

Definition 0.1. Let $\vec{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$ be an n -dimensional vector. We will denote the $(n-1)$ -dimensional vector in which the i -th coordinate is removed by $v_{-i} = (v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_n)$. Thus we have three equivalent notations: $\vec{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_n) = (v_i, v_{-i})$.

Definition 0.2. A (direct revelation) mechanism is a choice function f and a vector of utility functions u_1^f, \dots, u_n^f

$$f : V_1 \times \dots \times V_n \rightarrow A \quad (0.1)$$

$$u_i^f : V_1 \times \dots \times V_n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad (0.2)$$

Definition 0.3. A mechanism (f, u_1^f, \dots, u_n^f) is called incentive compatible if $\forall i, \exists v_i \in V_i, \forall v'_i \in V_i$,

$$u_i^f(v_i, v_{-i}) \geq u_i^f(v'_i, v_{-i}) \quad (0.3)$$

Definition 0.4. A game with (independent private values and) strict incomplete information for a set of n players is given by the following ingredients:

- (i) For every player i , a set of *actions* X_i .
- (ii) For every player i , a set of *types* T_i . A value $t_i \in T_i$ is the private information that i has.
- (iii) For every player i , a *utility function* $u_i : T_i \times X_1 \times \dots \times X_n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where $u_i(t_i, x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is the utility achieved by player i , if his type is t_i , and the profile of actions taken by all players is x_1, \dots, x_n .

Definition 0.5. (i) A strategy of a player i is a function $s_i : T_i \rightarrow X_i$.

(ii) A strategy s_i is a (weakly) dominant strategy if for every t_i we have that the action $s_i(t_i)$ is a dominant strategy in the full information game defined by t_i . Formally: For all t_i , all x_{-i} and all x'_i we have that

$$u_i(t_i, s_i(t_i), x_{-i}) \geq u_i(t_i, x'_i, x_{-i}) \quad (0.4)$$

A profile s_1, \dots, s_n is called a dominant strategy equilibrium if each s_i is a dominant strategy.

Definition 0.6. (i) A mechanism for n players is given by

- (a) players' type spaces T_1, \dots, T_n ,
- (b) players' action spaces X_1, \dots, X_n ,
- (c) an alternative set A ,
- (d) an outcome function $a : X_1 \times \dots \times X_n \rightarrow A$ and,

The game with strict incomplete information induced by the mechanism is given by using the types spaces T_i , the action spaces X_i , and the utilities $u_i(t_i, x_1, \dots, x_n)$.

(ii) The mechanism implements a choice function $f : T_1 \times \dots \times T_n \rightarrow A$ in dominant strategies if for some dominant strategy equilibrium s_1, \dots, s_n of the induced game, where $s_i : T_i \rightarrow X_i$, we have that for all t_1, \dots, t_n , $f(t_1, \dots, t_n) = a(s_1(t_1), \dots, s_n(t_n))$.

Proposition 0.1 (Revelation Principle). *If there exists an arbitrary mechanism that implements f in dominant strategies, then there exists an incentive compatible mechanism that implements f . The payments of the players in the incentive compatible mechanism are identical to those, obtained at equilibrium, of the original mechanism.*

Proof. The new mechanism will simply simulate the equilibrium strategies of the players. That is, let s_1, \dots, s_n be a dominant strategy equilibrium of the original mechanism, we define a new direct revelation mechanism:

$$f(t_1, \dots, t_n) := a(s_1(t_1), \dots, s_n(t_n)) \quad (0.5)$$

$$u_i^f(t_1, \dots, t_n) := u_i(t(i), s_1(t_1), \dots, s_n(t_n)), \text{ where } t(i) := t_i \quad (0.6)$$

. Now since each s_i is a dominant strategy for player i , then for every t_i, x_{-i}, x'_i we have that

$$u_i(t(i), s_i(t_i), x_{-i}) \geq u_i(t(i), x'_i, x_{-i}) \quad (0.7)$$

$$u_i(t(i), s_i(t_i), s_{-i}(t_{-i})) \geq u_i(t(i), s_i(t'_i), s_{-i}(t_{-i})) \quad (0.8)$$

$$u_i^f(t_i, t_{-i}) \geq u_i^f(t'_i, t_{-i}) \quad (0.9)$$

, which gives the definition of incentive compatibility of the mechanism (f, u_1^f, \dots, u_n^f) . \square