

$v < p_1, \dots, p_m$ are prices.

f_i : prob. of customer i buy the good.

N : # of customers.

R : # of goods.

$P_i f_i$: expected revenue from customer i .

$f_i \downarrow$ if $p_i \uparrow$.

Want if $P_i f_i < P_j f_j$ $i < j$

Proof. We can model this as an MDP.

States: $S = \{0, 1, \dots, R\}$ Epochs: per customer. N horizons.

Actions: $i \in \{1, \dots, m\} = A$

Reward: $r(S, i) = P_i f_i \cdot \mathbb{1}(S > 0)$.

Transition: $S=0$. $P_{00}(i) = 1$.

$S > 0$. $P_{S,S}(i) = 1 - g_i$

$P_{S,S+1}(i) = g_i$

$$V_n(S) = \max_{i \in A} \left\{ r(S, i) + \sum_{S' \in S} P_{SS'}(i) V_{n-1}(S') \right\}, \quad V_1(S) = r(S, i) = \begin{cases} P_i f_i & \text{if } S=R \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$= \max_{i \in A} \left\{ P_i f_i \cdot \mathbb{1}(S > 0) + P_{S,S+1}(i) V_{n-1}(S+1) + P_{S,S}(i) V_{n-1}(S) \right\}$$

$$\text{if } S=0 \quad V_n(0) = \max_{i \in A} \{ V_{n-1}(0) \} = V_{n-1}(0) = \dots = V_1(0) = 0$$

$$\text{if } S > 0 \quad V_n(S) = \max_{i \in A} \{ P_i f_i + g_i V_{n-1}(S+1) + (1-g_i) V_{n-1}(S) \}$$

$$= \max_{i \in A} \left\{ P_i f_i + V_{n-1}(S) + \underbrace{g_i (V_{n-1}(S+1) - V_{n-1}(S))}_{\leq 0?} \right\}$$

$$i^* = \operatorname{argmax} \{ \} = P_m g_m + V_{n-1}(S) + g_m (V_{n-1}(S+1) - V_{n-1}(S))$$

$$\Rightarrow i^* = M$$

$$\text{Want } V_n(S+1) - V_n(S) \stackrel{?}{\leq} 0. \quad \text{induction.} \quad V_n(0) - V_n(1) \leq 0 \checkmark$$

$$\text{Suppose } V_n(S) - V_n(S-1) \geq 0. \quad V_{n-1}(S)$$

$$V_n(S+1) - V_n(S) = \max_{i \in A} \{ P_i f_i + g_i V_{n-1}(S) + (1-g_i) V_{n-1}(S+1) \} - \max_{i \in A} \{ P_i f_i + g_i V_{n-1}(S-1) + (1-g_i) V_{n-1}(S) \}$$

$$\geq \max_{i \in A} \{ \underbrace{g_i (V_{n-1}(S) - V_{n-1}(S-1))}_{\geq 0} + (1-g_i) (V_{n-1}(S+1) - V_{n-1}(S)) \}$$

$$\geq (1-g_i) (V_{n-1}(S+1) - V_{n-1}(S))$$

$$\geq \underbrace{(1-g_i)^{n-1} (V_1(S+1) - V_1(S))}_{\geq 0} \geq 0$$

$$\begin{cases} \text{if } S+1=R, & 0 = (1-g_i)^{n-1} g_i f_i \geq 0 \\ \text{otherwise} & 0 = 0 \end{cases}$$

QED.