

Recall: If capitalist has control rights, we might have inefficiency.

- What can we do next?

Suppose • E has control with prob π and C has control w/ prob $1-\pi$ such that

$$\pi y(a_E) + (1-\pi) y(a_C) = K$$

after contract is signed but before a is chosen, introduce a verifiable state θ is realized

$$y(a, \theta) = \alpha(\theta) z(a) + \beta(\theta) \quad \text{w/ } \alpha > 0, \alpha' < 0, z > 0$$

$$\text{This implies } \left| \frac{\partial y}{\partial a} \right| = \alpha(\theta) |z'(a)| \text{ is } \downarrow \text{ in } \theta$$

- y is less sensitive to a when θ is high

Result: optimal contract has a cutoff θ^* such

that $\theta > \theta^* \Rightarrow$ E has control

$\theta \leq \theta^* \Rightarrow$ C has control

- looks like a debt contract!

• This reduces the amount of time that the capitalist is inefficiently in control.

Costly state verification approach

Johnson '79, Gale/Hellwig '85

Idea: Debt is less "informationally sensitive" than equity.

• 2 players $\{E, I\}$
 entrepreneur investor

• both risk neutral

• E has an idea, no money. I has money, no ideas.

• Project costs K with return $x \geq 0$, $x \sim f(x)$
 cash flows

• E can see cash flows, I cannot.

• For cost c , I can verify x .
 • paid by entrepreneur.

• Let $B(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if audit} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

• Let $r(x)$ be the payment to I

• want to $\min c \int B(x) f(x) dx$

s.t. (i) $\int r(x) f(x) dx \geq K$ (Breakeven for I) (IR_I)

(ii) $B(x) = 0 \Rightarrow r(x) = F$

• payment constant if not audit

• can't condition on info. you don't have

(iii) $r(x) - F \leq -c$ when $B(x) = 1$

Defn: a straight debt contract has the following form

• If $x > p$, then E pays p

• If $x < p$, then E defaults and pays c and

takes all $x - c$.

Result: A straight debt contract is the optimal contract.

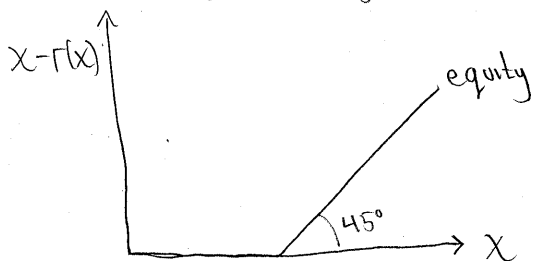
Remarks:

1] What about equity? This is not a theory of equity.

2] What is "c"? In equilibrium, we can interpret c as bankruptcy costs

3] Ex post renegotiation is ruled out.

There is a Jirassak-Dewatripont paper "A Theory of Security Design"



• They rationalize other functions in this space

Voting Rights (In public companies)

Grossman-Hart (Bell '80)

Question: How do we allocate voting rights to securities? When is one-share-one-vote optimal? What determines the value of corporate votes?

• We see this in the world, but we also see deviations from this

• e.g. news corporations.

◦ Two classes of shares A and B.

◦ cash flows: S_A, S_B proportions $S_A, S_B \in [0,1]$

◦ votes: $V_A, V_B \in [0,1]$

◦ one-share-one-vote means: $S_A = V_A = 1$

◦ Two candidates for control: $\underbrace{I}_{\text{incumbent}}, \underbrace{R}_{\text{raider}}$

◦ R needs $\frac{1}{2} \leq \alpha \leq 1$ to gain control

◦ If I has control, then public cashflows y_I accrue evenly to all claimants, and I gets a private benefit of Z_I .

◦ symmetrically if R has control.

◦ assume shareholders behave atomistically

◦ shareholders are very small

◦ eg continuum of shares and continuum of shareholders.

◦ Two types of bids: no restriction on who can tender a share

i) Unrestricted - have to bid for all shares of a class

ii) Restricted

◦ we will focus on unrestricted bids

Example 1: $Z_I = 0, y_I = 200, y_R = 180, S_A = S_B = \frac{1}{2},$

$V_A = 1, \alpha = \frac{1}{2}.$

◦ Suppose R tenders for all the class A shares at 101, and suppose $Z_R = 12$

◦ R will get $\frac{y_R}{2} + Z_R = 90 + 12 = 102,$

◦ I will not outbid.

• This is a socially inefficient outcome that we think will happen in equilibrium.

• The B shares, in some sense, got devalued, because there was no point in R buying them.

• separation between control and social payoffs

Example 2: Is IV: $Z_I = 0, y_I = 200, y_R = 180, S_A = S_B = Z_A = Z_B = \frac{1}{2}$