



$$\pi(p; w) = \max_{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^{N-1}} p f(x) - w \cdot x$$

$$c(y; w) = \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^{N-1}} w \cdot x$$

s.t.  $f(x) \geq y$ .

$$\pi(p; w) = \max_{y \in \mathbb{R}_+} p y - c(y; w)$$

Bellman equation

- two value functions ( $\pi$  &  $c$ )
- connected via an equation
- \* one value function on LHS
- \* max/min on RHS
- \* other value function on RHS

Bellman (1957) - dynamic programming

- \* optimal rocket trajectory
- \* genetics  $A C G T T T A A C C \dots$   
 $A G - T T T C A C C \dots$

\* network routing

\* sorting - alphabetical order

\* consumption/savings trade-off

Principle of Optimality check that the Bellman equation holds.

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_y p y - c(y; w) \\ &= \max_y p y - \left[ \min_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^{N-1} \\ \text{s.t. } f(x) \geq y}} w \cdot x \right] \\ &= \max_y p y + \left[ \max_x -w \cdot x \right. \\ & \quad \left. \text{s.t. } f(x) \geq y \right] \\ &= \max_y \left[ \max_{\substack{x \\ \text{s.t. } f(x) \geq y}} p y - w \cdot x \right] \\ &= \max_{x, y} p y - w \cdot x \\ & \quad \text{s.t. } f(x) \geq y \\ &= \max_{x, y} p y - w \cdot x \\ & \quad \text{s.t. } f(x) = y \quad (\text{free disposal}) \\ &= \max_{x, y} p f(x) - w \cdot x \\ & \quad \text{s.t. } f(x) = y \\ &= \max_x p f(x) - w \cdot x \\ &= \pi(p, w). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Theorem If  $y(p; w)$  is an optimal supply policy, then for all prices  $(p, w)$ ,

$$p = \underbrace{\frac{\partial c(y; w)}{\partial y}}_{\text{marginal cost}} \Big|_{y=y(p; w)}$$

Proof By the principle of optimality,

$$\pi(p; w) = \max_y p y - c(y; w)$$

Then take the FOC with respect to  $y$ .  $\square$

Re-apply the envelope to the Bellman equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \pi(p; w)}{\partial p} &= \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \{ p y - c(y; w) \} \right]_{y=y(p; w)} \\ &= [y]_{y=y(p; w)} \\ &= y(p, w). \quad \text{same as before} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \pi(p; w)}{\partial w_n} &= \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial w_n} \{ p y - c(y; w) \} \right]_{y=y(p; w)} \\ &= \left[ - \frac{\partial c(y; w)}{\partial w_n} \right]_{y=y(p; w)} \end{aligned}$$