Math 1314
Lesson 8: Business Applications: Break Even Analysis, Equilibrium Quantity/Price

Cost functions model the cost of producing goods or providing services. Examples: rent, utilities, insurance, salaries and benefits, etc., and variable costs, or the cost of the materials needed to produce each item. Formula: $C(x) = cx + F$, c is the variable costs and F is the fixed costs.

Revenue functions model the income received by a company when it sells its goods or services. Formula: $R(x) = xp$, where x is the number of items sold and p is the price per item. Price however is not always static. For this reason, the unit price is often given in terms of a demand function. This function gives the price of the item in terms of the number demanded over a given period of time (week, month or year, for example).

Profit functions model the profits made by manufacturing and selling goods or by providing services. Formula: $P(x) = R(x) - C(x).$

Example 1: Suppose a manufacturer has monthly fixed costs of \$100,000 and production costs of \$12 for each item produced. The item sells for \$20. Assuming all functions are linear, find each of the functions below and then find the profit if the company produces and sells 20,000 units.

$C(x) = cx + F$

$R(x) = xp$

$P(x) = R(x) - C(x).$

Break-Even Analysis

The break-even point in business is the point at which a company is making neither a profit nor incurring a loss. At the break-even point, the company has met all of its expenses associated with manufacturing the good or providing the service. The x coordinate of the break-even point gives the number of units that must be sold to break even. The y coordinate gives the revenues at that production and sales level.
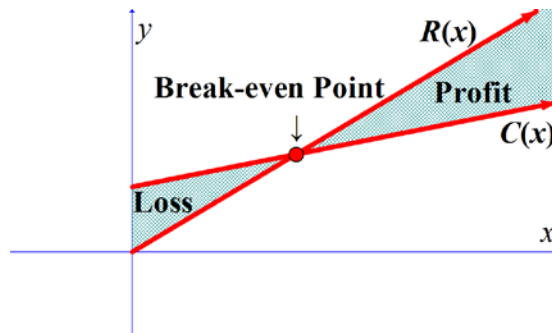
Example 2: Find the break-even point for the problem in Example 1.

Command: Answer:

You may be given raw data concerning costs and revenues. In that case, you'll need to start by finding functions to represent cost and revenue.

Example 3: Suppose you are given the cost data and demand data shown in the tables below.

quantity produced	50	100	200	500	1000	1200	1500	2000
total cost	100400	140100	182000	217400	229300	232600	239300	245500

quantity demanded	50	100	200	500	1000	1200	1500	2000
price in dollars	295	285	280	270	250	248	249	248

a. Find a linear regression equation that models costs, and a linear regression equation that models demand. *Begin by entering the data in GGB. Then create lists.*
Linear Cost Model:
Command: Answer:

Linear Demand Model:
Command: Answer:

b. State the revenue function.
Command: Answer:

c. Find the break-even point.
Command: Answer:

Market Equilibrium

Market equilibrium occurs when the quantity produced equals the quantity demanded. The quantity produced at market equilibrium is called the **equilibrium quantity** and the corresponding price is called the **equilibrium price**. Mathematically speaking, market equilibrium occurs at the point where the graph of the supply function and the graph of the demand function intersect. We can solve problems of this type either algebraically or by using GGB.

Example 4: Suppose the demand for a product is given by $D(x) = -4x + 650$ where x is the quantity demanded in thousands, and $D(x)$ is the price given in dollars. The quantity available for supply is given by $S(x) = 6x + 450$ where x is the quantity demanded in thousands, and $D(x)$ is the price given in dollars. Find the equilibrium quantity and equilibrium price.

Command: Answer:

Quantity: Price:

Example 5: The quantity demanded of a certain electronic device is 8000 units when the price is $260. At a unit price of $200, demand increases to 10,000 units. The manufacturer will not market any of the device at a price of $100 or less. However for each $50 increase in price above $100, the manufacturer will market an additional 1000 units. Assume that both the supply equation and the demand equation are linear. Find the supply equation, the demand equation and the equilibrium quantity and price.

Give two points for demand:

Give two points for supply:

Create two lists:
Commands:

Quantity: Price: