

Intertemporal Equilibria with Knightian Uncertainty

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Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Model
- 3 Efficiency and Equilibria in Bewley Economies
- 4 Non-Insurance of Knightian Uncertainty: A Case Study

Motivation

Two Kinds of Multiple Priors, or Worst-case versus stress-testing

- Gilboa–Schmeidler weaken independence axiom and introduce pessimism
 - agents use multiple priors $P \in \mathcal{P}^I$
 - complete preferences, worst-case approach: $U(X) = \min_{P \in \mathcal{P}^I} E^P u(x)$
- Bewley introduces multiple priors, but removes completeness
- and adds inertia (=stress-testing):

- Question: what are the consequences for markets in dynamic settings?

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A Related Motivation: Controlling Finance

Regulation of Financial Markets

- stress testing: accept a deal only if it performs better than status quo in all tests \Leftrightarrow Bewley with inertia
- worst-case approach : compare the worst-case outcomes deal versus status quo and accept a deal if the worst-case outcome of the deal is better the the worst-case outcome of the status-quo

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Model: Bewley and Savage Economies

Definition

- 1 Bewley economy = Standard dynamic exchange economy under uncertainty, except for incomplete multiple-prior preferences given by a set of priors \mathcal{P}^i for agent i
- 2 Fix priors $Q^i \in \mathcal{P}^i$.
Savage economy with priors $Q = (Q^1, Q^2, \dots, Q^I)$ = complete preferences, and possibly heterogeneous priors $Q = (Q^1, Q^2, \dots, Q^I)$

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Model ctd.

- I agents with multiple priors \mathcal{P}^i
 - priors admit densities with respect to a reference measure P^0
 - agents agree on null sets
 - for $Q^i \in \mathcal{P}^i$, we denote the density process by q_t^i
- Consumption plans $c^i = (c_t^i(\omega))$ for $t = 0, 1, \dots, T$
- agent i weakly prefers c^i over d^i iff

$$\text{for all priors } Q \in \mathcal{P}^i \quad E^Q \sum_{t=0}^T u^i(t, c_t^i) \geq E^Q \sum_{t=0}^T u^i(t, d_t^i)$$

- u^i nice period utility function
- endowments $w^i = (w_t^i(\omega))$ are strictly positive
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Efficiency in Savage Economies

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- Fix priors $Q = (Q^1, Q^2, \dots, Q^I)$
- A feasible interior allocation $c = (c^1, c^2, \dots, c^I)$ is efficient in the Savage economy with priors $Q = (Q^1, Q^2, \dots, Q^I)$ iff the marginal rates of substitution of all agents coincide, i.e.

$$MRS_t^i = \frac{u_c^i(t, c_t^i) q_t^i}{u^i(c_0^i)} = \frac{u_c^j(t, c_t^j) q_t^j}{u^j(c_0^j)} = MRS_t^j$$

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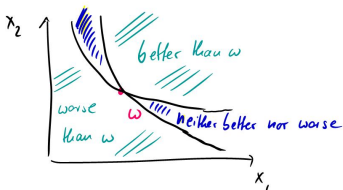
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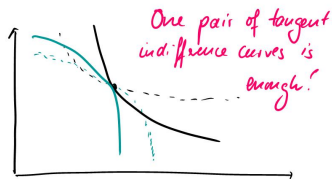
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if c is efficient in some Savage economy with priors Q , then c is efficient in the Bewley economy.

Choice with Incomplete Preferences



Efficiency



- Challenge: the converse!

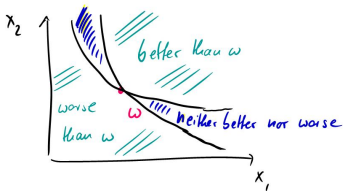
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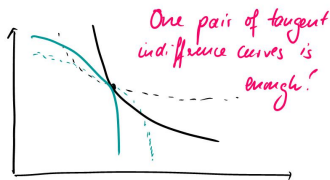
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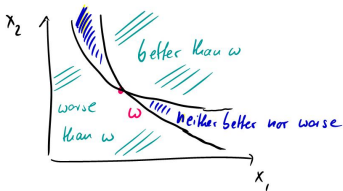
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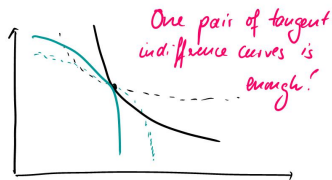
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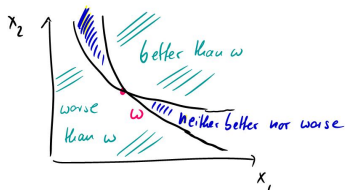
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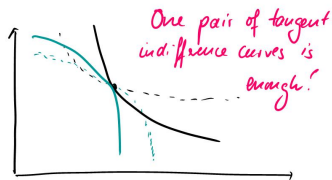
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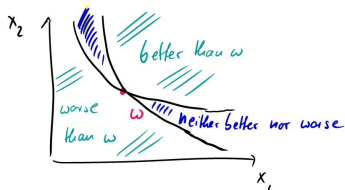
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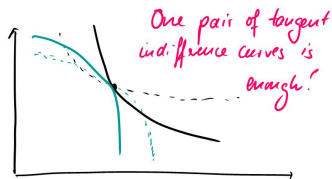
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Efficiency in Bewley economies

MRS=Risk-Adjusted Prior + Subjective Interest Rate

- Every MRS can be written as

$$MRS_t^i = \frac{u_c^i(t, c_t^i) q_t^i}{u^i(c_0^i)} = M_t^i \exp\left(-\sum_{s=1}^t r_s^i\right)$$

for a martingale M^i with expectation 1 and a subjective interest rate r^i

- Interest rate is predictable
- Decomposition is unique (Multiplicative Doob Decomposition)
- M^i density process of a new measure, the risk-adjusted prior or equivalent martingale measure

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Efficiency in Bewley economies

Theorem

An interior allocation c is efficient in the Bewley economy if and only if one of the following conditions holds true:

- ① *the agents' share a common marginal rate of substitution,*
- ② *the agents share a risk-adjusted prior and for a common risk-adjusted prior Q all individual interest rates are equal, i.e.*

$$r^i(Q, c^i)_t = r^j(Q, c^j)_t$$

for all $i, j = 1, \dots, I$ and $t = 0, \dots, T$,

- ③ *for some selection of priors $Q^i \in \mathcal{P}^i, i = 1, \dots, I$, c is efficient in the Savage economy with priors $Q = (Q^1, \dots, Q^I)$.*

New version of Samet's separation theorem for L^∞ .

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- ③ *for some selection of priors $Q^i \in \mathcal{P}^i, i = 1, \dots, I$, c is efficient in the Savage economy with priors $Q = (Q^1, \dots, Q^I)$.*

Remark

New version of Samet's separation theorem for L^∞ .

Efficiency in Bewley economies

Theorem

An interior allocation c is efficient in the Bewley economy if and only if one of the following conditions holds true:

- ① *the agents' share a common marginal rate of substitution,*
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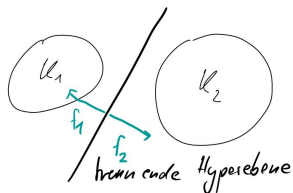
Samet's Theorem

Theorem (Samet, *Games and Economic Behavior*, 1998)

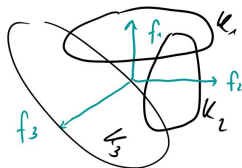
Let K_1, \dots, K_n be convex, closed, nonempty subsets of Δ^m (the simplex in \mathbb{R}^m).

$\bigcap K_i = \emptyset$ iff there are $f_1, \dots, f_n \in \mathbb{R}^m$ such that $\sum f_i = 0$, and $f_i \cdot x_i > 0$ for each $x_i \in K_i, i = 1, \dots, n$.

Separation Theorem



Samet's Theorem



Samet's Theorem for L^∞

Theorem

Let (S, \mathcal{S}, P) be a probability space. Let $(K_i)_{i=1, \dots, n}$ be nonempty, convex, and $\sigma(L^1, L^\infty)$ -compact subsets of $L^1(S, \mathcal{S}, P)$.

Then $\bigcap K_i = \emptyset$ if and only if there exists $g_i \in L^\infty(S, \mathcal{S}, P)$ with $\sum g_i = 0$ such that $\int g_i x_i dP > 0$ for all $x_i \in K_i, i = 1, \dots, n$.

Equilibria in Bewley economies

Corollary

Any interior equilibrium (p^, c^*) of the Bewley economy is an interior equilibrium for some Savage economy with priors $Q^i \in \mathcal{P}^i, i = 1, \dots, I$ and vice versa.*

Remark

- Huge number of equilibria if uncertainty is nontrivial*
- Bewley economy (compare Savage economy)*

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Equilibria with Inertia: Existence and Variational Preferences

- Inertia: agents choose $c^i \neq \omega^i$ only if they strictly prefer c^i over ω^i under all $P \in \mathcal{P}^i$
- Big reduction of number of equilibria
- New Idea: introduce a certain class of **variational preferences** (Maccheroni, Marinacci, Rustichini) with reference level ω^i

$$V^i(x) = \min_{Q \in \mathcal{P}^i} E^Q ((U^i(x) - U^i(\omega^i))) \quad (1)$$

Theorem

Any equilibrium of an economy with complete variational preferences (1) is an equilibrium with inertia (in the economy with Bewley preferences). In particular, equilibria with inertia exist.

Such variational preferences are Mackey–continuous.

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Story in a Nutshell

- No aggregate uncertainty
- individual endowments depend on risky source (distribution known) and uncertain source (distribution unknown)
- equilibrium with inertia:
- equilibrium in the corresponding Gilboa-Schmeidler economy

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Case Study: Details

- two agents with CARA utility, $u^i(x) = -\exp(-x)$
- aggregate endowment is zero
- agent 1 has endowment $\omega_t^1 = R_t + U_t$
- R is risky and U is uncertain
- $R_t = \sum_{s=1}^t \varepsilon_s$, $\varepsilon_s \sim N(0, 1)$, i.i.d.
- $U_t = \sum_{s=1}^t \nu_s$, (ν_t) independent experiments with identical ambiguity
- time-consistent dynamic model of multiple priors
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$$q_t = \exp \left(\sum_{s=1}^t \left(\alpha_s \nu_s - \frac{1}{2} \alpha_s^2 \right) \right)$$

for some predictable process (α_s) with values in $[-\kappa, \kappa]$
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If ambiguity is large enough, $\kappa \geq 1$, there is an equilibrium with inertia in which agent 1 consumes

$$x_t^1 = U_t.$$

The allocation is uniquely determined.

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Conclusion

- 1 General Equilibrium Analysis for Bewley's Incomplete Preference Approach
- 2 Link to Variational Expectations: New Existence Proof
- 3 Samet's Theorem for L^∞
- 4 Link to Regulation of Financial Markets:
 - might be wrong to use stress-testing
- 5 Case Study: Knightian uncertainty remains uninsured