

21.1.17 → "efficient mechanism" (maximizes welfare of society)

01.1.17 → "optimal mechanism" (maximizes welfare of designer).

Problem For a single-obj., multi-bidder setting, design an auction game where the Nash equilibrium maximizes the expected utility of the seller.  
= designer.

Definitions  $N = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, n\}$ : set of bidders. (w.l.o.g. seller = 0)

Each bidder  $i \in N$  has a value estimate <sup>(VE)</sup>  $t_i$  drawn from p. distribution described by PDF  $f_i: [a_i, b_i] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

$t$ : vector of value estimates  $[t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n]$ . CDF  $F_i(t_i) = \int_{a_i}^{t_i} f_i(s) ds$   
= "type profile"

$T$ : set of all possible value estimate vectors.

21.1.17 notation  $t_i$  &  $t_i!$

Mechanism is a pair of outcome functions  $(p, \chi)$ .

$$\begin{cases} p: T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n & \text{s.t. } p_i(t) = \text{Prob}(i \text{ gets obj.} | t) \\ \chi: T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n & \text{s.t. } \chi_i(t) = E[i \text{ pays } X \text{ to seller}] \end{cases}$$

cf) Recall Direct Revelation Mechanism (DRM).

$U_i(p, \chi, t_i)$ :  $i$ 's expected utility ( $i$  knows  $t_i!$ )

$U_0(p, \chi)$ : seller's expected utility

Assumptions ① value estimate  $t_i$  drawn from  $f_i$  under i.i.d.

⇒ joint density function  $f(t) = \prod_{j \in N} f_j(t_j)$ .

② bidder  $i$  assesses probability distribution of  $t_j$  the same way as the seller. ( $\Leftrightarrow f_j$  known)

⇒ joint density function  $f_{-i}(t_{-i}) = \prod_{\substack{j \in N \\ j \neq i}} f_j(t_j)$ .

③ bidders & sellers are risk-neutral

④ additively separable utility functions (= quasilinear environment)

cf) Recall: No "dictator" in quasilinear setting w/ WBB.

⇒  $U_i(p, \chi, t_i) = \int_{T_{-i}} (\underbrace{t_i p_i(t)}_{\text{net utility for } t}) - \underbrace{\chi_i(t)}_{\text{? } t_i \text{ PDF}} \underbrace{f_{-i}(t_{-i})}_{\text{sum for all } t} dt_{-i}$ .

$U_0(p, \chi) = \int_T (t_0 (1 - \sum_{j \in N} p_j(t)) + \sum_{j \in N} \chi_j(t)) f(t) dt$ .

Constraints ①  $\sum_{j \in N} p_j(t) \leq 1$  and  $p_i(t) \geq 0 \quad \forall t \in T, i \in N.$  (2)

:  $p_i(t)$  is a probability distribution over  $N \cup \{0\}$ .

②  $U_i(p, x, t_i) \geq 0 \quad \forall i \in N, \forall t_i \in [a_i, b_i].$

: "individual rationality" 개개인이 거래에 참가하지 않는만큼, 효용이 음이 아님.

③  $U_i(p, x, t_i) \geq \int_{T_{-i}} (t_i p_i(t_{-i}, s_i) - x_i(t_{-i}, s_i)) f_{-i}(t_{-i}) dt_{-i}$

: "revelation mechanism" 거짓말 방지책.  $\forall i \in N, \forall t_i \in [a_i, b_i]$

거짓말 시 효용이 정직할 때 효용보다 크지 않게. (=incentive compatibility)  
 $\forall s_i \in [a_i, b_i]$

$M = (p, x)$  is feasible if c-①, c-②, c-③ are satisfied.

Problem (restatement)  $\arg \max_{(p, x): \text{feasible DRM}} U_0(p, x)$

Def  $Q_i(p, t_i) \triangleq \text{Prob}(i \text{ gets obj.} \mid i\text{'s value estimate} = t_i)$   
 $= \int_{T_{-i}} p_i(t) f_{-i}(t_{-i}) dt_{-i}$ . :  $i$  입장에서 물건 얻을 확률.  
 $\text{Prob}(i \text{ gets obj} \mid t) \text{ Prob}(\text{value est.} = t_i)$

Lemma 1 (Myerson <sup>Lem. 2</sup>).

$(p, x)$  is feasible iff:

① if  $s_i \leq t_i$ , then  $Q_i(p, s_i) \leq Q_i(p, t_i) \quad \forall i \in N, \forall s_i, t_i \in [a_i, b_i].$

( $\Rightarrow$ ) 모든 진짜 value estimate (=  $t_i$ ) 보다 낮은 모든 벉크 ( $s_i$ ) 에 대해,  $i$  입장에서 물건 얻을 확률이 벉크가 더 크지 않는다.

( $\Leftarrow$ )  $Q_i(p, y)$  는  $y \in [a_i, b_i]$  에 대해 monotonically increasing.

②  $U_i(p, x, t_i) = U_i(p, x, a_i) + \int_{a_i}^{t_i} Q_i(p, s_i) ds_i. \quad \forall i \in N, \forall t_i \in [a_i, b_i]$

( $\Rightarrow$ )  $U_i(p, x, t_i)$  는  $t_i \in [a_i, b_i]$  에 대해 monotonically increasing,  $i$  벉크가 높을수록  $i$  입장에서 물건 얻을 확률은 커질수록  $i$  에 대해 정직할수록.

③  $U_i(p, x, a_i) \geq 0 \quad \forall i \in N$

+ ②  $\Rightarrow$  거래에 참여 시 효용은 양수여야 한다. (individual rationality)

④  $\sum_{j \in N} p_j(t) \leq 1, p_i(t) \geq 0 \quad \forall i \in N, t \in T.$

( $\Rightarrow$ ) constraint-①.



[feasible  $\rightarrow$  Lem. 1 (D4)]

(3)

c-(4) (revelation mechanism)

$$\begin{aligned}
 U_i(p, \lambda, t_i) &\geq \int_{T_i} \underbrace{(t_i p_i(t_i, s_i) - \lambda_i(t_i, s_i))}_{s_i + (t_i - s_i)} f_i(t_i) dt_i \\
 &= \int_{T_i} (s_i p_i(t_i, s_i) - \lambda_i(t_i, s_i)) f_i(t_i) dt_i \\
 &\quad + (t_i - s_i) \int_{T_i} p_i(t_i, s_i) f_i(t_i) dt_i \\
 &= U_i(p, \lambda, s_i) + (t_i - s_i) Q_i(p, s_i)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{i) } U_i(p, \lambda, t_i) - U_i(p, \lambda, s_i) \geq (t_i - s_i) Q_i(p, s_i)$$

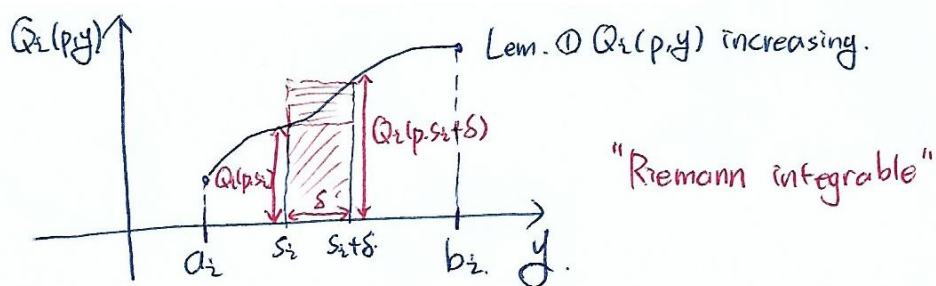
$$\text{ii) switch } s_i, t_i \quad U_i(p, \lambda, t_i) - U_i(p, \lambda, s_i) \leq (t_i - s_i) Q_i(p, t_i)$$

$$\Rightarrow (t_i - s_i) Q_i(p, s_i) \leq (t_i - s_i) Q_i(p, t_i)$$

$$\therefore \text{Lem 1 - ① } Q_i(p, s_i) \leq Q_i(p, t_i) \quad \forall s_i \leq t_i.$$

Now, choose  $t_i = s_i + \delta$  for  $\delta > 0$ :

$$Q_i(p, s_i) \cdot \delta \leq U_i(p, \lambda, s_i + \delta) - U_i(p, \lambda, s_i) \leq Q_i(p, s_i + \delta) \cdot \delta \quad \forall \delta > 0.$$



$$\therefore \text{Lem 1 - ② } U_i(p, \lambda, t_i) = U_i(p, \lambda, a_i) + \int_{a_i}^{t_i} Q_i(p, s_i) ds_i.$$

Moreover, c-② (individual rationality)

$$U_i(p, \lambda, t_i) \geq 0 \quad \forall t_i \in [a_i, b_i] \rightarrow \text{choose } t_i = a_i.$$

$$\therefore \text{Lem 1 - ③ } U_i(p, \lambda, a_i) \geq 0.$$

[Lem. 1 (1) & (4)  $\rightarrow$  feasible]

(4)

Recall:  $Q_i(p, s_i) \geq 0$   $\because$  is a probability.

$$\forall s_i \in [a_i, b_i]$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{a_i}^{t_i} Q_i(p, s_i) ds_i \geq 0 \quad \forall t_i \in [a_i, b_i].$$

$$\therefore U_i(p, x, t_i) = \underbrace{U_i(p, x, a_i)}_{\geq 0 \text{ (Lem. 1 (3))}} + \underbrace{\int_{a_i}^{t_i} Q_i(p, s_i) ds_i}_{\geq 0} \geq 0 \quad \forall t_i \in [a_i, b_i] \quad (c-2)$$

proving c-3 ( $U_i(p, x, t_i) \geq U_i(p, x, s_i) + (t_i - s_i) Q_i(p, s_i)$ ):

case 1:  $s_i \leq t_i$ .

$$\begin{aligned} U_i(p, x, t_i) &= U_i(p, x, s_i) + \int_{s_i}^{t_i} Q_i(p, r_i) dr_i \quad (\because \text{Lem. 1-(2)}) \\ &\geq U_i(p, x, s_i) + \int_{s_i}^{t_i} Q_i(p, s_i) dr_i \quad (Q_i(p, r_i) \geq Q_i(p, s_i) \text{ Lem. 1-(D)}) \\ &= U_i(p, x, s_i) + (t_i - s_i) Q_i(p, s_i) \end{aligned}$$

case 2:  $s_i > t_i$ .

$$\begin{aligned} U_i(p, x, t_i) &= U_i(p, x, s_i) - \int_{t_i}^{s_i} Q_i(p, r_i) dr_i \\ &\dots \geq U_i(p, x, s_i) + (t_i - s_i) Q_i(p, s_i). \end{aligned}$$

□

Lemma 2 (Myerson <sup>lem</sup> 3).

Let  $p^*: T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $x^*: T \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  s.t.

$$\begin{cases} p^* = \arg \max_{p \text{ satisfies Lem. 1-(1), (4)}} \int_T \left( \sum_{i \in N} (t_i - t_0 - \frac{1 - F_i(t_i)}{f_i(t_i)}) p_i(t) \right) f(t) dt. \\ x_i^*(t) = \underbrace{t_i p_i(t)}_{\text{앞은 가치의 기댓값}} - \int_{a_i}^{t_i} p_i(t-s_i) ds_i \end{cases}$$

Then,  $(p^*, x^*)$  is optimal.

proof

$$U_0(p, \lambda) = \int_T (t_0 (1 - \sum_{j \in N} p_j(t)) + \sum_{j \in N} \lambda_j(t)) f(t) dt.$$

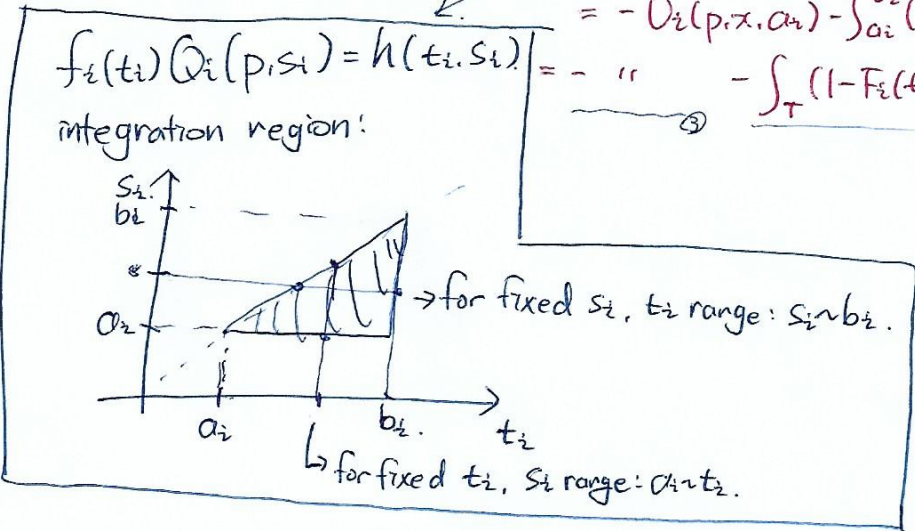
$$= \int_T t_0 f(t) dt + \sum_{i \in N} \int_T p_i(t) (t_i - t_0) f(t) dt + \sum_{i \in N} \int_T (\lambda_i(t) - p_i(t) t_i) f(t) dt.$$

$$= - \int_{a_i}^{b_i} U_i(p, \lambda, t_i) f_i(t_i) dt_i$$

$$\stackrel{\text{Lem. 1-(2)}}{=} - \int_{a_i}^{b_i} (U_i(p, \lambda, a_i) + \int_{a_i}^{t_i} Q_i(p, s_i) ds_i) f_i(t_i) dt_i.$$

$$= - U_i(p, \lambda, a_i) \int_{a_i}^{b_i} f_i(t_i) dt_i - \int_{a_i}^{b_i} \int_{a_i}^{t_i} Q_i(p, s_i) ds_i f_i(t_i) dt_i.$$

$\int_{a_i}^{b_i} \int_{a_i}^{t_i} = 1$  (Fubini's theorem)



$$= - U_i(p, \lambda, a_i) - \int_{a_i}^{b_i} (1 - F_i(s_i)) Q_i(p, s_i) ds_i$$

$$= - \int_T (1 - F_i(t_i)) p_i(t) f_i(t_i) dt$$

$$\Rightarrow U_0(p, \lambda) = \int_T \left( \sum_{i \in N} (t_i - t_0 - \frac{1 - F_i(t_i)}{f_i(t_i)} p_i(t)) f(t) dt \right) \quad \text{②+③}$$

independent of  $\lambda$ .

$$+ \int_T t_0 f(t) dt - \sum_{i \in N} U_i(p, \lambda, a_i)$$

constant.

$$\text{(Let } \lambda_i(t) = t_i p_i(t) - \int_{a_i}^{t_i} p_i(t-i, s_i) ds_i \text{)}$$

$$\dots = \sum_{i \in N} \int_{T-i} (t_i p_i(t) - \lambda_i(t)) f_i(t-i) dt-i \Big|_{t_i=a_i}$$

cancel.

$$= \sum_{i \in N} \int_{T-i} \int_{a_i}^{t_i} p_i(t-i, s_i) ds_i \cdot f_i(t-i) dt-i \Big|_{t_i=a_i}$$

= 0 minimize. ( $\because U_i \geq 0$ )

Note: such an  $\lambda^*$  satisfies Lem. 1-(2), (3). (omitted)

Now,  $p$  should maximize  

□



Corollary. (Revenue-Equivalence Thm)

The seller's utility  $V_0(p, x)$  from a feasible mechanism  $(p, x)$  is completely determined by  $p$  and the numbers  $U_i(p, x, c_i) \forall i \in N$ .

Assumption - 5. Regularity. Function  $C_i: [a_i, b_i] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined as

$$C_i(t_i) = t_i - \frac{1 - F_i(t_i)}{f_i(t_i)}$$

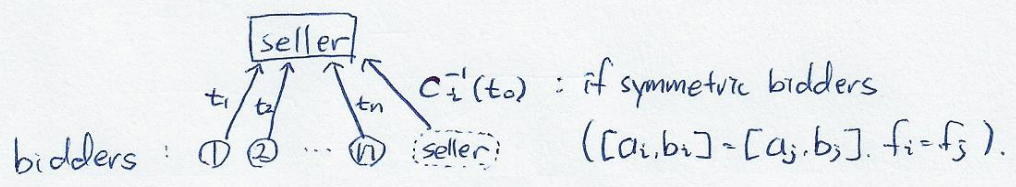
is a monotone strictly increasing function of  $t_i, \forall i \in N$ .

cf)  $C_i(t_i)$ : "virtual surplus" of buyer  
= "marginal revenue"  $\rightarrow$   $\Delta$  revenue.

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{willingness to} \\ \text{pay} \end{array} \right) - \frac{\text{demand}}{\text{cost decr.}} = \Delta \text{ revenue.}$$

... turns out,  $p^*(t) = \begin{cases} \vec{0} & \text{if } t_0 > \max_{i \in N} C_i(t_i) \text{ (seller keeps item)} \\ [0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0] & \text{otherwise} \\ & \uparrow \\ & \text{tiebreaking} \\ & \text{winner} \\ & \text{w/ max } C_i(t_i) \end{cases}$

$x_i^*(t) = \begin{cases} \inf \{s_i \mid C_i(s_i) \geq 0, C_i(s_i) \geq C_j(s_j) \forall s_j\} & \text{if } p_i(t) = 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$



Now, consider:  $p^*(t) = \vec{0}$ .

$$U_i(p, x, t) = V_0(p, x) = 0 \Rightarrow \text{NOT efficient.}$$

e.g.  $n=1$

# Concluding remarks

(7)

Myerson considers a more general setting.

◦  $v_i(t) = t_i + \sum_{\substack{j \in N \\ j \neq i}} e_j(t_j)$  : value estimate revision function  $e_i$  is  
목적의 가치인  $t_j$  가치 반영.

◦ Non regular  $c_i(t_i)$  :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bar{p}_i(t) = \begin{cases} 1/|M(t)| & \text{if } i \in M(t) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \\ \bar{x}_i(t) = (\text{Lem. 2} - \pi \text{ condition}) \end{array} \right. \left| \begin{array}{l} M(t) \triangleq \{ i \mid t_0 \leq \bar{c}_i(t_i) = \max_{j \in N} \bar{c}_j(t_j) \} \\ \text{def of } \bar{c}_i(t_i) \text{ technical.} \end{array} \right.$$

is optimal.

◦ Non-i.i.d. value estimates: linear programming

◦ Implementation: compute  $\bar{c}_j$  (or  $c_j$ ) and  $x_i$  from  $f_i$  (and  $e_i$ )

⇒ easy to compute.