

1)  $P = a - bQ$  ;  $Q = q_1 + q_2 + q_3$

$c_1 = c_2 = c_3 = c$

What is equilibrium price ? :  $p^*$

What are firms' profit ?  $\pi_1 = \pi_2 = \pi_3 = ?$

$\pi_i = (P - c)q_i = [a - b(q_1 + q_2 + q_3) - c]q_i$

max  $\pi_i$  :  $\frac{\partial \pi_i}{\partial q_i} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial \pi_i}{\partial q_1} = (a - b(q_1 + q_2 + q_3) - c) + q_1(-b) = 0$

$\Rightarrow q_1 = a - c - bq_2 - bq_3 - bq_1$

$0 = a - c - bq_2 - bq_3 - 2bq_1$

$2bq_1 = a - c - bq_2 - bq_3$

$q_1^* = \frac{a - c - bq_2 - bq_3}{2b}$  — (1) BR of Firm 1

$q_2^* = \frac{a - c - bq_1 - bq_3}{2b}$  — (2)

$q_3^* = \frac{a - c - bq_1 - bq_2}{2b}$  — (3)

sub (2) in (1) ;  $q_1^* = \frac{a - c - bq_3 - b \left( \frac{a - c - bq_1 - bq_3}{2b} \right)}{2b}$

sub (2) in (1) ;  $q_2^* = \frac{a - bq_3}{3b}$

$q_1^* = \frac{a - bq_3}{3b}$

sub  $q_1^*$  and  $q_2^*$  in (3) ;  $q_3^* = \frac{a - c - b \left( \frac{a - bq_3}{3b} \right) - b \left( \frac{a - bq_3}{3b} \right)}{2b}$   
 $= \frac{a + 2bq_3}{5b}$

sub  $q_3^*$  ;  $q_1^* = \frac{a - b \left( \frac{a}{4b} \right)}{3b}$

$q_1^* = \frac{a}{4b}$

$q_2^* = \frac{a}{4b}$

$5bq_3 = a + 2bq_3$

$4bq_3 = a$

$q_3^* = \frac{a}{4b}$

$P = a - bQ = a - 3b \left( \frac{a}{4b} \right)$   
 $= a - \frac{3}{4}a$

$\therefore P = 0.25a$

$\pi_i = (P - c)q_i$

$\pi_1 = (0.25a - c) \frac{a}{4b}$

$\therefore \pi_1 = \frac{a^2}{16b} - c$

$\therefore \pi_2 = \frac{a^2}{16b} - c$

$\therefore \pi_3 = \frac{a^2}{16b} - c$

2) If there are  $N$  firms

$$q_i^* = f(N), p = f(N), \pi_i = f(N)$$

Assume  $q_1 + q_2 + \dots + q_n = A$

$$P = a - b(q_1 + q_2 + \dots + q_n)$$

$$P = a - bq_1 - bq_2 - \dots - bq_n$$

$$\pi_i = (P - C)q_i \quad \pi_1 = (a - bq_1 - bq_2 - \dots - bq_n)q_1 - c_1$$

$$\frac{\partial \pi_1}{\partial q_1} = 0 \Rightarrow q_1 = \frac{a}{2b} - 0.5(q_2 + q_3 + \dots + q_n)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$q_n = \frac{a}{2b} - 0.5(q_2 + q_3 + \dots + q_{n-1})$$

$$\therefore q_1^* = q_2^* = \dots = q_n^* = \frac{a}{b} - A \quad (1)$$

$$A = q_1 + q_2 + \dots + q_n$$

$$A = n\left(\frac{a}{b} - A\right)$$

$$A = \frac{na}{b} - nA$$

$$A + nA = n\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)$$

$$A(h+1) = n\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) \rightarrow A = \frac{na}{(h+1)b}$$

sub  $A$  into (1);  $q_1 = \frac{a}{(h+1)b}$

$$\therefore q_i = \frac{a}{(h+1)b}$$

$$p = a - bA$$

$$= a - b\left(\frac{na}{(h+1)b}\right)$$

$$= a - \left(\frac{h}{h+1}\right)a$$

$$= \frac{ha + a - ha}{h+1}$$

$$\therefore p = \frac{a}{h+1}$$

$$\pi_i = p \cdot q_i - c_i$$

$$= \frac{a}{h+1} \cdot \frac{a}{(h+1)b} - c_i \quad \therefore \pi_i = \frac{a^2}{(h+1)^2 b} - c_i$$

3) From question 2, what happens if  $N \rightarrow \infty$   
 ———||—————  $N = 1$

In general,

- If  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , it means that the market output ( $Q$ ) goes to a competitive level and the price ( $P^*$ ) converges to marginal cost. The market is perfectly competitive market.
- In Cournot model, there must be 2 or more firms competing in the market. So, if  $n=1$ , firm will become a monopolist.

if  $h \rightarrow \alpha$ ;

- $q_n = \frac{q}{(h+1)b}$  will be nearly to 0 and each firm will sell at  $q$  nearly 0 unit
- $A = \frac{hq}{(h+1)b}$  will be nearly to 0,  $q$  of every firms combined will be nearly  $\alpha$  units
- $p = \frac{q}{h+1}$  will be nearly to 0, supply will increase as  $p$  decreases to nearly 0
- $\pi_i = \frac{q^2}{(h+1)^2 b} - c_i \rightarrow$  each firms will lose their profit.

if  $h=1$

- $q_n = \frac{q}{(h+1)b} = \frac{q}{2b} \rightarrow$  since  $q = \frac{q}{2b} < q = \frac{hq}{(h-1)b}$ , monopoly will sell less.
- $A = \frac{hq}{(h+1)b} = q$ , it means that firm will become a monopolist.
- $p = \frac{q}{h+1} = \frac{q}{2} \rightarrow$  since  $p_m = \frac{q}{2} > p_c = \frac{q}{h+1}$ , monopoly will set higher price.
- $\pi_i = \frac{q^2}{(h+1)^2 b} - c_i = \frac{q^2}{4b} - c_i \rightarrow$  since  $\pi_m > \pi_c$ , monopolist will earn higher profit.