Problem 1 (Standard Edgeworth Box)

Elvis and Miriam both love listening to MP3s ($x_1$) and watching DVDs ($x_2$). Elvis has initially 10 DVDs and 10 MP3s, (hence $\omega^E = (10, 10)$). Miriam has 90 MP3s only, (so $\omega^M = (90, 0)$). Utility functions of Elvis and Miriam are the same and given by:

\[ U^i(x_1, x_2) = \ln(x_1) + 5\ln(x_2) \]

a) What are the total resources in the "economy" with Elvis and Miriam?
b) Plot an Edgeworth box and mark the allocation corresponding to initial endowments. Argue that such an allocation is (or it is not) pareto efficient.
c) Find analytically the contract curve (collection of all pareto efficient allocations) and plot it on your graph.
d) Now let Elvis and Miriam trade. Find the equilibrium consumption of both commodities for Elvis and Miriam, and the equilibrium prices.
e) Suggest two other prices that support the same allocation as an equilibrium.
f) Are the markets efficient in allocating the resources? (argue using the criterion of pareto efficiency)
g) Find geometrically (in the Edgeworth box) the equilibrium consumption and prices of both commodities for the new utility (perfect substitutes) given by:

\[ U^i(x_1, x_2) = x_1 + 5x_2 \]

Problem 2 (Uncertainty and Asset Pricing)

John and Benjamin are investors who trade shares of two companies: Rainalot Inc. ($x_1$) and HateRain Inc. ($x_2$). There are two equally likely states of the world in the future: rain and no rain, and the profits of two companies are risky. The dividend from one share of Rainalot Inc is $1 when it rains and $0 otherwise and dividends of HateRain Inc. are $0 when it rains and $1 otherwise. John initially has 100 shares of Rainalot Inc and no shares of HateRain Inc. ($\omega^J = (100, 0)$) and the endowment of Benjamin is $\omega^B = (0, 100)$. Both investors maximize Expected utility given by

\[ U^i(x_1, x_2) = (1/2)\ln(x_1) + (1/2)\ln(x_2) \]

a) Plot an Edgeworth box and mark the allocation corresponding to the initial endowments. Argue that such an allocation is (or it is not) pareto efficient. Are the endowments risky?
b) Find the equilibrium prices of the two companies' shares and their allocations. Show them on the graph.
c) Is the equilibrium allocation efficient? Is it risky?
Problem 3 (Irving Fisher Determination of Interest Rate)

Consumption can take place in two periods only: today ($C_1$) and tomorrow ($C_2$). Jane's income is $0$ today (she is a student now). Tomorrow she is going to be a CEO with income $1000$ (hence her endowment is $\omega^J = (0, 1000)$). William is a sportsman with $1000$ income today, and tomorrow he will get $0$ ($\omega^W = (1000, 0)$). They both have the same utility function:

$$U_i(C_1, C_2) = \ln(C_1) + \beta \ln(C_2)$$

where $\beta$ is a discount factor that tells how impatient they are (the higher the $\beta$, the more patient the consumer is since the value of utility tomorrow relative to utility today is higher).

a) Plot an Edgeworth box and mark the allocation corresponding to the initial endowments. Is the allocation of initial endowments Pareto efficient?

b) Assume $\beta = (1/2)$. Find the equilibrium interest rate and depict the equilibrium on the Edgeworth box. (Hint: Instead of working with a harder "intertemporal" model, you can first find equilibrium prices $p_1$ and $p_2$ similar to the apple and orange model and then use: $((p_1)/(p_2)) = (1 + r)$)

c) Is the equilibrium allocation pareto efficient?

d) Assume now that consumers are more patient and $\beta = 1$. Repeat the question in part b). How does your new equilibrium interest rate compare to the one in part b)? Can you give some economic intuition about your result?

e) Now assume $\beta = 0.5$, and Jane's income tomorrow changes to $2000$ ($\omega^J = (0, 2000)$). Is the interest rate higher or lower than the one in part b)? Explain.