

Shareholder Heterogeneity, Asymmetric Information, and the Equilibrium Manager

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Introduction

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Since Berle and Means (32) and Alchian (68), conflicts of interest between shareholders and managers are usually analyzed with

Introduction

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Since Berle and Means (32) and Alchian (68), conflicts of interest between shareholders and managers are usually analyzed with
 - a representative shareholder

Introduction

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Since Berle and Means (32) and Alchian (68), conflicts of interest between shareholders and managers are usually analyzed with
 - a representative shareholder
 - partial equilibrium and principal/agent approach (Jensen and Meckling, 1976)

Introduction

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Since Berle and Means (32) and Alchian (68), conflicts of interest between shareholders and managers are usually analyzed with
 - a representative shareholder
 - partial equilibrium and principal/agent approach (Jensen and Meckling, 1976)
- Model of heterogeneous shareholders : weigh differently scenarios and rank differently projects and alternatives

Introduction

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Since Berle and Means (32) and Alchian (68), conflicts of interest between shareholders and managers are usually analyzed with
 - a representative shareholder
 - partial equilibrium and principal/agent approach (Jensen and Meckling, 1976)
- Model of heterogeneous shareholders : weigh differently scenarios and rank differently projects and alternatives
- J&M76 : "The 'behavior' of the firm is like the behavior of a market, that is, the outcome of a complex equilibrium process (...) in which the conflicting objectives of individuals are brought into equilibrium"

Equilibrium Approach (BDJ, 2019)

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- A **general equilibrium** model :

Equilibrium Approach (BDJ, 2019)

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- A **general equilibrium** model :
 - Shareholders trade taking firm's decisions into account

Equilibrium Approach (BDJ, 2019)

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- A **general equilibrium** model :
 - Shareholders trade taking firm's decisions into account
 - Firm's decisions taken by a utility maximizing manager

Equilibrium Approach (BDJ, 2019)

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- A **general equilibrium** model :
 - Shareholders trade taking firm's decisions into account
 - Firm's decisions taken by a utility maximizing manager
 - Main questions :

Equilibrium Approach (BDJ, 2019)

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- A **general equilibrium** model :
 - Shareholders trade taking firm's decisions into account
 - Firm's decisions taken by a utility maximizing manager
 - Main questions :
 - How to ensure that manager's and shareholders' objectives are in line?

Equilibrium Approach (BDJ, 2019)

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- A **general equilibrium** model :
 - Shareholders trade taking firm's decisions into account
 - Firm's decisions taken by a utility maximizing manager
 - Main questions :
 - How to ensure that manager's and shareholders' objectives are in line?
 - How do their beliefs are related?

Equilibrium Approach (BDJ, 2019)

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- A **general equilibrium** model :
 - Shareholders trade taking firm's decisions into account
 - Firm's decisions taken by a utility maximizing manager
 - Main questions :
 - How to ensure that manager's and shareholders' objectives are in line?
 - How do their beliefs are related?
 - Which compensation schemes lead to such an alignment?

Equilibrium Approach (BDJ, 2019)

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- A **general equilibrium** model :
 - Shareholders trade taking firm's decisions into account
 - Firm's decisions taken by a utility maximizing manager
 - Main questions :
 - How to ensure that manager's and shareholders' objectives are in line?
 - How do their beliefs are related?
 - Which compensation schemes lead to such an alignment?
- Manager's objectives are in line with those of the shareholders iff

Equilibrium Approach (BDJ, 2019)

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- A **general equilibrium** model :
 - Shareholders trade taking firm's decisions into account
 - Firm's decisions taken by a utility maximizing manager
 - Main questions :
 - How to ensure that manager's and shareholders' objectives are in line?
 - How do their beliefs are related?
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 - she does not trade,

Equilibrium Approach (BDJ, 2019)

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- A **general equilibrium** model :
 - Shareholders trade taking firm's decisions into account
 - Firm's decisions taken by a utility maximizing manager
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 - How to ensure that manager's and shareholders' objectives are in line?
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 - Which compensation schemes lead to such an alignment?
- Manager's objectives are in line with those of the shareholders iff
 - she does not trade,
 - compensation is inear,

Equilibrium Approach (BDJ, 2019)

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- A **general equilibrium** model :
 - Shareholders trade taking firm's decisions into account
 - Firm's decisions taken by a utility maximizing manager
 - Main questions :
 - How to ensure that manager's and shareholders' objectives are in line?
 - How do their beliefs are related?
 - Which compensation schemes lead to such an alignment?
- Manager's objectives are in line with those of the shareholders iff
 - she does not trade,
 - compensation is linear,
 - she has the same beliefs as the *representative* shareholder.

Extending BDJ 2019

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Manager's contract : compensation schem AND space of allowed transactions,

Extending BDJ 2019

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Manager's contract : compensation schem AND space of allowed transactions,
- Constraints on insider trading are endogeneous and part of the equilibrium description,

Extending BDJ 2019

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Manager's contract : compensation schem AND space of allowed transactions,
- Constraints on insider trading are endogeneous and part of the equilibrium description,
- Main results

Extending BDJ 2019

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Manager's contract : compensation schem AND space of allowed transactions,
- Constraints on insider trading are endogeneous and part of the equilibrium description,
- Main results
 - Trading constraints restore equilibrium regardless of manager's beliefs

Extending BDJ 2019

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Manager's contract : compensation scheme AND space of allowed transactions,
- Constraints on insider trading are endogenous and part of the equilibrium description,
- Main results
 - Trading constraints restore equilibrium regardless of manager's beliefs
 - We characterize the associated compensation scheme,

Extending BDJ 2019

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Manager's contract : compensation schem AND space of allowed transactions,
- Constraints on insider trading are endogeneous and part of the equilibrium description,
- Main results
 - Trading constraints restore equilibrium regardless of manager's beliefs
 - We characterize the associated compensation scheme,
 - Qualitative properties valid irrespective of the exact form of beliefs heterogeneity.

Consumption/Production Space

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- One consumption good. One trading and consumption date T .

Consumption/Production Space

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- One consumption good. One trading and consumption date T .
- Probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$

Consumption/Production Space

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- One consumption good. One trading and consumption date T .
- Probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$
- $X = L^r(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, $X' = L^{r'}(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, $\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{r'} = 1$,

Consumption/Production Space

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- One consumption good. One trading and consumption date T .
- Probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$
- $X = L^r(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, $X' = L^{r'}(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, $\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{r'} = 1$,
- Contingent plans y and x

Consumption/Production Space

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- One consumption good. One trading and consumption date T .
- Probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$
- $X = L^r(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, $X' = L^{r'}(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, $\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{r'} = 1$,
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- $y(\omega)$ / $x(\omega)$ prod. / consumption in state ω

Consumption/Production Space

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- One consumption good. One trading and consumption date T .
- Probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$
- $X = L^r(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, $X' = L^{r'}(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, $\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{r'} = 1$,
- Contingent plans y and x
- $y(\omega)$ / $x(\omega)$ prod. / consumption in state ω
- For Y convex,

Consumption/Production Space

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- One consumption good. One trading and consumption date T .
- Probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$
- $X = L^r(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, $X' = L^{r'}(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, $\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{r'} = 1$,
- Contingent plans y and x
- $y(\omega)$ / $x(\omega)$ prod. / consumption in state ω
- For Y convex,
 - $N_Y(y) = \{p \in X' : p \cdot (y' - y) \leq 0, \forall y' \in Y\}$

Consumption/Production Space

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- One consumption good. One trading and consumption date T .
- Probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$
- $X = L^r(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, $X' = L^{r'}(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, $\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{r'} = 1$,
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 - $N_Y(y) = \{p \in X' : p \cdot (y' - y) \leq 0, \forall y' \in Y\}$
 - $\text{Eff}^+(Y) = \{y \in Y : \exists p \in N_Y(y), p \gg 0\}$

Consumption/Production Space

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- One consumption good. One trading and consumption date T .
- Probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$
- $X = L^r(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, $X' = L^{r'}(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$, $\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{r'} = 1$,
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- For Y convex,
 - $N_Y(y) = \{p \in X' : p \cdot (y' - y) \leq 0, \forall y' \in Y\}$
 - $\text{Eff}^+(Y) = \{y \in Y : \exists p \in N_Y(y), p \gg 0\}$
 - Y is smooth if $\forall y \in \text{Eff}^+(Y)$, $N_Y(y)$ is a half-line

The Firm

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Assumption (P)

① $Y = K - X_+$ where $K \subset X_+$,

The Firm

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Assumption (P)

- 1 $Y = K - X_+$ where $K \subset X_+$,
- 2 Y is closed and smooth,

The Firm

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Assumption (P)

- ① $Y = K - X_+$ where $K \subset X_+$,
- ② Y is closed and smooth,
- ③ If $y \in \text{Eff}^+(Y)$, the random variable y has a density h_y with $h_y > 0$, μ -a.e. on $(0, \infty)$ (full support and no atoms).

The Firm

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Assumption (P)

- 1 $Y = K - X_+$ where $K \subset X_+$,
- 2 Y is closed and smooth,
- 3 If $y \in \text{Eff}^+(Y)$, the random variable y has a density h_y with $h_y > 0$, μ -a.e. on $(0, \infty)$ (full support and no atoms).

Example (typical)

Terminal values of a production process governed by a Brownian motion W and a control θ that determines drift and volatility

$$K = \left\{ y_T^\theta : d \ln y_t^\theta = \mu(\theta_t) dt + \theta_t dW_t \right\},$$

where μ is real valued.

Information Asymmetry

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**,
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Manager chooses y and observes realizations $y(\omega)$

Information Asymmetry

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Manager chooses y and observes realizations $y(\omega)$
- Shareholders only observe realizations $y(\omega)$

Information Asymmetry

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Manager chooses y and observes realizations $y(\omega)$
- Shareholders only observe realizations $y(\omega)$
- If $y \in \text{Eff}^+(Y)$, $y(\omega)$ does not permit to identify y nor to exclude some y s (same support assumption)

Information Asymmetry

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Manager chooses y and observes realizations $y(\omega)$
- Shareholders only observe realizations $y(\omega)$
- If $y \in \text{Eff}^+(Y)$, $y(\omega)$ does not permit to identify y nor to exclude some y s (same support assumption)
- Plans in $\text{Eff}^+(Y)$ only differ by the probabilities of outcomes (Magill-Quinzii, 2009)

Information Asymmetry

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Manager chooses y and observes realizations $y(\omega)$
- Shareholders only observe realizations $y(\omega)$
- If $y \in \text{Eff}^+(Y)$, $y(\omega)$ does not permit to identify y nor to exclude some y s (same support assumption)
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- M can manipulate shareholders' information by announcing y and implementing y'

Information Asymmetry

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Manager chooses y and observes realizations $y(\omega)$
- Shareholders only observe realizations $y(\omega)$
- If $y \in \text{Eff}^+(Y)$, $y(\omega)$ does not permit to identify y nor to exclude some y s (same support assumption)
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- Contracts necessarily contingent to the realizations $\implies$ possible manipulation of prices/allocations

Information Asymmetry

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Manager chooses y and observes realizations $y(\omega)$
- Shareholders only observe realizations $y(\omega)$
- If $y \in \text{Eff}^+(Y)$, $y(\omega)$ does not permit to identify y nor to exclude some y s (same support assumption)
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Problem

How to lead the manager to truthfully implement the announced plan?

Market Timing

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Shareholders hire a manager and propose a contract (Φ, W)

Market Timing

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Shareholders hire a manager and propose a contract (Φ, W)
- Manager announces a production plan y

Market Timing

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Shareholders hire a manager and propose a contract (Φ, W)
- Manager announces a production plan y
- S and M announce contingent demand functions

Market Timing

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Shareholders hire a manager and propose a contract (Φ, W)
- Manager announces a production plan y
- S and M announce contingent demand functions
- Exchange equilibrium prices emerge; contingent contracts are established

Market Timing

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Shareholders hire a manager and propose a contract (Φ, W)
- Manager announces a production plan y
- S and M announce contingent demand functions
- Exchange equilibrium prices emerge; contingent contracts are established
- M implements a plan; contracts are settled (physical trades occur)

Market Timing

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Shareholders hire a manager and propose a contract (Φ, W)
- Manager announces a production plan y
- S and M announce contingent demand functions
- Exchange equilibrium prices emerge; contingent contracts are established
- M implements a plan; contracts are settled (physical trades occur)

Problem

How to lead the manager to propose shareholders' preferred plan?

The Manager

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Belief Q^m with $M^m \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{dQ^m}{dP}$, CRRA function, $u(x) = \frac{1}{\gamma}x^\gamma$, $\gamma < 1$,

The Manager

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Belief Q^m with $M^m \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{dQ^m}{dP}$, CRRA function, $u(x) = \frac{1}{\gamma}x^\gamma$, $\gamma < 1$,
- Utility function $U_m(x) = E[M^m u(x)]$,

The Manager

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Belief Q^m with $M^m \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{dQ^m}{dP}$, CRRA function, $u(x) = \frac{1}{\gamma}x^\gamma$, $\gamma < 1$,
- Utility function $U_m(x) = E[M^m u(x)]$,
- Compensation scheme $\Phi : X_+ \rightarrow X_+$,
 $\Phi(y)(\omega) = \phi(y(\omega))$,

The Manager

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Belief Q^m with $M^m \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{dQ^m}{dP}$, CRRA function, $u(x) = \frac{1}{\gamma}x^\gamma$, $\gamma < 1$,
- Utility function $U_m(x) = E[M^m u(x)]$,
- Compensation scheme $\Phi : X_+ \rightarrow X_+$,
 $\Phi(y)(\omega) = \phi(y(\omega))$,
- For $y \in Y$, $\mathcal{C}(y) = \{c : c(\omega) = C(y(\omega))\}$,

The Manager

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Belief Q^m with $M^m \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{dQ^m}{dP}$, CRRA function, $u(x) = \frac{1}{\gamma}x^\gamma$, $\gamma < 1$,
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- Compensation scheme $\Phi : X_+ \rightarrow X_+$,
 $\Phi(y)(\omega) = \phi(y(\omega))$,
- For $y \in Y$, $\mathcal{C}(y) = \{c : c(\omega) = C(y(\omega))\}$,
- Space of allowed transactions W ,
 $\mathcal{C}^m(y) = (\phi(y) + W) \cap \mathcal{C}(y)$.

The Manager

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Belief Q^m with $M^m \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{dQ^m}{dP}$, CRRA function, $u(x) = \frac{1}{\gamma}x^\gamma$, $\gamma < 1$,
- Utility function $U_m(x) = E[M^m u(x)]$,
- Compensation scheme $\Phi : X_+ \rightarrow X_+$,
 $\Phi(y)(\omega) = \phi(y(\omega))$,
- For $y \in Y$, $\mathcal{C}(y) = \{c : c(\omega) = C(y(\omega))\}$,
- Space of allowed transactions W ,
 $\mathcal{C}^m(y) = (\phi(y) + W) \cap \mathcal{C}(y)$.

Assumption (F) : $\forall y \in K, \forall w \in W, M_m \phi(y)^{\gamma-1} w \in L^1$ and $M_m \phi(y)^\gamma \in L^1$.

The Shareholders

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- N shareholders, same u as the manager,

The Shareholders

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- N shareholders, same u as the manager,
- Beliefs Q^i , density $\frac{dQ^i}{dP} = M^i$

The Shareholders

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- N shareholders, same u as the manager,
- Beliefs Q^i , density $\frac{dQ^i}{dP} = M^i$
- Utility functions, $U_i(x) = E [M^i u(x)]$,

The Shareholders

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- N shareholders, same u as the manager,
- Beliefs Q^i , density $\frac{dQ^i}{dP} = M^i$
- Utility functions, $U_i(x) = E [M^i u(x)]$,
- Shares $v_i > 0$ of the firm,

The Shareholders

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- N shareholders, same u as the manager,
- Beliefs Q^i , density $\frac{dQ^i}{dP} = M^i$
- Utility functions, $U_i(x) = E [M^i u(x)]$,
- Shares $v_i > 0$ of the firm,
- Indirect utilities

$$V^i(y, q) = \max \left\{ U^i(c) : \begin{array}{l} q \cdot c \leq v^i q \cdot (y - \Phi(y)) \\ \text{and } c \in \mathcal{C}(y) \end{array} \right\}$$

$$V_m(y, q) = \max \left\{ U_m(c) : \begin{array}{l} q \cdot c \leq q \cdot \Phi(y) \\ \text{and } c \in \mathcal{C}^m(y) \end{array} \right\}$$

The M-S Equilibrium Concept

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Definition

Compensation scheme Φ , subspace W , production process $\hat{y}$, contingent contracts $((\hat{C}^i)_i, \hat{C}_m)$, and price process $\hat{q}$ s.t.

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \hat{c}^i = \hat{C}^i(\hat{y}) = \arg \max_{\hat{q} \cdot c \leq v^i \hat{q} \cdot (\hat{y} - \Phi(\hat{y})) \text{ and } c \in \mathcal{C}(y)} U^i(c)$$

The M-S Equilibrium Concept

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Definition

Compensation scheme Φ , subspace W , production process $\hat{y}$, contingent contracts $((\hat{C}^i)_i, \hat{C}_m)$, and price process $\hat{q}$ s.t.

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$$\textcircled{2} \quad \hat{c}_m = \hat{C}_m(\hat{y}) = \arg \max_{\hat{q} \cdot c \leq \hat{q} \cdot \Phi(\hat{y}) \text{ and } c \in \mathcal{C}^m(y)} U_m(c)$$

The M-S Equilibrium Concept

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Definition

Compensation scheme Φ , subspace W , production process $\hat{y}$, contingent contracts $((\hat{C}^i)_i, \hat{C}_m)$, and price process $\hat{q}$ s.t.

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- ② $\hat{c}_m = \hat{C}_m(\hat{y}) = \arg \max_{\hat{q} \cdot c \leq \hat{q} \cdot \Phi(\hat{y}) \text{ and } c \in \mathcal{C}^m(y)} U_m(c)$
- ③ $\sum_i \hat{c}^i + \hat{c}_m = \hat{y}$ (market clearing)

The M-S Equilibrium Concept

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Definition

Compensation scheme Φ , subspace W , production process $\hat{y}$, contingent contracts $((\hat{C}^i)_i, \hat{C}_m)$, and price process $\hat{q}$ s.t.

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- ④ $V_m(\hat{y}, \hat{q}) = \max_{y \in Y} V_m(y, \hat{q})$ (best production plan)

The M-S Equilibrium Concept

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Definition

Compensation scheme Φ , subspace W , production process $\hat{y}$, contingent contracts $((\hat{C}^i)_i, \hat{C}_m)$, and price process $\hat{q}$ s.t.

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- ⑤ $V^i(\hat{y}, \hat{q}) = \max_{y \in Y} V^i(y, \hat{q})$ (best production plan)

The M-S Equilibrium Concept

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Definition

Compensation scheme Φ , subspace W , production process $\hat{y}$, contingent contracts $((\hat{C}^i)_i, \hat{C}_m)$, and price process $\hat{q}$ s.t.

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- ③ $\sum_i \hat{c}^i + \hat{c}_m = \hat{y}$ (market clearing)
- ④ $V_m(\hat{y}, \hat{q}) = \max_{y \in Y} V_m(y, \hat{q})$ (best production plan)
- ⑤ $V^i(\hat{y}, \hat{q}) = \max_{y \in Y} V^i(y, \hat{q})$ (best production plan)
- ⑥ $U_m(\hat{C}_m(\hat{y})) = \max_{y \in Y} U_m(\hat{C}_m(y))$
(truthful implementation)

Link with Production Equilibrium

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Theorem

Let $((\phi, W), (\hat{c}^i)_i, (\hat{c}_m), \hat{q}, \hat{y})$ be a m -s equilibrium then

- 1 *The manager does not trade, i.e. $\hat{c}_m = \phi(\hat{y})$,*

Link with Production Equilibrium

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Theorem

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- ❶ *The manager does not trade, i.e. $\hat{c}_m = \phi(\hat{y})$,*
- ❷ *$U_m(\phi(\hat{y})) > U_m(\phi(y))$ for all $y \in Y$,*

Link with Production Equilibrium

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Theorem

Let $((\phi, W), (\hat{c}^i)_i, (\hat{c}_m), \hat{q}, \hat{y})$ be a m -s equilibrium then

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- ❷ *$U_m(\phi(\hat{y})) > U_m(\phi(y))$ for all $y \in Y$,*
- ❸ *$((\hat{c}^i)_i, \hat{q}, \hat{y} - \phi(\hat{y}))$ is a production equilibrium associated to $Y^\phi = \{y - \phi(y) : y \in Y\}$ that fulfills $\hat{q} \in \mathcal{C}(\hat{y})$, we denote by $\tilde{N}$ the belief of the associated rep. agent,*

Link with Production Equilibrium

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Theorem

Let $((\phi, W), (\hat{c}^i)_i, (\hat{c}_m), \hat{q}, \hat{y})$ be a m -s equilibrium then

- ❶ *The manager does not trade, i.e. $\hat{c}_m = \phi(\hat{y})$,*
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- ❸ *$((\hat{c}^i)_i, \hat{q}, \hat{y} - \phi(\hat{y}))$ is a production equilibrium associated to $Y^\phi = \{y - \phi(y) : y \in Y\}$ that fulfills $\hat{q} \in \mathcal{C}(\hat{y})$, we denote by $\tilde{N}$ the belief of the associated rep. agent,*
- ❹ *$\phi'(\hat{y})M^m u'(\phi(\hat{y})) \parallel (1 - \phi'(\hat{y}))\tilde{N}u'(\hat{y} - \phi(\hat{y}))$,*

Link with Production Equilibrium

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Theorem

Let $((\phi, W), (\hat{c}^i)_i, (\hat{c}_m), \hat{q}, \hat{y})$ be a m -s equilibrium then

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- ❹ *$\phi'(\hat{y})M^m u'(\phi(\hat{y})) \parallel (1 - \phi'(\hat{y}))\tilde{N}u'(\hat{y} - \phi(\hat{y}))$,*
- ❺ *$((\phi, W'), (\hat{c}^i)_i, (\hat{c}_m), \hat{q}, \hat{y})$ is a m -s equilibrium for any $W' \subseteq W$ (in particular, $(\phi, \{0\})$ m -s equilibrium).*

Link with Production Equilibrium

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Theorem

Let $((\phi, W), (\hat{c}^i)_i, (\hat{c}_m), \hat{q}, \hat{y})$ be a m -s equilibrium then

- 1 *The manager does not trade, i.e. $\hat{c}_m = \phi(\hat{y})$,*
- 2 *$U_m(\phi(\hat{y})) > U_m(\phi(y))$ for all $y \in Y$,*
- 3 *$((\hat{c}^i)_i, \hat{q}, \hat{y} - \phi(\hat{y}))$ is a production equilibrium associated to $Y^\phi = \{y - \phi(y) : y \in Y\}$ that fulfills $\hat{q} \in \mathcal{C}(\hat{y})$, we denote by $\tilde{N}$ the belief of the associated rep. agent,*
- 4 *$\phi'(\hat{y})M^m u'(\phi(\hat{y})) \parallel (1 - \phi'(\hat{y}))\tilde{N}u'(\hat{y} - \phi(\hat{y}))$,*
- 5 *$((\phi, W'), (\hat{c}^i)_i, (\hat{c}_m), \hat{q}, \hat{y})$ is a m -s equilibrium for any $W' \subseteq W$ (in particular, $(\phi, \{0\})$ m -s equilibrium).*

Theorem

1. 2. and 3. characterize m -s equilibria.

Equilibrium Contract

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Corollary

1. If $W = X$, ϕ is linear. 2. If ϕ is linear, $M^m = \tilde{N}$. 3. If $M^m \neq \tilde{N}$, $W \subsetneq X$.

Equilibrium Contract

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Corollary

1. If $W = X$, ϕ is linear. 2. If ϕ is linear, $M^m = \tilde{N}$. 3. If $M^m \neq \tilde{N}$, $W \subsetneq X$.

Let $\tilde{y} = \hat{y} - \phi(\hat{y})$ (net production) and $h : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ s.t.

$$h(\tilde{y}) = \frac{E[\tilde{N} | \tilde{y}]}{E[M^m | \tilde{y}]}.$$

4. becomes

$$\phi'(z)\phi(z)^{\gamma-1} = \mu(1 - \phi'(z))(z - \phi(z))^{\gamma-1}h(z - \phi(z)), \text{ for all } z.$$

Equilibrium Contract

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Corollary

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Let $\tilde{y} = \hat{y} - \phi(\hat{y})$ (net production) and $h : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ s.t.

$$h(\tilde{y}) = \frac{E[\tilde{N} | \tilde{y}]}{E[M^m | \tilde{y}]}.$$

4. becomes

$\phi'(z)\phi(z)^{\gamma-1} = \mu(1 - \phi'(z))(z - \phi(z))^{\gamma-1}h(z - \phi(z))$, for all z .

Problem

Seems standard differential equation, but fixed point problem : ϕ depends on h , h on $\tilde{y}$ and $\tilde{y}$ on ϕ .

Common Beliefs

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

$$\phi'(z)\phi(z)^{\gamma-1} = \mu(1 - \phi'(z))(z - \phi(z))^{\gamma-1}, \text{ for all } z.$$

Common Beliefs

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

$$\phi'(z)\phi(z)^{\gamma-1} = \mu(1 - \phi'(z))(z - \phi(z))^{\gamma-1}, \text{ for all } z.$$

Corollary

If $M^i = M^m$ for all i , at a m -s equilibrium

- 1. if $\gamma > 0$, ϕ is linear,*
- 2. if $\gamma < 0$, $\phi(z)^\gamma = C + \mu(z - \phi(z))^\gamma$ for C given and $\mu > 0$ (when $C = 0$, ϕ is linear).*

Common Beliefs cont'd

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

$$\phi(z)^\gamma = C + \mu (z - \phi(z))^\gamma \text{ for } C \text{ given and } \mu > 0$$

- 1 The manager has a reservation utility level U^*

Common Beliefs cont'd

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

$$\phi(z)^\gamma = C + \mu (z - \phi(z))^\gamma \text{ for } C \text{ given and } \mu > 0$$

- 1 The manager has a reservation utility level U^*
- 2 The shareholders minimize $\hat{q} \cdot \phi(\hat{y})$

Common Beliefs cont'd

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

$$\phi(z)^\gamma = C + \mu (z - \phi(z))^\gamma \text{ for } C \text{ given and } \mu > 0$$

- 1 The manager has a reservation utility level U^*
- 2 The shareholders minimize $\hat{q} \cdot \phi(\hat{y})$

Corollary

Let $((\hat{c}^i)_i, \hat{q}, \tilde{y})$ production equilibrium associated to Y . If $U(\tilde{y}) > U^*$, ϕ is linear ($C = 0$ and $\phi(z) = \frac{\mu^{1/\gamma}}{1+\mu^{1/\gamma}}z$) and μ given by

$$\frac{1}{\gamma} \left(\frac{\mu^{1/\gamma}}{1 + \mu^{1/\gamma}} \right)^\gamma E[\tilde{y}^\gamma] = U^* \text{ or } \mu = \left(\frac{\left(\frac{\gamma U^*}{E[\tilde{y}^\gamma]} \right)^{1/\gamma}}{1 - \left(\frac{\gamma U^*}{E[\tilde{y}^\gamma]} \right)^{1/\gamma}} \right)^\gamma$$

Unique shareholder or identical shareholders

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**,
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- The shareholder(s) believe(s) $\ln \tilde{y} \sim \mathcal{N}(a, \sigma^2)$

Unique shareholder or identical shareholders

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- The shareholder(s) believe(s) $\ln \tilde{y} \sim \mathcal{N}(a, \sigma^2)$
- The manager believes $\ln \tilde{y} \sim \mathcal{N}(b, \sigma^2)$

$$h(z - \phi(z)) = \frac{\exp - \frac{(\ln z - b)^2}{\sigma^2}}{\exp - \frac{(\ln z - a)^2}{\sigma^2}} = \beta z^\alpha$$

Unique shareholder or identical shareholders

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

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- The manager believes $\ln \tilde{y} \sim \mathcal{N}(b, \sigma^2)$

$$h(z - \phi(z)) = \frac{\exp - \frac{(\ln z - b)^2}{\sigma^2}}{\exp - \frac{(\ln z - a)^2}{\sigma^2}} = \beta z^\alpha$$

- $\beta = \exp(\frac{a^2 - b^2}{\sigma^2})$ and $\alpha = 2\frac{b-a}{\sigma^2}$ is positive if the manager is more pessimistic than the shareholder(s)

$$\begin{aligned}\phi'(z)\phi(z)^{\gamma-1} &= \beta\mu(1 - \phi'(z))(z - \phi(z))^{\gamma-1}z^\alpha \\ \phi'(z) &= \frac{\beta\mu(z - \phi(z))^{\gamma-1}z^\alpha}{\phi(z)^{\gamma-1} + \beta\mu(z - \phi(z))^{\gamma-1}z^\alpha}\end{aligned}$$

Unique shareholder or identical shareholders

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

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$$h(z - \phi(z)) = \frac{\exp - \frac{(\ln z - b)^2}{\sigma^2}}{\exp - \frac{(\ln z - a)^2}{\sigma^2}} = \beta z^\alpha$$

- $\beta = \exp(\frac{a^2 - b^2}{\sigma^2})$ and $\alpha = 2 \frac{b - a}{\sigma^2}$ is positive if the manager is more pessimistic than the shareholder(s)

$$\phi'(z) \phi(z)^{\gamma-1} = \beta \mu (1 - \phi'(z)) (z - \phi(z))^{\gamma-1} z^\alpha$$

$$\phi'(z) = \frac{\beta \mu (z - \phi(z))^{\gamma-1} z^\alpha}{\phi(z)^{\gamma-1} + \beta \mu (z - \phi(z))^{\gamma-1} z^\alpha}$$

- We take $\gamma = -1$, $\phi' = \frac{\nu \phi^2 z^\alpha}{(z - \phi)^2 + \nu \phi^2 z^\alpha}$

Unique shareholder or identical shareholders cont'd

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

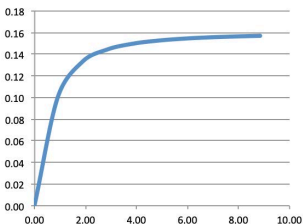
From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

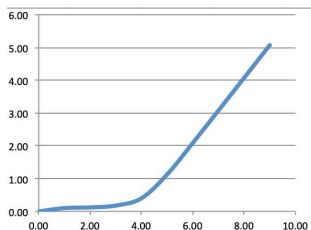
Example

Conclusion

Not so pessimistic manager



Very pessimistic manager



From Gross to Net Production

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

**From Gross to
Net
Production**

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Let z_G (resp. z_N) be the gross (resp. net) production

$$z_N = z_G - \phi(z_G) \text{ and } z_G = (\text{Id} - \phi)^{-1}(z_N)$$

From Gross to Net Production

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

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From Gross to Net Production

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

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From Gross to Net Production

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Let z_G (resp. z_N) be the gross (resp. net) production

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Theorem

If $\hat{q} \in \mathcal{C}(\tilde{y})$, $M^m \in \mathcal{C}(\tilde{y})$ and $u \circ \psi$ strictly concave, then $((\phi, \{0\}), (\hat{c}^i)_i, \phi(\hat{y}), \hat{q}, \hat{y})$ with $\phi = \psi \circ (\text{Id} + \psi)^{-1}$ and $\hat{y} = \tilde{y} + \psi_\mu(\tilde{y})$ is a m -s equilibrium for $Y = \mathcal{Y} + \psi(\mathcal{Y})$.

Heterogeneous Beliefs

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Definition

Agent i is more optimistic than j (with respect to y) if

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \frac{M^i}{M^j} = \infty \text{ and } \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{M^i}{M^j} = 0.$$

Heterogeneous Beliefs

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Definition

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Heterogeneous Beliefs

Executive
Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

Definition

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Corollary

The compensation should verify

$$\frac{\phi(z)}{z} \rightarrow_{0,\infty} 0 \text{ and } \frac{\psi(z)}{z} \rightarrow_{0,\infty} 0 \text{ for } \gamma < 0, \\ \frac{\phi(z)}{z} \rightarrow_{0,\infty} 1 \text{ and } \frac{\psi(z)}{z} \rightarrow_{0,\infty} \infty \text{ for } \gamma > 0.$$

Example

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- $\mathcal{Y}_{a,b,\theta_0} = \left\{ \exp \left(m(\theta)t + \theta \sqrt{T} \tilde{x} \right) : \theta \geq 0 \right\},$

Example

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- $\mathcal{Y}_{a,b,\theta_0} = \left\{ \exp \left(m(\theta)t + \theta \sqrt{T} \tilde{x} \right) : \theta \geq 0 \right\},$
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Example

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- $\mathcal{Y}_{a,b,\theta_0} = \left\{ \exp \left(m(\theta)t + \theta \sqrt{T} \tilde{x} \right) : \theta \geq 0 \right\},$
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Example

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- $\mathcal{Y}_{a,b,\theta_0} = \left\{ \exp \left(m(\theta)t + \theta \sqrt{T} \tilde{x} \right) : \theta \geq 0 \right\},$
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Example

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- $\mathcal{Y}_{a,b,\theta_0} = \left\{ \exp \left(m(\theta)t + \theta \sqrt{T} \tilde{x} \right) : \theta \geq 0 \right\},$
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Example

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- $\mathcal{Y}_{a,b,\theta_0} = \left\{ \exp \left(m(\theta)t + \theta \sqrt{T} \tilde{x} \right) : \theta \geq 0 \right\},$
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Example

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- $\mathcal{Y}_{a,b,\theta_0} = \left\{ \exp \left(m(\theta)t + \theta \sqrt{T} \tilde{x} \right) : \theta \geq 0 \right\},$
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Example

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- $\mathcal{Y}_{a,b,\theta_0} = \left\{ \exp \left(m(\theta)t + \theta \sqrt{T} \tilde{x} \right) : \theta \geq 0 \right\},$
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Example

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- $\mathcal{Y}_{a,b,\theta_0} = \left\{ \exp \left(m(\theta)t + \theta \sqrt{T} \tilde{x} \right) : \theta \geq 0 \right\},$
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Example

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- $\mathcal{Y}_{a,b,\theta_0} = \left\{ \exp \left(m(\theta)t + \theta \sqrt{T} \tilde{x} \right) : \theta \geq 0 \right\},$
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 - 2-parameters family of solutions,
 - $u \circ \psi_{(\mu,C)}$ is concave,
 - $\phi_{(\mu,C)} = \psi_{(\mu,C)} \circ \left(\text{Id} + \psi_{(\mu,C)} \right)^{-1}$ is the equ. compensation for $Y = \mathcal{Y}_{a,b,\theta_0} + \psi_{(\mu,C)}(\mathcal{Y}_{a,b,\theta_0})$.

Illustration

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium
properties

From Gross to
Net
Production

Equilibrium
Compensation

Example

Conclusion

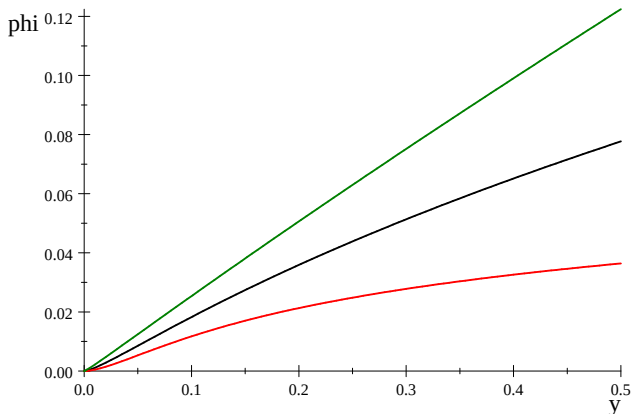


Figure: $\delta = 1/4$ (green), $\delta = 1/2$ (black) and $\delta = 3/4$ (red)

Restricted Stock Compensation and Distortion from Linearity

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- An RSC manager that **implements** y^* would perceive $\text{VAR}^m[\tilde{x}] > 1$ while $\text{VAR}[\tilde{x}] = 1$ for both shareholders

Restricted Stock Compensation and Distortion from Linearity

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- An RSC manager that **implements** y^* would perceive $\text{VAR}^m[\tilde{x}] > 1$ while $\text{VAR}[\tilde{x}] = 1$ for both shareholders
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Restricted Stock Compensation and Distortion from Linearity

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

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Restricted Stock Compensation and Distortion from Linearity

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- An RSC manager that **implements** y^* would perceive $\text{VAR}^m[\tilde{x}] > 1$ while $\text{VAR}[\tilde{x}] = 1$ for both shareholders
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Restricted Stock Compensation and Distortion from Linearity

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- An RSC manager that **implements** y^* would perceive $\text{VAR}^m[\tilde{x}] > 1$ while $\text{VAR}[\tilde{x}] = 1$ for both shareholders
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Restricted Stock Compensation and Distortion from Linearity

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- An RSC manager that **implements** y^* would perceive $\text{VAR}^m[\tilde{x}] > 1$ while $\text{VAR}[\tilde{x}] = 1$ for both shareholders
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- Main argument: 1. firm is risk neutral 2. m is risk averse 3. m should be compensated for taking risk
- But shareholders are risk averse and risk aversion is reflected by equilibrium prices

Conclusion

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Novel and different insights on the shape of the optimal contract for the manager

Conclusion

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Novel and different insights on the shape of the optimal contract for the manager
- Restrictions should be imposed to the manager : a rationale for the prohibition of insider trading

Conclusion

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Novel and different insights on the shape of the optimal contract for the manager
- Restrictions should be imposed to the manager : a rationale for the prohibition of insider trading
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Conclusion

Executive Compensation

M. Bianchi*,
R.-A. Dana**
& E. Jouini**

Introduction

The Model

Equilibrium

Equilibrium properties

From Gross to Net Production

Equilibrium Compensation

Example

Conclusion

- Novel and different insights on the shape of the optimal contract for the manager
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- We qualify the view that agency conflicts are minimized when the manager owns a substantial part of the firm's shares, which has motivated the rise in stock compensation : should vary with the level of production,
- The compensation rate should induce the manager to overweight the occurrence of extreme realizations in contrast to the argument in favor of compensations -such as call options- which encourage risk taking