

Bureaucratic agency exercise 2

The bureau maximizes utility $X^\beta Z^{1-\beta}$ subject to $W(X) \geq B$ and $X = \hat{\alpha}^{\frac{1}{\gamma-1}}$. Using the first constraint, we find that the reported cost is

$$\hat{C}_0 = \frac{1-\gamma}{\gamma} \hat{\alpha}^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma-1}} \quad (1)$$

and hence the obtained slack becomes

$$Z = \frac{1}{\gamma} \hat{\alpha}^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma-1}} - \alpha \hat{\alpha}^{\frac{1}{\gamma-1}} - C_0 \quad (2)$$

Hence the bureau chooses $\hat{\alpha}$ to maximize

$$\frac{\beta}{\gamma-1} \ln \hat{\alpha} + (1-\beta) \ln \left(\frac{1}{\gamma} \hat{\alpha}^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma-1}} - \alpha \hat{\alpha}^{\frac{1}{\gamma-1}} - C_0 \right) \quad (3)$$

which yields the FOC

$$\frac{\beta}{\gamma-1} \frac{1}{\hat{\alpha}} + (1-\beta) \frac{\frac{1}{\gamma-1} \hat{\alpha}^{\frac{1}{\gamma-1}} - \frac{1}{\gamma-1} \alpha \hat{\alpha}^{\frac{-\gamma}{\gamma-1}}}{\frac{1}{\gamma} \hat{\alpha}^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma-1}} - \alpha \hat{\alpha}^{\frac{1}{\gamma-1}} - C_0} = 0 \quad (4)$$

which can be simplified to

$$\left(\frac{\beta}{\gamma} + (1-\beta) \right) \hat{\alpha}^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma-1}} - \alpha \hat{\alpha}^{\frac{1}{\gamma-1}} = C_0 \quad (5)$$

However, we can't find a closed form solution for $\hat{\alpha}$.