

Denote by  $G$  the *inverse function* of  $F$ , where  $y = F(h)$  is equivalent to  $h = G(y)$ . Then, cost minimization can be written as

$$C(y, \mathbf{w}) = \underset{\mathbf{x}}{\text{Min}} \{ \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} : y = F(h(\mathbf{x})), \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{R}^n \}.$$

Let  $C(1, \mathbf{w}) = \underset{\mathbf{x}}{\text{Min}} \{ \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} : 1 = F(h(\mathbf{x})), \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{R}^n \}$  denote the total cost when

production level is 1 unit. It follows that the cost minimizing input demand  $\mathbf{x}^c(1, \mathbf{w})$  satisfies  $G(1) = h(\mathbf{x}^c)$ .

Rewrite  $C(y, \mathbf{w}) = \underset{\mathbf{x}}{\text{Min}} \{ \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} : G(y) = h(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{R}^n \}$ . Now we use the implication of

the homothetic technology that  $\text{MRS}_{ij}(t \cdot \mathbf{x}) = \text{MRS}_{ij}(\mathbf{x})$  for all  $t > 0$ . It follows that

$\mathbf{x}^c(y, \mathbf{w}) = k \cdot \mathbf{x}^c(1, \mathbf{w})$ . Thus  $C(y, \mathbf{w}) = k \cdot \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x}^c(1, \mathbf{w}) = k \cdot C(1, \mathbf{w})$ , where

$G(y) = h(k\mathbf{x}^c(1, \mathbf{w})) = k \cdot h(\mathbf{x}^c(1, \mathbf{w})) = k \cdot G(1)$ , since  $h(t \cdot \mathbf{X}) = t \cdot h(\mathbf{X})$  and  $G(1) = h(\mathbf{x}^c)$ .

It follows that  $k = \frac{G(y)}{G(1)}$ . Therefore, under a *homothetic technology*, the indirect cost function takes the form

$$C(y, \mathbf{w}) = \frac{G(y)}{G(1)} \cdot C(1, \mathbf{w}).$$

When  $G(1) = 1$ , it reduces to  $C(y, \mathbf{w}) = G(y) \cdot C(1, \mathbf{w})$ .