

Today: Finish off static screening

Next time: Dynamic screening.

Recall: (i) $\theta_i v(q_i) - T_i \geq \theta_i v(q_{i-1}) - T_{i-1} \quad \forall i=2, \dots, n$

(ii) $q_i \geq q_{i-1}$

(iii) $\theta v(q_1) - T_1 \geq 0$

Now, suppose $\theta \in [\underline{\theta}, \bar{\theta}]$ with $F(\theta)$ as the cdf and $f(\theta)$ as the pdf

• Will offer $T(\theta), q(\theta)$ menu of contracts.

$$\max_{T(\cdot), q(\cdot)} \left\{ \int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\bar{\theta}} [T(\theta) - c q(\theta)] f(\theta) d\theta \right\}$$

s.t. (i) $\theta v(q(\theta)) - T(\theta) \geq \theta v(q(\theta')) - T(\theta') \quad \forall \theta, \theta'$

(ii) $\theta v(q(\theta)) - T(\theta) \geq 0 \quad \forall \theta$

$T(\cdot), q(\cdot)$ is implementable if it satisfies (i).

Claim: An allocation $T(\theta), q(\theta)$ is implementable if

and only if (i) $\theta v'(q(\theta)) \frac{dq(\theta)}{d\theta} - T'(\theta) = 0$

and (ii) $\frac{dq(\theta)}{d\theta} \geq 0$

(i) is referred to as the local adjacency condition

(ii) is the monotonicity condition.

Spence-Mirrlees condition (single-crossing property):
 Let $u(q, \theta, T)$ be the agents' utility function. Then

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left[\frac{-\partial u / \partial q}{\partial u / \partial T} \right] > 0$$

Here, we have $u(q, \theta, T) = \theta v(q) - T$

$$-\frac{\partial u / \partial q}{\partial u / \partial T} = \theta v'(q) \Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \theta v'(q) = v'(q) > 0$$

Rewriting the problem in light of the claim:

$$\max_{T(\cdot), q(\cdot)} \left\{ \int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\bar{\theta}} [T(\theta) - cq(\theta)] f(\theta) d\theta \right\}$$

$$\text{s.t. (i) } \theta v'(q(\theta)) \frac{dq}{d\theta} - T'(\theta) \geq 0 \quad \forall \theta$$

$$\text{(ii) } \frac{dq(\theta)}{d\theta} \geq 0 \quad \forall \theta$$

$$\text{(iii) } \theta v(q(\theta)) - T(\theta) = 0$$

Let $w(\theta) \equiv \theta v(q(\theta)) - T(\theta)$

$$\frac{dw(\theta)}{d\theta} = \frac{\partial w(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = v(q(\theta))$$

by envelope thm

$$\Rightarrow \int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\theta} v(q(t)) dt + \frac{w(\underline{\theta})}{= 0 \text{ by (iii)}} = w(\theta)$$

Thus, the problem becomes:

$$\max_{q(\cdot)} \int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\bar{\theta}} \underbrace{[\theta v(q(\theta)) - \int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\theta} v(q(t)) dt - cq(\theta)]}_{(1)} f(\theta) d\theta$$

s.t. $\frac{dq(\theta)}{d\theta} \geq 0 \quad \forall \theta$

Recall: $\int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\bar{\theta}} uv' = [uv]_{\underline{\theta}}^{\bar{\theta}} - \int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\bar{\theta}} v'u$

Here, $v' = f(\theta)$
 $u = \int v(q(t)) dt$

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\bar{\theta}} \left[\int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\theta} v(q(t)) dt F(\theta) \right]_{\underline{\theta}}^{\bar{\theta}} - \int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\bar{\theta}} v(q(\theta)) F(\theta) d\theta \\ &= \int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\bar{\theta}} v(q(t)) dt - \int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\bar{\theta}} v(q(\theta)) F(\theta) d\theta \\ &= \int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\bar{\theta}} v(q(\theta)) [1 - F(\theta)] d\theta \end{aligned}$$

\Rightarrow (1) becomes:

$$\max_{q(\cdot)} \int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\bar{\theta}} (\theta v(q(\theta)) - cq(\theta)) f(\theta) - v(q(\theta)) [1 - F(\theta)] d\theta$$

FOC: $\theta v'(q(\theta)) = v'(q(\theta)) \left(\frac{1 - F(\theta)}{f(\theta)} \right) + c \quad \forall \theta$

(i) If $\theta = \bar{\theta}$, then $\bar{\theta} v'(q(\bar{\theta})) = c$

(ii) If $\theta < \bar{\theta}$, then $\theta v'(q(\theta)) > c \Rightarrow q$ is too low

For monotonicity to be satisfied, we need that

$$\frac{f(\theta)}{F(\theta)} \uparrow \theta$$

Monotone hazard rate property

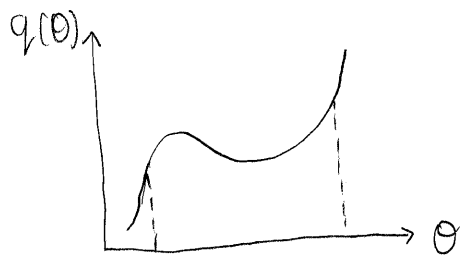
(*) In general, this is a sufficient condition.

(*) In this problem, this is a necessary and sufficient condition

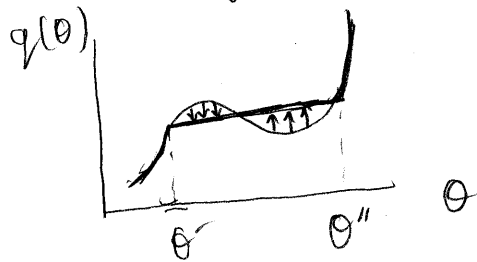
◦ This holds for all log concave distributions:

◦ Normal, uniform, exponential, F, T, Poisson, log-normal are all log concave.

◦ We will return to this when we do moral hazard.



⇓



What if monotonicity condition failed?

◦ Ironing and bunching
use optimal control theory.

Random schemes

Maskin and Riley (RAND, '84)

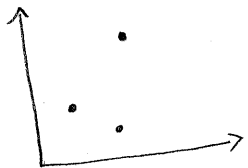
◦ Two types $\theta_2 > \theta_1$

◦ Suppose people are risk averse and θ_2 is more risk averse

◦ Offer people a lottery of (T, q)

- can potentially reduce informational rents to θ_2 type.

Multi-dimensional types:



cannot reduce an n dimensional type space to an $n-1$ dimensional type space in an order preserving way, in general.

Laffont-Maskin-Rochet ('87)

- Bunching is more likely in a two dimension case
- Armstrong (EMA, '96) - n -dimensional type space
- Some agents are always excluded.

Rochet-Chone ('97)

- upward IC constraints can bind at the optimum
- random contracts can be optimal
- no generalization of monotone hazard rate property which rules out bunching.
- there is a real loss in generality when we assume a one-dimensional type space.

Armstrong ('97)

- If large number of independently valued dimensions, then optimal contract is approximated by a two-part tariff.

Mirrlees (1976 J Pub. E)

- If $m < n$, then can characterize the soln by
dim of types * commodities
a single elliptical equation which can be solved.
- If $m \leq n$, problem with system of partial differential equations.

Next time: Dynamic adverse selection.

Recitation:

- multidimensional screening