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# Transfer Paradox in a General Equilibrium Economy: an Experimental Investigation

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**Abstract:** The transfer paradox, whereby a transfer of resources that influences the equilibrium price benefits the donor while harming the recipient, is a classic paradox in general equilibrium theory. This paper pursues an experimental investigation of the transfer paradox using a three-agent pure exchange economy that is predicted to have such a paradox. The results indicate that an endowment adjustment among agents influences the market price, and consequently the donors benefit from the transfer, consistent with the competitive equilibrium theory. When given an option to make a transfer, half of donor agents voluntarily decide to adjust the endowment distribution.

*Keywords:* experiments, transfer paradox, general equilibrium, equilibrium effects

*JEL codes:* C92, D51

## 1. Introduction

The transfer paradox is a well-known phenomenon in which an adjustment in endowments among agents may benefit the donors while harming the recipients. This paradox arises from the impact that the endowment transfer has on equilibrium prices, which alters the situation to the donors' advantage (Turner, 2016). The transfer paradox was first discussed in Leontief (1936), and has been studied by a number of scholars (e.g., Samuelson, 1947; Gale, 1974; Aumann and Peleg, 1974; Chichilnisky, 1980; Polemarchakis, 1983; Yano, 1983; Rao, 1992; Kang and Ye, 2014, 2016; Dubey and Kang, 2019). Unlike the rich body of theoretical research on the topic, surprisingly no attention has been paid to the transfer paradox in the experimental literature. This paper is the first to experimentally test the transfer paradox in a controlled environment. Two questions are examined. First, does an adjustment of endowments influence the equilibrium price in line with the competitive equilibrium prediction, thereby benefiting

the donors and hurting the recipients? Second, if yes, will donor subjects recognize that such transfers can be advantageous?

The results reveal that endowment adjustments influence the market prices as the theory suggests. This results in the donor earning a higher payoff post-adjustment. Further, when given an option to make a transfer, half of the donor agents voluntarily adjust the endowment distribution. These findings lend support to the predictive power of the competitive equilibrium theory and the possible existence of the transfer paradox in the real world.

## 2. Experimental Design

The experiment is designed based on Polemarchakis (1983) and Kang and Rasmusen (2016).

### 2.1. The Environment

There are two goods, numeraire ( $x$ ) [units: ECU] and iron ( $y$ ) [units: kg], in an economy. Three agents have the following Leontief payoff functions as described in row A of Table 1 (Kang and Rasmusen, 2016):<sup>1</sup>

$$u_i(x, y) = \min\{\lambda_i x, y\}, \text{ for } i = 1, 2, 3. \quad (1)$$

**Table 1. Parameters**

	$\lambda_i$	Initial endowment	Competitive equilibrium
A: Before transfer	$\lambda_1 = 2, \lambda_2 = 1, \lambda_3 = 3$	$(w_1, w_2, w_3)$ $= ([100], [20], [0])$ $([20], [100], [80])$	$(p_y, [x_1], [x_2], [x_3]) = (1, [40], [60], [20])$ $([y_1], [y_2], [y_3]) = ([80], [60], [60])$
B: After transfer		$(w'_1, w'_2, w'_3)$ $= ([80], [40], [0])$ $([20], [100], [80])$	$(p_y, [x_1], [x_2], [x_3]) = (0.2, [60], [50], [10])$ $([y_1], [y_2], [y_3]) = ([120], [50], [30])$

Notice that Agent 1 ( $i=1$ ) is a buyer, while Agent 2 ( $i=2$ ) and Agent 3 ( $i=3$ ) are sellers. An important property here is that Agent 1 can *increase* their payoff by *giving away some ECUs to Agent 2*, because such a transfer sharply decreases the equilibrium price of iron ( $p_y$  [ECUs/kg]). This is an example of a strong transfer paradox. The transfer size of 20 is used in the experiment (row B of Table 1). This transfer decreases  $p_y$  from 1.0 to 0.2 ECUs/kg theoretically and increases the donor's payoff. Online Appendix I summarizes the simulation result.

### 2.2. The Experiment

At the start of the experiment, subjects are randomly assigned agent roles. The assigned roles are fixed throughout the experiment. The distribution of initial endowments is:  $(w_1, w_2, w_3) =$

<sup>1</sup> This setup was chosen for simplicity. A transfer paradox can emerge with other functional forms such as Cobb-Douglas and quasilinear theoretically (Turner, 2016).

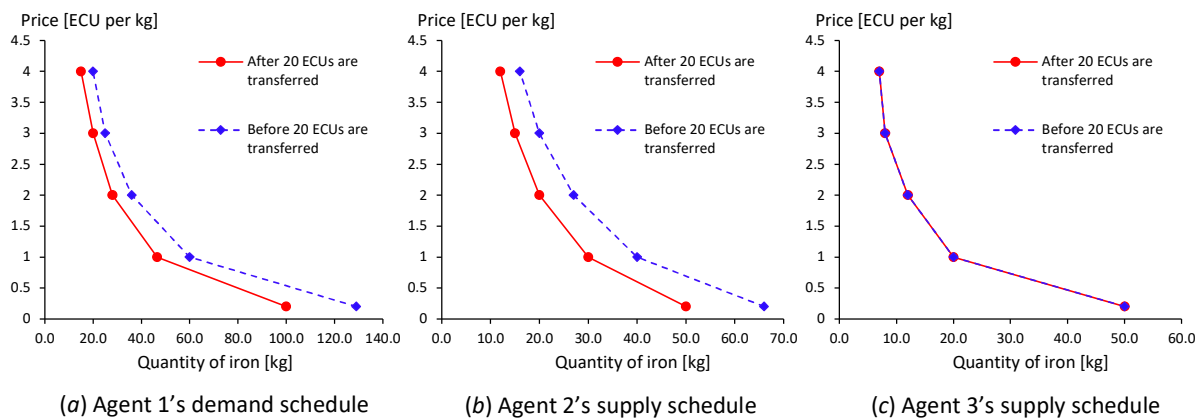
$$\left( \begin{bmatrix} 100 \\ 20 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 20 \\ 100 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 80 \end{bmatrix} \right).$$

The experiment consists of three parts. In Part 1, demand/supply schedules are elicited from agents under the initial endowment conditions. In Part 2, these schedules are elicited on the condition that 20 ECUs are *exogenously* transferred from Agent 1s to Agent 2s. In Part 3, Agent 1s decide whether to make such a transfer by voting.

### 2.2.1. Trading Rule and Structure

Trading is implemented based on the Clearinghouse (call market).<sup>2</sup> There are five possible prices: 0.2, 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, and 4.0 ECU(s)/kg. At the start of Part 1, Agent 1s (Agent 2s and 3s) decide how many kg of iron to buy (sell) for each price. Fig.1 reports the agents' competitive behaviors predicted by the theory. This is the only decision for agents to make in Part 1. Once all agents have completed the schedules, four trading periods are simulated, and subjects are paid based on the sum of own payoffs in these periods. In each simulated period, subjects are randomly assigned to a group that contains five Agent 1s, five Agent 2s and five Agent 3s, and the market price is selected by the computer such that the difference between the quantities demanded and supplied is minimized. Each buyer (seller) can buy (sell) the exact amount they wish and seller  $i$  sells  $Q_D \cdot q_{s,i} / Q_S$  (buyer  $j$  buys  $Q_S \cdot q_{d,j} / Q_D$ ), if the total quantity demanded  $Q_D$  is less (greater) than supplied  $Q_S$ .

**Fig.1. Schedules Predicted by Theory**



Note: Agent 3's schedule is not affected by the transfer.

<sup>2</sup> Alternatively, the experiment could be designed using a multi-unit double auction format. This study, however, adopted a Clearinghouse, because the volatility of trading prices could be large under double auctions in a pure exchange economy (Gode *et al.*, 2004). How the findings from this study extend to the double auction setup remains for future research.

Part 2 proceeds the same as Part 1, except that the initial per-period endowments are changed:  
 $(w'_1, w'_2, w'_3) = (w_1 - \begin{bmatrix} 20 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, w_2 + \begin{bmatrix} 20 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, w_3)$ .

In Part 3, subjects have initial endowments as in Part 1. Once Part 3 begins, subjects are randomly assigned to a group of fifteen. Five Agent 1s decide whether to transfer 20 ECUs to Agent 2s by majority voting. Once Agent 1s have made the decision, all agents are informed of the transfer outcome, and then complete the demand/supply schedules (dependent on their role). The completed schedules are incentivized as these are used to determine the trading price and quantities. To reduce the design complexity, there is only one period (used for payment) in Part 3.

### 3. Results

Four experimental sessions, each with 30 subjects, were conducted – see online Appendix III for the procedure.

#### 3.1. Impact of Transfer

Columns C and D of Table 2 report average elicited schedules by session. Specifically, the numbers in column C (D) are the average aggregate demands (supplies) multiplied by 1/5, i.e., the average of  $q_{Agent\ 1,i}$  (the sum of the average of  $q_{Agent\ 2,j}$  and the average of  $q_{Agent\ 3,k}$ ). These numbers are comparable to the theoretical predictions summarized in Fig.1. It shows that the average schedules differ substantially from the theoretical ones (Appendix Table S.1). For example, the quantities supplied by sellers were on average smaller (larger) than the theoretical quantities when prices were low (high). In addition, individual schedules were quite heterogeneous. For instance, for 47.5% of Agent 1s, 62.5% of Agent 2s and 32.5% of Agent 3s, willingness to buy or sell did not decrease significantly as the trading price rose, unlike Fig.1, in at least one out of the three parts in the experiment – see Appendix Fig.S1.

Nevertheless, the effects of transfer are evident. The price that minimizes the excess demand was calculated in each session. The excess demands are the differences between the aggregate demands and supplies (column E of Table 2). The average market price was 0.6 ECU/kg with endowment transfer, which was lower than that without it (1.3 ECU/kg). This is consistent with the competitive equilibrium theory prediction. A look at session-level data further shows that the endowment transfer in Part 2 decreased the market price in three out of four sessions, compared with Part 1 – again see Table 2.

The effects of transfer can also be seen in the four simulated periods (which was used for payment) in each part. Due to the random matching design, any trading price was realized dependent on group composition due to the individuals' heterogeneous schedules. Nevertheless, the price of 0.2 ECUs/kg occurred significantly more frequently in these simulated periods of Part 2 than of Part 1 (see Table S.3).

How frequently did Agent 1s make the transfer in Part 3? Strikingly, 50% of Agent 1s did so in the experiment. This implies that the transfer paradox phenomenon can be initiated by human decision-makers.

Table 2 also shows that the endowment transfer benefited the donors on average (column B). However, unlike the theory, the benefits of transfer spread among the three types of agents: the recipients and third parties were both unharmed by the transfers. This was driven by the recipients' and third parties' strategic behaviors already mentioned. Having said that, this could be due to the design setup that agents had only one-time opportunities to complete the demand/supply schedule. Agents might learn efficient behaviors were they given opportunities to repeat decision making. Alternatively, this result could be due to the group size. While the impact of each agent's schedule is only 6.67% ( $=1/15 \times 100\%$ ) in the experiment, it is not zero. An even larger group size might be required to eliminate the strategic behaviors of agents. Further experiments are needed to assess how transfers affect recipients' and third parties' welfare.

**Result:** *A transfer of 20 ECUs influenced market prices as the theory suggests, thereby benefiting the donors.*

**Table 2. Average Aggregate Demand Schedule, Average Aggregate Supply Schedule, Market Price and Payoff**

	Market price [ECU/kg]	A. Traded amount [kg]			B. Payoff [ECU]			C. Quantity demanded [kg] for the following price:					D. Quantity supplied [kg] for the following price:#1					E. Excess demand [kg] for the following price in a given session:				
		Agent 1	Agent 2	Agent 3	Agent 1	Agent 2	Agent 3	0.2	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	0.2	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	0.2	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0
<b>Session A</b>																						
Part 1	1.0	33.9	21.3	12.6	53.9	41.0	38.0	120.6	33.9	21.2	13.5	10.8	76.3	49.4	45.3	41.1	35.7	44.3	<b>-15.5</b>	-24.1	-27.6	-24.9
Part 2	0.2	74.3	39.4	34.9	93.4	48.0	21.0	78.7	42.2	24.4	16.5	13.1	74.3	57.5	41.3	38.4	33.1	<b>4.4</b>	-15.3	-16.9	-21.9	-20.0
Part 3 (not transferred)	--#2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Part 3 (transferred)	0.2	88.5	45.8	42.7	108.5	49.0	26.0	88.5	44.1	24.8	16.3	12.9	91.5	52.6	37.5	30.0	28.1	<b>-3.0</b>	-8.5	-12.7	-13.7	-15.2
<b>Session B</b>																						
Part 1	1.0	45.7	34.6	11.1	65.7	55.0	33.0	93.0	45.7	28.8	17.9	13.2	86.4	50.4	46.6	36.2	29.6	6.6	<b>-4.7</b>	-17.8	-18.3	-16.4
Part 2	0.2	79.4	40.2	39.2	99.4	48.0	24.0	83.7	38.9	16.8	11.3	8.1	79.4	51.0	29.9	22.3	17.8	<b>4.3</b>	-12.1	-13.1	-11.0	-9.7
Part 3 (not transferred)	0.2	96.8	55.9	40.9	116.8	44.0	25.0	99.2	51.8	24.4	16.2	11.4	96.8	63.5	45.0	33.9	30.1	<b>2.4</b>	-11.7	-20.6	-17.7	-18.7
Part 3 (transferred)	--#2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<b>Session C</b>																						
Part 1	0.2	89.7	53.0	36.7	109.7	47.0	22.0	89.7	47.1	19.3	14.1	7.0	90.7	53.7	39.0	30.8	27.4	<b>-1.0</b>	-6.6	-19.7	-16.7	-20.4
Part 2	1.0	44.2	26.5	17.7	64.2	67.0	53.0	94.7	44.6	20.9	16.3	10.0	79.3	44.2	30.2	21.3	18.1	15.4	<b>0.4</b>	-9.3	-5.0	-8.1
Part 3 (not transferred)	2.0	31.0	21.4	9.6	51.0	63.0	29.0	83.6	40.0	31.0	15.4	10.0	93.2	58.6	37.4	25.2	21.6	-9.6	-18.6	<b>-6.4</b>	-9.8	-11.6
Part 3 (transferred)	1.0	43.0	23.9	19.1	63.0	64.0	57.0	66.0	43.0	16.8	14.6	7.8	81.0	46.0	44.0	23.2	19.0	-15.0	<b>-3.0</b>	-27.2	-8.6	-11.2
<b>Session D</b>																						
Part 1	5.0	15.1	10.8	9.9	35.1	31.0	17.0	135.6	60.7	31.5	20.3	15.1	71.3	49.0	36.3	25.2	19.5	64.3	11.7	-4.8	-4.9	<b>-4.4</b>
Part 2	1.0	44.5	27.0	17.5	64.5	67.0	53.0	101.9	44.5	19.0	14.1	9.7	69.3	49.8	38.8	22.8	18.3	32.6	<b>-5.3</b>	-19.8	-8.7	-8.6
Part 3 (not transferred)	0.2	89.8	48.4	41.4	75.4	55.0	60.0	89.8	46.4	25.0	15.0	12.8	90.2	55.4	37.2	26.6	23.8	<b>-0.4</b>	-9.0	-12.2	-11.6	-11.0
Part 3 (transferred)	1.0	53.2	57.8	30.0	53.6	70.0	57.0	134.0	57.8	27.2	19.2	14.2	73.2	53.2	32.0	25.2	21.6	60.8	<b>4.6</b>	-4.8	-6.0	-7.4
<b>All data (average market prices, traded quantities and payoffs across all sessions)</b>																						
W/o transfer	1.3	54.5	33.3	21.9	70.2	47.1	32.8															
With transfer	0.6	63.3	37.6	30.0	80.8	57.6	39.4															

Notes: #1 Average Agent 2's schedule plus average Agent 3's schedule.

#2 Both the two groups decided to transfer in Session A (decided not to transfer in Session B).

### 3.2. What Motivated Agent 1s' Transfer Decisions?

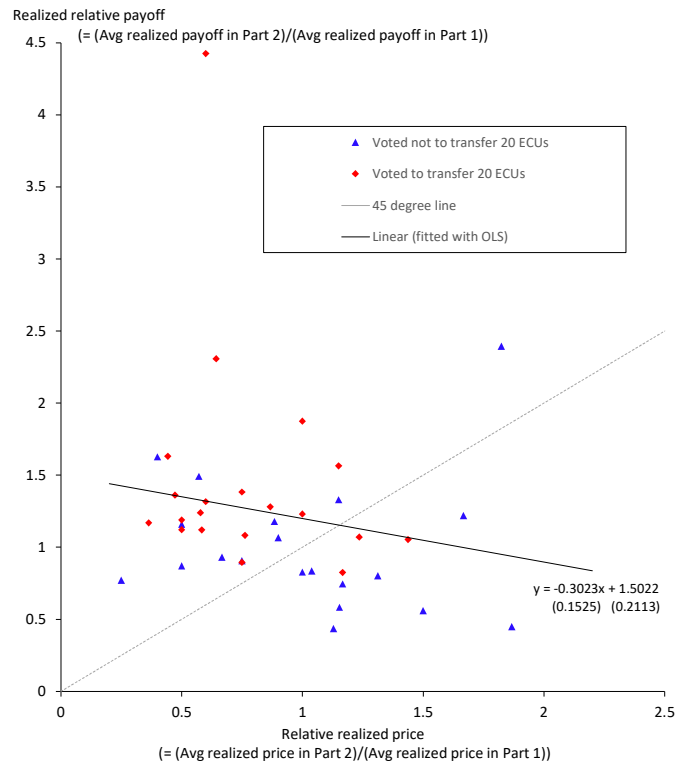
There is an inverse relationship between realized relative prices and relative payoffs of donors in Parts 1 and 2 (Fig.2). A detailed look at Fig.2 shows that the relative payoffs affected Agent 1s' transfer decisions. 69.2% of Agent 1s decided to transfer in Part 3 when the relative payoffs were greater than one. This was significantly higher than the percentage when the relative payoffs did not exceed one – whose percentage was 14.3% – at  $p = 0.0009$  ( $z = -3.315$ ,  $N=40$ ) according to a two-sample test of proportions. This suggests that Agent 1s recognized the benefit of transfer.

The donors' payoff changes with the transfer can be explained by equilibrium effects. While 61.5% of Agent 1s decided to transfer in Part 3 when average realized prices dropped with forced transfer in Part 2, only 28.6% of them did so when average prices rose with transfer (Fig.2). A regression analysis confirmed the statistical significance of the equilibrium effects – see Table 3. Subjects' cognitive ability has a limited role in explaining transfer behaviors (Appendix Table S.4).

## 4. Conclusion

This paper showed that an adjustment in endowments among agents could influence the market price, through which the donors may benefit from the transfer.

**Fig.2. Agent 1s' Experiences, and Regime Choices**



*Note:* The numbers in parentheses in the linear lines are standard errors clustered by session.



**Table 3.** *Determinants of Agent 1s' Transfer Decisions*

Dependent variable: A dummy which equals 1 if an Agent-1 subject voted for a transfer

Independent variable:	(1)	(2)
Price diff. {(Avg. realized price in Part 2) – (Avg. realized price in Part 1)}	-0.798** (0.333)	---
Payoff diff. {(Avg. realized payoff in Part 2) – (Avg. realized payoff in Part 1)}	---	0.031** (0.016)
Constant	-0.807 (0.569)	-0.748 (0.701)
# observations	40	40
Pseudo R-squared	0.167	0.209

Notes: Probit regressions. Numbers in parentheses are standard errors clustered by session. \* $p < 0.1$ ; \*\* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.01$ .

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION

**Online Supplementary Materials to  
Kamei: “Transfer Paradox in a General Equilibrium  
Economy: a First Experimental Investigation”\***

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**Appendix I: Impact of Transfers (Simulations Exercise)**

This study employed a simple standard framework discussed in the theoretical literature. A three-agent pure exchange economy was selected as the basis of experiments, since the transfer paradox is theoretically a rare phenomenon in a two-agent pure exchange economy (Turner, 2016).

To my knowledge, a challenge confronted in empirically exploring the transfer paradox in realistic setups proposed by prior influential papers, such as Chichilnisky (1980, 1983), is that the set of endowments and preference parameters that lead to a paradox is usually small even in a three-agent economy.<sup>1</sup> For example, in the three-income-group framework of Chichilnisky (1980, 1983), restrictive Condition (C.1) [Chichilnisky, 1980, page 509] must be satisfied. In addition, the sufficient condition, (C.3) [Chichilnisky, 1983, page 239], is also restrictive.

Polemarchakis (1983) developed a nice framework for a three-agent pure exchange economy in which the set of parameters that leads to a transfer paradox is not so restrictive. Kang and Rasmusen (2016) recently provided a very useful numerical example based on Polemarchakis (1983). The experimental design of this paper (see Section 2 of the paper) is built on these two papers.

This part of the Appendix shows that the payoff of Agent 1 (the donor) is increasing with the size of transfer of ECUs to Agent 2 ( $t$ ), while conversely the payoffs of Agent 2 (the recipient) and Agent 3 (the third party) are decreasing with the size of transfer, provided that  $t \leq 20$ . A simple setup is desired since this is the first experiment test and also the transfer paradox is a counter-intuitive phenomenon. Subjects' behaviors in a laboratory are also usefully known to be heterogeneous. For these reasons, this study uses  $t = 20$  in the laboratory experiment to make the payoff benefits of the transfer theoretically large to the donor subjects (Table 1 of the paper). Subjects are unlikely to have prior knowledge about the paradox under the study.

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<sup>1</sup> See also Rao (1992) to generalize the paradox by providing its necessary and sufficient conditions in a three-agent globally Walrasian stable economy.

Suppose that Agent 1 gives away  $t$  ECUs to Agent 2. The adjusted distribution of endowments is then given by:

$$w_1' = \begin{pmatrix} 100-t \\ 20 \end{pmatrix}; w_2' = \begin{pmatrix} 20+t \\ 100 \end{pmatrix}; w_3' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 80 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The budget condition of each agent reduces to the followings:

$$x_1 + py_1 = 100 - t + p \cdot 20. \quad (\text{A1})$$

$$x_2 + py_2 = 20 + t + p \cdot 100. \quad (\text{A2})$$

$$x_3 + py_3 = p \cdot 80. \quad (\text{A3})$$

The feasibility condition in the market and the equilibrium condition of the Leontief utility functions are not affected by such a transfer and are given by the following:

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 120. \quad (\text{A4})$$

$$y_1 + y_2 + y_3 = 200. \quad (\text{A5})$$

$$2x_1 = y_1. \quad (\text{A6})$$

$$x_2 = y_2. \quad (\text{A7})$$

$$3x_3 = y_3. \quad (\text{A8})$$

Each agent's equilibrium quantity of good  $x$  can thus be expressed as a function of  $p$  (i.e., the price of iron):

$$x_1 = \frac{100-t+20p}{1+2p}; x_2 = \frac{20+t+100p}{1+p}; x_3 = \frac{80p}{1+3p}, \quad (\text{A9})$$

and the payoff of each agent is given by:

$$u_1 = 2x_1 = \frac{200-2t+40}{1+2p}; u_2 = x_2 = \frac{20+t+100p}{1+p}; \text{ and } u_3 = 3x_3 = \frac{240p}{1+3p}. \quad (\text{A10})$$

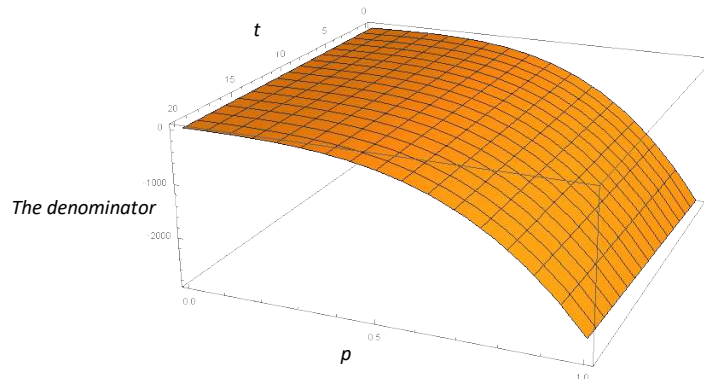
Substituting these optimal quantities to condition (A4), the following condition can be obtained for the equilibrium price:

$$\frac{100-t+20p}{1+2p} + \frac{20+t+100p}{1+p} + \frac{80p}{1+3p} = 120. \quad (\text{A11})$$

Condition (A11) suggests that the equilibrium price depends on the size of  $t$ . This also suggests that the equilibrium price is monotonically decreasing in  $t$ . To see this, applying the Implicit Function Theorem to Condition (A11), the following derivative can be derived:

$$\frac{dp}{dt} = \frac{p(1+p)(1+2p)(1+3p)^2}{20+160p-40p^2-1440p^3-1580p^4-t-6pt-7p^2t+12p^3t+18p^4t}.$$

Notice that  $\frac{dp}{dt}$  is negative if  $t$  is not too large because the denominator is then negative (the numerator is always positive provided that  $p > 0$ ). The following graph shows that the denominator is always negative when  $t \leq 20$ :



Note: the figure was depicted using Mathematica.

Table A.1 on the next page summarizes how the equilibrium price and each agent’s utility depend on  $t$ . For simplicity, the summary table includes the cases where  $t$  is a non-negative integer. It shows that the payoff of Agent 1 (Agent 2) is larger (smaller), the larger transfer she makes.

**Summary:** Provided that the size of transfer  $t \leq 20$ , the payoff of the donor (Agent 1) is increasing with the size  $t$ , and the payoffs of the recipient (Agent 2) and the third party (Agent 3) are oppositely decreasing with the size  $t$ .

**Table A.1.** The Impact of Transfer,  $t$ , on the Competitive Market Equilibrium

$t$	(a) Equilibrium price $p$	(b) Allocation of good $x: (x_1, x_2, x_3)$	(c) The payoff of Agent 1 ( $u_1$ )	(d) The payoff of Agent 2 ( $u_2$ )	(f) The payoff of Agent 3 ( $u_3$ )
0	1.000	(40.00, 60.00, 20.00)	80.00	60.00	60.00
1	.967	(40.34, 59.83, 19.83)	<b>80.69</b>	59.83	59.49
2	.933	(40.71, 59.65, 19.65)	<b>81.41</b>	59.65	58.94
3	.899	(41.09, 59.45, 19.45)	<b>82.18</b>	59.45	58.36
4	.865	(41.50, 59.25, 19.25)	<b>83.00</b>	59.25	57.75
5	.831	(41.94, 59.03, 19.03)	<b>83.88</b>	59.03	57.09
6	.796	(42.41, 58.80, 18.80)	<b>84.82</b>	58.80	56.39
7	.761	(42.91, 58.54, 18.54)	<b>85.83</b>	58.54	55.63
8	.725	(43.46, 58.27, 18.27)	<b>86.92</b>	58.27	54.81
9	.690	(44.05, 57.98, 17.98)	<b>88.09</b>	57.98	53.92
10	.653	(44.69, 57.66, 17.66)	<b>89.38</b>	57.66	52.97
11	.616	(45.39, 57.30, 17.30)	<b>90.78</b>	57.30	51.91
12	.578	(46.17, 56.92, 16.92)	<b>92.33</b>	56.92	50.75
13	.540	(47.03, 56.49, 16.49)	<b>94.06</b>	56.49	49.46
14	.500	(48.00, 56.00, 16.00)	<b>96.00</b>	56.00	48.00
15	.459	(49.11, 55.45, 15.45)	<b>98.21</b>	55.45	46.34
16	.416	(50.39, 54.81, 14.81)	<b>100.78</b>	54.81	44.42
17	.371	(51.91, 54.04, 14.04)	<b>103.82</b>	54.04	42.13
18	.322	(53.79, 53.10, 13.10)	<b>107.58</b>	53.10	39.31
19	.267	(56.26, 51.87, 11.87)	<b>112.52</b>	51.87	35.61
20	.200	(60.00, 50.00, 10.00)	<b>120.00</b>	50.00	30.00

No solutions for positive competitive equilibrium price if  $t \geq 21$ .

### References

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- Polemarchakis, H., 1983. On the Transfer Paradox. *Int. Econ. Rev.* 24(3): 749-760.
- Rao, M., 1992. On the transfer and advantageous. *Soc. Choice Welf.* 9(2): 131-139.
- Turner, S., 2016. How much trade does the transfer paradox require? The threshold computed, Working paper.

## Appendix II. Additional Figures and Tables

**Fig. S.1. Individual demand and supply schedules**

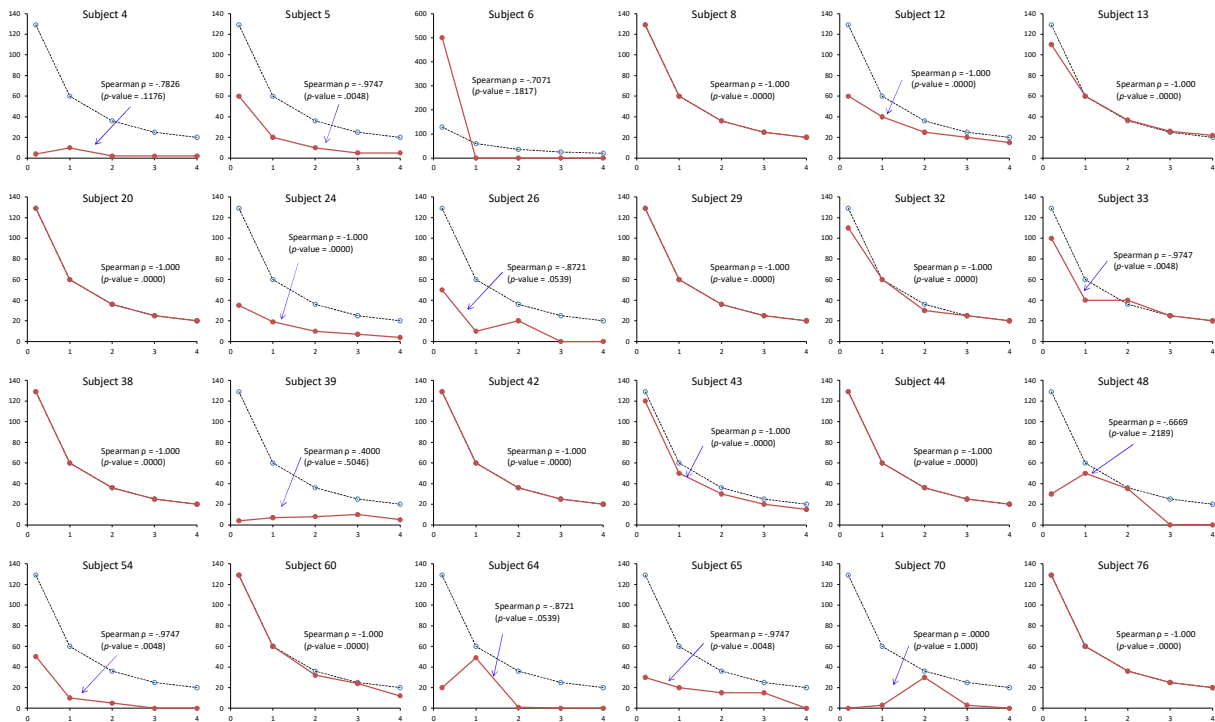
A closer look at individuals' demand and supply schedules indicates substantial heterogeneity in responses among subjects. Many subjects seemingly exhibited strategic behavior, attempting to influence the market prices.

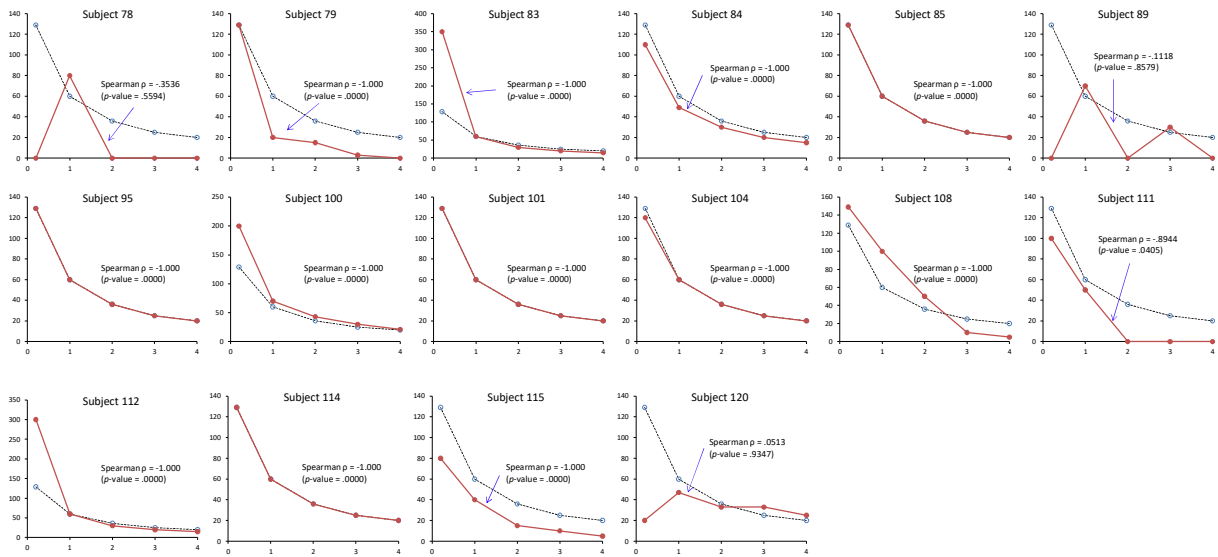
First, certain subjects' willingness to buy or sell did not decrease significantly as the trading price rises in the schedules, unlike the competitive market theory prediction (Figure 1 of the paper). This was the case for 47.5% of Agent 1s, 62.5% of Agent 2s and 32.5% of Agent 3s in at least one out of the three parts in the experiment. Each panel in Figure S.1 below includes the Spearman's  $\rho$  value and its  $p$ -value.

Second, some buyers (Agent 1) indicated that they would not buy anything when the purchase price is the highest. Likewise, some sellers (Agent 2 or 3) indicated that they would not sell any amount if the price is the lowest. This also contradicts agents' competitive profit maximization behaviors visible from the instructions and payoff tables distributed to the subjects. According to individual schedules included in Figure S.1 below, 47.5% of Agent 1s, 32.5% of Agent 2s and 17.5% of Agent 3s exhibited such responses in at least one out of the three parts in the experiment.

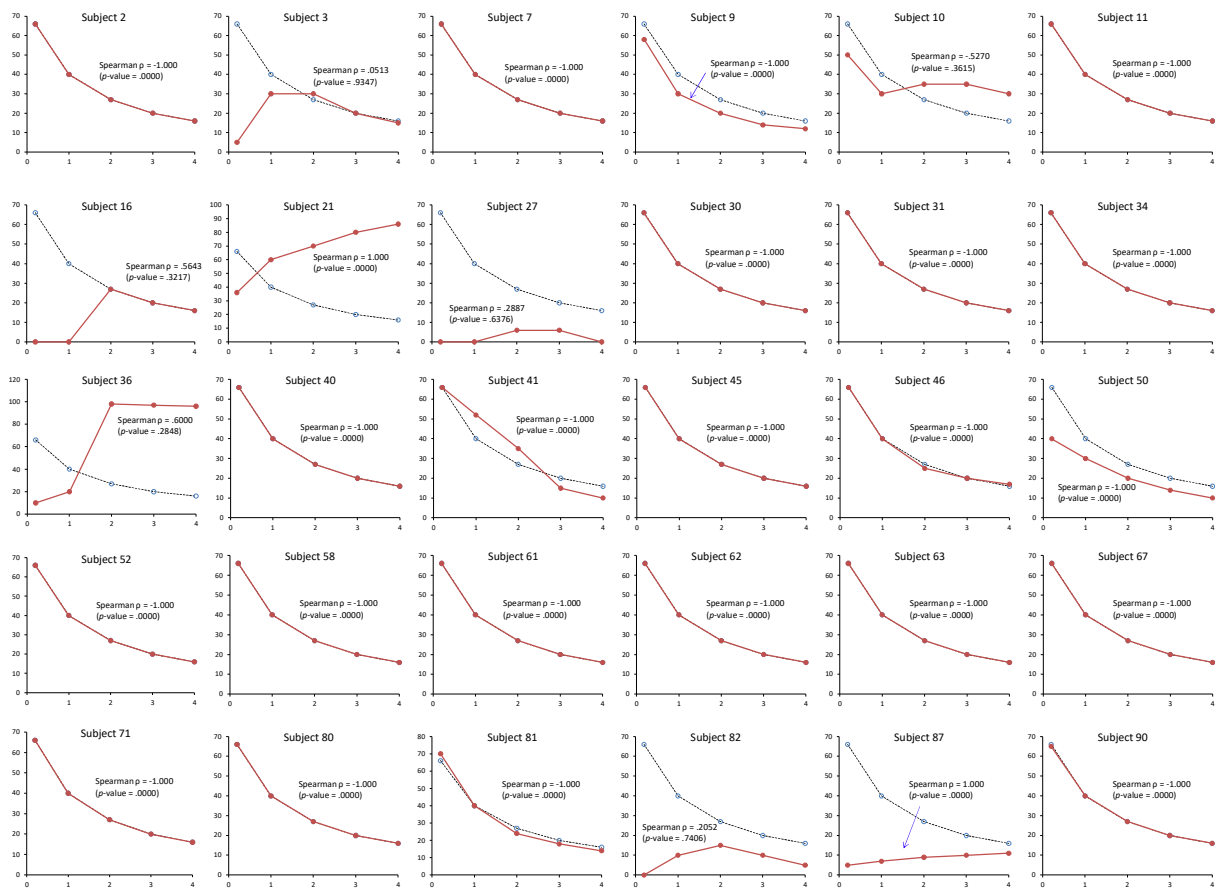
### (1) Part 1

#### a. Agent 1 (buyer)

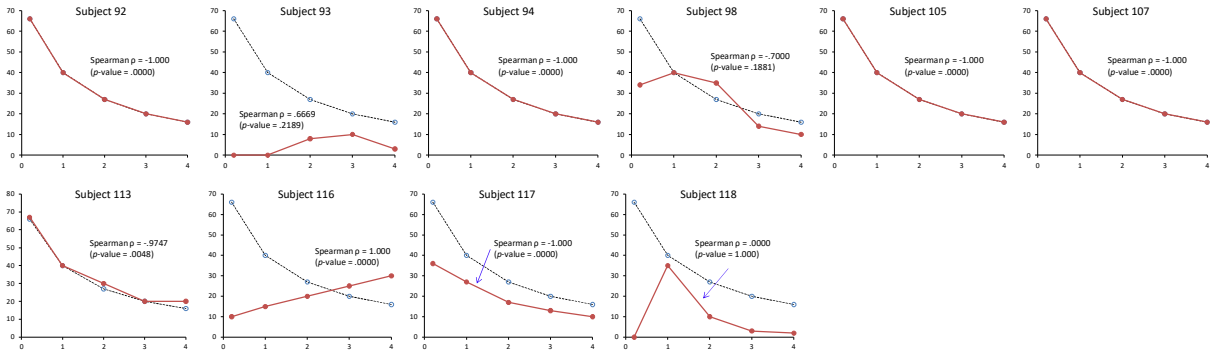




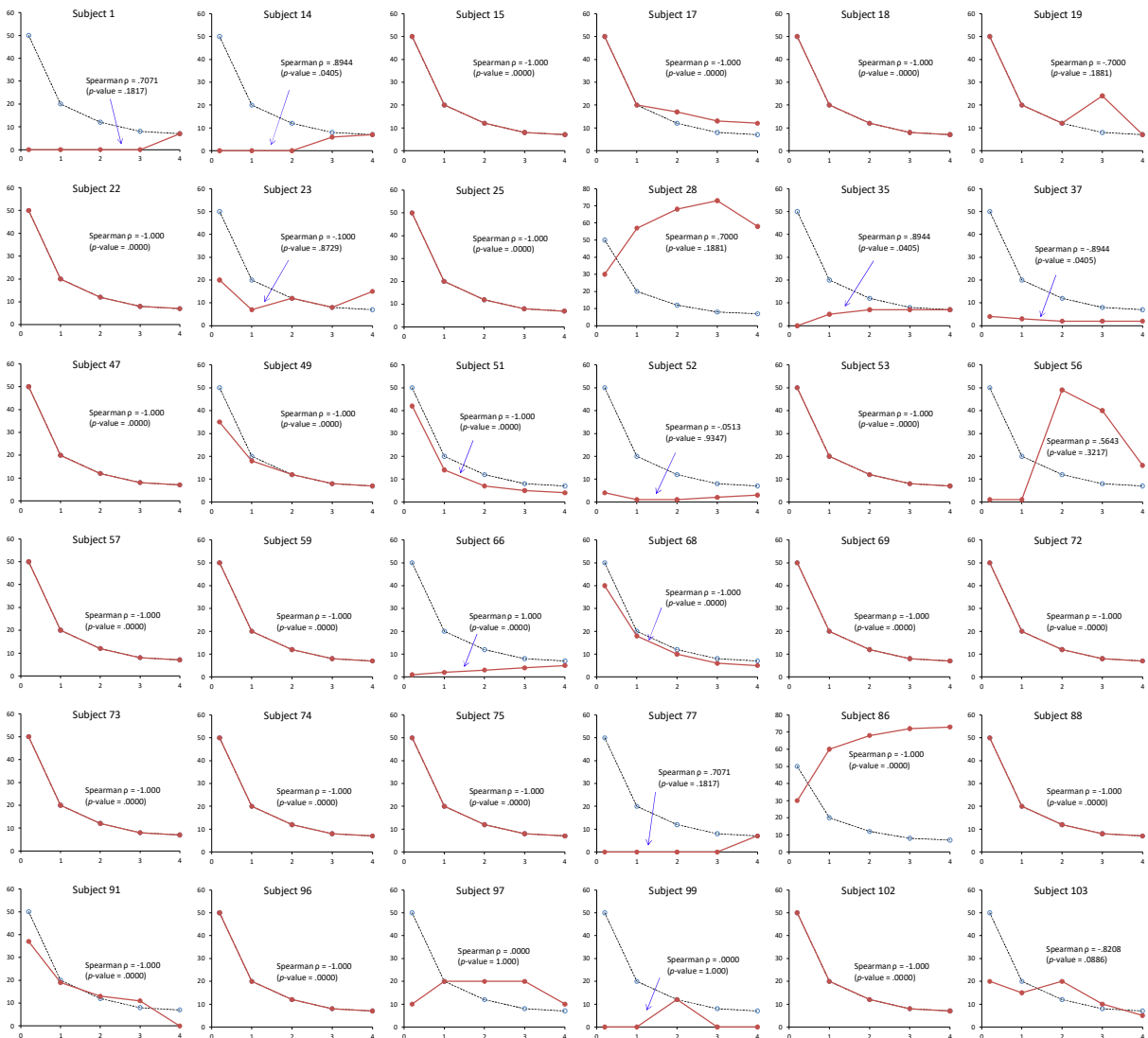
b. Agent 2 (seller)

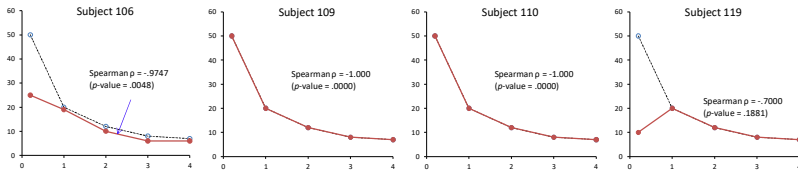






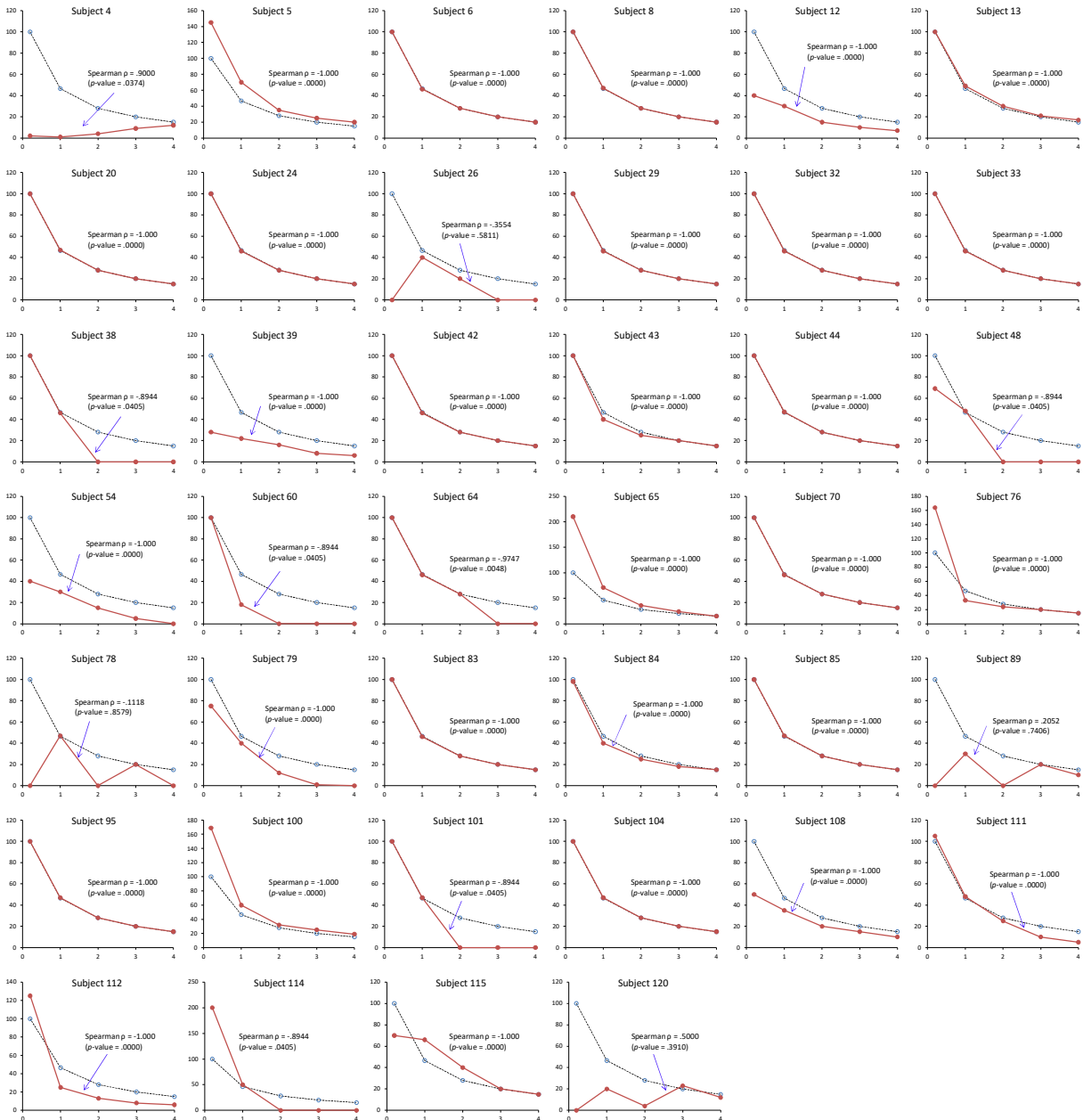
c. Agent 3 (seller)



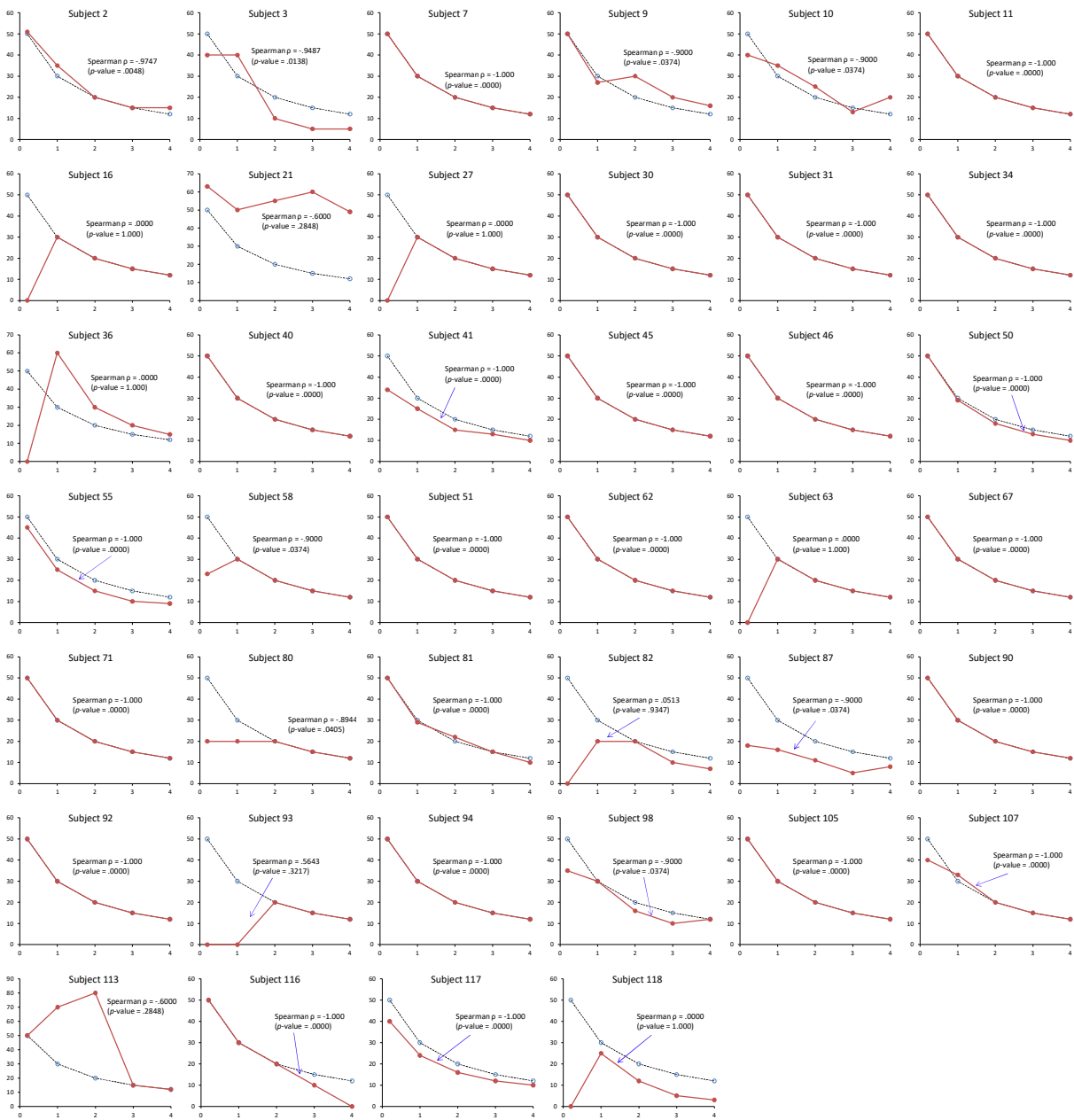


(2) Part 2

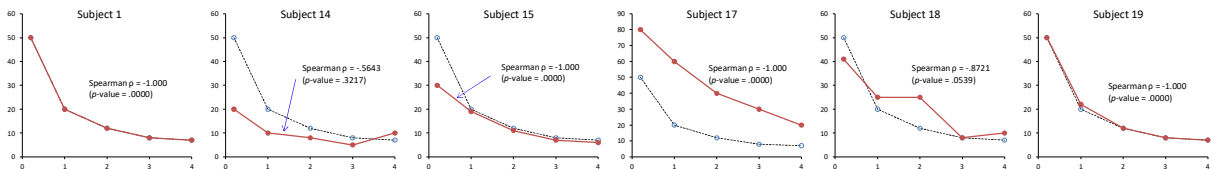
a. Agent 1 (buyer)

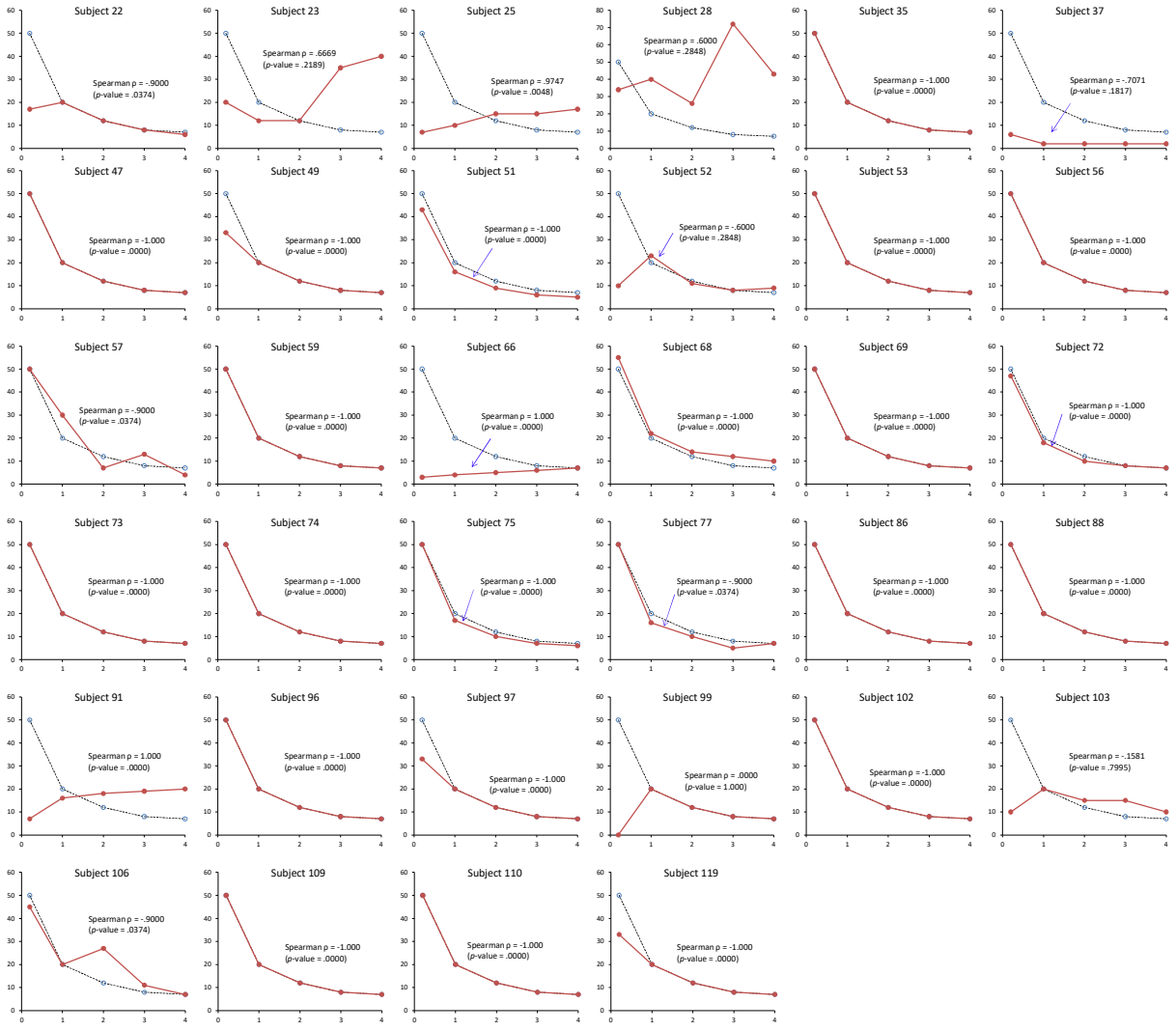


b. Agent 2 (seller)



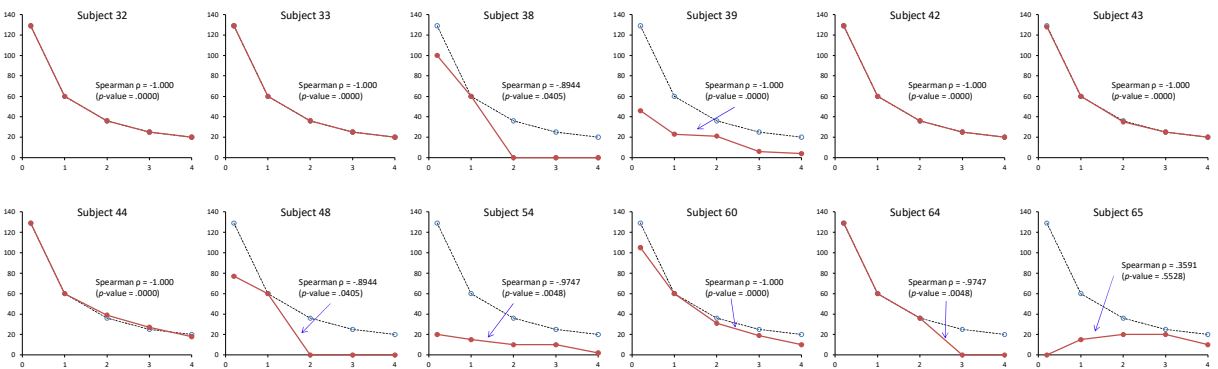
c. Agent 3 (seller)

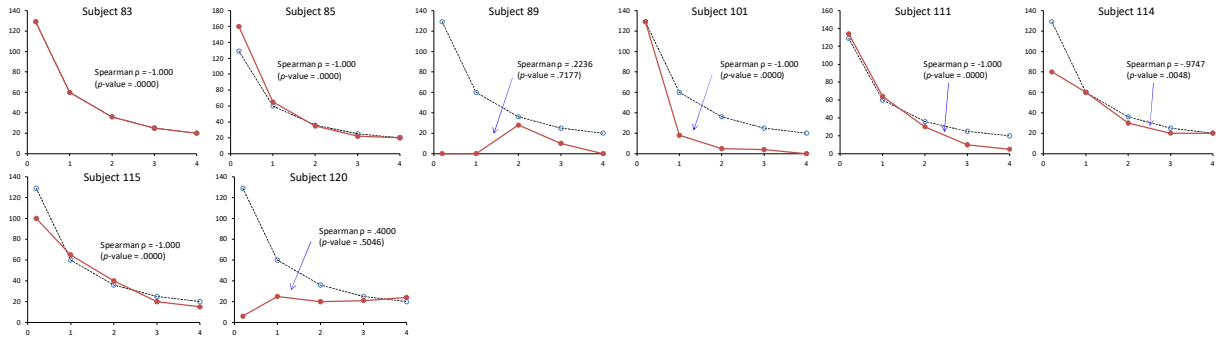




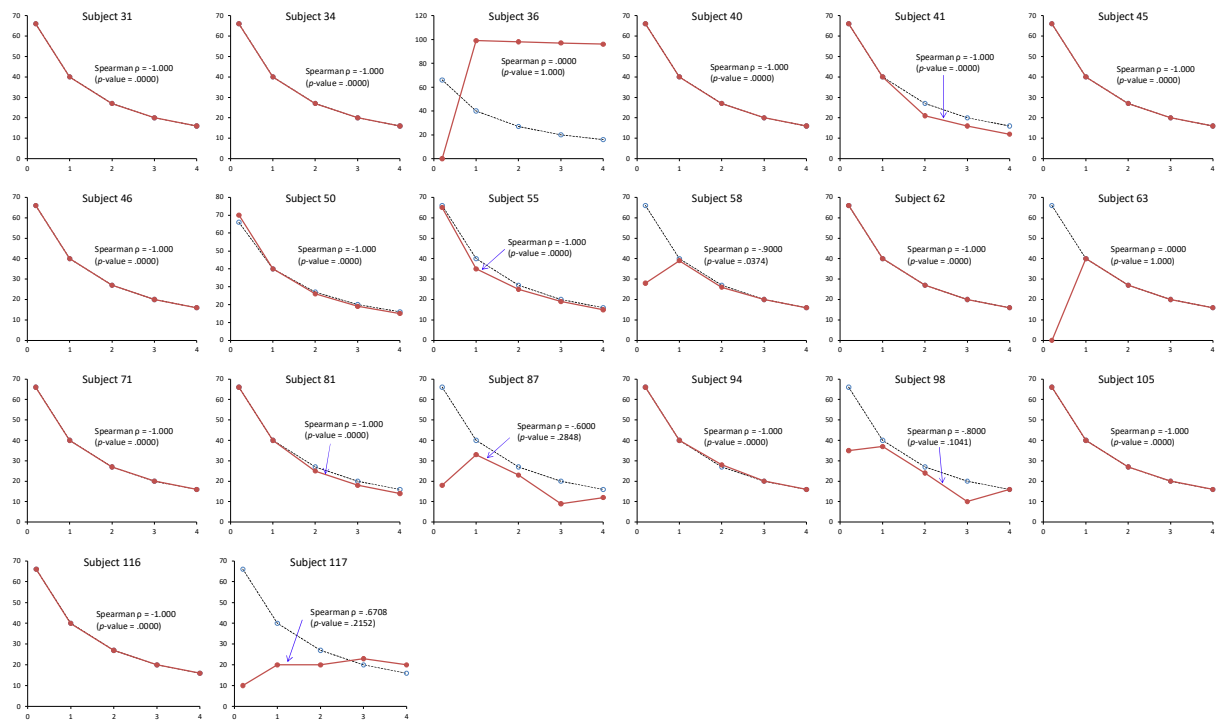
(3) Part 3 (When 20 ECUs were not transferred)

a. Agent 1 (buyer)

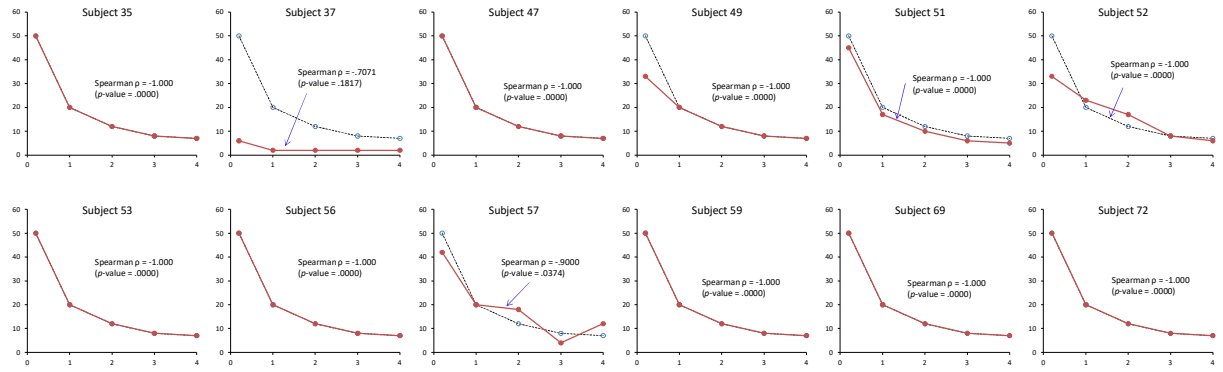


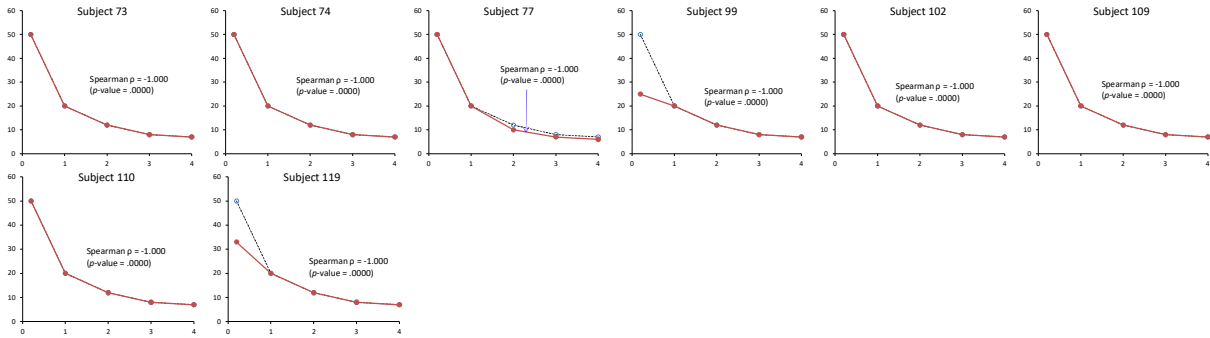


b. Agent 2 (seller)



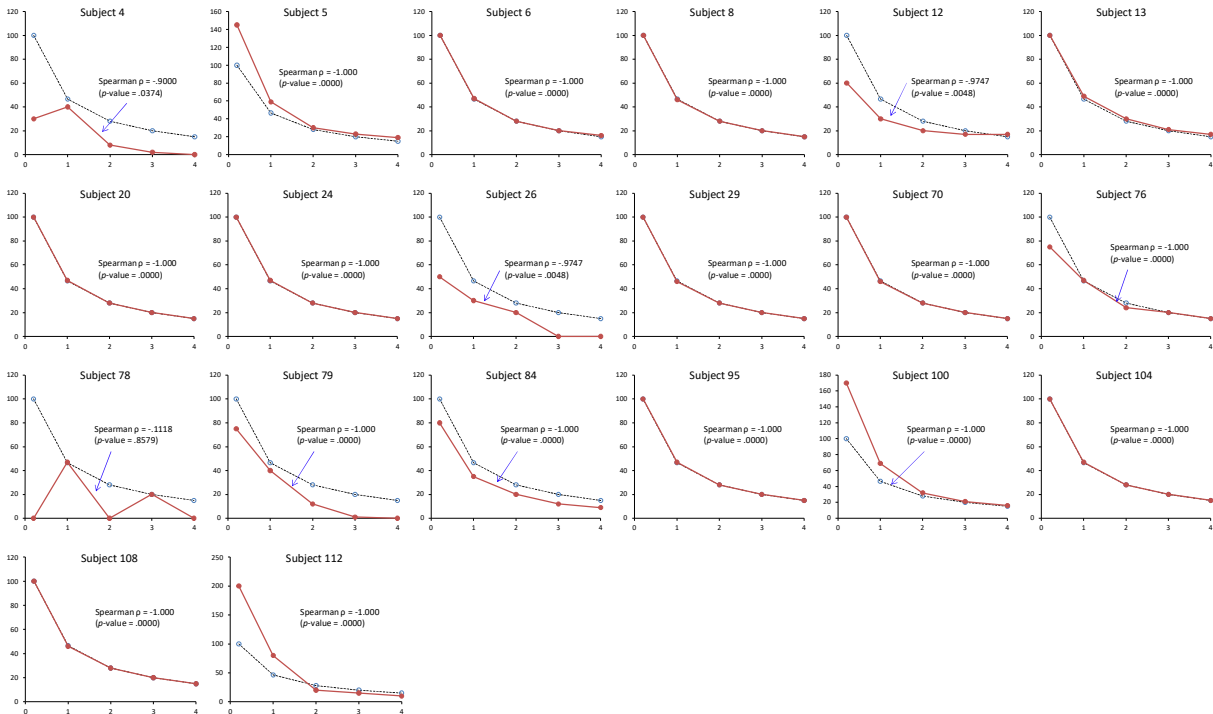
c. Agent 3 (seller)



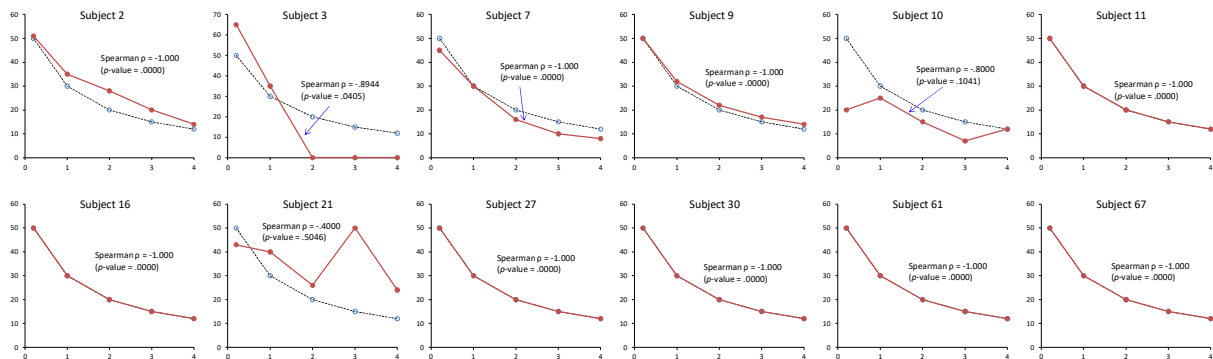


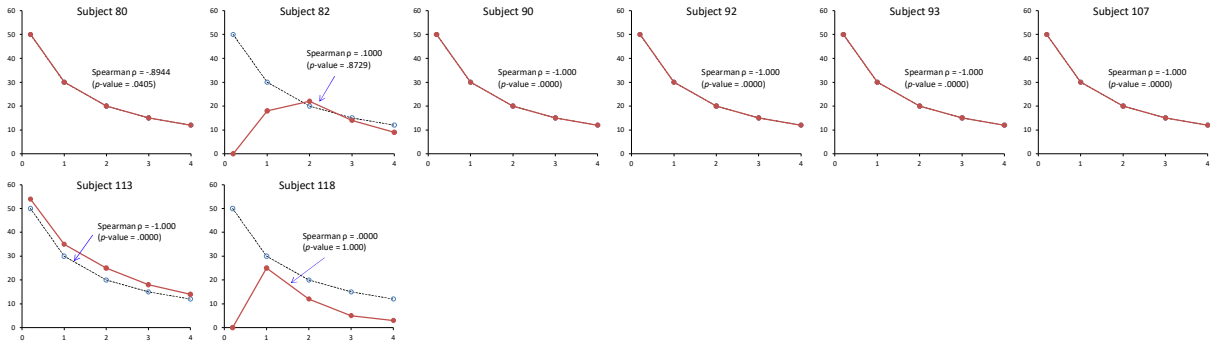
(4) Part 3 (When 20 ECUs were transferred)

a. Agent 1 (buyer)

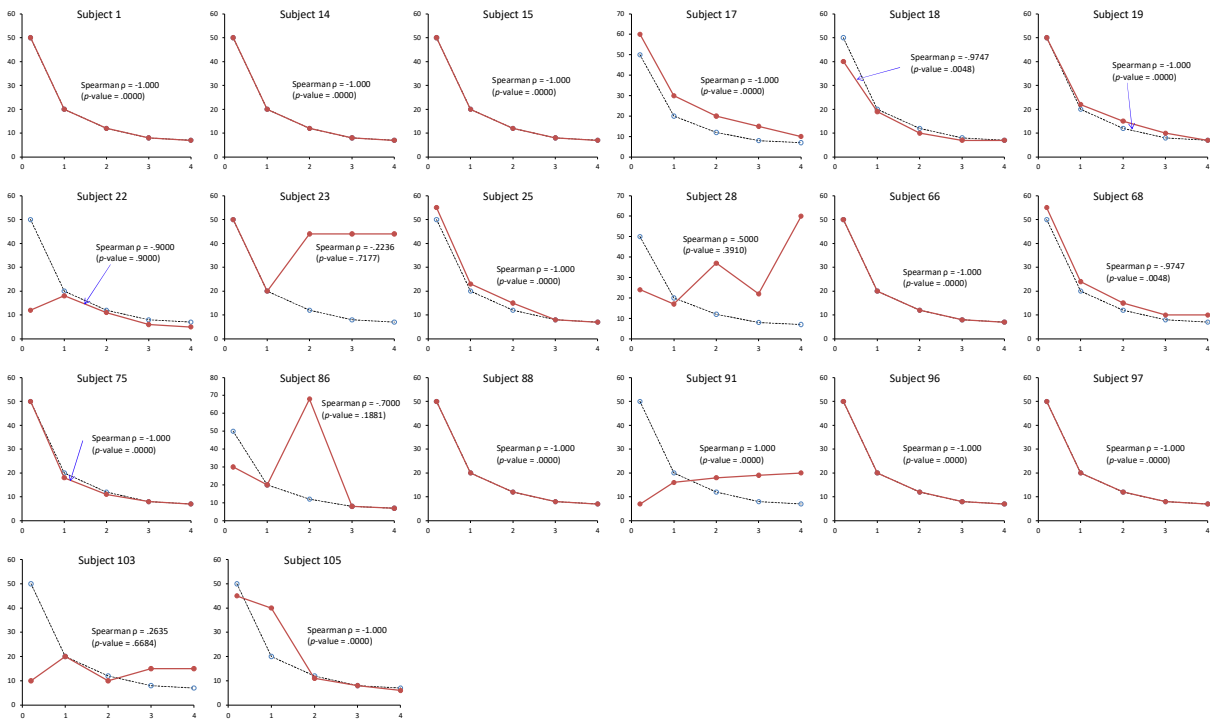


b. Agent 2 (seller)





### c. Agent 3 (seller)



Notes: The horizontal axis (x-axis) indicates buying or selling prices [ECUs per kg], while the vertical axis (y-axis) indicates the quantity of iron to buy or sell [kg]. The solid connected line in each panel indicates a given subject's demand or supply schedule. The spearman's  $\rho$  correlation coefficient was calculated in each panel between the subject's schedule and price. The  $p$ -value in parenthesis is based on a two-sided test. As a comparison, each agent's schedule predicted by the competitive equilibrium theory was also depicted (the connected dashed line with hollow circles in each panel).

**Table S.1. Differences between Average Aggregate Schedules and Theoretically Competitive Schedules**

**# Numbers in bold below show the differences between schedules theoretically predicted and subjects' average aggregate schedules.**

		Quantity demanded/supplied [kg] w/o transfer					Quantity demanded/supplied [kg] with transfer					
Price/kg:		0.2	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	Price/kg:	0.2	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0
<b>Theory prediction</b>												
Buyer <sup>#1</sup>		129.0	60.0	36.0	25.0	20.0		100	46.5	28.0	20.0	15.0
Seller <sup>#2</sup>		116.0	60.0	39.0	28.0	23.0		100	50.0	32.0	23.0	19.0
<b>Session A</b>												
		Part 1					Part 2					
Buyer <sup>#1</sup>		120.6	33.9	21.2	13.5	10.8		78.7	42.2	24.4	16.5	13.1
		<b>-8.4</b>	<b>-26.1</b>	<b>-14.8</b>	<b>-11.5</b>	<b>-9.2</b>		<b>-21.3</b>	<b>-4.3</b>	<b>-3.6</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>-1.9</b>
Seller <sup>#2</sup>		76.3	49.4	45.3	41.1	35.7		74.3	57.5	41.3	38.4	33.1
		<b>-39.7</b>	<b>-10.6</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>12.7</b>		<b>-25.7</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>14.1</b>
		Part 3 (not transferred)					Part 3 (transferred)					
Buyer <sup>#1</sup>		---	---	---	---	---		88.5	44.1	24.8	16.3	12.9
								<b>-11.5</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
Seller <sup>#2</sup>		---	---	---	---	---		91.5	52.6	37.5	30.0	28.1
								<b>-8.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>9.1</b>
<b>Session B</b>												
		Part 1					Part 2					
Buyer <sup>#1</sup>		93.0	45.7	28.8	17.9	13.2		83.7	38.9	16.8	11.3	8.1
		<b>-36.0</b>	<b>-14.3</b>	<b>-7.2</b>	<b>-7.1</b>	<b>-6.8</b>		<b>-16.3</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>-11.2</b>	<b>-8.7</b>	<b>-6.9</b>
Seller <sup>#2</sup>		86.4	50.4	46.6	36.2	29.6		79.4	51.0	29.9	22.3	17.8
		<b>-29.6</b>	<b>-9.6</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>6.6</b>		<b>-20.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
		Part 3 (not transferred)					Part 3 (transferred)					
Buyer <sup>#1</sup>		99.2	51.8	24.4	16.2	11.4		---	---	---	---	---
		<b>-29.8</b>	<b>-8.2</b>	<b>-11.6</b>	<b>-8.8</b>	<b>-8.6</b>						
Seller <sup>#2</sup>		96.8	63.5	45.0	33.9	30.1		---	---	---	---	---
		<b>-19.2</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>7.1</b>						
<b>Session C</b>												
		Part 1					Part 2					
Buyer <sup>#1</sup>		89.7	47.1	19.3	14.1	7.0		94.7	44.6	20.9	16.3	10.0
		<b>-39.3</b>	<b>-12.9</b>	<b>-16.7</b>	<b>-10.9</b>	<b>-1.3</b>		<b>-5.3</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>-7.1</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>-5</b>
Seller <sup>#2</sup>		90.7	53.7	39.0	30.8	27.4		79.3	44.2	30.2	21.3	18.1
		<b>-25.3</b>	<b>-6.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>		<b>-20.7</b>	<b>-5.8</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>-0.9</b>
		Part 3 (not transferred)					Part 3 (transferred)					
Buyer <sup>#1</sup>		83.6	40.0	31.0	15.4	10.0		66.0	43.0	16.8	14.6	7.8
		<b>-45.4</b>	<b>-20.0</b>	<b>-5.0</b>	<b>-9.6</b>	<b>-10.0</b>		<b>-34.0</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>-11.2</b>	<b>-5.4</b>	<b>-7.2</b>
Seller <sup>#2</sup>		93.2	58.6	37.4	25.2	21.6		81.0	46.0	44.0	23.2	19.0
		<b>-22.8</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-1.4</b>		<b>-19.0</b>	<b>-4.0</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Session D</b>												
		Part 1					Part 2					
Buyer <sup>#1</sup>		135.6	60.7	31.5	20.3	15.1		101.9	44.5	19.0	14.1	9.7
		<b>6.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-4.7</b>	<b>-4.9</b>		<b>1.9</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-9.0</b>	<b>-5.9</b>	<b>-5.3</b>
Seller <sup>#2</sup>		71.3	49.0	36.3	25.2	19.5		69.3	49.8	38.8	22.8	18.3
		<b>-44.7</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-3.5</b>		<b>-30.7</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
		Part 3 (not transferred)					Part 3 (transferred)					
Buyer <sup>#1</sup>		89.8	46.4	25.0	15.0	12.8		134.0	57.8	27.2	19.2	14.2
		<b>-39.2</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>-11.0</b>	<b>-10.0</b>	<b>-7.2</b>		<b>34.0</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
Seller <sup>#2</sup>		90.2	55.4	37.2	26.6	23.8		73.2	53.2	32.0	25.2	21.6
		<b>-25.8</b>	<b>-4.6</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>		<b>-26.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.6</b>

Note: <sup>#1</sup> Average Agent 1's schedule. Average aggregate demand schedule is five times the numbers indicated in the rows. <sup>#2</sup> Average Agent 2's schedule plus average Agent 3's schedule. Average aggregate supply schedule is five times the numbers indicated in the rows.



**Table S.2. The Median Subject's Demand/Supply Schedule**

# The median subject's demand or supply schedules were close to the schedules predicted by the theory summarized in Fig.1 of the paper.

		Quantity demanded/supplied [kg] in no transfer condition					Quantity demanded/supplied [kg] in transfer condition						
		Price/kg:	0.2	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	Price/kg:	0.2	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0
<b>Theory prediction</b>													
Buyer			129.0	60.0	36.0	25.0	20.0		100	46.5	28.0	20.0	15.0
Seller			116.0	60.0	39.0	28.0	23.0		100	50.0	32.0	23.0	19.0
<hr/>													
<b>Session A</b>													
		Part 1						Part 2					
Buyer			85.0	30.0	22.5	13.5	10.0		100.0	46.0	28.0	20.0	15.0
Seller			104.0	55.0	39.0	28.0	23.0		82.0	50.0	32.0	23.0	22.0
		Part 3 (not transferred)						Part 3 (transferred)					
Buyer			---	---	---	---	---		100.0	46.5	28.0	20.0	15.0
Seller			---	---	---	---	---		100.0	50.0	33.5	23.0	19.0
<hr/>													
<b>Session B</b>													
		Part 1						Part 2					
Buyer			115.0	55.0	33.5	24.5	17.5		100.0	46.0	20.5	14.0	10.5
Seller			104.5	56.0	39.0	28.0	23.0		100.0	50.0	32.0	23.0	19.0
		Part 3 (not transferred)						Part 3 (transferred)					
Buyer			116.5	60.0	33.0	22.0	14.0		---	---	---	---	---
Seller			113.5	60.0	39.0	28.0	23.0		---	---	---	---	---
<hr/>													
<b>Session C</b>													
		Part 1						Part 2					
Buyer			70.0	54.5	22.5	17.5	0.0		100.0	46.0	26.5	20.0	15.0
Seller			116.0	60.0	39.0	28.0	23.0		100.0	50.0	32.0	23.0	19.0
		Part 3 (not transferred)						Part 3 (transferred)					
Buyer			129.0	60.0	35.0	20.0	10.0		75.0	46.0	20.0	20.0	9.0
Seller			116.0	60.0	39.0	28.0	23.0		100.0	50.0	32.0	23.0	19.0
<hr/>													
<b>Session D</b>													
		Part 1						Part 2					
Buyer			129.0	60.0	36.0	25.0	20.0		100.0	47.0	22.5	17.5	11.0
Seller			82.0	60.0	39.0	28.0	23.0		84.0	50.0	32.0	23.0	19.0
		Part 3 (not transferred)						Part 3 (transferred)					
Buyer			100.0	60.0	30.0	20.0	15.0		100.0	47.0	28.0	20.0	15.0
Seller			116.0	60.0	39.0	28.0	23.0		95.0	50.0	32.0	23.0	19.0

Note: The seller's supply schedule reported here is the sum of (a) the schedule exhibited by median Agent 2 and (b) the schedule exhibited by median Agent 3.

**Table S.3.** *Distribution of Realized Trading Prices in Simulated Periods*

	Realized trading price				
	0.2 [ECUs/kg]	1.0 [ECU/kg]	2.0 [ECUs/kg]	3.0 [ECUs/kg]	4.0 [ECUs/kg]
Part 1	6 (18.8%) <sup>#1</sup>	17 (53.1%)	4 (12.5%)	2 (6.3%)	3 (9.4%)
Part 2	12 (37.5%) <sup>#2</sup>	14 (43.8%)	1 (3.1%)	2 (6.3%)	3 (9.4%)
Part 3 (not transferred)	1 (25.0%)	2 (50.0%)	1 (25.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Part 3 (transferred)	0 (0.0%)	3 (75.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (25.0%)

*Notes:* The numbers in the table are realized cases (frequencies) in the simulate periods for payment. Each number in parenthesis is the percentage in which a given price was realized. The numbers in Part 3 are much less compared with Parts 1 and 2 since subjects' interactions were one-shot in Part 3.

As explained in the paper, any price was realized dependent on a group composition due to strongly heterogeneous individuals' schedules (Fig. S.1 of the online Appendix) and also their seemingly strategic behaviors in experiment sessions. However, the probability distribution in Part 1 first-order stochastically dominates that in Part 2, and one aspect is clear from the above table: the minimum price, 0.2 ECUs/kg, was more frequently realized in the simulated four periods of Part 2 than of Part 1, as the competitive equilibrium analysis suggests (Table 1 of the paper). The test result is shown as below:

$H_0$ : #1 in the table above  $\geq$  #2 in the table

One-sided  $p$ -value = .0477 ( $z = -1.668$ ;  $N = 64$ ; two-sample test of proportions)

Here, one-sided tests were used since the theory predicts a specific direction. The null hypothesis is that the market price is not smaller with the transfer than without it.

Consistent with the analysis result shown in Table 2 of the paper, the price change benefited not only Agent 1s, but also Agent 2s and 3s, driven by the subjects' strategic behaviors (Fig S.1). 79.2% of Agent 1s, 75.0% of Agent 2s and 66.7% of Agent 3s received higher payoffs with than without transfer. While the positive effect on the donor subjects is consistent with the theory, the positive effects on the recipient and the third-party subjects are at odds with the theory.

**Table S.4. Determinants of Agent 1's Transfer Decision in Part 3** (supplementing Table 3 of the paper)

In the regression below, since subjects experienced strong negative correlations between relative prices and payoffs in the two exogenous parts, only one of the price and payoff variables (variables *a* or *b*) was included as an independent variable in a given regression specification.

Independent variable:	(1)	(2)
<i>a.</i> Price diff. {=(Avg. realized price in Part 2) – (Avg. realized price in Part 1)}	-.798** (.333)	---
<i>b.</i> Payoff diff. {=(Avg. realized payoff in Part 2) – (Avg. realized payoff in Part 1)}	---	.031** (.016)
<i>c.</i> Female dummy {= 1(0) for female (male) subjects}	.973*** (.323)	.768*** (.296)
<i>d.</i> Econ major dummy {= 1(0) for Economics major}	.635* (.359)	.604 (.381)
<i>e.</i> CRT score {= 0, 1, 2, 3}	.067 (.205)	.171 (.182)
<i>f.</i> Beauty contest game responses	-.002 (.009)	-.002 (.009)
Constant term	-.807 (.569)	-.748 (.701)
# of observations	40	40
Pseudo R-squared	.1669	.2088

*Notes:* Probit regressions. The numbers in parentheses are robust standard errors clustered by session. The dependent variable is a dummy which equals 1 when an Agent-1 subject *i* voted for a transfer in Part 3.

\*, \*\*, and \*\*\* indicate significance at the .10 level, at the .05 level and at the .01 level, respectively.

**Remark for the demographic information:** As shown in the coefficient estimates for variable *c*, female subjects were more likely than male subjects to vote for the transfer to Agent 2s. Prior experimental research has documented that female subjects may be more pro-social than male ones (e.g., Croson and Gneezy, 2009). Considering that Agent 1s predominantly hold money compared with the other two agent types in the experiment, female Agent 1s may be motivated to donate some amounts to Agent 2s due to other-regarding purposes, *ceteris paribus*.

### Appendix III. Procedure and Instructions Used in the Experiment

The experiment was conducted at the EXEC (Centre for Experimental Economics) laboratory in the University of York from November 2019 to January 2020. Solicitation messages were sent through *hroot* (Bock, Baetge and Nicklisch, 2014) to all eligible subjects in the database, and a total of 120 undergraduate students there voluntarily participated in the experiment. The experiment, except the instructions and payoff tables, was programmed using the zTree software (Fischbacher, 2007).

This part of the Supplementary materials includes experiment instructions. In the instructions, Agent 1, Agent 2 and Agent 3 are called Agent A, Agent B and Agent C, respectively.

[The following instructions were read aloud by the experimenter at the onset of the experiment:]

#### Instructions

You are now taking part in a decision-making experiment. Depending on your decisions and the decisions of other participants, you will be able to earn money in addition to the £3 guaranteed for your participation. Please read the following instructions carefully.

During the experiment you are not allowed to communicate with other participants.

During the experiment your earnings will be calculated in points. At the end of the experiment your points will be converted to U.K. pounds at the following rate:

$$100 \text{ points} = \text{£}1.5$$

(or each point will be exchanged for 1.5 pence of real money). At the end of the experiment your total earnings (including the £3 participation fee) will be paid out to you in cash. Your payment will be rounded to the nearest 10 pence (e.g., £15.30 if it is £15.33; and £15.40 if it is £15.37).

At the beginning of the experiment, you are randomly assigned a role, Agent A, Agent B or Agent C. Your assigned role does not change throughout the entire experiment.

This experiment consists of three parts. The followings explain the details of Part 1. Part 1 consists of four periods.

#### I. The Initial Endowment and Payoff Formulas in Each Period

At the onset of each period, you will be randomly assigned **to a group of 15** so that your group consists of five Agents A, five Agents B and five Agents C, and will interact with each other.

In each period, agents will be initially given money, called experimental currency units (ECU), and/or iron. The initial distribution of these goods differs by the type of agent as follows:

- Each agent A holds **100 ECUs and 20 kg of iron.**
- Each agent B holds **20 ECUs and 100 kg of iron.**
- Each agent C holds **80 kg of iron.**

The 15 agents can trade money and iron to increase payoffs. Each player can earn points based on the final amounts of money ( $m$ ) and of iron ( $y$ ). The payment formula differs by agent.

- Payoff of an Agent A (in points) =  $2m$  or  $y$ , whichever is smaller.

In other words, if you're assigned the role of Agent A, you can earn 1 point by holding 0.5 ECUs of money and 1 kg of iron. Note that both money and iron are required to earn points with a ratio of 1:2 (e.g., the amount of money = 10 and the amount of iron = 20).

For instance, if  $m = 30$  and  $y = 30$ , then your payoff is 30, since  $2m = 60$  and  $y = 30$  (thus,  $y$  is smaller). Notice that in order to obtain a payoff of 30 points, you only need 15 ECUs of money (because  $2 \times 15 = 30$ ). In this sense, the rest, 15 ECUs of money (= 30 ECUs – 15 ECUs), will not be used towards your payoff. Your payoff is also 30 if  $m = 15$  (i.e.,  $2m = 30$ ) and  $y = 30$ . Thus, you can maximize your payoff by aiming to hold iron ( $y$ ) twice as large as the amount of money.

**An Agent A's payoff is 20 with the initial endowment ( $m = 100$  and  $y = 20$ ). The Agent A can increase payoff by buying iron. How much you can buy depends on the traded price.**

- Payoff of an Agent B (in points) =  $m$  or  $y$ , whichever is smaller.

In other words, if you're assigned the role of Agent B, in order to earn 1 point, you need to have both 1 ECU and 1 kg of iron.

For example, if  $m = 30$  and  $y = 50$ , then your payoff is 30, as your payoff is determined by the minimum of  $m$  and  $y$  (i.e.,  $m$  is smaller in this example). Thus, 20 kg of iron (= 50 kg – 30 kg) will not be used towards your payoff. You can maximize your payoff by holding the same amount of iron and money.

**An Agent B's payoff is 20 with the initial endowment ( $m = 20$  and  $y = 100$ ). The Agent B can increase payoff by selling iron. How much you can sell depends on the traded price.**

- Payoff of an Agent C (in points) =  $3m$  or  $y$ , whichever is smaller.

In other words, if you're assigned the role of Agent C, you can earn 1 point by holding 1/3 ECUs and 1 kg of iron. Note that both money and iron are required to earn points with a ratio of 1:3 (e.g., the amount of money = 10 and the amount of iron = 30).

For example, if  $m = 15$  and  $y = 80$ , then your payoff is 45, since  $3m = 45$  and  $y = 80$  (thus,  $3m$  is smaller). Notice that in order to obtain a payoff of 45, you only need 45 kg of iron (and 15 ECUs). In this sense, 35 kg of iron (= 80 kg – 45 kg) will not be used towards your payoff. Notice that your payoff is also 45 if  $m = 15$  and  $y = 45$ . Thus, you can maximize your payoff by aiming to hold iron ( $y$ ) three times as large as the amount of money.

**An Agent C's payoff is 0 with the initial endowment ( $m = 0$  and  $y = 80$ ). The Agent C can increase payoff by selling iron. How much you can sell depends on the traded price.**

Note that you will be paid based on points calculated above, not the ECUs (this is virtual money).

Section II describes the rule of trading.

## II. The Rule of Trading

There are 5 possible traded prices:

- 0.2 ECUs per kg
- 1 ECU per kg
- 2 ECUs per kg
- 3 ECUs per kg

4 ECUs per kg

At the onset of Part 1, each Agent A decides how many kg of iron s/he wants to buy for each possible traded price.

Note that this schedule is important because it will be used for your transactions in all four periods.

Screen image for an Agent A:

Your role: agent A

In the first part of the experiment, you have 100 ECUs of cash and 20 kg of iron in each period.  
Trades are implemented at a price that equates the demand and supply of iron.  
Specifically, the computer selects a price that minimises the difference between the quantities demanded and supplied of iron.  
There are five agents A, five agents B, and five agents C in your group.  
Please indicate how many iron you want to buy for each possible price.

If the price of iron is 0.2 ECUs per kg, how many kg of iron do you want to buy?

If the price of iron is 1 ECU per kg, how many kg of iron do you want to buy?

If the price of iron is 2 ECUs per kg, how many kg of iron do you want to buy?

If the price of iron is 3 ECUs per kg, how many kg of iron do you want to buy?

If the price of iron is 4 ECUs per kg, how many kg of iron do you want to buy?

This decision will be used in each of periods 1 to 4.

Continue

Agents B and C each decide how many kg of iron s/he wants to sell for each possible traded price.

Example – Screen image for an Agent B:

Your role: agent B

In the first part of the experiment, you have 20 ECUs of cash and 100 kg of iron in each period.  
Trades are implemented at a price that equates the demand and supply of iron.  
Specifically, the computer selects a price that minimises the difference between the quantities demanded and supplied of iron.  
There are five agents A, five agents B, and five agents C in your group.  
Please indicate how many iron you want to sell for each possible price.

If the price of iron is 0.2 ECUs per kg, how many kg of iron do you want to sell?

If the price of iron is 1 ECU per kg, how many kg of iron do you want to sell?

If the price of iron is 2 ECUs per kg, how many kg of iron do you want to sell?

If the price of iron is 3 ECUs per kg, how many kg of iron do you want to sell?

If the price of iron is 4 ECUs per kg, how many kg of iron do you want to sell?

This decision will be used in each of periods 1 to 4.

Continue

Each period after completion of the schedules proceeds as follows:

1. As explained, you will be randomly assigned to a group of 15 so that your group consists of five Agents A, five Agents B and five Agents C.
2. For each possible price (i.e., 0.2, 1, 2, 3 or 4 ECUs per kg), the computer calculates the difference between (a) the total quantity of iron five Agents A want to buy and (b) the total quantity of iron five Agents B and five Agents C want to sell in your group.  
→ The price that minimizes the difference (i.e., equates the demand and the supply the most) will be used for trading. In case of a tie, the computer randomly breaks the tie.
3. The quantity of iron you buy or sell will be determined by the schedule you have already completed at the onset of this part. The procedure in case that the quantity demanded is not equal to the quantity supplied is as follows: if the total quantity of iron Agents A wants to buy ( $Q_d$ ) is *larger than or equal to* the sum of the quantity five Agents B and five Agents C want to sell ( $Q_s$ ), then the seller sells the exact amounts they want to sell. Each buyer  $i$  purchases  $Q_s \cdot q_i / Q_d$  kg of iron. If the total quantity demanded  $Q_d$  is *smaller than* the sum of the amounts Agents B and C want to sell  $Q_s$ , then each Agent A will purchase the exact amount s/he wants to buy. Agents B and C cannot sell all the amounts they want to sell – each seller  $j$  sells  $Q_d \cdot q_j / Q_s$  kg of iron.

We will distribute instructions for Part 2 once Part 1 is over.

The payoff formulas were explained on page 2. We will also distribute the payoff tables that summarize the relationship between your traded prices and payoffs before we begin.

[Once all questions from participants were answered, the payoff tables were distributed to subjects, in order to mitigate the difference in mathematical literacy among subjects.]

[Subjects were explained how to read the payoff tables, one by one, and after that, they were given several minutes to review the tables along with the instructions. After reviewing, subjects were also free to ask questions for the instructions and the tables. Once all questions were answered, Part 1 began. The payoff tables can be found from the next page (instructions for Part 2 can be found from page 34):]

**PART 1:** Each Agent A has 100 ECUs and 20 kg of iron, each Agent B has 20 ECUs and 100 kg of iron, and each Agent C has 0 ECUs and 80 kg of iron.

**Payoff for Agent A:** When the trading price = 0.2 ECUs per kg

buying amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
0	100	20	20.0
1	99.8	21	21.0
2	99.6	22	22.0
3	99.4	23	23.0
4	99.2	24	24.0
5	99	25	25.0
6	98.8	26	26.0
7	98.6	27	27.0
8	98.4	28	28.0
9	98.2	29	29.0
10	98	30	30.0
11	97.8	31	31.0
12	97.6	32	32.0
13	97.4	33	33.0
14	97.2	34	34.0
15	97	35	35.0
16	96.8	36	36.0
17	96.6	37	37.0
18	96.4	38	38.0
19	96.2	39	39.0
20	96	40	40.0
21	95.8	41	41.0
22	95.6	42	42.0
23	95.4	43	43.0
24	95.2	44	44.0
25	95	45	45.0
26	94.8	46	46.0
27	94.6	47	47.0
28	94.4	48	48.0
29	94.2	49	49.0
30	94	50	50.0
31	93.8	51	51.0
32	93.6	52	52.0
33	93.4	53	53.0
34	93.2	54	54.0
35	93	55	55.0
36	92.8	56	56.0
37	92.6	57	57.0
38	92.4	58	58.0
39	92.2	59	59.0
40	92	60	60.0
41	91.8	61	61.0
42	91.6	62	62.0
43	91.4	63	63.0
44	91.2	64	64.0
45	91	65	65.0
46	90.8	66	66.0
47	90.6	67	67.0
48	90.4	68	68.0
49	90.2	69	69.0
50	90	70	70.0
51	89.8	71	71.0
52	89.6	72	72.0
53	89.4	73	73.0
54	89.2	74	74.0
55	89	75	75.0
56	88.8	76	76.0
57	88.6	77	77.0
58	88.4	78	78.0
59	88.2	79	79.0
60	88	80	80.0
61	87.8	81	81.0
62	87.6	82	82.0
63	87.4	83	83.0
64	87.2	84	84.0
65	87	85	85.0
66	86.8	86	86.0
67	86.6	87	87.0
68	86.4	88	88.0
69	86.2	89	89.0
70	86	90	90.0

buying amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
71	85.8	91	91.0
72	85.6	92	92.0
73	85.4	93	93.0
74	85.2	94	94.0
75	85	95	95.0
76	84.8	96	96.0
77	84.6	97	97.0
78	84.4	98	98.0
79	84.2	99	99.0
80	84	100	100.0
81	83.8	101	101.0
82	83.6	102	102.0
83	83.4	103	103.0
84	83.2	104	104.0
85	83	105	105.0
86	82.8	106	106.0
87	82.6	107	107.0
88	82.4	108	108.0
89	82.2	109	109.0
90	82	110	110.0
91	81.8	111	111.0
92	81.6	112	112.0
93	81.4	113	113.0
94	81.2	114	114.0
95	81	115	115.0
96	80.8	116	116.0
97	80.6	117	117.0
98	80.4	118	118.0
99	80.2	119	119.0
100	80	120	120.0
101	79.8	121	121.0
102	79.6	122	122.0
103	79.4	123	123.0
104	79.2	124	124.0
105	79	125	125.0
106	78.8	126	126.0
107	78.6	127	127.0
108	78.4	128	128.0
109	78.2	129	129.0
110	78	130	130.0
111	77.8	131	131.0
112	77.6	132	132.0
113	77.4	133	133.0
114	77.2	134	134.0
115	77	135	135.0
116	76.8	136	136.0
117	76.6	137	137.0
118	76.4	138	138.0
119	76.2	139	139.0
120	76	140	140.0
121	75.8	141	141.0
122	75.6	142	142.0
123	75.4	143	143.0
124	75.2	144	144.0
125	75	145	145.0
126	74.8	146	146.0
127	74.6	147	147.0
128	74.4	148	148.0
129	74.2	149	148.4
130	74	150	148.0
131	73.8	151	147.6
132	73.6	152	147.2
133	73.4	153	146.8
134	73.2	154	146.4
135	73	155	146.0
136	72.8	156	145.6
137	72.6	157	145.2
138	72.4	158	144.8
139	72.2	159	144.4
140	72	160	144.0

buying amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
141	71.8	161	143.6
142	71.6	162	143.2
143	71.4	163	142.8
144	71.2	164	142.4
145	71	165	142.0
146	70.8	166	141.6
147	70.6	167	141.2
148	70.4	168	140.8
149	70.2	169	140.4
150	70	170	140.0
151	69.8	171	139.6
152	69.6	172	139.2
153	69.4	173	138.8
154	69.2	174	138.4
155	69	175	138.0
156	68.8	176	137.6
157	68.6	177	137.2
158	68.4	178	136.8
159	68.2	179	136.4
160	68	180	136.0
161	67.8	181	135.6
162	67.6	182	135.2
163	67.4	183	134.8
164	67.2	184	134.4
165	67	185	134.0
166	66.8	186	133.6
167	66.6	187	133.2
168	66.4	188	132.8
169	66.2	189	132.4
170	66	190	132.0
171	65.8	191	131.6
172	65.6	192	131.2
173	65.4	193	130.8
174	65.2	194	130.4
175	65	195	130.0
176	64.8	196	129.6
177	64.6	197	129.2
178	64.4	198	128.8
179	64.2	199	128.4
180	64	200	128.0
181	63.8	201	127.6
182	63.6	202	127.2
183	63.4	203	126.8
184	63.2	204	126.4
185	63	205	126.0
186	62.8	206	125.6
187	62.6	207	125.2
188	62.4	208	124.8
189	62.2	209	124.4
190	62	210	124.0
191	61.8	211	123.6
192	61.6	212	123.2
193	61.4	213	122.8
194	61.2	214	122.4
195	61	215	122.0
196	60.8	216	121.6
197	60.6	217	121.2
198	60.4	218	120.8
199	60.2	219	120.4
200	60	220	120.0
201	59.8	221	119.6
202	59.6	222	119.2
203	59.4	223	118.8
204	59.2	224	118.4
205	59	225	118.0
206	58.8	226	117.6
207	58.6	227	117.2
208	58.4	228	116.8
209	58.2	229	116.4
210	58	230	116.0



When the trading price = 1 ECU per kg

buying amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
0	100	20	20
1	99	21	21
2	98	22	22
3	97	23	23
4	96	24	24
5	95	25	25
6	94	26	26
7	93	27	27
8	92	28	28
9	91	29	29
10	90	30	30
11	89	31	31
12	88	32	32
13	87	33	33
14	86	34	34
15	85	35	35
16	84	36	36
17	83	37	37
18	82	38	38
19	81	39	39
20	80	40	40
21	79	41	41
22	78	42	42
23	77	43	43
24	76	44	44
25	75	45	45
26	74	46	46
27	73	47	47
28	72	48	48
29	71	49	49
30	70	50	50
31	69	51	51
32	68	52	52
33	67	53	53
34	66	54	54
35	65	55	55
36	64	56	56
37	63	57	57
38	62	58	58
39	61	59	59
40	60	60	60
41	59	61	61
42	58	62	62
43	57	63	63
44	56	64	64
45	55	65	65
46	54	66	66
47	53	67	67
48	52	68	68
49	51	69	69
50	50	70	70
51	49	71	71
52	48	72	72
53	47	73	73
54	46	74	74
55	45	75	75
56	44	76	76
57	43	77	77
58	42	78	78
59	41	79	79
60	40	80	80
61	39	81	78
62	38	82	76
63	37	83	74
64	36	84	72
65	35	85	70
66	34	86	68
67	33	87	66
68	32	88	64
69	31	89	62
70	30	90	60

buying amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
71	29	91	58
72	28	92	56
73	27	93	54
74	26	94	52
75	25	95	50
76	24	96	48
77	23	97	46
78	22	98	44
79	21	99	42
80	20	100	40
81	19	101	38
82	18	102	36
83	17	103	34
84	16	104	32
85	15	105	30
86	14	106	28
87	13	107	26
88	12	108	24
89	11	109	22
90	10	110	20
91	9	111	18
92	8	112	16
93	7	113	14
94	6	114	12
95	5	115	10
96	4	116	8
97	3	117	6
98	2	118	4
99	1	119	2
100	0	120	0

When the trading price = 2 ECUs per kg

buying amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
0	100	20	20
1	98	21	21
2	96	22	22
3	94	23	23
4	92	24	24
5	90	25	25
6	88	26	26
7	86	27	27
8	84	28	28
9	82	29	29
10	80	30	30
11	78	31	31
12	76	32	32
13	74	33	33
14	72	34	34
15	70	35	35
16	68	36	36
17	66	37	37
18	64	38	38
19	62	39	39
20	60	40	40
21	58	41	41
22	56	42	42
23	54	43	43
24	52	44	44
25	50	45	45
26	48	46	46
27	46	47	47
28	44	48	48
29	42	49	49
30	40	50	50
31	38	51	51
32	36	52	52
33	34	53	53
34	32	54	54
35	30	55	55
36	28	56	56
37	26	57	57
38	24	58	58
39	22	59	59
40	20	60	60
41	18	61	61
42	16	62	62
43	14	63	63
44	12	64	64
45	10	65	65
46	8	66	66
47	6	67	67
48	4	68	68
49	2	69	69
50	0	70	70

When the trading price = 3 ECUs per kg

buying amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
0	100	20	20
1	97	21	21
2	94	22	22
3	91	23	23
4	88	24	24
5	85	25	25
6	82	26	26
7	79	27	27
8	76	28	28
9	73	29	29
10	70	30	30
11	67	31	31
12	64	32	32
13	61	33	33
14	58	34	34
15	55	35	35
16	52	36	36
17	49	37	37
18	46	38	38
19	43	39	39
20	40	40	40
21	37	41	41
22	34	42	42
23	31	43	43
24	28	44	44
25	25	45	45
26	22	46	46
27	19	47	38
28	16	48	32
29	13	49	26
30	10	50	20
31	7	51	14
32	4	52	8
33	1	53	2

When the trading price = 4 ECUs per kg

buying amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
0	100	20	20
1	96	21	21
2	92	22	22
3	88	23	23
4	84	24	24
5	80	25	25
6	76	26	26
7	72	27	27
8	68	28	28
9	64	29	29
10	60	30	30
11	56	31	31
12	52	32	32
13	48	33	33
14	44	34	34
15	40	35	35
16	36	36	36
17	32	37	37
18	28	38	38
19	24	39	39
20	20	40	40
21	16	41	32
22	12	42	24
23	8	43	16
24	4	44	8
25	0	45	0

**Payoff for Agent B:** When the trading price = 0.2 ECUs per kg

selling amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
0	20	100	20.0
1	20.2	99	20.2
2	20.4	98	20.4
3	20.6	97	20.6
4	20.8	96	20.8
5	21	95	21.0
6	21.2	94	21.2
7	21.4	93	21.4
8	21.6	92	21.6
9	21.8	91	21.8
10	22	90	22.0
11	22.2	89	22.2
12	22.4	88	22.4
13	22.6	87	22.6
14	22.8	86	22.8
15	23	85	23.0
16	23.2	84	23.2
17	23.4	83	23.4
18	23.6	82	23.6
19	23.8	81	23.8
20	24	80	24.0
21	24.2	79	24.2
22	24.4	78	24.4
23	24.6	77	24.6
24	24.8	76	24.8
25	25	75	25.0
26	25.2	74	25.2
27	25.4	73	25.4
28	25.6	72	25.6
29	25.8	71	25.8
30	26	70	26.0
31	26.2	69	26.2
32	26.4	68	26.4
33	26.6	67	26.6
34	26.8	66	26.8
35	27	65	27.0
36	27.2	64	27.2
37	27.4	63	27.4
38	27.6	62	27.6
39	27.8	61	27.8
40	28	60	28.0
41	28.2	59	28.2
42	28.4	58	28.4
43	28.6	57	28.6
44	28.8	56	28.8
45	29	55	29.0
46	29.2	54	29.2
47	29.4	53	29.4
48	29.6	52	29.6
49	29.8	51	29.8
50	30	50	30.0
51	30.2	49	30.2
52	30.4	48	30.4
53	30.6	47	30.6
54	30.8	46	30.8
55	31	45	31.0
56	31.2	44	31.2
57	31.4	43	31.4
58	31.6	42	31.6
59	31.8	41	31.8
60	32	40	32.0
61	32.2	39	32.2
62	32.4	38	32.4
63	32.6	37	32.6
64	32.8	36	32.8
65	33	35	33.0
66	33.2	34	33.2
67	33.4	33	33.4
68	33.6	32	33.6
69	33.8	31	33.8
70	34	30	34.0

selling amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
71	34.2	29	29.0
72	34.4	28	28.0
73	34.6	27	27.0
74	34.8	26	26.0
75	35	25	25.0
76	35.2	24	24.0
77	35.4	23	23.0
78	35.6	22	22.0
79	35.8	21	21.0
80	36	20	20.0
81	36.2	19	19.0
82	36.4	18	18.0
83	36.6	17	17.0
84	36.8	16	16.0
85	37	15	15.0
86	37.2	14	14.0
87	37.4	13	13.0
88	37.6	12	12.0
89	37.8	11	11.0
90	38	10	10.0
91	38.2	9	9.0
92	38.4	8	8.0
93	38.6	7	7.0
94	38.8	6	6.0
95	39	5	5.0
96	39.2	4	4.0
97	39.4	3	3.0
98	39.6	2	2.0
99	39.8	1	1.0
100	40	0	0.0

When the trading price = 1 ECU per kg

selling amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
0	20	100	20.0
1	21	99	21.0
2	22	98	22.0
3	23	97	23.0
4	24	96	24.0
5	25	95	25.0
6	26	94	26.0
7	27	93	27.0
8	28	92	28.0
9	29	91	29.0
10	30	90	30.0
11	31	89	31.0
12	32	88	32.0
13	33	87	33.0
14	34	86	34.0
15	35	85	35.0
16	36	84	36.0
17	37	83	37.0
18	38	82	38.0
19	39	81	39.0
20	40	80	40.0
21	41	79	41.0
22	42	78	42.0
23	43	77	43.0
24	44	76	44.0
25	45	75	45.0
26	46	74	46.0
27	47	73	47.0
28	48	72	48.0
29	49	71	49.0
30	50	70	50.0
31	51	69	51.0
32	52	68	52.0
33	53	67	53.0
34	54	66	54.0
35	55	65	55.0
36	56	64	56.0
37	57	63	57.0
38	58	62	58.0
39	59	61	59.0
40	60	60	60.0
41	61	59	59.0
42	62	58	58.0
43	63	57	57.0
44	64	56	56.0
45	65	55	55.0
46	66	54	54.0
47	67	53	53.0
48	68	52	52.0
49	69	51	51.0
50	70	50	50.0
51	71	49	49.0
52	72	48	48.0
53	73	47	47.0
54	74	46	46.0
55	75	45	45.0
56	76	44	44.0
57	77	43	43.0
58	78	42	42.0
59	79	41	41.0
60	80	40	40.0
61	81	39	39.0
62	82	38	38.0
63	83	37	37.0
64	84	36	36.0
65	85	35	35.0
66	86	34	34.0
67	87	33	33.0
68	88	32	32.0
69	89	31	31.0
70	90	30	30.0

selling amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
71	91	29	29.0
72	92	28	28.0
73	93	27	27.0
74	94	26	26.0
75	95	25	25.0
76	96	24	24.0
77	97	23	23.0
78	98	22	22.0
79	99	21	21.0
80	100	20	20.0
81	101	19	19.0
82	102	18	18.0
83	103	17	17.0
84	104	16	16.0
85	105	15	15.0
86	106	14	14.0
87	107	13	13.0
88	108	12	12.0
89	109	11	11.0
90	110	10	10.0
91	111	9	9.0
92	112	8	8.0
93	113	7	7.0
94	114	6	6.0
95	115	5	5.0
96	116	4	4.0
97	117	3	3.0
98	118	2	2.0
99	119	1	1.0
100	120	0	0.0

When the trading price = 2 ECUs per kg

selling amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
0	20	100	20.0
1	22	99	22.0
2	24	98	24.0
3	26	97	26.0
4	28	96	28.0
5	30	95	30.0
6	32	94	32.0
7	34	93	34.0
8	36	92	36.0
9	38	91	38.0
10	40	90	40.0
11	42	89	42.0
12	44	88	44.0
13	46	87	46.0
14	48	86	48.0
15	50	85	50.0
16	52	84	52.0
17	54	83	54.0
18	56	82	56.0
19	58	81	58.0
20	60	80	60.0
21	62	79	62.0
22	64	78	64.0
23	66	77	66.0
24	68	76	68.0
25	70	75	70.0
26	72	74	72.0
27	74	73	73.0
28	76	72	72.0
29	78	71	71.0
30	80	70	70.0
31	82	69	69.0
32	84	68	68.0
33	86	67	67.0
34	88	66	66.0
35	90	65	65.0
36	92	64	64.0
37	94	63	63.0
38	96	62	62.0
39	98	61	61.0
40	100	60	60.0
41	102	59	59.0
42	104	58	58.0
43	106	57	57.0
44	108	56	56.0
45	110	55	55.0
46	112	54	54.0
47	114	53	53.0
48	116	52	52.0
49	118	51	51.0
50	120	50	50.0
51	122	49	49.0
52	124	48	48.0
53	126	47	47.0
54	128	46	46.0
55	130	45	45.0
56	132	44	44.0
57	134	43	43.0
58	136	42	42.0
59	138	41	41.0
60	140	40	40.0
61	142	39	39.0
62	144	38	38.0
63	146	37	37.0
64	148	36	36.0
65	150	35	35.0
66	152	34	34.0
67	154	33	33.0
68	156	32	32.0
69	158	31	31.0
70	160	30	30.0

selling amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
71	162	29	29.0
72	164	28	28.0
73	166	27	27.0
74	168	26	26.0
75	170	25	25.0
76	172	24	24.0
77	174	23	23.0
78	176	22	22.0
79	178	21	21.0
80	180	20	20.0
81	182	19	19.0
82	184	18	18.0
83	186	17	17.0
84	188	16	16.0
85	190	15	15.0
86	192	14	14.0
87	194	13	13.0
88	196	12	12.0
89	198	11	11.0
90	200	10	10.0
91	202	9	9.0
92	204	8	8.0
93	206	7	7.0
94	208	6	6.0
95	210	5	5.0
96	212	4	4.0
97	214	3	3.0
98	216	2	2.0
99	218	1	1.0
100	220	0	0.0

When the trading price = 3 ECUs per kg

selling amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
0	20	100.0	20.00
1	23	99.0	23.00
2	26	98.0	26.00
3	29	97.0	29.00
4	32	96.0	32.00
5	35	95.0	35.00
6	38	94.0	38.00
7	41	93.0	41.00
8	44	92.0	44.00
9	47	91.0	47.00
10	50	90.0	50.00
11	53	89.0	53.00
12	56	88.0	56.00
13	59	87.0	59.00
14	62	86.0	62.00
15	65	85.0	65.00
16	68	84.0	68.00
17	71	83.0	71.00
18	74	82.0	74.00
19	77	81.0	77.00
20	80	80.0	80.00
21	83	79.0	79.00
22	86	78.0	78.00
23	89	77.0	77.00
24	92	76.0	76.00
25	95	75.0	75.00
26	98	74.0	74.00
27	101	73.0	73.00
28	104	72.0	72.00
29	107	71.0	71.00
30	110	70.0	70.00
31	113	69.0	69.00
32	116	68.0	68.00
33	119	67.0	67.00
34	122	66.0	66.00
35	125	65.0	65.00
36	128	64.0	64.00
37	131	63.0	63.00
38	134	62.0	62.00
39	137	61.0	61.00
40	140	60.0	60.00
41	143	59.0	59.00
42	146	58.0	58.00
43	149	57.0	57.00
44	152	56.0	56.00
45	155	55.0	55.00
46	158	54.0	54.00
47	161	53.0	53.00
48	164	52.0	52.00
49	167	51.0	51.00
50	170	50.0	50.00
51	173	49.0	49.00
52	176	48.0	48.00
53	179	47.0	47.00
54	182	46.0	46.00
55	185	45.0	45.00
56	188	44.0	44.00
57	191	43.0	43.00
58	194	42.0	42.00
59	197	41.0	41.00
60	200	40.0	40.00
61	203	39.0	39.00
62	206	38.0	38.00
63	209	37.0	37.00
64	212	36.0	36.00
65	215	35.0	35.00
66	218	34.0	34.00
67	221	33.0	33.00
68	224	32.0	32.00
69	227	31.0	31.00
70	230	30.0	30.00

selling amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
71	233	29.0	29.00
72	236	28.0	28.00
73	239	27.0	27.00
74	242	26.0	26.00
75	245	25.0	25.00
76	248	24.0	24.00
77	251	23.0	23.00
78	254	22.0	22.00
79	257	21.0	21.00
80	260	20.0	20.00
81	263	19.0	19.00
82	266	18.0	18.00
83	269	17.0	17.00
84	272	16.0	16.00
85	275	15.0	15.00
86	278	14.0	14.00
87	281	13.0	13.00
88	284	12.0	12.00
89	287	11.0	11.00
90	290	10.0	10.00
91	293	9.0	9.00
92	296	8.0	8.00
93	299	7.0	7.00
94	302	6.0	6.00
95	305	5.0	5.00
96	308	4.0	4.00
97	311	3.0	3.00
98	314	2.0	2.00
99	317	1.0	1.00
100	320	0.0	0.0

When the trading price = 4 ECUs per kg

selling amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
0	20	100	20
1	24	99	24
2	28	98	28
3	32	97	32
4	36	96	36
5	40	95	40
6	44	94	44
7	48	93	48
8	52	92	52
9	56	91	56
10	60	90	60
11	64	89	64
12	68	88	68
13	72	87	72
14	76	86	76
15	80	85	80
16	84	84	84
17	88	83	83
18	92	82	82
19	96	81	81
20	100	80	80
21	104	79	79
22	108	78	78
23	112	77	77
24	116	76	76
25	120	75	75
26	124	74	74
27	128	73	73
28	132	72	72
29	136	71	71
30	140	70	70
31	144	69	69
32	148	68	68
33	152	67	67
34	156	66	66
35	160	65	65
36	164	64	64
37	168	63	63
38	172	62	62
39	176	61	61
40	180	60	60
41	184	59	59
42	188	58	58
43	192	57	57
44	196	56	56
45	200	55	55
46	204	54	54
47	208	53	53
48	212	52	52
49	216	51	51
50	220	50	50
51	224	49	49
52	228	48	48
53	232	47	47
54	236	46	46
55	240	45	45
56	244	44	44
57	248	43	43
58	252	42	42
59	256	41	41
60	260	40	40
61	264	39	39
62	268	38	38
63	272	37	37
64	276	36	36
65	280	35	35
66	284	34	34
67	288	33	33
68	292	32	32
69	296	31	31
70	300	30	30

selling amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
71	304	29	29.00
72	308	28	28.00
73	312	27	27.00
74	316	26	26.00
75	320	25	25.00
76	324	24	24.00
77	328	23	23.00
78	332	22	22.00
79	336	21	21.00
80	340	20	20.00
81	344	19	19.00
82	348	18	18.00
83	352	17	17.00
84	356	16	16.00
85	360	15	15.00
86	364	14	14.00
87	368	13	13.00
88	372	12	12.00
89	376	11	11.00
90	380	10	10.00
91	384	9	9.00
92	388	8	8.00
93	392	7	7.00
94	396	6	6.00
95	400	5	5.00
96	404	4	4.00
97	408	3	3.00
98	412	2	2.00
99	416	1	1.00
100	420	0	0.0



**Payoff for Agent C:**

When the trading price = 0.2 ECUs per kg

selling amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
0	0	80	0
1	0.2	79	0.6
2	0.4	78	1.2
3	0.6	77	1.8
4	0.8	76	2.4
5	1	75	3
6	1.2	74	3.6
7	1.4	73	4.2
8	1.6	72	4.8
9	1.8	71	5.4
10	2	70	6
11	2.2	69	6.6
12	2.4	68	7.2
13	2.6	67	7.8
14	2.8	66	8.4
15	3	65	9
16	3.2	64	9.6
17	3.4	63	10.2
18	3.6	62	10.8
19	3.8	61	11.4
20	4	60	12
21	4.2	59	12.6
22	4.4	58	13.2
23	4.6	57	13.8
24	4.8	56	14.4
25	5	55	15
26	5.2	54	15.6
27	5.4	53	16.2
28	5.6	52	16.8
29	5.8	51	17.4
30	6	50	18
31	6.2	49	18.6
32	6.4	48	19.2
33	6.6	47	19.8
34	6.8	46	20.4
35	7	45	21
36	7.2	44	21.6
37	7.4	43	22.2
38	7.6	42	22.8
39	7.8	41	23.4
40	8	40	24
41	8.2	39	24.6
42	8.4	38	25.2
43	8.6	37	25.8
44	8.8	36	26.4
45	9	35	27
46	9.2	34	27.6
47	9.4	33	28.2
48	9.6	32	28.8
49	9.8	31	29.4
50	10	30	30
51	10.2	29	29
52	10.4	28	28
53	10.6	27	27
54	10.8	26	26
55	11	25	25
56	11.2	24	24
57	11.4	23	23
58	11.6	22	22
59	11.8	21	21
60	12	20	20
61	12.2	19	19
62	12.4	18	18
63	12.6	17	17
64	12.8	16	16
65	13	15	15
66	13.2	14	14
67	13.4	13	13
68	13.6	12	12
69	13.8	11	11
70	14	10	10
71	14.2	9	9
72	14.4	8	8
73	14.6	7	7
74	14.8	6	6
75	15	5	5
76	15.2	4	4
77	15.4	3	3
78	15.6	2	2
79	15.8	1	1
80	16	0	0

When the trading price = 1 ECU per kg

selling amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
0	0	80	0
1	1	79	3
2	2	78	6
3	3	77	9
4	4	76	12
5	5	75	15
6	6	74	18
7	7	73	21
8	8	72	24
9	9	71	27
10	10	70	30
11	11	69	33
12	12	68	36
13	13	67	39
14	14	66	42
15	15	65	45
16	16	64	48
17	17	63	51
18	18	62	54
19	19	61	57
20	20	60	60
21	21	59	59
22	22	58	58
23	23	57	57
24	24	56	56
25	25	55	55
26	26	54	54
27	27	53	53
28	28	52	52
29	29	51	51
30	30	50	50
31	31	49	49
32	32	48	48
33	33	47	47
34	34	46	46
35	35	45	45
36	36	44	44
37	37	43	43
38	38	42	42
39	39	41	41
40	40	40	40
41	41	39	39
42	42	38	38
43	43	37	37
44	44	36	36
45	45	35	35
46	46	34	34
47	47	33	33
48	48	32	32
49	49	31	31
50	50	30	30
51	51	29	29
52	52	28	28
53	53	27	27
54	54	26	26
55	55	25	25
56	56	24	24
57	57	23	23
58	58	22	22
59	59	21	21
60	60	20	20
61	61	19	19
62	62	18	18
63	63	17	17
64	64	16	16
65	65	15	15
66	66	14	14
67	67	13	13
68	68	12	12
69	69	11	11
70	70	10	10
71	71	9	9
72	72	8	8
73	73	7	7
74	74	6	6
75	75	5	5
76	76	4	4
77	77	3	3
78	78	2	2
79	79	1	1
80	80	0	0

When the trading price = 2 ECU per kg

selling amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
0	0	80	0
1	2	79	6
2	4	78	12
3	6	77	18
4	8	76	24
5	10	75	30
6	12	74	36
7	14	73	42
8	16	72	48
9	18	71	54
10	20	70	60
11	22	69	66
12	24	68	68
13	26	67	67
14	28	66	66
15	30	65	65
16	32	64	64
17	34	63	63
18	36	62	62
19	38	61	61
20	40	60	60
21	42	59	59
22	44	58	58
23	46	57	57
24	48	56	56
25	50	55	55
26	52	54	54
27	54	53	53
28	56	52	52
29	58	51	51
30	60	50	50
31	62	49	49
32	64	48	48
33	66	47	47
34	68	46	46
35	70	45	45
36	72	44	44
37	74	43	43
38	76	42	42
39	78	41	41
40	80	40	40
41	82	39	39
42	84	38	38
43	86	37	37
44	88	36	36
45	90	35	35
46	92	34	34
47	94	33	33
48	96	32	32
49	98	31	31
50	100	30	30
51	102	29	29
52	104	28	28
53	106	27	27
54	108	26	26
55	110	25	25
56	112	24	24
57	114	23	23
58	116	22	22
59	118	21	21
60	120	20	20
61	122	19	19
62	124	18	18
63	126	17	17
64	128	16	16
65	130	15	15
66	132	14	14
67	134	13	13
68	136	12	12
69	138	11	11
70	140	10	10
71	142	9	9
72	144	8	8
73	146	7	7
74	148	6	6
75	150	5	5
76	152	4	4
77	154	3	3
78	156	2	2
79	158	1	1
80	160	0	0

When the trading price = 3 ECU per kg

selling amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
0	0	80	0
1	3	79	9
2	6	78	18
3	9	77	27
4	12	76	36
5	15	75	45
6	18	74	54
7	21	73	63
8	24	72	72
9	27	71	71
10	30	70	70
11	33	69	69
12	36	68	68
13	39	67	67
14	42	66	66
15	45	65	65
16	48	64	64
17	51	63	63
18	54	62	62
19	57	61	61
20	60	60	60
21	63	59	59
22	66	58	58
23	69	57	57
24	72	56	56
25	75	55	55
26	78	54	54
27	81	53	53
28	84	52	52
29	87	51	51
30	90	50	50
31	93	49	49
32	96	48	48
33	99	47	47
34	102	46	46
35	105	45	45
36	108	44	44
37	111	43	43
38	114	42	42
39	117	41	41
40	120	40	40
41	123	39	39
42	126	38	38
43	129	37	37
44	132	36	36
45	135	35	35
46	138	34	34
47	141	33	33
48	144	32	32
49	147	31	31
50	150	30	30
51	153	29	29
52	156	28	28
53	159	27	27
54	162	26	26
55	165	25	25
56	168	24	24
57	171	23	23
58	174	22	22
59	177	21	21
60	180	20	20
61	183	19	19
62	186	18	18
63	189	17	17
64	192	16	16
65	195	15	15
66	198	14	14
67	201	13	13
68	204	12	12
69	207	11	11
70	210	10	10
71	213	9	9
72	216	8	8
73	219	7	7
74	222	6	6
75	225	5	5
76	228	4	4
77	231	3	3
78	234	2	2
79	237	1	1
80	240	0	0

When the trading price = 4 ECUs per kg

selling amount (kg)	ECUs	Iron (kg)	payoff (points)
0	0	80	0
1	4	79	12
2	8	78	24
3	12	77	36
4	16	76	48
5	20	75	60
6	24	74	72
7	28	73	73
8	32	72	72
9	36	71	71
10	40	70	70
11	44	69	69
12	48	68	68
13	52	67	67
14	56	66	66
15	60	65	65
16	64	64	64
17	68	63	63
18	72	62	62
19	76	61	61
20	80	60	60
21	84	59	59
22	88	58	58
23	92	57	57
24	96	56	56
25	100	55	55
26	104	54	54
27	108	53	53
28	112	52	52
29	116	51	51
30	120	50	50
31	124	49	49
32	128	48	48
33	132	47	47
34	136	46	46
35	140	45	45
36	144	44	44
37	148	43	43
38	152	42	42
39	156	41	41
40	160	40	40
41	164	39	39
42	168	38	38
43	172	37	37
44	176	36	36
45	180	35	35
46	184	34	34
47	188	33	33
48	192	32	32
49	196	31	31
50	200	30	30
51	204	29	29
52	208	28	28
53	212	27	27
54	216	26	26
55	220	25	25
56	224	24	24
57	228	23	23
58	232	22	22
59	236	21	21
60	240	20	20
61	244	19	19
62	248	18	18
63	252	17	17
64	256	16	16
65	260	15	15
66	264	14	14
67	268	13	13
68	272	12	12
69	276	11	11
70	280	10	10
71	284	9	9
72	288	8	8
73	292	7	7
74	296	6	6
75	300	5	5
76	304	4	4
77	308	3	3
78	312	2	2
79	316	1	1
80	320	0	0

[Once Part 1 was over, the following instructions were handed out to the subjects and read aloud:]

## Part 2

Part 1 is now over. Part 2 also consists of four periods. Your assigned role (Agent A, Agent B or Agent C) remains the same in this part.

In this part, you have initial endowments of money and iron, and your payoffs will be calculated with the same formulas explained on page 2 in the first instructions. However, there is one different aspect from Part 1; 20 ECUs of money will be transferred from five Agents A to five Agents B in each period. This means that the initial distribution of money and iron before transactions are as follows:

- Each Agent A holds **80 ECUs and 20 kg of iron.**
- Each Agent B holds **40 ECUs and 100 kg of iron.**
- Each Agent C holds **80 kg of iron.**

As above, each Agent A has 20 ECUs less compared with Part 1. By contrast, each Agent B has 20 ECUs more compared with Part 1. Each Agent C has the same endowment as in Part 1.

The 15 agents can trade money and iron to increase payoffs in their group. The rule of trading is the same as in Part 1. There are 5 possible traded prices:

- 0.2 ECUs per kg
- 1 ECU per kg
- 2 ECUs per kg
- 3 ECUs per kg
- 4 ECUs per kg

At the onset of Part 2, Agents A each decide how many kg of iron s/he wants to buy for each possible traded price. Agents B and C each decide how many kg of iron s/he wants to sell for each possible traded price. This schedule is important because it will be used for your transactions in all four periods.

Each period after completion of the schedules proceeds as follows:

1. As explained, you will be randomly assigned to a group of 15 so that your group consists of five Agents A, five Agents B and five Agents C.
2. For each possible price (i.e., 0.2, 1, 2, 3 or 4 ECUs per kg), the computer calculates the difference between (a) the total quantity of iron five Agents A want to buy and (b) the total quantity of iron five Agents B and five Agents C want to sell in your group.  
→ The price that minimizes the difference (i.e., equates the demand and the supply the most) will be used for trading. In case of a tie, the computer randomly breaks the tie.
3. The quantity of iron you buy or sell will be determined by the schedule you have already completed at the onset of this part.

We will distribute instructions for Part 3 once Part 2 is over.

The payoff formulas were explained on page 2 of the first instructions. We will also distribute the payoff tables that summarize the relationship between your traded prices and payoffs before we begin.

[Once all questions from participants were answered, the payoff tables were distributed to subjects, again in order to mitigate the difference in mathematical literacy among subjects.]

[Subjects were explained how to read the tables, and after that, they were given several minutes to review the tables along with the instructions. Subjects were also free to ask questions for the instructions and the tables. Once all questions were answered, Part 2 began. The payoff tables have the same format as included above except that the initial endowment amounts are different. The tables are omitted to conserve space.]

[Once Part 2 was over, the following instructions were handed out to the subjects and read aloud:]

### **Part 3**

Part 2 is now over. Part 3 consists of **one period**. However, the conversion rate between points and UK pounds is four times larger than in Part 1 and Part 2: 1 point is exchanged for 6 pence of real money.

Your assigned role (Agent A, Agent B or Agent C) continues to be the same in this part. In this part, you will be randomly assigned to a group of 15 so that your group consists of five Agents A, five Agents B and five Agents C.

You have the same initial endowments of money and iron as in Part 1.

- Each Agent A holds **100 ECUs and 20 kg of iron**.
- Each Agent B holds **20 ECUs and 100 kg of iron**.
- Each Agent C holds **80 kg of iron**.

However, at the onset of Part 3, Agents A can collectively decide to transfer 20 ECUs to Agent B. If Agent A chooses to do so, the distribution of endowments will be changed to the one in Part 2:

- Each Agent A holds **80 ECUs and 20 kg of iron**.
- Each Agent B holds **40 ECUs and 100 kg of iron**.
- Each Agent C holds **80 kg of iron**.

Part 3 begins with Agent A's voting on whether to transfer 20 ECUs to Agents B. A **majority rule** determines the transfer decision: 20 ECUs will be transferred from five Agents A to five Agents B, if at least three Agents A vote in favor of the transfer.

Once Agents A collectively makes the transfer decision, Agents B and C will be informed of the regime they have – either the one in Part 1 or in Part 2.

The 15 agents can trade money and iron to increase payoffs as before. The rule of trading is the same. There are 5 possible traded prices:

0.2 ECUs per kg  
1 ECU per kg  
2 ECUs per kg  
3 ECUs per kg  
4 ECUs per kg

At the onset of Part 3, Agents A each decides how many kg of iron s/he wants to buy for each possible traded price. Agents B and C each decide how many kg of iron s/he wants to sell for each possible traded price.

Once all 15 agents make decisions, for each possible price (i.e., 0.2, 1, 2, 3 or 4 ECU per kg) the computer calculates the difference between (a) the total quantity of iron five Agents A want to buy and (b) the total quantity of iron five Agents B and five Agents C want to sell in your group.

→ The price that minimizes the difference (i.e., equates the demand and the supply the most) will be used for trading. In case of a tie, the computer randomly breaks the tie.

The quantity of iron you buy or sell will be determined by the schedule you have already completed at the onset of this part.

Please note that for Agents A and Agents B, the relationship between traded amounts and payoffs differ according to which regime is in use. Please review the payoff tables already distributed.

For Agents C, the relationship between his/her selling amounts and payoffs do not change by the regime since his/her endowment is always the same: 80 kg of iron.

Are there any question?

[Once all questions were answered, Part 3 began.]