

SELF-ENFORCING INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

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The General Problem

- We build the model that we study on a filtered probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, (\mathcal{F}_t), \mathbb{P})$ satisfying the usual conditions and supporting a standard one-dimensional (\mathcal{F}_t) -Brownian motion W . We denote by \mathcal{A} the family of all càglàd (\mathcal{F}_t) -adapted processes A with increasing sample paths and such that $A_0 \geq 0$. We assume that all processes considered satisfy suitable integrability conditions, which we are not going to discuss any further below.
- We consider two agents indexed by $i = 1, 2$. The two agents receive exogenous endowments in a non-storable good that are given by (\mathcal{F}_t) -adapted continuous processes $Y_i \geq 0$ such that $Y_1 + Y_2 > 0$. Under autarky, the agents consume their own endowments. Their expected utility processes are given by

$$\underline{U}_{i,t} = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^\infty u_i(s, Y_{i,s}) ds \mid \mathcal{F}_t \right], \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \quad (1)$$

where u_i is the utility function of agent i . We assume that the functions $u_i(t, \cdot)$, $t \geq 0$, are C^2 and satisfy the Inada conditions.

- The two agents may decide to pull their endowments and agree on a consumption allocation scheme (C_1, C_2) with a view to risk sharing. Such a consumption allocation should respect the *resource constraint*

$$C_1 + C_2 = Y_1 + Y_2 =: Y. \quad (2)$$

Since the good is non-storable, relaxing this constraint to $C_1 + C_2 \leq Y$ would not improve the agents' optimal utilities.

We denote by \mathcal{C}_f the family of all *feasible* consumption allocations, namely, all positive (\mathcal{F}_t) -adapted continuous pairs (C_1, C_2) respecting the resource constraint (2).

- We assume that both of the agents have limited commitment. This assumption gives rise to the *participation* or *sustainability constraints*

$$U_{i,t}(C_i) \geq \underline{U}_{i,t} \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0, \quad (3)$$

where

$$U_{i,t}(C_i) = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^\infty u_i(s, C_{i,s}) ds \mid \mathcal{F}_t \right]. \quad (4)$$

We denote by $\mathcal{C}_a \subseteq \mathcal{C}_f$ the family of all *admissible* consumption allocations, namely, all $(C_1, C_2) \in \mathcal{C}_f$ that satisfy the participation constraints (3).

- The objective is to characterise the constrained-efficient allocations, namely, the solutions to the social planner's problem that is defined by

$$V = \sup_{(C_1, C_2) \in \mathcal{C}_a} \{ \zeta_1 U_{1,0}(C_1) + \zeta_2 U_{2,0}(C_2) \}. \quad (5)$$

In this problem, the constants $\zeta_1 > 0$ and $\zeta_2 > 0$ are the Pareto weights on Agent 1 and Agent 2, respectively.

- To solve the constrained optimisation problem defined by (5), we consider the Lagrangian

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(C_1, C_2, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) &= \zeta_1 U_{1,0}(C_1) + \zeta_2 U_{2,0}(C_2) \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1,2} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{[0, \infty[} (U_{i,t}(C_i) - \underline{U}_{i,t}) d\lambda_{i,t} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

The processes $\lambda_i \in \mathcal{A}$ are such that $\lambda_{i,0} = 0$. They play the roles of (cumulative) Kuhn-Tucker multipliers associated with the participation constraints (3).

In view of the participation constraints (3), an inspection of (5) and (6) reveals that

$$V = \inf_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathcal{A}} \sup_{(C_1, C_2) \in \mathcal{C}_a} \mathcal{L}(C_1, C_2, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) \leq \inf_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathcal{A}} \sup_{(C_1, C_2) \in \mathcal{C}_f} \mathcal{L}(C_1, C_2, \lambda_1, \lambda_2). \quad (7)$$

- In view of the expression

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(C_1, C_2, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) &= \zeta_1 U_{1,0}(C_1) + \zeta_2 U_{2,0}(C_2) \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1,2} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{[0,\infty[} (U_{i,t}(C_i) - \underline{U}_{i,t}) d\lambda_{i,t} \right] \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

and the inequalities

$$V = \inf_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathcal{A}} \sup_{(C_1, C_2) \in \mathcal{C}_a} \mathcal{L}(C_1, C_2, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) \leq \inf_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathcal{A}} \sup_{(C_1, C_2) \in \mathcal{C}_f} \mathcal{L}(C_1, C_2, \lambda_1, \lambda_2), \quad (9)$$

we can see that, if we find $(C_1^*, C_2^*) \in \mathcal{C}_f$ and $\lambda_1^*, \lambda_2^* \in \mathcal{A}$ such that

$$\mathcal{L}(C_1^*, C_2^*, \lambda_1^*, \lambda_2^*) = \inf_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathcal{A}} \sup_{(C_1, C_2) \in \mathcal{C}_f} \mathcal{L}(C_1, C_2, \lambda_1, \lambda_2), \quad (10)$$

$$(C_1^*, C_2^*) \in \mathcal{C}_a \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{i=1,2} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{[0,\infty[} (U_{i,t}(C_i^*) - \underline{U}_{i,t}) d\lambda_{i,t}^* \right] = 0, \quad (11)$$

then (C_1^*, C_2^*) provides the solution to the constrained optimisation problem defined by (5).

- Using the integration by parts formula, we calculate

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{[0,\infty[} U_{i,t}(C_i) d\lambda_{i,t} \right] &= \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{[0,\infty[} \left(\int_t^\infty u_i(s, C_{i,s}) ds \right) d\lambda_{i,t} \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^\infty u_i(t, C_{i,t}) \lambda_{i,t} dt \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

We thus rewrite the Lagrangian as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(C_1, C_2, \Lambda_1, \Lambda_2) &= \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^\infty (\Lambda_{1,t} + \Lambda_{2,t}) \left[Z_t u_1(t, C_{1,t}) + (1 - Z_t) u_2(t, C_{2,t}) \right] dt \right] \\ &\quad - \sum_{i=1,2} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{[0,\infty[} \underline{U}_{i,t} d\Lambda_{i,t} \right], \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where

$$\Lambda_{i,t} = \zeta_i + \lambda_{i,t} \quad \text{and} \quad Z_t = \frac{\Lambda_{1,t}}{\Lambda_{1,t} + \Lambda_{2,t}}. \quad (14)$$

- Given $y, z > 0$, we define

$$\tilde{u}(t, y, z) = \sup_{0 < c < y} \{ zu_1(t, c) + (1 - z)u_2(t, y - c) \}. \quad (15)$$

The unique value $\alpha(t, y, z)$ of c that achieves the supremum is such that

$$u_1(t, \alpha(t, y, z)) = \tilde{u}(t, y, z) + (1 - z)\tilde{u}_z(t, y, z) \quad (16)$$

$$\text{and } u_2(t, y - \alpha(t, y, z)) = \tilde{u}(t, y, z) - z\tilde{u}_z(t, y, z). \quad (17)$$

Given $(\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2) \in \mathcal{A}$ such that $\Lambda_{i,0} = \zeta_i$, the consumption allocation given by

$$c_1^*(t, Y_t, \Lambda_{1,t}, \Lambda_{2,t}) = \alpha \left(t, Y_t, \frac{\Lambda_{1,t}}{\Lambda_{1,t} + \Lambda_{2,t}} \right) \quad (18)$$

$$\text{and } c_2^*(t, Y_t, \Lambda_{1,t}, \Lambda_{2,t}) = Y_t - c_1^*(t, Y_t, \Lambda_{1,t}, \Lambda_{2,t}), \quad (19)$$

is feasible and maximises the Lagrangian given by (13). We define

$$\begin{aligned} J(\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2) &:= \sup_{(C_1, C_2) \in \mathcal{C}_f} \mathcal{L}(C_1, C_2, \Lambda_1, \Lambda_2) \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^\infty (\Lambda_{1,t} + \Lambda_{2,t}) \tilde{u}(t, Y_t, Z_t) dt \right] - \sum_{i=1,2} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{[0, \infty[} \underline{U}_{i,t} d\Lambda_{i,t} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

- Given $\xi \in \mathcal{A}$, we define

$$\nabla_{1,\xi} J(\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2) = \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \frac{1}{\delta} \left[J(\Lambda_1 + \delta \xi, \Lambda_2) - J(\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2) \right] \quad (21)$$

$$\text{and } \nabla_{2,\xi} J(\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2) = \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \frac{1}{\delta} \left[J(\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2 + \delta \xi) - J(\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2) \right]. \quad (22)$$

Using the expressions (16)–(17) and the integration by parts, we calculate

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{i,\xi} J(\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2) &= \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^\infty \xi_t u_i(t, c_i^*(t, Y_t, \Lambda_{1,t}, \Lambda_{2,t})) dt \right] - \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{[0,\infty[} \underline{U}_{i,t} d\xi_t \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{[0,\infty[} \left[U_{i,t}(c_i^*(\cdot, Y, \Lambda_1, \Lambda_2)) - \underline{U}_{i,t} \right] d\xi_t \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

- Now, suppose that there exists a pair $(\Lambda_1^*, \Lambda_2^*)$ that minimises the index J given by (20). This pair is such that

$$\nabla_{i,\xi} J(\Lambda_1^*, \Lambda_2^*) \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } \xi \in \mathcal{A} \text{ and } i = 1, 2. \quad (24)$$

This inequality and the expression (23) imply that

$$\left(c_1^*(\cdot, Y, \Lambda_1^*, \Lambda_2^*), c_2^*(\cdot, Y, \Lambda_1^*, \Lambda_2^*) \right) \in \mathcal{C}_a \quad (25)$$

because this consumption allocation satisfies the resource constraint (2) as well as the participation constraints (3). Furthermore,

$$\int_{[0, \infty[} \left[U_{i,t}(c_i^*(\cdot, Y, \Lambda_1^*, \Lambda_2^*)) - \underline{U}_{i,t} \right] d\Lambda_i^* = 0, \quad (26)$$

i.e., the optimal Lagrange multipliers increase only when the constraints are binding.

It follows that the consumption allocation in (25) provides the solution to the constrained optimisation problem defined by (5).

A Canonical (Symmetric) Application

- We now assume that

$$Y_1 = X \quad \text{and} \quad Y_2 = 1 - X, \quad (27)$$

where X satisfies the SDE

$$dX_t = \mu(X_t) dt + \sigma(X_t) dW_t, \quad X_0 = x \in]0, 1[. \quad (28)$$

We assume that μ, σ are such that the SDE (28) has a unique non-explosive strong solution with values in $]0, 1[$,

$$\mu(x) = -\mu(1 - x) \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma(x) = \sigma(1 - x) \quad \text{for all } x \in]0, 1[. \quad (29)$$

We denote by φ (resp., ψ) the minimal strictly decreasing (resp., strictly increasing) ϱ -excessive functions of the diffusion associated with the SDE for X . These are solutions to the ODE

$$\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2(x)f''(x) + \mu(x)f'(x) - \varrho f(x) = 0. \quad (30)$$

Also, we denote by p the scale function of the diffusion associated with the SDE for X (note that $\varphi\psi' - \varphi'\psi = Kp'$, for some constant K).

- We assume that

$$u_1(t, c) = u_2(t, c) = e^{-\varrho t} u(c), \quad (31)$$

for some C^2 utility function u that satisfies the Inada conditions and a constant $\varrho > 0$.

The agents' autarky expected utility processes are then given by

$$\underline{U}_{1,t} = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^\infty e^{-\varrho s} u(X_s) ds \mid \mathcal{F}_t \right] = e^{-\varrho t} \Gamma(X_t) \quad (32)$$

$$\text{and } \underline{U}_{2,t} = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^\infty e^{-\varrho s} u(1 - X_s) ds \mid \mathcal{F}_t \right] = e^{-\varrho t} \Gamma(1 - X_t), \quad (33)$$

where

$$\Gamma(x) = \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-\varrho t} u(X_t) dt \right] = \varphi(x) \int_0^x \Psi(s) u(s) ds + \psi(x) \int_x^1 \Phi(s) u(s) ds, \quad (34)$$

with

$$\Phi(s) = \frac{2\varphi(s)}{K\sigma^2(s)p'(s)} \quad \text{and} \quad \Psi(s) = \frac{2\psi(s)}{K\sigma^2(s)p'(s)}. \quad (35)$$

- Given constants $\zeta_1 > 0$ and $\zeta_2 > 0$, the objective is to solve the problem

$$V = \sup_{C \in \mathcal{C}} \left\{ \zeta_1 \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-\varrho s} u(C_s) ds \right] + \zeta_2 \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-\varrho s} u(1 - C_s) ds \right] \right\}, \quad (36)$$

where \mathcal{C} is the family of all $]0, 1[$ -valued (\mathcal{F}_t) -adapted continuous processes such that

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^\infty e^{-\varrho s} u(C_s) ds \mid \mathcal{F}_t \right] \geq e^{-\varrho t} \Gamma(X_t) \quad (37)$$

$$\text{and } \mathbb{E} \left[\int_t^\infty e^{-\varrho s} u(1 - C_s) ds \mid \mathcal{F}_t \right] \geq e^{-\varrho t} \Gamma(1 - X_t). \quad (38)$$

- In this case, the Lagrangian takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(C, \Lambda_1, \Lambda_2) = & \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-\varrho t} (\Lambda_{1,t} + \Lambda_{2,t}) \left[Z_t u(C_t) + (1 - Z_t) u(1 - C_t) \right] dt \right] \\ & - \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{[0, \infty[} e^{-\varrho t} \Gamma(X_t) d\Lambda_{1,t} \right] - \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{[0, \infty[} e^{-\varrho t} \Gamma(1 - X_t) d\Lambda_{2,t} \right], \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

where

$$\Lambda_{i,0} = \zeta_i \quad \text{and} \quad Z_t = \frac{\Lambda_{1,t}}{\Lambda_{1,t} + \Lambda_{2,t}}. \quad (40)$$

- As in the general case, the first order condition for pointwise maximisation inside the first expectation yields

$$C_t^* = \alpha(Z_t), \quad (41)$$

where

$$\alpha(z) = \arg \max_{0 < c < 1} \{zu(c) + (1 - z)u(1 - c)\}. \quad (42)$$

Furthermore, we define

$$\tilde{u}(z) = \max_{0 < c < 1} \{zu(c) + (1 - z)u(1 - c)\}, \quad \text{for } z > 0. \quad (43)$$

In view of the general analysis, the problem reduces to minimising the performance criterion

$$\begin{aligned} J(\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2) = & \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} (\Lambda_{1,t} + \Lambda_{2,t}) \tilde{u}(Z_t) dt \right] \\ & - \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{[0, \infty[} e^{-\rho t} \Gamma(X_t) d\Lambda_{1,t} \right] - \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{[0, \infty[} e^{-\rho t} \Gamma(1 - X_t) d\Lambda_{2,t} \right] \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

over (Λ_1, Λ_2) . We denote by

$$]0, 1[\times]0, \infty[^2 \ni (x, \zeta_1, \zeta_2) \mapsto v(x, \zeta_1, \zeta_2) \quad (45)$$

the value function of this singular stochastic control problem.

- A suitable solution to the HJB equation

$$\min \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2(x) w_{xx}(x, z) + \mu(x) w_x(x, z) - \rho w(x, z) + \tilde{u}(z), \right. \\ \left. w(x, z) + (1 - z) w_z(x, z) - \Gamma(x), w(x, z) - z w_z(x, z) - \Gamma(1 - x) \right\} = 0 \quad (46)$$

identifies with the value function in the sense that

$$v(x, \zeta_1, \zeta_2) = (\zeta_1 + \zeta_2) w \left(x, \frac{\zeta_1}{\zeta_1 + \zeta_2} \right). \quad (47)$$

The idea for the relevant verification theorem is to start with an application of Itô's formula to the process $(e^{-\rho t} (\Lambda_{1,t} + \Lambda_{2,t}) w(X_t, \frac{\Lambda_{1,t}}{\Lambda_{1,t} + \Lambda_{2,t}}))$.

- The structure of the HJB equation

$$\min \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2(x) w_{xx}(x, z) + \mu(x) w_x(x, z) - \rho w(x, z) + \tilde{u}(z), \right. \\ \left. w(x, z) + (1 - z) w_z(x, z) - \Gamma(x), w(x, z) - z w_z(x, z) - \Gamma(1 - x) \right\} = 0 \quad (48)$$

suggests that the state space $\mathcal{S} =]0, 1[$ is partitioned into three regions \mathcal{S}^1 , \mathcal{S}^c and \mathcal{S}^2 . In the open region \mathcal{S}^c , the function w satisfies the ODE

$$\frac{1}{2} \sigma^2(x) w_{xx}(x, z) + \mu(x) w_x(x, z) - \rho w(x, z) + \tilde{u}(z) = 0. \quad (49)$$

Inside this region, the function w is of the form

$$w(x, z) = A(z) \varphi(x) + B(z) \psi(x) + \frac{\tilde{u}(z)}{\rho}. \quad (50)$$

In the region \mathcal{S}^1 , the first agent's participation constraint is binding and

$$w(x, z) + (1 - z) w_z(x, z) = \Gamma(x), \quad (51)$$

while, in the region \mathcal{S}^2 , the second agent's participation constraint is binding and

$$w(x, z) - z w_z(x, z) = \Gamma(1 - x). \quad (52)$$

- (*When perfect risk-sharing is sustainable.*) We look for a point $z_{\dagger} \in]0, \frac{1}{2}[$ and a function $h :]0, z_{\dagger}[$ such that

$$\mathcal{S}^1 = \{(x, z) \in \mathcal{S} \mid z \leq z_{\dagger} \text{ and } x \geq h(z)\} \quad (53)$$

$$\text{and } \mathcal{S}^2 = \{(x, z) \in \mathcal{S} \mid z \geq 1 - z_{\dagger} \text{ and } x \leq 1 - h(1 - z)\}. \quad (54)$$

To determine the free-boundary function h , we use the value matching and the smooth pasting conditions

$$w(x, z) + (1 - z)w_z(x, z) = \Gamma(x) \quad \text{and} \quad w_x(x, z) + (1 - z)w_{zx}(x, z) = \Gamma'(x), \quad (55)$$

for $x = h(z)$, which imply that

$$[B(z) + (1 - z)B'(z)]\psi(h(z)) + \frac{u(\alpha(z))}{\varrho} = \Gamma(h(z)) \quad (56)$$

$$\text{and } B(z) + (1 - z)B'(z) = \frac{\Gamma'(h(z))}{\psi'(h(z))}, \quad (57)$$

respectively. These identities imply that h should satisfy the equation $F(h(z), z) = 0$, where

$$F(x, z) = \int_0^x \frac{\psi(s)}{\sigma^2(s)p'(s)} [u(s) - u(\alpha(z))] ds. \quad (58)$$

There exists $z_{\dagger} \in]0, \frac{1}{2}[$ such that this equation has a unique solution $h(z) \in]0, 1[$ for all $z \in]0, z_{\dagger}[$ if and only if $F(1, \frac{1}{2}) < 0$.

- (*When perfect risk-sharing is not sustainable.*) We look for a point $z_{\dagger} \in]\frac{1}{2}, 1[$ and a function $h :]0, z_{\dagger}[$ such that

$$\mathcal{S}^1 = \{(x, z) \in \mathcal{S} \mid z \leq z_{\dagger} \text{ and } x \geq h(z)\} \quad (59)$$

$$\text{and } \mathcal{S}^2 = \{(x, z) \in \mathcal{S} \mid z \geq 1 - z_{\dagger} \text{ and } x \leq 1 - h(1 - z)\}. \quad (60)$$

For $z \in]0, 1 - z_{\dagger}[$, the free-boundary point $h(z)$ is as in the previous case, namely, $F(h(z), z) = 0$, where F is defined by (58). Note that this satisfies the ODE

$$h'(z) = H(z, h(z)), \quad (61)$$

where

$$H(z, \bar{x}) = \frac{\alpha'(z)u'(\alpha(z)) \int_0^{\bar{x}} \Psi(s) ds}{u(\bar{x}) - u(\alpha(z)) \Psi(\bar{x})}. \quad (62)$$

For $z \in]1 - z_\dagger, z_\dagger[$, we define $\ell(z) = 1 - h(1 - z)$. Using the value matching and the smooth pasting conditions along the free-boundary points $h(z)$ and $\ell(z)$, we derive the system of ODEs

$$h'(z) = H(z, \ell(z), h(z)) \quad \text{and} \quad \ell'(z) = L(z, \ell(z), h(z)), \quad (63)$$

where

$$H(z, \underline{x}, \bar{x}) = \frac{\alpha'(z)u'(\alpha(z))}{u(\bar{x}) - u(\alpha(z))} \frac{\varphi(\underline{x}) \int_{\underline{x}}^{\bar{x}} \Psi(s) ds - \psi(\underline{x}) \int_{\underline{x}}^{\bar{x}} \Phi(s) ds}{\varphi(\underline{x})\Psi(\bar{x}) - \psi(\underline{x})\Phi(\bar{x})} \quad (64)$$

and

$$L(z, \underline{x}, \bar{x}) = \frac{\alpha'(z)u'(1 - \alpha(z))}{u(1 - \underline{x}) - u(1 - \alpha(z))} \frac{\psi(\bar{x}) \int_{\underline{x}}^{\bar{x}} \Phi(s) ds - \varphi(\bar{x}) \int_{\underline{x}}^{\bar{x}} \Psi(s) ds}{\psi(\bar{x})\Phi(\underline{x}) - \varphi(\bar{x})\Psi(\underline{x})}. \quad (65)$$

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