

### Maximizing social benefit (consumer surplus minus cost)

With constant marginal cost (c), at any period (0 or 1), we want to maximize Net Social Benefit,

NSB(Q) =

$$\int (a - b \cdot Q - c) dQ \rightarrow a \cdot Q - \frac{1}{2} \cdot b \cdot Q^2 - c \cdot Q$$

Our two period dynamic optimization become,  
Max

$$NSB(Q_0) + \frac{NSB(Q_1)}{1+r}$$

subject to

$$S = Q_0 + Q_1$$

$$Lg = \left[ a \cdot Q_0 - \frac{1}{2} \cdot b \cdot (Q_0)^2 - c \cdot Q_0 \right] + \left[ \frac{a \cdot Q_1 - \frac{1}{2} \cdot b \cdot (Q_1)^2 - c \cdot Q_1}{1+r} \right] - \lambda \cdot (S - Q_0 - Q_1)$$

First Order Condition

$$a - b \cdot Q_0 - c + \lambda = 0$$

$$\frac{a - b \cdot Q_1 - c}{1+r} + \lambda = 0$$

so

$$a - b \cdot Q_0 - c = \frac{a - b \cdot Q_1 - c}{1+r}$$

or

$$P_0 - c = \frac{P_1 - c}{1+r}$$

or in multiple period,

$$P_t - c_t = (1+r)^t \cdot (P_0 - c_0)$$

or in continuous form,

$$P(t) - c(t) = (P(0) - c(0)) \cdot e^{r \cdot t}$$

or

$$\text{rent}(t) = \text{rent}(0) \cdot e^{r \cdot t}$$

### Hotelling Rule in general form:

Rent (Price minus marginal cost) will increase at rate of discount.

in costless extraction (special case) price will increase at rate of discount, with cost > 0, it is

rent of the resource that will increase at discount rate.

**See Pearce's lecture note on exercise with numerical example!**