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Two-sided (or, more generally, multi-sided) markets are roughly defined as markets in which one or several platforms enable interactions between end-users and try to get the two (or multiple) sides "on board" by appropriately charging each

(e.g. shopping mall, video game, and e-book reader)

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- We extend the arguments of R&D investment competition into the two-sided markets.
- Particularly in the markets of system goods such as video game, digital music, and e-book, 'razor-razor blade model' is a well-known business model, which involves pricing hardware devices inexpensively, usually at a normal level, insufficient to cover costs, but forcing up software prices to cover remaining costs plus provide
- It is important for these platforms to make a substantial investment in reducing hardware costs.

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## The aim of this paper II

- Additionally, in two-sided markets of hardware-software system, compatibility decisions as to whether to make its software compatible with the other's device are very important for platforms.
- The aim of this paper is to provide a framework that accounts for R&D investment competition in the two-sided markets, and incorporates another important feature of compatibility decisions by competing platforms.



# Main Results and Intuition





 Consider the parameter space in which equilibrium market structure becomes (IC, C).

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#### Our assertion and contribution

- We argue that process innovation (the increased efficiency of cost-reducing investment) of hardware device can hurt the social surplus in two-sided markets.
- Contrary to the previous literature, the unique contribution of this paper lies in examining the welfare effects of process innovation in the model of two-sided markets which endogenizes the determination of compatibility structure among platforms.
- To the best our knowledge, this is the first paper which explores the possibility of welfare-reducing process innovation in two-side markets mediated by strategic compatibility decisions of platforms.

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When the efficiency of investment is high,



process innovation helps platform 1 to monopolize the hardware market.

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## Main Results and Intuition

Platform 2 has an incentive to choose incompatibility.



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#### **R&D** investment with licensing

- The technology licensing literatures show licensing may reduce welfare.
  - induces competitors to exit the market (Kabiraj and Marjit, 1992; Lin, 1996),
  - facilitates collusion (Fauli-Oller and Sandonis, 2002),
  - changes R&D organization (Mukherjee, 2005),
  - induces excessive entry (Mukherjee and Mukherjee, 2008).
- These papers don't consider how the increased efficiency of R&D investment affects social welfare.
- Chang et al. (2013) focus this point, and finds that the availability of licensing leads to lower social surplus, if the "efficiency of R&D investment" is high.

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# Main Results and Intuition

- 1. Process innovation may change the compatibility decisions of platforms.
- 2. The change of platforms' strategy about compatibility leads the different equilibrium market structure.
- 3. Different market structure may reduce the social welfare.



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# R&D investment in two-sided markets

Focusing on the argument comparing the incentive for R&D investment under different market structures in two-sided markets, there are two strands in the recent literature.

- Open-source or Proprietary Platform
  - Casadesus-Masanell and Llanes (2013)
- Net-Neutrality Platform
  - Musacchio et al. (2009)
  - Choi and Kim (2010)
  - Economides and Hermalin (2012)

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# Compatibility

The literature on compatibility in two-sided markets.

- Doganoglu and Wright (2006)
- Casadesus-Masanell and Ruiz-Aliseda (2008)
- Miao (2009)
- Viecens (2011)
- Maruyama and Zennyo (2013)

However, these papers do not treat the R&D investment by platforms.

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# **Platforms II**

- Each platform chooses whether to make its content compatible with the other 's hardware device. (Compatibility decisions)
- ► Each platform charges a royalty rate r (0 ≤ r ≤ 1) for each unit of content sold at its marketplace.
- Suppose that marginal cost of hardware device is c. Each platform decide the level of cost-reducing investment,  $y_i$  ( $y_i < c$ ). Each platform inccurs  $ky_i^2$  from this investment. The parameter k expresses the efficiency of innovation.

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# Platforms I

- There are two platforms, *i* = 1, 2, who sell hardware device *i* at price *p<sub>i</sub>*.
- Each platform operates its marketplace *i* that distributes content for its own hardware device.
- There are two kinds of content, *i* = 1, 2, and content *i* is exclusively supplied to marketplace *i* at price ρ<sub>i</sub>. Each unit of content provides an equal benefit for any consumer, and that the price of a unit of content is the same for any content, ρ<sub>i</sub> = ρ (*i* = 1, 2).

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The profit function of platform is

 $\Pi_i = (p_i - c + y_i)D_i + r\rho D_i + \delta_i r\rho D_j - ky_i^2, \quad i = 1, 2, j \neq i.$ 

where  $D_i$  denotes the demand of hardware device *i* and  $\delta_i$  is following function.

 $\delta_i = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if platform } i \text{ chooses incompatibility.} \\ 1 & \text{if platform } i \text{ chooses compatibility.} \end{cases}$ 

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#### **Consumers I**

- Use a Hotelling model of product differentiation.
- Hardware 1 located at 0, and hardware 2 at 1.
- Ideal points of consumers are distributed uniformly on the unit interval with a unit density.
- Each consumer incurs a constant proportional disutility t per unit length.
- The benefit derived from consumption of the hardware device is v. (v = 0)
- Denote by *B* the utility that any consumer derives from a unit of content, which is assumed to be the same for any content and for any consumer, and satisfies the condition *B* > ρ.

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Consider the following three-stage game.

- 1. Each platform chooses between compatibility and incompatibility. (C or IC)
- 2. Each platform decides the level of investment.  $(y_i)$
- 3. Each platform sets the price of hardware device  $(p_i)$

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## **Consumers II**

The utility function of a customer who is located at x, buys a hardware device i, and uses its available contents is written as

$$u_i = N_i(B - \rho) - p_i - t|x - x_i|$$

where denotes  $N_i$  the variety of contents on hardware device *i* and  $x_i$  the location of hardware device *i*.

• We will use the notation,  $b = B - \rho$ .

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# Incompatible platforms I

The utility function of a customer who is located at x can be written as

$$u_i = b - p_i - t |x - x_i|, \quad (i = 1, 2).$$

The proportion of consumers who buy hardware 1:

$$u_1 = u_2 \implies \hat{x} = \frac{t-p_1+p_2}{2t}.$$

Hence, the demand for hardware device *i* is

$$D_i = \frac{t - p_i + p_j}{2t}$$
  $(i = 1, 2, j \neq i).$ 

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# Incompatible platforms II

Platform *i* maximizes its profit

$$\Pi_{i} = (p_{i} - c + y_{i}) D_{i} + r\rho D_{i} - ky_{i}^{2}$$
  
=  $(p_{i} - c + y_{i} + r\rho) \cdot \frac{t - p_{i} + p_{j}}{2t} - ky_{i}^{2}$ 

with respect to its hardware price  $p_i$ . Taking the first-order conditions with respect to price and solving, we have the prices as follows:

$$p_i(y_1, y_2) = t + c - r\rho - \frac{2y_i + y_j}{3}$$

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#### Incompatible platforms IV

From this equilibrium investment level, we can derive the hardware price, demand, profit of platform.

$$p_i(\text{IC}, \text{IC}) = t + c - r\rho - \frac{1}{6k}$$
$$D_i(\text{IC}, \text{IC}) = \frac{1}{2}$$
$$\Pi_i(\text{IC}, \text{IC}) = \frac{t}{2} - \frac{1}{36k}$$

And, profit of content provider *i* is

$$\pi_i(\mathrm{IC},\mathrm{IC}) = (1-r)\rho \cdot \left(D_i(\mathrm{IC},\mathrm{IC}) + \delta_i D_j(\mathrm{IC},\mathrm{IC})\right) = \frac{(1-r)\rho}{2}.$$

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## Incompatible platforms III

Substitute this price in the profit function.

$$\Pi_i = \frac{(3t + y_i - y_j)^2}{18t} - ky_i^2.$$

Next, we consider the decisions at stage 2. Taking the first-order conditions with respect to investment and solving, we have the investments as follows:

$$y_i(IC, IC) = \frac{1}{6k}$$

where, we assume for second-order condition with respect to investment that 18kt - 1 > 0 holds.

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Incompa	tible platfor	ms V			

Consumer surplus is

$$CS(IC, IC) = \int_0^{D_1(IC, IC)} u_1(x) \, dx + \int_{D_1(IC, IC)}^1 u_2(x) \, dx$$
$$= \frac{1}{6k} + b - \frac{5}{4}t - c + r \cdot \rho$$

Social surplus is

$$SS(IC, IC) = CS(IC, IC) + \sum_{i} \pi_{i}(IC, IC) + \sum_{i} \Pi_{i}(IC, IC)$$
$$= \frac{1}{9k} + b - \frac{t}{4} - c + \rho.$$

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# Incompatible-compatible platforms with tipping I

We can derive the following equilibrium outcome (corner solution).

$$y_{1}(IC, C)^{T} = \frac{1}{2k}, \ y_{2}(IC, C)^{T} = 0$$
  

$$p_{1}(IC, C)^{T} = b - t + c, \ p_{2}(IC, C)^{T} = c$$
  

$$\Pi_{1}(IC, C)^{T} = \frac{1}{4k} - t + b + r\rho, \ \Pi_{2}(IC, C)^{T} = r\rho$$
  

$$SS(IC, C)^{T} = \frac{1}{4k} - \frac{t}{2} + 2(b + \rho) - c$$

• We need the condition for the corner solution.

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# Incompatible-compatible platforms without tipping

- Skip.
- We need the condition for the interior solution.

#### Lemma 1

If the efficiency of investment is low enough to satisfy the condition  $k > 1/(3(3t - b - r\rho)) \equiv \hat{k}$  and the degree of hardware differentiation is large enough to satisfy the condition  $t > (b + r\rho)/3$ , then there exist interior solutions under the asymmetric market structures.

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#### Incompatible-compatible platforms with tipping II

#### Lemma 2

If the efficiency of investment and the degree of hardware differentiation are large enough to satisfy the conditions  $k < 1/(2(3t - b - r\rho)) \equiv \overline{k}$  and  $t > (b + r\rho)/3$ , then there exist the following corner solutions under asymmetric market structure.

Proof

The demand and profit function of platform 1 can be written as

$$D_1 = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } p_1 \le b - t + p_2 \\ \frac{b+t-p_1+p_2}{2t} & \text{if } b - t + p_2 \le p_1 \le b + t + p_2 \\ 0 & \text{if } b + t + p_2 \le p_1 \end{cases}$$

$$\Pi_{1} = \begin{cases} (p_{1} - c + y_{1} + r\rho) \cdot 1 - ky_{1}^{2} & \text{if } p_{1} \leq b - t + p_{2} \\ (p_{1} - c + y_{1} + r\rho) \cdot \frac{b + t - p_{1} + p_{2}}{2t} - ky_{1}^{2} & \text{if } b - t + p_{2} \leq p_{1} \leq b \\ -ky_{1}^{2} & \text{if } b + t + p_{2} \leq p_{1} \\ & \text{if } b + t + p_{2} \leq p_{1} \\ & 2y/52 \end{cases}$$

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The condition that tipping is a best-response strategy for platform 1 is given by:

$$\lim_{p_1 \to (b-t+p_2)+0} \frac{\partial \Pi_1}{\partial p_1} = 1 - \frac{b-t+p_2-c+y_1+r\rho}{2t} \le 0$$
$$\iff y_1 \ge 3t-b-r\rho+c-p_2 \tag{1}$$

Then the best response function of platform 1 can be written as

$$BR_1(p_2) = b - t + p_2$$



# Incompatible-compatible platforms with tipping IV

The platform 1 chooses the price that leads to the tipping by its own  $(D_1 = 1)$  when the profit function can be drawn as below.



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# Incompatible-compatible platforms with tipping VI

The demand and profit function of platform 2 can be written as

$$D_2 = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } p_2 \le -b - t + p_1 \\ \frac{t - b + p_1 - p_2}{2t} & \text{if } -b - t + p_1 \le p_2 \le -b + t + p_1 \\ 0 & \text{if } -b + t + p_1 \le p_2 \end{cases}$$

$$\Pi_{2} = \begin{cases} (p_{2} - c + y_{2}) \cdot 1 + r\rho - ky_{2}^{2} & p_{2} \leq -b - t + p_{1} \\ (p_{2} - c + y_{2}) \cdot \frac{t - b + p_{1} - p_{2}}{2t} + r\rho - ky_{2}^{2} & -b - t + p_{1} \leq p_{2} \leq -b \\ + r\rho - ky_{2}^{2} & -b + t + p_{1} \leq p_{2} \end{cases}$$

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# Incompatible-compatible platforms with tipping VII

The platform 2 accepts the price that leads to tipping by rival platform  $(D_1 = 1)$  when the profit function of platform 2 is shown as below.



can immediately get the following investment level of platform 2.

$$y_2(\mathbf{IC},\mathbf{C})^T=\mathbf{0}$$

From this investment level, we can rewrite the condition (2) as  $p_1 \leq -t + b + c$ .

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Introduction	Related Literature	Model ooo	Equilibrium oooeoo	Conclusion O	References
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# Incompatible-compatible platforms with tipping VIII

The condition that being tipped is a best-response strategy for platform 2 is given by:

$$\lim_{p_2 \to (-b+t+p_1)=0} \frac{\partial \Pi_2}{\partial p_2} = -\frac{-b+t+p_1-c+y_2}{2t} \ge 0$$
  
$$\iff y_2 \le b-t+c-p_1 \qquad (2)$$

Then the best response function of platform 2 can be written as

$$BR_2(p_1) = \{p_2 | p_2 \ge -b + t + p_1\}.$$

Here, when there exists an equilibrium with tipping, the profit of platform 2 can be written as  $\Pi_2 = r\rho - ky_2^2$ . Therefore, we

Introduction **Related Literature** Model Equilibrium Conclusion References 000000 Analysis

#### Incompatible-compatible platforms with tipping X



• We have the line  $p_2 = -b + t + p_1 (p_1 \le b - t + c)$  as the set of common point of both platforms' best response functions. So we cannot derive the unique equilibrium.

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# Incompatible-compatible platforms with tipping XI

Using the trembling hand perfect equilibrium as equilibrium concept, we have the following unique equilibrium.

 $p_1 = b - t + c , p_2 = c$ 

- The profit of platform 1 can be written as  $\Pi_1 = b - t + y_1 + r\rho - ky_1^2.$
- Taking the first-order conditions and solve for the investment level, we can derive the following investment level.

$$\frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial y_1} = 1 - 2by_1 = 0 \iff y_1(\mathrm{IC}, \mathrm{C})^T = \frac{1}{2k}$$

Equilibrium

Conclusion

# Introduction Related Literature

#### **Comparative statics**

Compare the social surplus among the different market structures.

Model

#### Proposition 4

If the efficiency of investment is low enough to satisfy the condition  $k > \hat{k}$  and the degree of hardware differentiation and the benefit from a unit of content are large enough to satisfy the conditions  $t > (b + r\rho)/3$  and  $b > 3r\rho$ , then the equilibrium social surpluses are ordered as follows:

 $SS(IC, IC) < SS(IC, C)^{NT} = SS(C, IC)^{NT}$ .

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#### Incompatible-compatible platforms with tipping XII

Using this, we can get the equilibrium prices. But, it needs that p<sub>1</sub>(IC, C)<sup>T</sup>, p<sub>2</sub>(IC, C)<sup>T</sup>, y<sub>1</sub>(IC, C)<sup>T</sup>, y<sub>2</sub>(IC, C)<sup>T</sup> satisfy

 $p_1(IC, C)^2$ ,  $p_2(IC, C)^2$ ,  $y_1(IC, C)^2$ ,  $y_2(IC, C)^2$  satisfy the equation (1) and (2).

► The condition for the existence of this corner solution:  $k < 1/(2(3t - b - r\rho)) \equiv k, t > (b + r\rho)/3.$ 

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#### Subgame-perfect equilibrium I

#### **Proposition 7**

If both the degree of hardware differentiation and the benefit of content are at the intermediate levels that satisfy the conditions  $\frac{b+r\rho}{3} < t < \frac{b+r\rho}{2}$  and  $2r\rho < b < 5r\rho$ , then for all  $k > \hat{k}$ , the equilibrium market structures are the asymmetric ones without tipping, (IC, C)<sup>NT</sup> and (C, IC)<sup>NT</sup>.

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#### Subgame-perfect equilibrium II

#### Intuition

- Suppose that the rival chooses incompatibility and the degree of hardware differentiation is not very large. Then, choosing incompatibility leads to a price competition in hardware devices, which reduces the profit from selling hardware devices.
- If the rival chooses compatibility, then by choosing incompatibility the platform gains the advantage of available content and gets more profit from selling hardware devices.

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#### Subgame-perfect equilibrium IV

#### Intuition

- Given that a rival platform chooses incompatibility, choosing compatibility makes the market for hardware devices will be monopolized by the rival platform. So, it is the best-response strategy for a platform to choose incompatibility under the following parameter space.
  - Choosing incompatibility does not lead fierce competition in the hardware market. (The parameter k and t are not vary small.)
  - The royalty revenue from the sale of content is small. (The parameter  $r\rho$  is small.)

#### Subgame-perfect equilibrium III

#### **Proposition 8**

If both the degree of hardware differentiation and the benefit from content are large enough to satisfy the conditions  $t > (b + r\rho)/3$  and  $b > r\rho$ , then the equilibrium market structure is given by

	(IC, IC)	$ \text{if } t > 2r\rho \text{ and } \tilde{k} < k < \overline{k}, $
{	$(IC, C)^T$ or $(C, IC)^T$	if $(t < 2r\rho \text{ and } 1/(18t) < k < \overline{k})$ or
	l	$(t > 2r\rho \text{ and } 1/(18t) < k < \min\{\tilde{k}, \overline{k}\}).$

Introduction	Related Literature	Model ooo	Equilibrium ooooo●	Conclusion O	References
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#### Subgame-perfect equilibrium V

When both of Proposition 7 and 8 holds, that is,  $(b + r\rho)/3 < t < (b + r\rho)/2$ ,  $b/5 < r\rho < b/2$ , we can show the partition of equilibrium market structure.

#### Corollary 1

Suppose that  $(b + r\rho)/3 < t < (b + r\rho)/2$ . When the royalty revenue from a unit of content is large enough to satisfy the condition  $2b/7 < r\rho < b/2$ , we can derive the partition of equilibrium market structure in the parameter space as shown in Figure 1. The equilibrium market structure is  $(IC, C)^{NT}$ ,  $(C, IC)^{NT}$  in the range framed in by the yellow line and  $(IC, C)^{T}$ ,  $(C, IC)^{T}$  in the range framed in by the blue line.

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References

Conclusion



#### Subgame-perfect equilibrium VIII



Introduction	Related Literature	Model 000	Equilibrium 00000	Conclusion O	References
Analysis					

#### Subgame-perfect equilibrium VII

#### **Corollary 2**

Suppose that  $(b + r\rho)/3 < t < (b + r\rho)/2$ . When the royalty revenue from a unit of content is small enough to satisfy the condition  $b/5 < r\rho < 2b/7$ , we can derive the partition of equilibrium market structure in the parameter space as shown in Figures 2 and 3. The equilibrium market structure is (IC, C)<sup>NT</sup>, (C, IC)<sup>NT</sup> in the range framed in by the yellow line, (IC, C)<sup>T</sup>, (C, IC)<sup>T</sup> in the range framed in by the blue line, and (IC, IC) in the range framed in by the red line.

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#### **Conclusion I**

- In the range by the flamed by the red line, (IC,IC) becomes the equilibrium.
- (IC,IC) has the smallest social welfare in four market structures.
- The process innovation has a positive direct effect on social welfare.
- But, it also lead to an equilibrium with inefficient market structure, (IC, IC) by affecting the compatibility decisions.

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#### **Conclusion II**



- If the positive direct effect exceeds, the process innovation increases welfare.
- If the negative indirect effect exceeds, the process innovation reduces welfare.

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References

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#### **Conclusion III**

- While process innovation directly confers socially benefits, we have shown that it might nevertheless reduce social welfare by inducing change of market structure.
- Indeed, attaining a first-best might actually require taxing investment, to prevent the platforms from choosing inefficient market structures.

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	(IC, IC)	(C, C)	$(IC, C)^{NT}$	$(IC, C)^T$
$y_1$	$\frac{1}{6k}$	$\frac{1}{6k}$	$\frac{3k(3t+b+r\rho)-1}{6k(9kt-1)}$	$\frac{1}{2k}$
$y_2$	$\frac{1}{6k}$	$\frac{1}{6k}$	$\tfrac{3k(3t-b-r\rho)-1}{6k(9kt-1)}$	0
$p_1$	$t + c - r\rho - \frac{1}{6k}$	$t + c - \frac{1}{6k}$	$t + c + \frac{b}{3} - \frac{2}{3}r\rho - \frac{1}{6k} - \frac{b+r\rho}{6k(9kt-1)}$	c-t+b
$p_2$	$t + c - r\rho - \frac{1}{6k}$	$t + c - \frac{1}{6k}$	$t + c - \frac{b}{3} - \frac{1}{3}r\rho - \frac{1}{6k} + \frac{b+r\rho}{6k(9kt-1)}$	С
$D_1$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$rac{1}{2} + rac{3k(b+r ho)}{2(9kt-1)}$	1
$D_2$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$rac{1}{2} - rac{3k(b+r ho)}{2(9kt-1)}$	0
$\Pi_1$	$\frac{t}{2} - \frac{1}{36k}$	$\frac{t}{2} + r\rho - \frac{1}{36k}$	$\left(\frac{t}{2} - \frac{1}{36k}\right) \left(\frac{3k(3t+b+r\rho)-1}{9kt-1}\right)^2$	$\frac{1}{4k} - t + b + r\rho$
$\Pi_2$	$\frac{t}{2} - \frac{1}{36k}$	$\frac{t}{2} + r\rho - \frac{1}{36k}$	$\left(\frac{t}{2} - \frac{1}{36k}\right) \left(\frac{3k(3t-b-r\rho)-1}{9kt-1}\right)^2 + r\rho$	r ho
$\pi_1$	$\frac{(1-r)\rho}{2}$	$(1-r)\rho$	$(1-r)\rho \cdot D_1(\mathrm{IC},\mathrm{C})^{\mathrm{NT}}$	$(1-r)\rho$
$\pi_2$	$\frac{(1-r)\rho}{2}$	$(1-r)\rho$	(1-r) ho	$(1-r)\rho$
CS	$\frac{1}{6k} + b - \frac{5}{4}t - c + r\rho$	$\frac{1}{6k} + 2b - \frac{5}{4}t - c$	$\int_{0}^{D_{1}(\mathrm{IC},\mathrm{C})^{\mathrm{NT}}} u_{1}(x) \ dx + \int_{D_{1}(\mathrm{IC},\mathrm{C})^{\mathrm{NT}}}^{1} u_{2}(x) \ dx$	$b + \frac{t}{2} - c$
SS	$\frac{1}{9k} + b - \frac{t}{4} - c + \rho$	$\frac{1}{9k} + 2b - \frac{t}{4} - c + 2\rho$	$\overline{CS(\mathrm{IC},\mathrm{C})^{\mathrm{NT}} + \sum_{i} \pi_{i}(\mathrm{IC},\mathrm{C})^{\mathrm{NT}} + \sum_{i} \Pi_{i}(\mathrm{IC},\mathrm{C})^{\mathrm{NT}}}$	$\frac{1}{4k} - \frac{t}{2} + 2(b+\rho) - c$

Table 1: Equilibrium investment, price, demands, profits of platform, profit of content provider, consumer surplus, and social surplus.