

4/8/08

14.129

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Recitation Friday 10:30a

N types of widgets: one "special" one: value  $v > c_H > c_L$

Pr  $[c_L] = i$  (costs  $\psi(i)$ )

others "generic" (no value), costs  $c_n^g = c_L + \frac{n}{N}(c_H - c_L), n=1, \dots, N$

First best:

$$\max_i i(v - c_L) + (1-i)(v - c_H) - \psi(i)$$

No contract

$i=0$  if full bargaining power for buyer

otherwise:  $\max_i i(p_L - c_L) + (1-i)(p_H - c_H) - \psi(i)$

$t=0$ : contract

$t=1$ : investment

$t=2$ : messages

$t=3$ : renegotiation

$t=4$ : trade

seller can make a TIOLI offer. If buyer declines, no trade

can achieve FB if assume away renegotiation

Hart-Moore: if cannot commit not to renegotiate, value of contract goes to zero as  $N \rightarrow \infty$

State of nature: cost level H or L, and allocation of costs to widget "names"

Widget	1 <small>special widget</small>	2	3	...	N
state $(L, \tau)$	$c_L$	$c_L + \frac{1}{N}\Delta c$	$c_L + \frac{2}{N}\Delta c$	...	$c_L + \frac{N-1}{N}\Delta c$
state $(H, \tau^*)$	$c_L + \frac{1}{N}\Delta c$	$c_L + \frac{2}{N}\Delta c$	$c_L + \frac{3}{N}\Delta c$	...	$c_H$ <small>special widget</small>

Equilibrium strategies:  $\begin{cases} m^B(L, \tau) & m^B(H, \tau^*) \\ m^S(L, \tau) & m^S(H, \tau^*) \\ p(L, \tau) & p(H, \tau^*) \end{cases}$

IC: in  $(H, \tau^*)$ , seller should not play  $m^S(L, \tau)$  (a)

in  $(L, \tau)$ , buyer should not play  $m^B(H, \tau^*)$  (b)

assume buyer has full bargaining power in renegotiation

Both unilateral deviations imply messages  $(m^B(H, \tau^*), m^S(L, \tau))$

• call starting point of renegotiation  $\tilde{p}$  and trade of widget  $n$  w/pr  $x_n$ . No trade w/pr  $1 - \sum_{n=1}^N x_n$

$$(a) \text{ implies: } \tilde{p} - \sum_{n=1}^N x_n \left[ c_L + \frac{n}{N} (c_H - c_L) \right] \leq p(H, \tau^*) - c_H$$

pre-bargaining payoffs when deviating, which equal post renegotiation payoffs, since  $B$  has bargaining power

(b) Seller should not lose:

$$\tilde{p} - \sum_{n=1}^N x_n \left[ c_L + \frac{n-1}{N} (c_H - c_L) \right] \geq p(L, \tau) - c_L$$

Combining these, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} p(H, \tau^*) - p(L, \tau) &\geq c_H - c_L - \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{x_n}{N} (c_H - c_L) \\ &\geq \frac{N-1}{N} (c_H - c_L) \end{aligned}$$

True for every pair  $\tau, \tau^*$ . Since all have same likelihood, will have  $\Delta p \geq \frac{N-1}{N} (c_H - c_L) \rightarrow c_H - c_L$

• price allows buyer to capture seller's surplus, but we want seller to capture the gains from investment

Describability: Assume that there is no uncertainty

(i.e. special widget is always the same)

• can have  $\bar{F}B$ , even with renegotiation (price =  $v$ )

• if undescribable: as above, widgets have numbers that mean nothing!

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Hart-Moore (1988): Incomplete Contracts and Renegotiation

- not really mentioned in the Chandon Lectures
- partially contractible actions (contracting at will)
  - everyone presses button. If someone doesn't press it, no trade.