

The market for lemon

$$S(q) = E[v(q') \mid q' \leq q] - c(q)$$

$q \in [0, 1]$  = quality of used car

$c(q)$  and  $v(q)$  are increasing in  $q$

assume  $v(q) > c(q)$  for all  $q > 0$

optimal: all the used cars are sold.

get: in a perfectly competitive equilibrium, we can not get perfectly optimal

↓ (second best: 0 surplus ← last class)

$v(q)$  willing  
 $c(q)$  willing to sell  
↑↑

**Proposition:** In a perfectly CE,  $q$  is an equilibrium quantity

$$\text{iff } S(q) = 0 \quad (q < 1)$$

$$S(q) > 0 \quad (q = 1)$$

Condition

↳ guarantee

① get full efficiency  $\Rightarrow q = 1$ ?

② never get full efficiency

$q = 1 \Rightarrow EQ$   
↓

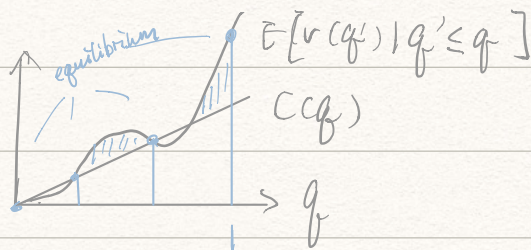
**Proposition:** The market for the lemon necessarily exhibit inefficiency.  
if  $c(1) > E[v(1)]$

worst  $\rightarrow$  The market for lemon shut down completely if

$$c(q) > E[v(q') \mid q' \leq q] \quad \forall q \in (0, 1]$$



can shut down  $\nearrow$  lead to ?



$\Rightarrow$  Death Spiral (market unravel, high quality are taken out)

$\Rightarrow$  adverse selection

bad quality drives out good quality

Ex: interdependent value

$\Rightarrow$  can even occur even the quality is observable

mechanism alleviate the inefficiency.

① warranties can separate manufactory  
informed party (signal quality)  $\Rightarrow$  costly  
try to signal  
· imperfect solutions  $\Rightarrow$  moral hazard.  
· competition in warranty  
excessive warranties

② reputation for quality

③ screening  $\nearrow$  uniformly party tries to screen  
offer a menu of option deductibles, premium.  
 $\uparrow$   
risks.  
self-select  $\rightarrow$  combination  
recognize differences in taste



Ex. Health Care.

plan ① M (moderate)

two types of  
individuals

L Low risk  $\frac{1}{2}$

② G (generous)

H High risk  $\frac{1}{2}$

can not observe type of individuals, know present.

for insurance company.

worth for individual

(Cost)

M

G

Valuation

M

G

L

40

60

L

70

85

H

70

100

H

110

130

perfect information : Low  $\rightarrow$  Moderate

High  $\rightarrow$  Generous

? Competitive