

# Regulation and Design of Financial Markets

Robert Townsend (MIT) and Juan Xandri (Princeton University)

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# Introduction

## Financial Intermediation in Endogenous Incomplete Markets:

- They play the role of creating assets for agents to invest in
- Non-convexities in aggregate production set, such as trading fix costs (Pesendorfer (95), Bisin (98))
- In general, financial intermediaries have a coordination purpose: obtain resources from consumers and invest them in the productive sector.
- If there are economies of scale in aggregate risk sharing, intermediaries help coordinate investment.
- In this paper, we study a (very simple) model of constrained efficient incomplete markets, (from min scale constraints)
- We also study optimal financial regulation = optimal arrangements for intermediation (contracts, institutions and rules of competition)

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- The paper is divided in two parts
- ① An optimal mechanism design problem: Abstracting away from markets, choose optimal
  - ① span of assets (or technologies)
  - ② investment portfolio
  - ③ “deposit” insurance for consumers
- ② Implementation: Decentralize the optimal allocation with familiar institutions
  - ① Broker - Dealers (acting as commercial banks) with free entry
  - ② Firms (with free entry)
  - However, this institutions must be regulated in order to implement the optimal mechanism.
  - In our simple example, these are quite stark: shut down consumer ↔ firms channel.

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# Setup

## Households

- Diamond-Dygvig model
- Continuum set of households  $I$ , with measure 1.
- One consumption good, which is perishable. Households live for 3 periods  $t = 0, 1, 2$ .
- At  $t = 0$ , all households are identical, and receive an endowment of  $\omega > 0$  units of  $t = 0$  consumption
- Consumers have no endowment in  $t = 1, 2$ .
- Only derive utility from  $c_1, c_2$
- Private Information:
  - Ex-ante identical households.
  - At  $t = 1$  a taste shock  $\theta \in \Theta$  is drawn from a distribution  $F(\theta)$  (compact, Banach space)
- At  $t = 1$  there is also a publicly observed shock  $s \sim \text{Uniform}[0, 1]$

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# Setup

## Technology

Two types of securities:

- Storage (short): Safe, that pays only 1 unit of next period consumption.
- Long assets, or productive technology, that pay off in period 2 only.
- For each  $\hat{s} \in [0, 1]$  there is an asset  $A_{\hat{s}}$  that pays a rate of return  $r_{\hat{s}}(s)$

$$r_{\hat{s}}(s) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } s \neq \hat{s} \\ R > 1 & \text{if } s = \hat{s} \end{cases}$$

- If invest  $y$  in all long technologies equally, then gets  $Ry$  w.p.1
- This would map directly to classical Diamond-Dybvig model

# Setup

## Minimum Scale

- Constraint: Minimum scale requirement for investment  $y(s)$  in asset  $s$ :

$$r_s(\hat{s} = s) = R \iff y(s) \geq M(s)$$

- This constraint is binding in the aggregate; i.e. there is not enough endowment to invest in all technologies

$$\int_0^1 M(s) > \omega$$

- Acemoglu and Zilibotti (1997): model of endogenous incomplete markets.
- Extra assumptions:
  - $M(s)$  is weakly increasing (w.l.o.g)
  - Continuous
  - $M(s) = 0$  for all  $s \in [0, \delta]$  for some  $\delta > 0$

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# Timeline

- $t = 0$ :
  - agents ex-ante identical, have  $\omega > 0$  for investing
  - investments made in storage ( $x$ ) and long technologies ( $y(s)$ )
- $t = 1$ :
  - Aggregate shocks  $s$  (publicly observed) and  $\theta_i$  (private) are realized
  - Agents report types  $\hat{\theta}_i$  and receive consumption  $c_1(\hat{\theta}_i, s)$
  - Invest remainder  $= x - \int c_1(\theta, s) dF(\theta)$  to storage technology again
- $t = 2$ 
  - Agents consume  $c_2(\hat{\theta}_i, s)$

# Planners Problem

- **Planner Problem:** Choose optimal “consumption allocation” and “portfolio plan” to maximize consumers ex-ante expected utility
  - **Consumption Allocation:** Functions  $c_1(\theta, s), c_2(\theta, s)$
  - **Portfolio Allocation:** Investment in short technology  $x \geq 0$  and in long technologies  $(y(s))_{s \in [0,1]}$

# Planners Problem

- Feasibility:

$$\int c_1(\theta, s) dF(\theta) \leq x \text{ for all } s \in [0, 1] \quad (1)$$

and

$$\int c_2(\theta, s) dF(\theta) \leq Ry(s) + \left( x - \int c_1(\theta, s) dF(\theta) \right) \text{ for all } s \in [0, 1]$$

- Inada Condition: if  $\exists \hat{\Theta} \subseteq \Theta$  with  $\Pr(\hat{\Theta}) > 0$  such that

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial c_1}(c_1, 0, \theta) = \infty \text{ for all } \theta \in \hat{\Theta}, c_1 \geq 0$$

then (1) is not binding, and

$$\int [c_1(\theta, s) + c_2(\theta, s)] dF(\theta) \leq x + Ry(s) \text{ for all } s \in [0, 1]$$

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$$W^* = \max_{c_1(\theta,s), c_2(\theta,s), x, y(s)} \int_0^1 ds \int U(c_1(\theta, s), c_2(\theta, s)) dF(\theta)$$

- 1 Inter-temporal RC: for all  $s \in [0, 1]$ :

$$\int [c_1(\theta, s) + c_2(\theta, s)] dF(\theta) \leq x + Ry(s) \quad (2)$$

- 2 IC constraints: for all  $s \in [0, 1]$  and all  $\theta, \hat{\theta} \in \Theta$ :

$$U(c_1(\theta, s), c_2(\theta, s), \theta) \geq U(c_1(\hat{\theta}, s), c_2(\hat{\theta}, s), \theta) \quad (3)$$

- 3 Minimum scale constraints:

$$x \geq 0 \text{ and } y(s) \geq M(s) \text{ whenever } y(s) > 0 \quad (4)$$

- 4 Portfolio Budget:

$$x + \int_0^1 y(s) ds \leq \omega \quad (5)$$

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## Separate into two Programs

- 1 Incentive program: Given output  $Y \geq 0$ :

$$V(Y) := \max_{c_1(\theta), c_2(\theta)} \int U(c_1(\theta), c_2(\theta), \theta) dF(\theta)$$

$$\int [c_1(\theta) + c_2(\theta)] dF(\theta) \leq Y \quad (6)$$

$$U(c_1(\theta, s), c_2(\theta, s), \theta) \geq U(c_1(\hat{\theta}, s), c_2(\hat{\theta}, s), \theta) \text{ for all } \theta, \hat{\theta} \in \Theta \quad (7)$$

- 2 Investment program: Given  $V(\cdot)$ , choose investments:

$$W^* = \max_{x, (y(s))_{s \in [0,1]}} \int_0^1 V(x + Ry(s)) ds \quad (8)$$

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- What is in  $\mathcal{C}$ ?
- ① Hidden trades (Farhi, Golosov and Tsyvinski (2009))
- ② Hidden Savings (Allen and Gale 2004)
- ③ Not in  $\mathcal{C}$ : incomplete contracts (i.e. not contingent on  $Y \sim s$ )

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# Roadmap

- Goal: characterize the optimal investment profile.
- **Steps:**
  - 1 Solve Investment Program (8) for general  $V(\cdot)$ , assuming  $V(Y)$  to be strictly concave
  - 2 Find conditions on  $U(c_1, c_2, \theta)$  and  $\mathcal{C}$  such that  $V(Y)$  is in fact, strictly concave.

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# Investment Program

Choose

- $x$  = storage from  $t = 0$  to  $t = 1$
- $y(s)$  = investment in technology  $A_s$

to solve

$$W^* = \max_{x, (y(s))_{s \in [0,1]}} \int_0^1 V(x + Ry(s)) ds$$

subject to

$$y(s) \geq M(s) \text{ for all } s : y(s) > 0 \quad (11)$$

$$x + \int_0^1 y(s) ds = \omega \quad (12)$$

# Investment Program

- **Problem:** Non-convex feasible set
- Investment has two margins:
  - Extensive: which technologies to fund
  - Intensive: how much
- We prove a series of conditions on the shape of the optimal investment profile

**Result 1:** If  $y^*(s) > M(s)$  and  $y^*(s') > M(s') \implies y^*(s) = y^*(s')$

**Result 2:**  $\exists s^* \in (0, 1)$  such that  $y^*(s) = y^* := M(s^*)$  for all  $s \leq s^*$

**Result 3:**  $\exists \hat{s} \in (s^*, 1)$  such that  $y^*(s) = M(s)$  for all  $s \in [s^*, \hat{s}]$

**Result 4:**  $y^*(s) = 0$  for all  $s > \hat{s}$

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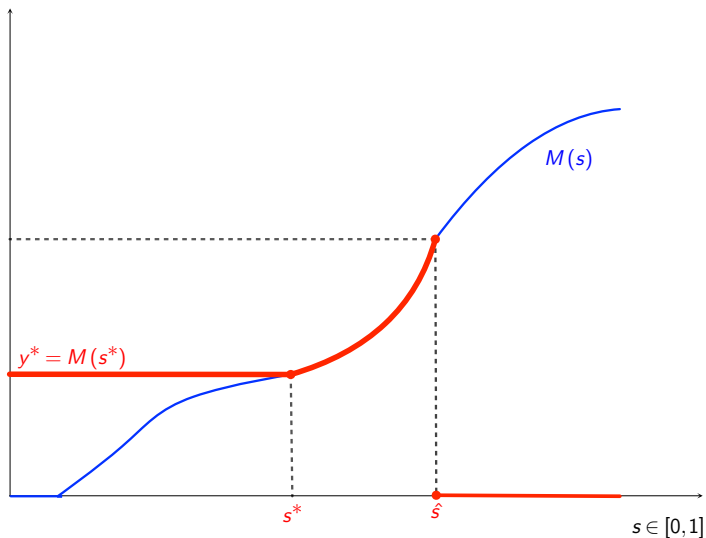


Figure: Optimal  $y^*(s)$  schedule

# Investment Program

- Find optimal cutoffs  $s^*, \hat{s}$
- Storage investment is  $x^* = \omega - s^* y^* - \int_{s^*}^{\hat{s}} M(s) ds$

## Intensive/Extensive margin tradeoff:

- **Intensive margin:** Given a set of available assets  $\implies$  optimal to invest the same amount in all of themselves
- **Extensive margin:** Lower investment in low MS assets to increase asset span

## Pecuniary externality:

- A single agent cannot cover the minimum scale of any given asset.
- In a decentralized economy with no trading constraints, each agent takes asset span given
- Since she does not affect the set of available assets  $\implies$  invests the same in all
- In the aggregate, equivalent to a portfolio

$$y(s) = \begin{cases} \tilde{y} & \text{for all } s \leq \tilde{s} \\ 0 & \text{for all } s > \tilde{s} \end{cases}$$



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# Investment Program

- It generates 3 type of states for output:
- ① Normal states ( $s < s^*$ ): there, intertemporal output is constant and equal to  $Y = x^* + Ry^*$
- ② “Crisis” states ( $s > \hat{s}$ ): no long technology gives return, so  $Y = x^*$
- ③ Boom states ( $s^* < s < \hat{s}$ ): output is variable,  $Y(s) = x^* + RM(s)$
- When compared to previous case, output is more volatile
- But strictly welfare improving.

- 1 Introduction
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# Incentive Program

- Given output  $Y \geq 0$ :

$$V(Y) := \max_{c_1(\theta), c_2(\theta)} \int U(c_1(\theta), c_2(\theta), \theta) dF(\theta)$$

subject to

$$\int [c_1(\theta) + c_2(\theta)] dF(\theta) \leq Y$$

$$U(c_1(\theta, s), c_2(\theta, s), \theta) \geq U(c_1(\hat{\theta}, s), c_2(\hat{\theta}, s), \theta) \text{ for all } \theta, \hat{\theta} \in \Theta$$

- Gives optimum  $(c_1(\theta, Y), c_2(\theta, Y))$ . Optimal contract is

$$c^* = (c_1^*(\theta, s), c_2^*(\theta, s)) = (c_1(\theta, x + Ry(s)), c_2(\theta, x + Ry^*(s)))$$

## Convexity of IC Contracts

$$IC_Y = \left\{ c = (c_1, c_2) \in \mathcal{C} : \begin{cases} U(c_1(\theta, s), c_2(\theta, s), \theta) \geq U(c_1(\hat{\theta}, s), c_2(\hat{\theta}, s), \theta) \\ \mathbb{E}_\theta [c_1(\theta) + c_2(\theta)] \leq Y \end{cases} \right.$$

where  $\mathcal{C}$  is a potential set of extra constraints

- **Example:** access to secondary lending market (Golosov, Farhi and Tvisny 2009) with price  $q$  = of  $c_2/c_1$
- Agents report type  $\hat{\theta}$  to maximize

$$V(\hat{\theta}, \theta) = \max_{c_1, c_2} U(c_1, c_2, \theta)$$

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# Convexity of IC Contracts

- **Result:** If  $IC_Y$  is convex and  $U(\cdot, \theta)$  is strictly concave  $\implies V(Y)$  is strictly concave.
- **Problem:** In general  $IC_Y$  set is not convex, particularly if extra constraints added.

## Theorem

*If  $U(c_1, c_2, \theta) = g_1(\theta) u_1(c_1) + g_2(\theta) u_2(c_2)$  and  $\mathcal{C}$  has no extra constraints  $\implies IC_Y$  is convex*

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# Convexity of IC Contracts with Re-trading Constraints

- With re-trading constraints, we need to add more constraints
- An equivalent formulation is to directly choose the price  $q$  and Income  $I$
- Let  $v(q, I, \theta)$  be the indirect utility function for type  $\theta$ , with demand functions  $c_1(q, I, \theta), c_2(q, I, \theta)$
- Incentive problem is

$$V(Y) = \max_{q, I} \int v(q, I, \theta) dF(\theta)$$

s.t

$$\int [c_1(q, I, \theta) + c_2(q, I, \theta)] dF(\theta) \leq Y$$

$$c_1(q, I, \theta) + qc_2(q, I, \theta) = I \text{ for all } \theta$$

# Convexity of IC Contracts with Re-trading Constraints

- The preferences are Gorman\* if

$$v(q, l, \theta) = g(a(q) + b(q, \theta)l)$$

for some function  $g(\cdot)$  strictly increasing and concave

- Preferences that satisfy this condition:

- $U = \theta \ln(c_1) + (1 - \theta) \ln(c_2)$
- $U = (\alpha(\theta) c_1^\theta + \beta(\theta) c_2^\theta)^{\frac{1}{\theta}}$
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*If  $v(q, l, \theta) = g(a(q) + b(q, \theta)l)$  then  $V(Y)$  is strictly concave as well.*

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# Decentralization

- We propose a decentralization with three distinct sectors:
  - ① Consumers: Buy (lotteries) over deposit contracts
  - ② Firms: They manage short and long productive technologies (free entry)
  - ③ Broker-dealers (or financial intermediaries): They sell contracts, and invest directly in firms
- There is free entry in all sectors (anyone can run a firm or be a financial intermediary)
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# 1) Consumers

- Let  $B$  be the (finite) set of Broker-Dealers (BD) active.
- A **contract** is  $c = (c_1(\theta, s), c_2(\theta, s))_{(\theta, s) \in \Theta \times S}$  that is incentive-compatible
- For  $b \in B$ , let  $C_b$  be the (finite) set of contracts offered by  $b$
- Contracts are ex-post exclusive: each consumer can only use one contract ex-post.
- **Competition:** BDs sell lotteries over contracts, at a price  $P(b, c)$  per lottery unit
- Budget constraint for consumers is

$$\sum_{b \in B, c \in C_b} P(b, c) \times \underbrace{q^d(b, c)}_{=\text{lot. units bought}} \leq \omega$$

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# 1) Consumers

- The value of a contract for each consumer ex-ante is

$$V(b, c) := \mathbb{E}_{\theta, s} \{U(c_1(\theta, s), c_2(\theta, s), \theta)\}$$

- Consumer problem is then

$$\max_{q^d \in \Delta} \sum_{b \in B, c \in C_b} q^d(b, c) V(b, c) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{b \in B, c \in C_b} P(b, c) q^d(b, c) \leq \omega$$

Implicit trading constraints needed for consumers:

- (a): Contract exclusivity (only trade ex-post with one BD)
- (b): Cannot trade ex-post with other consumers
- (c): Cannot trade directly with firms

## 2) Productive Sector

- Technologies: All productive assets  $Y = \{A_s\}_{s \in [0,1]} \cup S$ , where  $S =$  storage technology.
- Firm  $f$  has access to technology  $Y_f = A_{\hat{s}}$  for some  $\hat{s} \in [0,1]$  or  $Y_f = S$
- Firms need to get financing to manage the asset.
- It offers to a potential financiers, a menu of payoffs  $\rho(y, s)$  such that
  - 1  $\rho(y, s) = 0$  for all  $s$  if  $y < M(\hat{s})$
  - 2  $0 \leq \rho(y, s) \leq r_{\hat{s}}(s)y$

Trading constraint:

(d): Firms cannot have more than one source of financing



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## 2) Productive Sector

- Because agents are atomistic, this implies that they can only ask one BD
- Firm profits are then  $= r_{\hat{s}}(s)y - \rho(y, s)$
- Assumption: Free entry in productive sector
- This pushes profits to zero, so in equilibrium

$$\rho(y, s) = r_{\hat{s}}(s)y \times \mathbf{1}\{y \geq M(\hat{s})\}$$

- Question: Why not just consider them as Arrow-Debreu securities, and study classical GE?

### 3) Broker Dealers

- Each BD has an (exogenous, for now) set of available contracts  $C_b$
- BD chooses:
  - 1 Its supply of each contract lotteries,  $q^s(b, c)$
  - 2 Its investments in firms to fund the contracts expenditures.
- In period 1 it has to pay out

$$e_1(s) = \sum_{c \in C_b} q^s(b, c) \mathbb{E}_\theta [c_1(\theta, s)]$$

which can only be financed by an investment in a firm running short tech.

- In period 2, it has to pay out

$$e_2(s) = \sum_{c \in C_b} q^s(b, c) \mathbb{E}_\theta [c_2(\theta, s)]$$

which is financed with (a) storage and (b) long technologies

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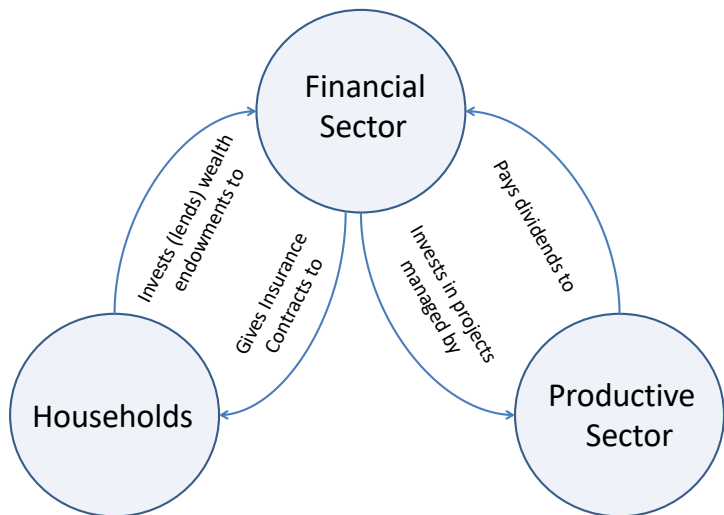
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$$\pi_b = \max_{q^s, x_b, y_b(s)} \sum_{c \in C_b} P(b, c) q^s(b, c) - \underbrace{\left( x_b + \int_0^1 y_b(s) ds \right)}_{\text{investments}} \quad (13)$$

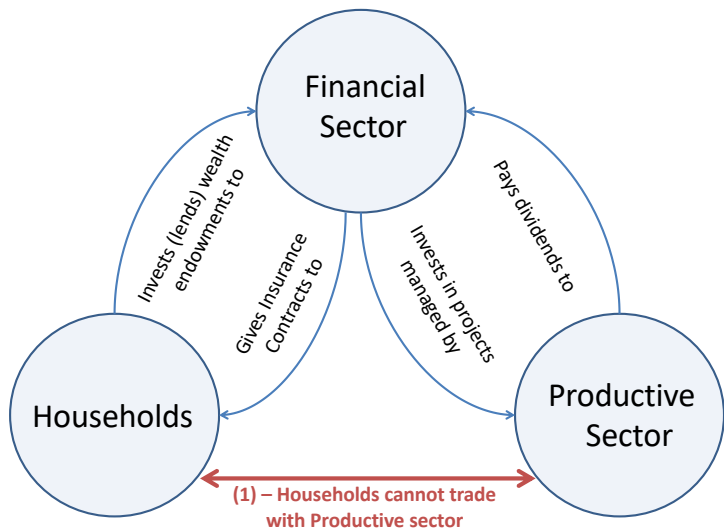
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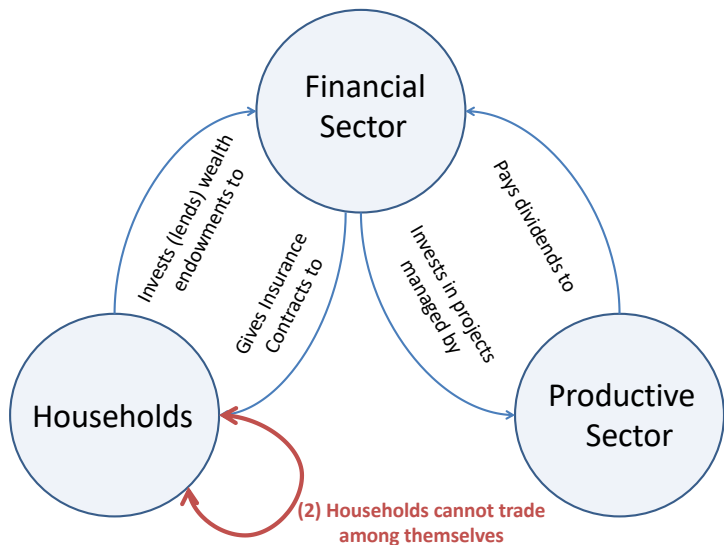
$$\begin{cases} e_1(s) \leq x & \text{for all } s \in [0, 1] \\ e_2(s) \leq x - e_1(s) + \rho(y(s), s) & \text{for all } s \in [0, 1] \end{cases}$$

- Free-entry into BS industry









# Quasi-equilibrium

- Given  $B$  and  $C = \{C_b\}_{b \in B}$ , a quasi-equilibrium is a tuple  $\mathbf{z}$  consisting of
  - Consumer demand  $q^d$
  - BS supply  $q^s$  and investment decisions  $(x_b, (y_b(s))_{s \in [0,1]})$
  - Prices  $P(b, s)$  and Payoffs  $\rho(y, s)$ , such that:
- 1  $q^d$  solves consumer problem given  $P(b, s)$
- 2  $q^s$  and investment decisions  $(x_b, (y_b(s))_{s \in [0,1]})$  max  $\pi_b$  given prices  $P(b, s)$  and  $\rho(y, s)$
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## Quasi-equilibrium

- We write  $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{Q}(B, \{C_b\}_{b \in B})$  as the set of all quasi-equilibria.

### Lemma

*There always exist a Quasi-Equilibrium, where only one contract*

$$(\hat{b}, \hat{c}) \in \underset{b \in B, c \in C_b}{\operatorname{argmax}} V(b, c)$$

*is traded in eqm (i.e.  $q^d(\hat{b}, \hat{c}) = q^s(\hat{b}, \hat{c}) = 1$ ), and*

$$P(\hat{b}, \hat{c}) = x_{\hat{b}} + \int_0^1 y_{\hat{b}}(s) ds$$

### Proof.

Constructive, and straightforward

- So, in any quasi-equilibrium, only one best-ex ante contract is traded
- If two BD  $b_1, b_2$  are selling the same contract  $\hat{c}$ , then there are two equilibria

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# Full Competitive Equilibrium (Makowski 1980)

- So far, we took the technology of each BD as given (i.e. the contracts they propose)
- Equivalent to taking the commodity space as exogenous.
- What contracts should be chosen to be introduced by banks?

# Full Competitive Equilibrium (Makowski 1980)

## Definition (Profitable Deviation)

Take a set of BD  $B$  with contracts  $C_b$ , and let  $z$  be a quasi-equilibrium. We say  $c' \notin \bigcup_{b \in B} \{C_b\}$  is a profitable deviation if

- 1 Is incentive compatible
- 2  $\exists z' \in Q(B, \{C'_b\})$  where  $C'_b = C_b$  for all but  $\hat{b}$ , where  $C'_{\hat{b}} = \{c'\} \cup C_{\hat{b}}$ , such that

$$\pi_{\hat{b}}(z') > \pi_{\hat{b}}(z)$$

## Definition (FCE)

A Full Competitive Equilibrium (**FCE**) is a family of contracts  $\{C_b\}_{b \in B}$  and  $z$  such that (1)  $z \in Q(B, \{C_b\}_{b \in B})$  and (2) there are no profitable deviations

## Weak FCE

- **Problem:** in all quasi-equilibria we have  $\pi_b(\mathbf{z}) = 0$

### Definition (Weak Profitable Deviation)

Take a set of BD  $B$  with contracts  $C_b$ , and let  $\mathbf{z}$  be a quasi-equilibrium. We say  $c' \notin \bigcup_{b \in B} \{C_b\}$  is a weak profitable deviation if

- 1 Is incentive compatible
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  - 1  $\pi_{\hat{b}}(\mathbf{z}') \geq \pi_{\hat{b}}(\mathbf{z})$
  - 2  $\sum_{c \in C_{\hat{b}}} q^s(\hat{b}, c) > \sum_{c \in C'_{\hat{b}}} q^s(\hat{b}, c')$

### Definition (Weak FCE)

A Weak **FCE** is a family of contracts  $\{C_b\}_{b \in B}$  and  $\mathbf{z}$  such that (1)  $\mathbf{z} \in Q(B, \{C_b\}_{b \in B})$  and (2) there are no weak profitable deviations

# Weak FCE Implementation

## Lemma

Take  $\{C_b\}_{b \in B}$  and  $z \in \mathbf{Q}(B, \{C_b\}_{b \in B})$ . If  $c^* \notin \bigcup_{b \in B} C_b \implies (\{C_b\}_{b \in B}, z)$  is not a weak FCE

- Proof is trivial: Based on Lemma 3 we know that in any  $z$ , the best contract for consumers corners all the market
- $c^*$  is the best feasible contract, so any BD selling it may get all market in an equilibrium.

## Theorem (Full Implementation)

*In any weak FCE, the first best contract  $c^*$  (with corresponding optimal investment allocation) is implemented.*

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 Mechanism Design Problem
- 3 Investment Program
- 4 Incentive Program
- 5 Decentralization
- 6 Failures of Implementation**

# Failures of Implementation

## Failure 1: Hidden trades, Hidden savings

- This reduces the set of incentive compatible mechanisms, and therefore changes  $c^*$
- However, if  $V(Y)$  is still st. concave  $\implies$  Shape of optimal portfolio still the same
- Market design still implements the second best allocation

# Failures of Implementation

## Failure 2: Consumers may directly invest in firms

- Firms, once they cover their minimum scale, can now ask for more external financing
- In this case, consumers would benefit from directly investing in already “open” firms
- ... but they would invest the same amount in all of them.
- No agent would invest in BDs: they would wait for BD to cover MS
- In ex-ante problem, this translates into a reservation utility for each agent
- In constrained optimal mechanism, a BD would give the same utility as direct financing:

$$y^*(s) = \begin{cases} y^* = M(s^*) & \text{for all } s \leq s^* \\ 0 & \text{for all } s > s^* \end{cases}$$

- Same reason behind Acemoglu and Zilibotti (1997)

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# Failures of Implementation

## Failure 3: Contracts are incomplete

- What if state  $s$  is not (perfectly) contractible? (Allen and Gale (2004), etc)
- In this case, separation between incentive and investment programs is not possible.
- Typically, investment in storage would be larger
- However, non-smooth investment in long technologies would still be optimal (conjecture!)

## Failure 4: Please tell me us!