

Supermodularity and Equilibrium in Games with Peer Effects and Endogenous Network Formation

master's thesis

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Introduction

Network with Peer Effect

- Network structure and local interactions play an important role in individual and aggregate behaviors
- By considering network structure, we can consider direct effect and indirect effect.
- Externalities of the individual behavior in the network is a key factor for the aggregate behavior
- Especially, we can see the importance of positive externalities
 - R&D network, criminal network, educational network
- Many literatures argue the importance of "peer effects" theoretically and empirically

Endogeneity of the network

- However, in many works, the network is exogenous and fixed
- When economic agents are faced with some shocks or policy changes, they respond to them and the network will be changed

This paper

- This paper considers the endogenous network formation with peer effects
- We consider the model where
 - agents first choose the agents who they connect
 - agents choose the level of effort given the network structure
- We provide
 - the existence of subgame perfect equilibrium where all agents take pure strategies at each stage
 - the argument about the equilibrium uniqueness and multiplicity
 - the discussion about policy implication (key player and key link policy)

- Peer effect in networks
 - Ballester et.al.(2006), Calvó-Armengol et.al.(2009), Liu et.al.(2012)
- Endogenous network
 - Acemoglu and Azar(2019), Oberfield(2018), Farboodi(2014)
- Closely related paper(peer effect + endogeneity)
 - Kim et.al.(2017), Hiller(2017)

Model

Model : Setup

- the set of agents : $N = \{1, \dots, n\}$ with $n \geq 2$ and $n < \infty$
- Agents are initially connected in *potential network* \bar{g}
- \bar{g} is represented by adjacency matrix $\bar{\mathbf{G}} = (\bar{g}_{ij})_{ij}$ where

$$\bar{g}_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{(if } i \text{ has a link to } j \text{ in } \bar{g}) \\ 0 & \text{(otherwise)} \end{cases}$$

- $\bar{\mathbf{G}}$ need not be symmetric : directed network
- Self-loop is not allowed : $\bar{g}_{ii} = 0$ for all $i \in N$
- Agent i 's neighbors in \bar{g} : $N_i(\bar{g}) = \{j \in N \mid \bar{g}_{ij} = 1\}$

Model : 1st stage

- First, agents simultaneously choose their neighbors from the agents whom they connect in the potential network
- This action is represented by $\psi_i = (\psi_{i1}, \dots, \psi_{in})$ such that $\psi_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$ for all $j \in N$, and $\psi_{ij} = 0$ for all $j \notin N_i(\bar{g})$
- Denote the agent i 's set of actions as Ψ_i
- When an agent i form link to j , he incurs the link-specific costs $c_{ij} \geq 0$
 - We denote $\mathbf{C} = (c_{ij})_{ij}$
 - \mathbf{C} is not necessarily symmetric
- The action in the 1st stage is dependent on \bar{g} , sometimes we denote $\psi_i(\bar{g})$

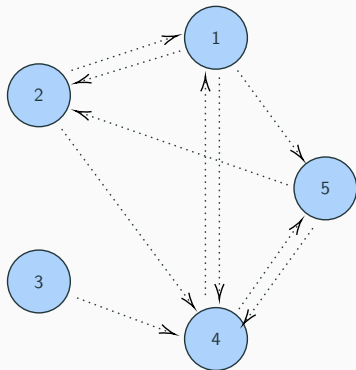
Model : Realized network

- At the end of the 1st stage, we can see *realized network* denoted as g
- g is represented by the adjacency matrix \mathbf{G}

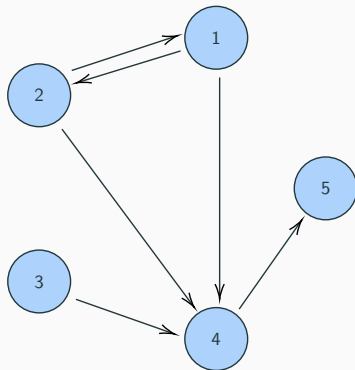
$$g_{ij}(\psi_{ij}(\bar{g})) = \begin{cases} 1 & (\text{if } \psi_{ij}(\bar{g}) = 1) \\ 0 & (\text{otherwise}) \end{cases}$$

- g depends on $\psi(\bar{g}) = (\psi_1(\bar{g}), \dots, \psi_n(\bar{g}))$, so we can denote $g(\psi(\bar{g}))$
- To avoid redundant expressions, we denote $g(\psi)$

Model : 1st stage



potential network



realized network

Figure 1: Difference between potential network and realized network

Model : 2nd stage

- Given the realized network, each agent $i \in N$ simultaneously exerts an effort $x_i \geq 0$
- Denote $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$
- Payoff function is

$$u_i(\mathbf{x}, \psi, \mathbf{C}, \phi) = v_i(\mathbf{x}, g(\psi), \phi) - \sum_{j=1}^n g_{ij}(\psi) c_{ij}$$

where

$$v_i(\mathbf{x}, g(\psi), \phi) = \alpha_i x_i - \frac{1}{2} x_i^2 + \phi \sum_{j=1}^n g_{ij}(\psi) x_i x_j$$

- $\phi > 0$ and cross term represent the peer effect
- $\alpha_i > 0$ and denote $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$

Interpretation : Examples

- node : web sites, municipalities in Mexico and U.S.
- link : ad on other sites, drug traffick
- link formation cost : ad fee, prob of capture during trafficking
- effort : investments on web contents, drug demand

Equilibrium

- **Definition** : Given \bar{g} and \mathbf{C} , a network g^* is an *equilibrium network* if $g^* = g(\psi^*)$ where ψ^* is an action profile in a pure strategy subgame perfect equilibrium.
- We focus on a pure strategy equilibrium to consider non-stochastic networks

2nd stage equilibrium

- **Assumption** : $\phi\rho(\overline{\mathbf{G}}) < 1$ where $\rho(\cdot)$ is spectral radius
- **Proposition** : Under Assumption, for any realized network g , the subgame has a unique Nash equilibrium \mathbf{x}^* , which is interior and given by

$$\mathbf{x}^*(g, \phi, \alpha) = (\mathbf{I} - \phi\mathbf{G})^{-1}\alpha$$

- This is based on Ballester, Calvó-Armengol, and Zenou(2006)
- We have

$$v_i(\mathbf{x}^*(g), g, \phi) = \frac{1}{2}x_i^*(g)^2$$

Supermodularity of the reduced game

- By backward induction, given 2nd stage Nash equilibrium, consider the 1st stage game as a normal form game $\Gamma = \langle N, \Psi, (u_i)_{i \in N} \rangle$
- **Theorem** : For any \bar{g} and \mathbf{C} , Γ is a supermodular game, that is,
 - Ψ is a sublattice of $\prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{R}^n$,
 - $u_i(\psi_i, \psi_{-i})$ is supermodular in ψ_i on Ψ_i for each ψ_{-i} on Ψ_{-i} for each i , and
 - $u_i(\psi_i, \psi_{-i})$ has increasing differences in (ψ_i, ψ_{-i}) on $\Psi_i \times \Psi_{-i}$.

[Proof]

- **Corollary** : Equilibrium network always exists, in particular the greatest and smallest equilibrium network exists
- We focus on the greatest equilibrium network and denote g^{**}
 - The greatest equilibrium can be obtained by sequential *best response dynamics* which starts from the potential network

- **Strategic complementarity in 2nd stage** : Given the realized network, if the neighbors exert more efforts, the agent has an incentive to exert more effort by peer effects.
- **Strategic complementarity in 1st stage** : When agent i forms more links, he exerts more effort by the strategic complementarity in 2nd stage. Agent i 's increased effort makes agents who have a link to him exert more efforts, so all agents' level of effort weakly increases. Increasing level of efforts makes the agents to connect more agents.

Uniqueness/Multiplicity of the equilibrium

- Equilibrium network is sometimes not unique
- **Example** : Consider $n = 2$, $\alpha = (1, 1)$, and $\overline{\mathbf{G}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$.

Then $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ can be both equilibrium network for some c_{12} and c_{21} .

- Payoff matrix is:

	$g_{21} = 1$	$g_{21} = 0$
$g_{12} = 1$	$\left(\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{1-\phi} \right)^2 - c_{12}, \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{1-\phi} \right)^2 - c_{21} \right)$	$\left(\frac{1}{2} (1 + \phi)^2 - c_{12}, \frac{1}{2} \right)$
$g_{12} = 0$	$\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} (1 + \phi)^2 - c_{21} \right)$	$\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right)$

Uniqueness/Multiplicity of the equilibrium

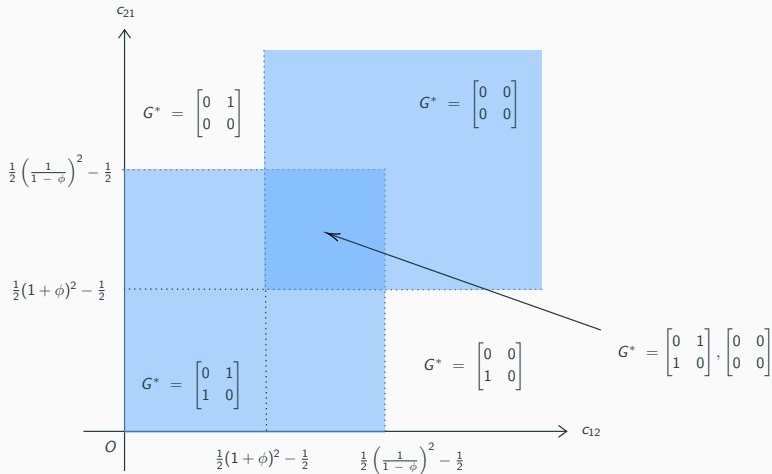


Figure 2: Equilibrium network region

- **Proposition** : Given the potential network \bar{g} . Consider the cost $\hat{\mathbf{C}}$ and \mathbf{C} with $\hat{\mathbf{C}} \leq \mathbf{C}$. Then,

$$g^{**}(\psi^*(\bar{g}, \hat{\mathbf{C}}, \phi, \alpha)) \supseteq g^{**}(\psi^*(\bar{g}, \mathbf{C}, \phi, \alpha))$$

- **Corollary** : Given the potential network g^P . For $\hat{\phi} \geq \phi$ which satisfy the Assumption,

$$g^{**}(\psi^*(\bar{g}, \mathbf{C}, \hat{\phi}, \alpha)) \supseteq g^{**}(\psi^*(\bar{g}, \mathbf{C}, \phi, \alpha))$$

For $\hat{\alpha} \geq \alpha$,

$$g^{**}(\psi^*(\bar{g}, \mathbf{C}, \phi, \hat{\alpha})) \supseteq g^{**}(\psi^*(\bar{g}, \mathbf{C}, \phi, \alpha))$$

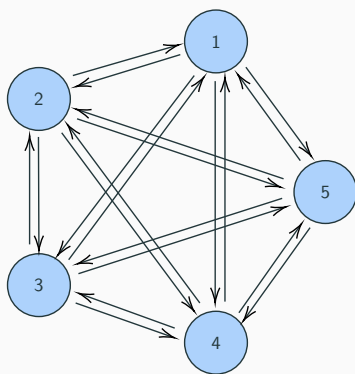
Phase transition

- **Example** : Suppose $n = 5$, $\alpha = (1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$, and $\phi = 1/5$

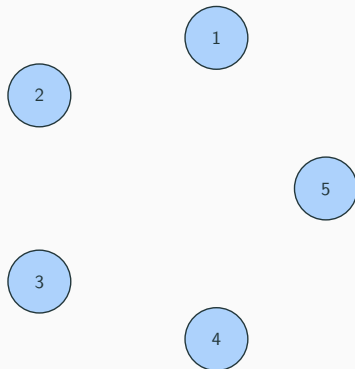
$$\bullet \mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & 3 & 3 & 3 \\ 3 & 0 & 3 & 3 & 3 \\ 3 & 3 & 0 & 3 & 3 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 3 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \mathbf{G}^{**} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\bullet \hat{\mathbf{C}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 + \epsilon & 3 & 3 & 3 \\ 3 & 0 & 3 & 3 & 3 \\ 3 & 3 & 0 & 3 & 3 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 & 0 & 3 \\ 3 & 3 & 3 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{G}}^{**} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Phase transition



Equilibrium network G^{**}



Equilibrium network \hat{G}^{**}

Figure 3: Equilibrium networks

Policy Implication

- Key player is the agent who has the largest impact on the aggregate behavior of the network
- **Definition** : Agent i is a *key player in exogenous network* if, given network g ,

$$i \in \arg \max_{i \in N} \{x^*(g) - x^*(g^{-i})\}$$

where $x^*(g) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^*(g)$ and g^{-i} is the network where agent i is removed from the network g

Key player in endogenous network

- **Definition** : Agent i is a *key player in endogenous network* if, given potential network \bar{g} ,

$$i \in \arg \max_{i \in N} \{x^*(g^{**}(\psi(\bar{g}, \mathbf{C}))) - x^*(g^{**}(\psi(\bar{g}^{-i}, \mathbf{C}^{-i})))\}$$

where \bar{g}^{-i} is the network where agent i is removed from the network \bar{g}

- However, it is difficult to identify a key player due to the complexity of the mapping from cost structure to realized network

Difference bet. endogenous and exogenous key player

- **Example** : Suppose $n = 5$, $\alpha = (1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$ and $\phi = 1/5$

- $\mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3.6 & 0.2 & 0.2 & 0.2 \\ 0.3 & 0 & 0.2 & 0.5 & 5.5 \\ 0.2 & 0.2 & 0 & 4.5 & 4.3 \\ 4.1 & 0.2 & 0.4 & 0 & 6.5 \\ 3.2 & 4.1 & 0.3 & 1.0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \mathbf{G}^{**} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

- Then,

agent 1	$x_1^* = 1.99541284$	key player in endogenous network
agent 2	$x_2^* = 2.12155963$	agent with highest effort
agent 3	$x_3^* = 1.82339450$	key player in exogenous network
agent 4	$x_4^* = 1.78899083$	
agent 5	$x_5^* = 1.36467890$	

Diff bet. endogenous and exogenous key player

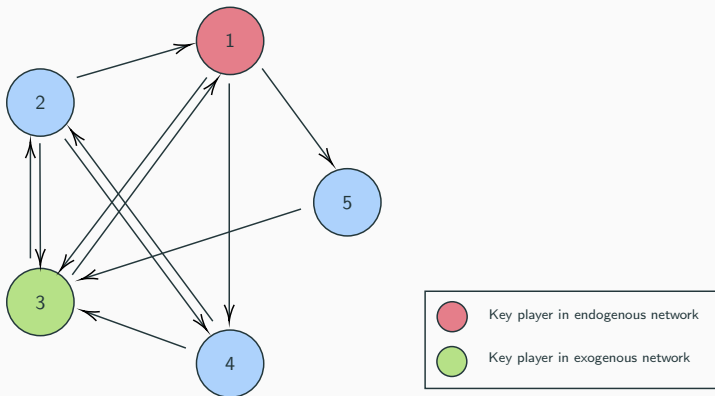


Figure 4: Equilibrium network G^{**} and key players

Key removing link in endogenous and exogenous network

- **Definition** : Link ij is a *key removing link in endogenous network* if, given potential network \bar{g} ,

$$ij \in \arg \max_{ij \in E(\bar{g})} \{x^*(g^{**}(\psi(\bar{g}, \mathbf{C}))) - x^*(g^{**}(\psi(\bar{g}^{-ij}, \mathbf{C})))\}$$

where $E(\bar{g})$ is the set of links in \bar{g} and \bar{g}^{-ij} is network obtained by removing link ij from \bar{g}

- **Definition** : Link ij is a *key removing link in exogenous network* if, given network g ,

$$ij \in \arg \max_{ij \in E(g)} \{x^*(g) - x^*(g^{-ij})\}$$

where $E(g)$ is the set of links in g and g^{-ij} is network obtained by removing link ij from g

Diff bet. endogenous and exogenous key removing link

- **Example** : Suppose $n = 3$, $\alpha = (1, 1, 1)$ and $\phi = 1/3$

- Potential network is $\overline{\mathbf{G}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

- $\mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \mathbf{G}^{**} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

- Then,
 - Key removing link in endogenous network is **23**
 - Key removing link in exogenous network is **12** and **31**

Diff bet. endogenous and exogenous key removing link

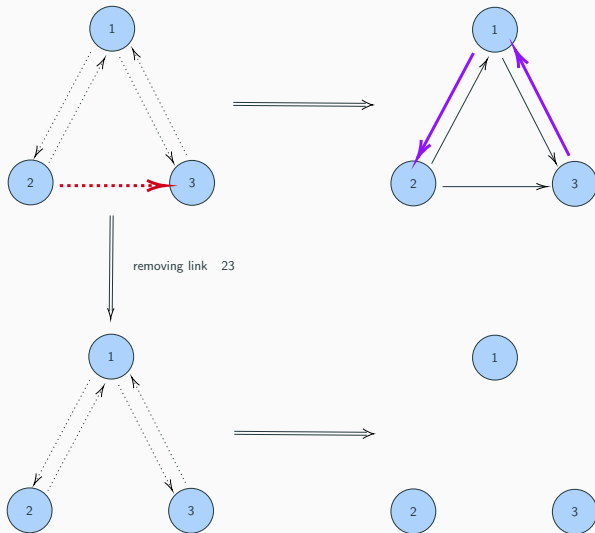


Figure 5: Key removing link in endogenous and exogenous network

Key adding link in endogenous and exogenous network

- **Definition** : Link ij is a *key adding link in endogenous network* if, given potential network \bar{g} ,

$$ij \in \arg \max_{ij \notin E(\bar{g})} \{x^*(g^{**}(\psi(\bar{g}^{+ij}, \mathbf{C}))) - x^*(g^{**}(\psi(\bar{g}, \mathbf{C})))\}$$

where \bar{g}^{+ij} is network obtained by adding link ij to \bar{g}

- **Definition** : Link ij is a *key adding link in exogenous network* if, given network g ,

$$ij \in \arg \max_{ij \notin E(g)} \{x^*(g^{+ij}) - x^*(g)\}$$

where g^{+ij} is network obtained by adding link ij to g

Diff bet. endogenous and exogenous key adding link

- **Example** : Suppose $n = 3$, $\alpha = (1, 1, 1)$ and $\phi = 1/3$

- Potential network is $\overline{\mathbf{G}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

- $\mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0.1 & 0.1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \mathbf{G}^{**} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

- Then,
 - Key adding link in endogenous network is **23** and **32**
 - Key adding link in exogenous network is **21** and **31**

Diff bet. endogenous and exogenous key adding link

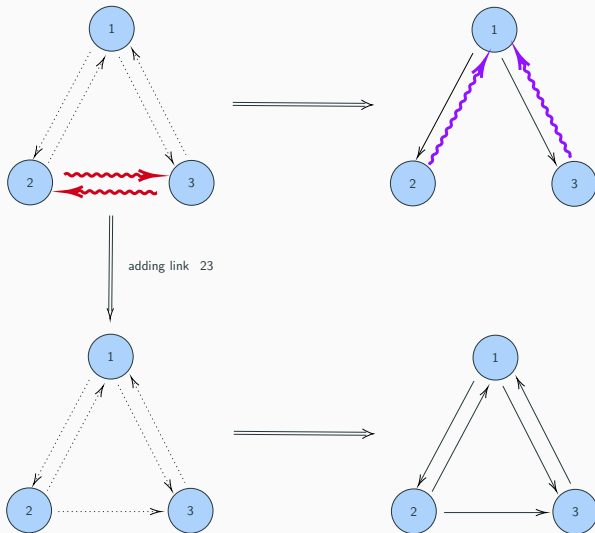


Figure 6: Key adding link in endogenous and exogenous network

Conclusion

- We consider the endogenous network formation with peer effects
- In the model, link formation costs play an important role in determining the network structure and individual and aggregate behaviors
- Due to the supermodularity, we can show the existence of equilibrium network
- We can provide
 - comparative statics results
 - discussion about policy implication : key player and key link
 - Without considering the endogeneity of networks, we sometimes have wrong policy implications

Appendix

- **Lemma 1** : Consider the network g and \hat{g} with $g \subseteq \hat{g}$. Then,

$$\mathbf{x}^*(\hat{g}) \geq \mathbf{x}^*(g)$$

- **Lemma 2** : Consider the network g and h (\mathbf{G} and \mathbf{H}). Consider the network $g \vee h$ and $g \wedge h$ ($\mathbf{G} \vee \mathbf{H}$ and $\mathbf{G} \wedge \mathbf{H}$). Then, for all $i \in N$,

$$v_i(\mathbf{x}^*(g \vee h), g \vee h, \phi) + v_i(\mathbf{x}^*(g \wedge h), g \wedge h, \phi) \geq v_i(\mathbf{x}^*(g), g, \phi) + v_i(\mathbf{x}^*(h), h, \phi)$$

Proof of Lemma 2

- Let $D = (G \vee H) - G = H - (G \wedge H)$ and $\hat{D} = G - H$.
- We have,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}^*(g \vee h) - \mathbf{x}^*(g) &= (I - \phi(G \vee H))^{-1} \alpha - (I - \phi G)^{-1} \alpha \\ &= \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \phi^p ((G \vee H)^p - G^p) \alpha \\ \mathbf{x}^*(h) - \mathbf{x}^*(g \wedge h) &= \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \phi^p (H^p - (G \wedge H)^p) \alpha \end{aligned}$$

- Then,

$$\begin{aligned} &\{\mathbf{x}^*(g \vee h) - \mathbf{x}^*(g)\} - \{\mathbf{x}^*(h) - \mathbf{x}^*(g \wedge h)\} \\ &= \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \phi^p \{((G \vee H)^p - G^p) - (H^p - (G \wedge H)^p)\} \alpha \end{aligned}$$

Proof of Lemma 2

- Assume $((\mathbf{G} \vee \mathbf{H})^p - \mathbf{G}^p) - (\mathbf{H}^p - (\mathbf{G} \wedge \mathbf{H})^p) \geq \mathbf{0}$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\hat{\mathbf{G}}^{p+1} - \mathbf{G}^{p+1}) - (\mathbf{H}^{p+1} - (\mathbf{G} \wedge \mathbf{H})^{p+1}) \\
 &= ((\mathbf{G} + \mathbf{D})(\mathbf{G} \vee \mathbf{H})^p - \mathbf{G}\mathbf{G}^p) - (((\mathbf{G} \wedge \mathbf{H}) + \mathbf{D})\mathbf{H}^p - (\mathbf{G} \wedge \mathbf{H})(\mathbf{G} \wedge \mathbf{H})^p) \\
 &= \{\mathbf{G}((\mathbf{G} \vee \mathbf{H})^p - \mathbf{G}^p) - (\mathbf{G} \wedge \mathbf{H})(\mathbf{H}^p - (\mathbf{G} \wedge \mathbf{H})^p)\} + \mathbf{D}((\mathbf{G} \vee \mathbf{H})^p - \mathbf{H}^p) \\
 &= \mathbf{H}\{((\mathbf{G} \vee \mathbf{H})^p - \mathbf{G}^p) - (\mathbf{H}^p - (\mathbf{G} \wedge \mathbf{H})^p)\} \\
 &\quad + \hat{\mathbf{D}}((\mathbf{G} \vee \mathbf{H})^p - \mathbf{G}^p) + \mathbf{D}((\mathbf{G} \vee \mathbf{H})^p - \mathbf{H}^p) \geq \mathbf{0}
 \end{aligned}$$

- By induction,

$$\mathbf{x}^*(g \vee h) - \mathbf{x}^*(g) \geq \mathbf{x}^*(h) - \mathbf{x}^*(g \wedge h)$$

- By Lemma 1, we have

$$\mathbf{x}^*(g \vee h) + \mathbf{x}^*(g) \geq \mathbf{x}^*(h) + \mathbf{x}^*(g \wedge h)$$

- Therefore,

$$v_i(\mathbf{x}^*(g \vee h), g \vee h, \phi) - v_i(\mathbf{x}^*(g), g, \phi) \geq v_i(\mathbf{x}^*(h), h, \phi) - v_i(\mathbf{x}^*(g \wedge h), g \wedge h, \phi)$$

Proof of the theorem

- $\Gamma = \langle N, \Psi, (u_i)_{i \in N} \rangle \rightarrow \Psi$ is a sublattice of $\times_{i=1}^n \mathbb{R}^n$
- By Lemma 2, supermodularity of u_i in ψ_i , for each $\psi_{-i} \in \Psi_{-i}$

$$u_i(g(\psi_i \vee \psi'_i, \psi_{-i}), \phi) + u_i(g(\psi_i \wedge \psi'_i, \psi_{-i}), \phi) \geq u_i(g(\psi_i, \psi_{-i}), \phi) + u_i(g(\psi'_i, \psi_{-i}), \phi)$$

for any $\psi_i, \psi'_i \in \Psi_i$

- By Lemma 2, increasing differences of $u_i(\psi_i, \psi_{-i})$ in (ψ_i, ψ_{-i})

$$u_i(g(\psi_i, \psi_{-i}), \phi) - u_i(g(\psi'_i, \psi_{-i}), \phi) \geq u_i(g(\psi_i, \psi'_{-i}), \phi) - u_i(g(\psi'_i, \psi'_{-i}), \phi)$$

for $\psi_i, \psi'_i \in \Psi_i$ with $\psi_i \geq \psi'_i$ and $\psi_{-i}, \psi'_{-i} \in \Psi_{-i}$ with $\psi_{-i} \geq \psi'_{-i}$

[Back]