 \text{ trips/week} = Q_R \\ 1,000 \text{ tenants} = Q_H \end{array}$$

Finally

$$P'_R$$
 \$6/trip \rightarrow 9,000 trips/week = Q'_R
980 tenants = Q'_H
\$47.50/week rent = P'_H

Then net *loss* to consumers:

 $= (6-5) \frac{(10,000+9,000)}{2} - (50-47.5) \frac{(1,000+980)}{2} \\= \$9,500 - \$2,475 = \$7,025/week$

Katoomba cont.

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Landlords also lose "." loss of rent, tenants = \$2,475 shaded area in (*b*) measures the loss of producer's surplus because the only effect is the price fall.

Katoomba: Net losses

Thus ∴ net loss to consumers & landlords = shaded are in (a) = \$9,500/week (Because shaded area in (b) cancels out—is a transfer from landlords to tenants & is solely a price effect.) Conclusion:

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Katoomba: Net losses

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(Because shaded area in (b) cancels out—is a transfer from landlords to tenants

& is solely a price effect.)

Conclusion:

with *Pecuniary External Effects*, we need only consider the effect on Consumers' Surplus and Producers' Surplus in the primary market.

2. Induced Price Changes



If PPIC is sole criterion, then weight consumers = producers (a \$ is a \$) & need not look at induced price changes in competitive markets for Pecuniary External Benefit.

[DoF 3.13]

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- Several techniques to value external costs or benefits: different values according to whether *willingness to pay* (to avoid a cost) or *willingness to accept* (in compensation), since different underlying property rights.
- For large projects, benefits should include the change in consumer surplus, which depends on the price elasticity of demand.

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 - If both incremental and displacement effects are present, then the shadow price is a weighted average.

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- For valuing the costs and benefits of a project, markets provide much information at little cost. How justified is the need for the development of more accurate shadow prices? A CBA of a proposed CBA!

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Overriding principle:

Opportunity cost

| transfers: | no opportunity cost |
|------------|---|
| buyers: | tax-inclusive price, what they pay |
| sellers: | economic cost (net-of-tax), what they get |

CBA always concerned with incremental costs and benefits, that is, with effects that would not have occurred in the absence of the project — DoF (1991).
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