

Incentive Compatible Experiments: An Overview

P.J. Healy

Cast of characters:

- Yaron Azrieli (OSU)
- Chris Chambers (Georgetown)
- Nicolas Lambert (MIT)
- John Kagel (OSU)
- Kirby Nielsen (Caltech)
- Marina Agranov (Caltech)
- Alex Brown (Texas A&M)
- Greg Leo (Vanderbilt)
- Sam(antha) Stelnicki (OSU student)

Part 1: General experiments

Part 2: Belief elicitation

Goal of any experiment: elicit (coarse) information about γ

Elicitation

Goal of any experiment: elicit (coarse) information about \succsim

Requirement: Incentive compatibility

Elicitation

Goal of any experiment: elicit (coarse) information about \succsim

Requirement: Incentive compatibility

Classic mechanism design problem, except:

1. Don't have any particular SCF in mind
 - Any IC payment is fine
2. Allow random mechanisms
3. *Strict* incentive compatibility

▶ Why Pay?

“Incentives in Experiments”

Azrieli, Chambers & Healy

J. Political Economy (2018)

- Experiment: sequence of choices from menus
- Goal: observe their “true” choices (preferences)

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 - Complementarities: $\{\text{Left shoe, Apple}\}, \{\text{Right shoe, Banana}\}$

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 - Literature: “RPS requires Expected Utility”

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 - Holt (1986), Karni & Safra (1987), Segal (1988), others
 - Literature: “RPS requires Expected Utility”
 - Hadn’t been proven either way

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- Which do researchers use?

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- Pay every decision?
- Pay one random decision?
- Which do researchers use?
 - Survey from 2011:

Pay all:	56%
RPS:	25%
Pay some:	13%
Other:	6%

Incentives in Experiments

Framework for Analyzing IC:

- Choice objects: $x, y, z \in X$
- (Strict complete) preference: $\succeq \in \mathcal{O}$
- Decision problems: $D = (D_1, \dots, D_k)$, each $D_i \subseteq X$
- “True” choices: $\mu_i(\succeq) \in D_i$
 - $\mu_i(\succeq) \succeq x \quad \forall x \in D_i$
- Stated choices (messages): $m_i \in D_i \quad m = (m_1, \dots, m_k)$
- Payment mechanism: $\phi(m) \in \mathcal{P}(X)$
 - Payment objects: $\mathcal{P}(X)$
- Experiment: (D, ϕ)

Incentives in Experiments

Definition

An experiment (D, ϕ) is **incentive compatible** if, for every \succsim and every $m \neq \mu(\succsim)$,

$\phi(\mu(\succsim))$ is strictly preferred to $\phi(m)$.

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 - $\phi(m) = \{\text{Left shoe}, \text{Right shoe}\}$

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 - $\phi(m) = \{\text{Left shoe}, \text{Right shoe}\}$
- RPS: acts
 - $\Omega = \{\omega_1, \omega_2\}$
 - $\phi(m)(\omega_1) = \{\text{Left shoe}\}$
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\succsim says nothing about how these objects are ranked!

Incentives in Experiments

- Preference Extension: \succsim on X , \succsim^* on $\mathcal{P}(X)$.
 - Example: \succsim over money, \succsim^* EU over lotteries

Definition

An experiment (D, ϕ) is **incentive compatible** if, for every \succsim and every $m \neq \mu(\succsim)$,

$$\phi(\mu(\succsim)) \succsim^* \phi(m).$$

Theorem

If no restrictions are placed on \succsim^ then an experiment is IC if and only if there is one decision problem and $\phi(m_1) = m_1$.*

Corollary

If $k > 1$ we must talk about \succsim^ and how it relates to \succsim .*

Incentives in Experiments

When is the Pay-All mechanism incentive compatible?

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Assume $D = (D_1, \dots, D_k)$ is non-redundant ($\bigcap_i D_i = \emptyset$).

If \succ^* satisfies NCaT (and nothing else is assumed) then

Pay-All is the **only** IC mechanism.

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Pay-All is the **only** IC mechanism.

*Redundant case just adds flexibility on “intransitive” messages.

Incentives in Experiments

When is the RPS mechanism incentive compatible?

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Incentives in Experiments

When is the RPS mechanism incentive compatible?

- Need an assumption about \succeq^* over acts
- The RPS mechanism has the “truth dominates lies” property

	States of the World					
Payment Object	1	2	3	4	...	k
$\phi(m_1, m_2, m_3, \dots, m_k)$	m_1	m_2	m_3	m_4	...	m_k
$\phi(m_1, m'_2, m_3, \dots, m_k)$	m_1	m'_2	m_3	m_4	...	m_k
$\phi(m_1, m'_2, m'_3, \dots, m_k)$	m_1	m'_2	m'_3	m_4	...	m_k

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- **Monotonicity:** \succeq^* respects statewise dominance (w.r.t. \succeq)

$$f(\omega) \succeq g(\omega) \forall \omega \implies f \succeq^* g$$

Incentives in Experiments

When is the RPS mechanism incentive compatible?

- Need an assumption about \succ^* over acts
- The RPS mechanism has the “truth dominates lies” property
- **Monotonicity:** \succ^* respects statewise dominance

Theorem

Assume $D = (D_1, \dots, D_k)$ is non-redundant.

If \succ^* satisfies Monotonicity (and nothing else is assumed) then the RPS is the **only** IC mechanism.

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Theorem

Assume $D = (D_1, \dots, D_k)$ is non-redundant.

If \succ^* satisfies Monotonicity (and nothing else is assumed) then the RPS is the **only** IC mechanism.

*Redundant case adds flexibility on “surely-identified” sets.

**Can also add states that pay a fixed prize.

Pay All: No Complementarities

RPS: Monotonicity w.r.t. statewise dominance

“Incentives in Experiments with Objective Lotteries”

Azrieli, Chambers & Healy

Experimental Economics (2020)

- RPS with lotteries instead of acts
 - Assume an objective $p \in \Delta(\Omega)$
- More restrictive setting \Rightarrow more IC mechanisms??

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Theorem

Assume Monotonicity w.r.t. FOSD (and nothing else).

1. *Non-redundant: Same as before (only RPS)*
2. *Redundant: Added flexibility on “surely-identified” sets; not useful*

When Can We Use RPS?



Things **we should worry about** with Monotonicity/RPS:

Things **I don't think we need to worry much about:**

On Monotonicity

Suppose X are multi-agent payments. $\mathcal{P}(X)$ are lotteries over X .
Ex-ante fairness \Rightarrow monotonicity violation

Example: Machina's mom

When Can We Use RPS?



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- Ex-ante fairness

Things **I don't think we need to worry much about:**

What about the RDU examples where RPS wasn't IC??

Suppose X are lotteries, $\mathcal{P}(X)$ are compound lotteries.

Monotonicity + reduction $\Rightarrow \succeq$ satisfies independence (EUT)!

On Monotonicity

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Monotonicity + reduction $\Rightarrow \succeq$ satisfies independence (EUT)!

Reduction + Non-EU \Rightarrow ~~Monotonicity~~ \Rightarrow RPS *may* not be IC

The counter-examples all assume Reduction + Non-EU

Halevy (2007): those who reduce are EU maximizers! ✓

When Can We Use RPS?



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- Non-expected utility + reduction

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Monotonicity + order-reversal $\Rightarrow \succeq$ is ambiguity-neutral!

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Ability to “hedge” away ambiguity...

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Ability to “hedge” away ambiguity...

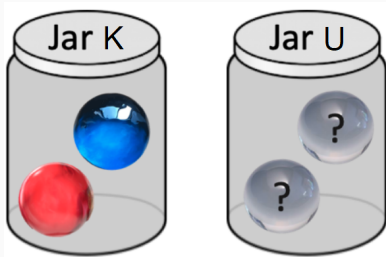
Should we add ambiguity hedging to the “worry” list??

On Hedging

“A Direct Test of Hedging”

Healy & Stelnicki

Work in Progress

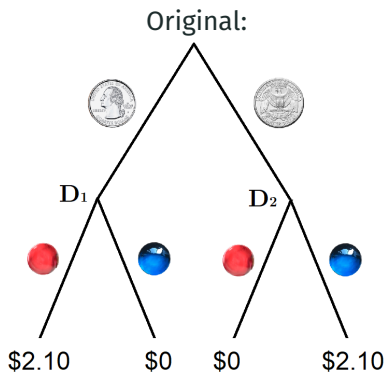


$D_1 = \{\$2.00 \text{ if Red from K, } \$2.10 \text{ if Red from U}\}$

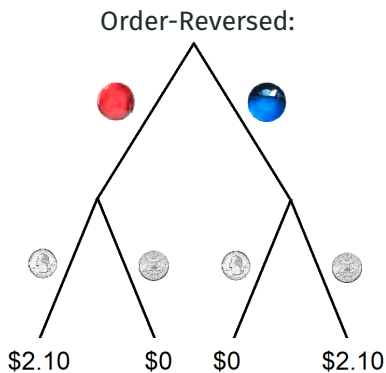
$D_2 = \{\$2.00 \text{ if Blue from K, } \$2.10 \text{ if Blue from U}\}$

On Hedging

Picking UU :



Ambiguous
 $KK \succ^* UU$



50-50 Lottery For Sure
 $UU \succ^* KK$

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- “I think the probability of me winning a bonus payment is between _____% and _____%.” (incentivized)

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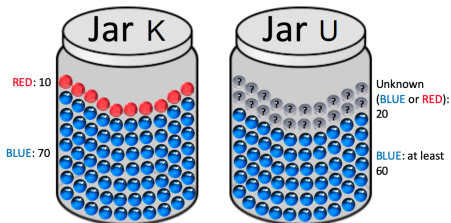
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- “I think the probability of me winning a bonus payment is between _____% and _____%.” (incentivized)
- **Hedgers:** Pick UU, say “between 50% and 50%.”
- True even if the jars aren't 50-50



On Hedging

Results:

	Ask One			Ask Both
	Red	Blue		(RPS)
K	58%	60%	KK	19%
			KU	23%
U	42%	40%	UK	44%
			UU	15%

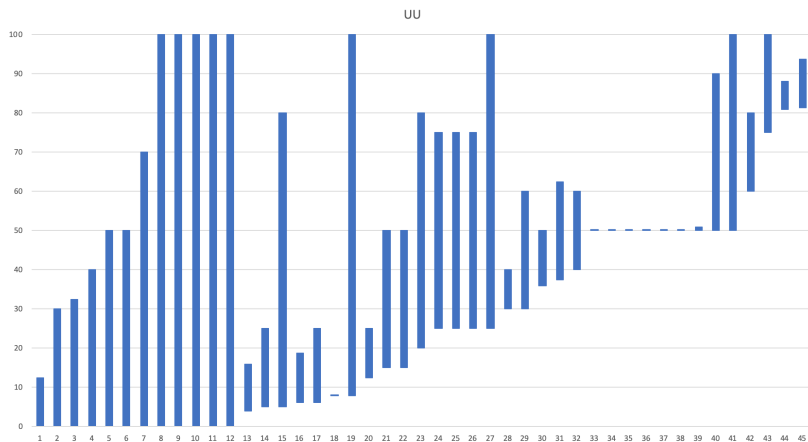
15% *UU* contains:

- Ambiguity Loving & Monotonicity
- Ambiguity Neutral & ~50-50 beliefs & Monotonicity
- Ambiguity Averse & Hedging

$UK > KU \Rightarrow$ red more likely \Rightarrow Ask One should differ

On Hedging

Belief ranges of the 15% who choose *UU* in Ask Both:

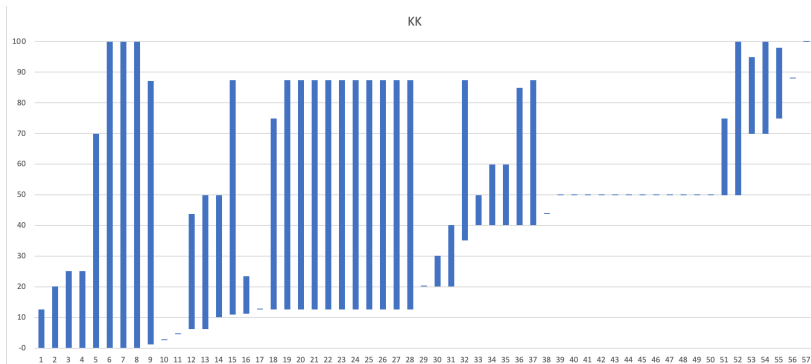


~15% are consistent with hedging. Or, ~2% overall.

On Hedging

Belief ranges of the 19% who choose *KK*.

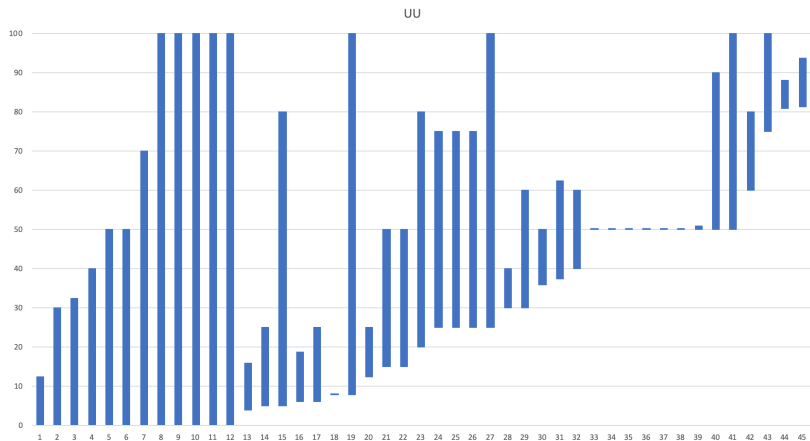
$$(1/2)(1/8) + (1/2)(7/8) = 1/2$$



21% say [50, 50]. 17% say [1/8, 7/8].

On Hedging

Back to *UU*:



Could be some non-reducers here, but Order Reversal fails

When Can We Use RPS?



Things **we should worry about** with Monotonicity/RPS:

- Ex-ante fairness

Things **I don't think we need to worry much about**:

- Non-expected utility + reduction
- Ambiguity hedging

On Hedging

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	Red	Blue		
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Our conjecture: Preference for randomization (violates Monotonicity)

Randomization

“Stable Randomization” Agranov, Healy & Nielsen Working Paper

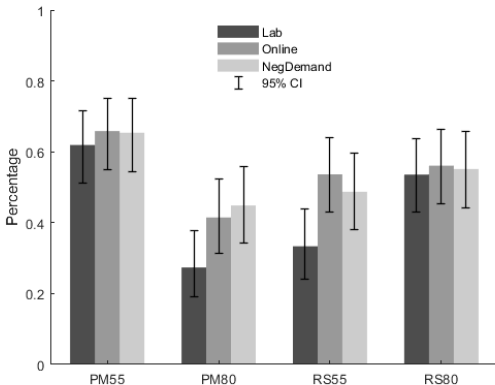
Bet A: You receive \$5 if the number drawn is from 1-16, and \$25 if it is from 17-20.	Bet B: You receive \$25 if the number drawn is from 1-16, and \$5 if it is from 17-20.																				
<table><tr><td>\$5</td><td>\$25</td></tr><tr><td>1 2 3 4</td><td>17 18 19 20</td></tr><tr><td>5 6 7 8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9 10 11 12</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13 14 15 16</td><td></td></tr></table>	\$5	\$25	1 2 3 4	17 18 19 20	5 6 7 8		9 10 11 12		13 14 15 16		<table><tr><td>\$25</td><td>\$5</td></tr><tr><td>1 2 3 4</td><td>17 18 19 20</td></tr><tr><td>5 6 7 8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9 10 11 12</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13 14 15 16</td><td></td></tr></table>	\$25	\$5	1 2 3 4	17 18 19 20	5 6 7 8		9 10 11 12		13 14 15 16	
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Choice 6	Choice 7	Choice 8	Choice 9	Choice 10
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Choice 11	Choice 12	Choice 13	Choice 14	Choice 15
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Choice 16	Choice 17	Choice 18	Choice 19	Choice 20
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Randomization

- “PM” Questions: dominance
- “RS” Questions: risky-safe

Percentage of people who mix:



Mixing highly correlated across decisions and games. “Mixing types”

When Can We Use RPS?



Things **we should worry about** with Monotonicity/RPS:

- Ex-ante fairness
- Repeated choices (same or similar)

Things **I don't think we need to worry much about:**

- Non-expected utility + reduction
- Ambiguity hedging

Separated Decisions

“Separated Decisions”

Brown & Healy

EER (2018)

Row #	Option A	or	Option B
1	Balls 1-10 pay \$10 (50% chance of \$10)	Balls 11-20 pay \$5 (50% chance of \$5)	Ball 1 pays \$15 (5% chance of \$15)
	<input type="checkbox"/>		Balls 2-20 pay \$0 (95% chance of \$0)
2	Balls 1-10 pay \$10 (50% chance of \$10)	Balls 11-20 pay \$5 (50% chance of \$5)	Balls 1-2 pay \$15 (10% chance of \$15)
	<input type="checkbox"/>		Balls 3-20 pay \$0 (90% chance of \$0)
3	Balls 1-10 pay \$10 (50% chance of \$10)	Balls 11-20 pay \$5 (50% chance of \$5)	Balls 1-3 pay \$15 (15% chance of \$15)
	<input type="checkbox"/>		Balls 4-20 pay \$0 (85% chance of \$0)
4	Balls 1-10 pay \$10 (50% chance of \$10)	Balls 11-20 pay \$5 (50% chance of \$5)	Balls 1-4 pay \$15 (20% chance of \$15)
	<input type="checkbox"/>		Balls 5-20 pay \$0 (80% chance of \$0)
	⋮		⋮
18	Balls 1-10 pay \$10 (50% chance of \$10)	Balls 11-20 pay \$5 (50% chance of \$5)	Balls 1-5 pay \$15 (25% chance of \$15)
	<input type="checkbox"/>		Balls 6-20 pay \$0 (75% chance of \$0)
19	Balls 1-10 pay \$10 (50% chance of \$10)	Balls 11-20 pay \$5 (50% chance of \$5)	Balls 1-19 pay \$15 (95% chance of \$15)
	<input type="checkbox"/>		Ball 20 pays \$0 (5% chance of \$0)
20	Balls 1-10 pay \$10 (50% chance of \$10)	Balls 11-20 pay \$5 (50% chance of \$5)	All Balls pay \$15 (100% chance of \$15)
	<input type="checkbox"/>		(0% chance of \$0)

Direct test of Monotonicity:

- List-RPS: [See all rows](#), RPS payment
- List-R14: [See all rows](#), only paid for row 14

Separated Decisions

Direct test of Monotonicity:

- List-RPS: [See all rows](#), RPS payment
- List-R14: [See all rows](#), only paid for row 14

	% Risky on Row 14
List-RPS	52%
List-14	70%

List formatting violates monotonicity.

Separated Decisions

Direct test of Monotonicity:

- Separated-RPS:
See all rows on separate screens in random order, RPS payment
- Separated-R14:
See all rows on separate screens in random order, pay row 14

Separated Decisions

Direct test of Monotonicity:

- Separated-RPS:
See all rows on separate screens in random order, RPS payment
- Separated-R14:
See all rows on separate screens in random order, pay row 14

	% Risky on Row 14
Sep-RPS	59%
Sep-14	56%

Separated formatting restores monotonicity.

Multiple switching: 5% → 33%, but usually very minor

Recommendation: Separate your decisions!

When Can We Use RPS?



Things **we should worry about** with Monotonicity/RPS:

- Ex-ante fairness
- Repeated choices (same or similar)
- Showing choices all together

Things **I don't think we need to worry much about:**

- Non-expected utility + reduction
- Ambiguity hedging

When Can We Use RPS?



Things **we should worry about** with Monotonicity/RPS:

- Ex-ante fairness
- Repeated choices (same or similar)
- Showing choices all together

Things **I don't think we need to worry much about:**

- Non-expected utility + reduction
- Ambiguity hedging

That's it!

What Can We Learn?

“Constrained Preference Elicitation”

Azrieli, Chambers & Healy

Theoretical Economics (2021)

Structure theorems on what we can learn about \succsim from any experiment.

How Can We Learn It?

“Minimal Experiments”

Healy & Leo

Work in Progress

Given: Something you want to learn about \succsim .

- Example: is $p(E)$ in $[0, \frac{1}{3})$, $[\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3})$, or $[\frac{2}{3}, 1]$?

Step 1: Which experiments would elicit that?

Step 2: Which experiment is the “simplest”?

- $D_1 = \{\$10 \text{ if } E, \$10 \text{ if } E^C, \$10 \text{ w/ } 66\%\}$

Part 1: General experiments

Part 2: Belief elicitation

“Testing Elicitation Mechanisms Via Team Chat”

Healy & Kagel

Work in Progress

Belief Elicitation Mechanisms:

- Quadratic scoring rule (QSR; Brier 1950)
 - Logarithmic, spherical...
 - QSR corrected for risk aversion (Harrison et al. 2014)
- Binarized scoring rules (BSR; Savage 1971, Hossain & Okui 2013)
- BDM for probabilities (Marschak 1963, Grether 1981)
 - Clock BDM (Karni 2009)
- Multiple Price List (MPL; Holt & Smith 2016)

What Do The Data Say?

- Offerman & Sonnemans (2004): QSR~None
- Armantier & Treich (2013): QSR>None
- Huck & Weizsacker (2002): QSR>BDM
- Hollars et al. (2010): BDM>QSR
- Hao & Houser (2012): BDM-Clock>BDM
- Hossain & Okui (2013): **BSR**>QSR
- Harrison et al. (2014): **BSR**~QSR-Corr>QSR
- Holt & Smith (2016); **MPL**>BDM

Best performers: **BSR** and **MPL**

Our Motivations

- Offerman & Sonnemans (2004): QSR \sim None
- Armantier & Treich (2013): QSR \succ None
- Huck & Weizsacker (2002): QSR \succ BDM
- Hollars et al. (2010): BDM \succ QSR
- Hao & Houser (2012): BDM-Clock \succ BDM
- Hossain & Okui (2013): BSR \succ QSR
- Harrison et al. (2014): BSR \sim QSR-Corr \succ QSR
- Holt & Smith (2016); MPL \succ BDM

Motivation: Compare MPL to BSR in theory and in the lab

Quadratic Scoring Rule

Suppose $X \in \{0, 1\}$.

Want to elicit $p = \Pr(X = 1)$.

Subject announces q , gets paid:

$$S(q, X) = 1 - (X - q)^2$$

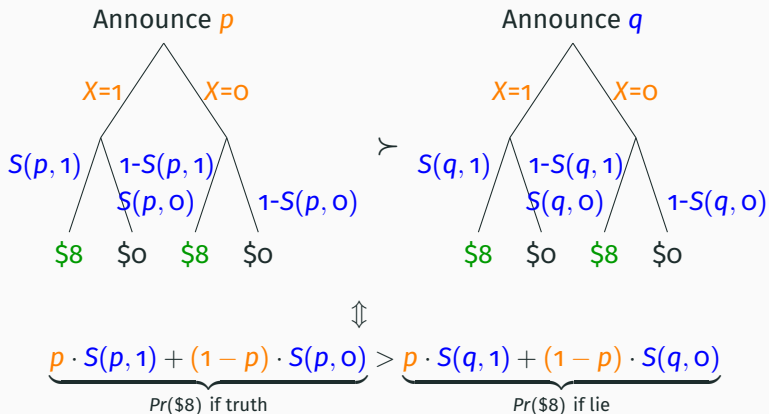
IC requires risk neutrality.

Solution: pay in probabilities

Savage (1971) \rightarrow C. Smith (1961) \rightarrow Savage (1954)

Conditions for Incentive Compatibility

Proof of Incentive Compatibility:



This requires “**Subjective-Objective** Reduction”

- Weakening of ROCL: Applies only to two-prize lotteries

Multiple Price Lists (MPL)

Row#	Option A	OR	Option B
1	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob 1%
2	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob 2%
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
q	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob $q\%$
$q + 1$	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob $q + 1\%$
$q + 2$	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob $q + 2\%$
$q + 3$	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob $q + 3\%$
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
99	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob 99%
100	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob 100%

Choose Option A or Option B (single switch point q)
One row randomly selected for payment

Multiple Price Lists (MPL)

Row#	Option A	OR	Option B
1	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob 1%
2	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob 2%
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
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$q + 1$	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob $q + 1\%$
$q + 2$	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob $q + 2\%$
$q + 3$	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob $q + 3\%$
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
99	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob 99%
100	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob 100%

“Multiple Price List” (MPL) version of BDM for probabilities
Holt & Smith (2016)

Multiple Price Lists (MPL)

Row#	Option A	OR	Option B
1	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob 1%
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$q + 3$	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob $q + 3\%$
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
99	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob 99%
100	\$8 if $X = 1$	or	\$8 w/ prob 100%

If you lie, you get the less-preferred option on some rows
I.C. as long as subject respects **statewise dominance** in rows

Proposition:

All BSRs are I.C.



Subjective-Objective Reduction



Statewise Dominance



Any MPL is I.C.

Our Experiment

- Compare **BSR** to **MPL**
- Put subjects in teams of two, working together via chat
 - Cooper & Kagel (2005,2009,2020)
- Scan chat transcripts for (1) true beliefs, (2) manipulation
- Variety of questions (objective, subjective)
 - Focus here on objective questions

The Mechanism Interfaces: MPL

Q3: What do you think is the probability (from 0% to 100%)
that a RED marble will be drawn? %

Time remaining: PARTNER: current choice: :locked in
Pause timer:

Your answer to Q3 determines what you choose in each row below.
One row will be chosen at random for payment.

Pick:	Option A	OR	Option B
Row 57:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> \$\$ if RED is drawn	OR	<input type="radio"/> \$\$ with probability 57%
Row 58:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> \$\$ if RED is drawn	OR	<input type="radio"/> \$\$ with probability 58%
Row 59:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> \$\$ if RED is drawn	OR	<input type="radio"/> \$\$ with probability 59%
Row 60:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> \$\$ if RED is drawn	OR	<input type="radio"/> \$\$ with probability 60%
Row 61:	<input type="radio"/> \$\$ if RED is drawn	OR	<input checked="" type="radio"/> \$\$ with probability 61%
Row 62:	<input type="radio"/> \$\$ if RED is drawn	OR	<input checked="" type="radio"/> \$\$ with probability 62%
Row 63:	<input type="radio"/> \$\$ if RED is drawn	OR	<input checked="" type="radio"/> \$\$ with probability 63%

Remember: you maximize your overall probability of getting \$\$
when you report truthfully.

Confirm and lock in your choices:

Link

Note: subjects saw the same phrase in all three treatments

The Mechanism Interfaces: BSR

Q3: What do you think is the probability (from 0% to 100%) that a RED marble will be drawn? %

Time remaining: PARTNER: current choice: :locked in

Pause timer:

Your answer to Q3 determines your payment probabilities below.

If RED is drawn: you get \$8 with probability **72%**

If BLUE is drawn: you get \$8 with probability **62%**

If the true probability is **60%** then your payment probabilities for each possible report are:

If You Report	Overall Probability
22%	You get \$8 with probability 67.825%
56%	You get \$8 with probability 67.920%
57%	You get \$8 with probability 67.955%
58%	You get \$8 with probability 67.980%
59%	You get \$8 with probability 67.995%
60%	You get \$8 with probability 68.000%
61%	You get \$8 with probability 67.995%
62%	You get \$8 with probability 67.980%
63%	You get \$8 with probability 67.955%
64%	You get \$8 with probability 67.920%
65%	You get \$8 with probability 67.875%

Remember: you maximize your overall probability of getting \$8 when you report truthfully.

Confirm and lock in your choices:

Link

Note: subjects saw the same phrase in all three treatments

The Mechanism Interfaces: NoInfo

Q3: What do you think is the probability (from 0% to 100%) that a RED marble will be drawn? %

Time remaining: PARTNER: current choice: :locked in

Pause timer:

Remember: you maximize your overall probability of getting \$8 when you report truthfully.

Confirm and lock in your choices:

[Link](#)

Note: subjects saw the same phrase in all three treatments

Teams Interface

Q1: Now what do you think is the probability (from 0% to 100%) that the RED JAR was chosen? %

Time remaining: PARTNER: current choice: :locked in

Pause timer:

CHAT WINDOW

Partner's ID: 112-380 Your ID: 112-381

hello!

hi

what probability should we put in?

um... you do realize that I'm you, right?

you're just creating this fake chat to put into your presentation

yeah, of course, but you know... just go with it ummmmm... 50%???

DONE

112-380 moved on to Problem #2 of 5

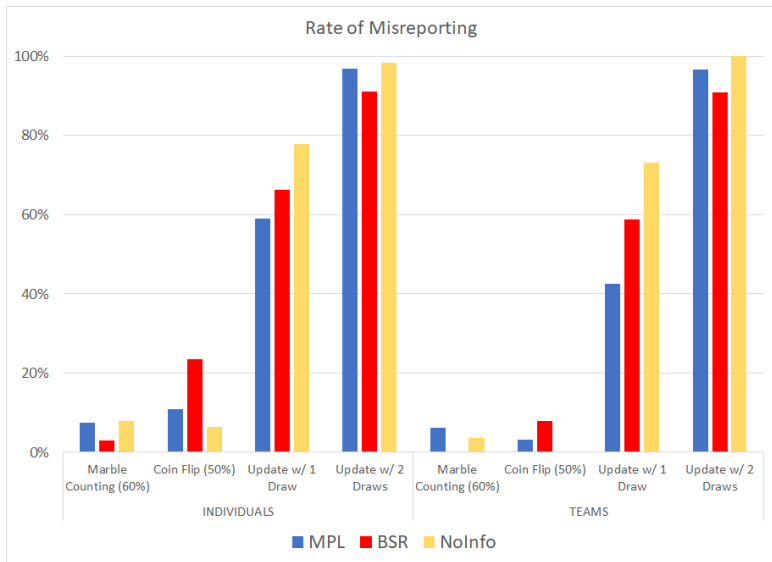
112-381 moved on to Problem #2 of 5

how about on this problem? 33%?

why are you still doing this? They don't need to see a whole long conversation

- Use chat window to communicate
- Must lock in the same number to proceed
- If time runs out, one choice is randomly used

Misreporting Rate: Objective Probabilities



Two Types of Evidence of IC Failures:

Deviate Discuss deviating from their belief

- May not specify *why* they're deviating

Manipulate Discuss manipulation of payoffs

- May not end up deviating from their belief

Warning: So far, only encoded by me

Two Types of Evidence of IC Failures:

Deviate Discuss deviating from their belief

- May not specify *why* they're deviating

Manipulate Discuss manipulation of payoffs

- May not end up deviating from their belief

Mechanism	MPL	BSR	NoInfo
Deviate	2/33	2/34	0/27
Manipulate	1/33	5/34	0/27

Marble Counting Chat

ID#181	MPL	ID#187
i have 12 for red and 8 for blue		
12, 20, and 75%? yes		
75 sounds good with me		
12 20 75%		12 20 75%

Coin Flip Chat

ID#257	BSR	ID#260
		50 ?
id say 60		
		Why
cause heads is always more likely		
		Thats just false
55 is a compromise		
		Which is also wrong but whatever
55%		55%

ID#357	BSR	ID#365
(no chat)		
75%		75%

Deviate: MPL

$$12/20 = 60\%$$

ID#352	MPL	ID#353
		60%
12 red marbles, 20 total, so 60%		
Yea but I am thinking should we really put the correct number for probability		
I mean yeah i think		
Although its random, its the best "odds" then		
		alright
60%		60%

Manipulation: BSR

Capital of Australia

ID#407	BSR	ID#414
hi		
		hi
i noticed that the higher you make their percentage, the higher our probability percentage gets		
yeah that's true		
		but the closer to 50, the more equal the probs
i say we go for a big one		
85		85

- Chats conclude they're **not** successfully manipulating
 - Maybe slightly more *attempts* in BSR?
- NoInfo performs well when easy, worst when hard
- Implication: Mechanism details can be distracting **or** useful
 - Easy problems: details get in the way, ↑ mistakes
 - Harder problems: details maybe help focus, ↓ mistakes

Summary

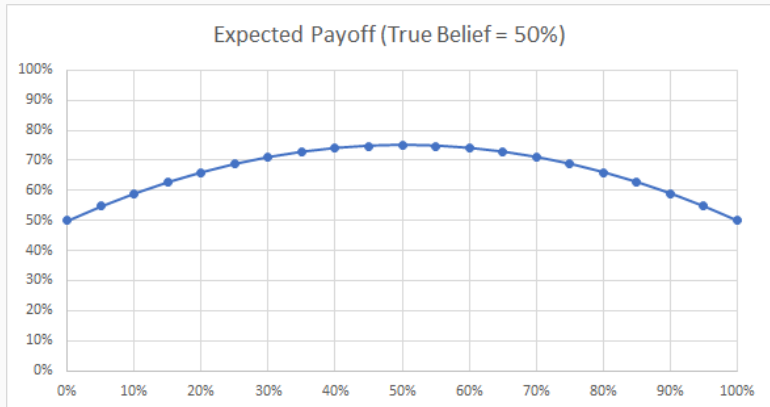
- Theory:
 1. MPL has superior IC properties
 2. Some scoring rules are equiv. to an MPL, but not BQSR
- Empirics:
 1. MPL and BSR perform similarly
 2. NoInfo works well when easy, not when hard
 3. Very little evidence of manipulation
 - Subjects are confused/overwhelmed, not manipulating

Coarse Elicitation

“Coarse Elicitation”

Healy & Leo

Work in Progress

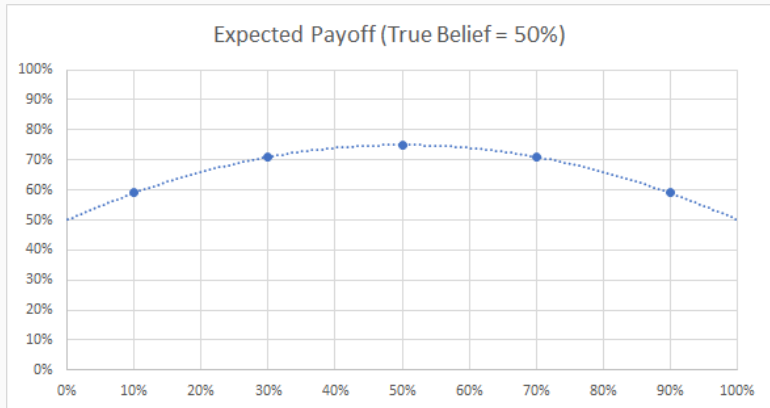


Coarse Elicitation

“Coarse Elicitation”

Healy & Leo

Work in Progress



Coarse Elicitation

“Midpoint Property”



Theorem: The only* differentiable scoring rule that satisfies the midpoint property for *any* grid is the quadratic scoring rule.

*Up to a rescaling.

Simple alternative: Coarse MPL

What Can Be Elicited

“Elicitability”

Azrieli, Chambers, Healy & Lambert

Work in Progress

- **Goal:** elicit subjective $p(E)$ for some event $E \subseteq \Omega$
- **Problem:** states $\omega \in \Omega$ are not observable! Only signals $y \in Y$.

Examples:

- Climate change
- Beliefs in repeated PD w/ private monitoring
- Vaccine effectiveness

Question: can we still learn beliefs over Ω using only Y ?

Vaccine Example (of course)

State: efficacy.

$$\omega \in \Omega = \{0, 1/2, 1\}$$

Agent: medical researcher.

Has belief $p \in \Delta(\Omega)$

Principal: management.

Wants to learn about p

Signal: outcome of 1 trial.

$$y \in Y = \{S, H\}$$

Info Structure:

$$\Pi(y|\omega)$$

Π		Y	
		Sick (S)	Healthy (H)
Ω	0	1	0
	1/2	0.5	0.5
	1	0	1

Induced Belief on Y: $p_{\Pi}(S) = \vec{p} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0.5 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

Vaccine Example: A Tale of Three Agents

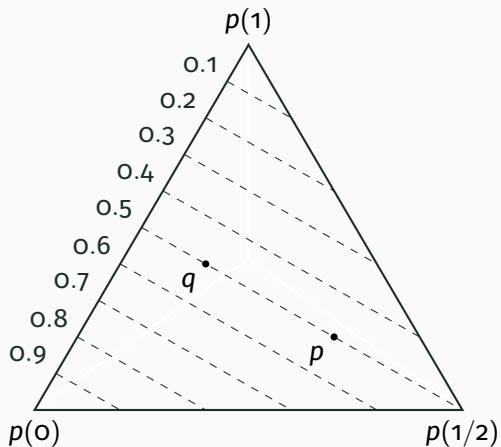
	Sick (S)	Healthy (H)
Ann's p	$1/2$	$1/2$
0	1	0
1	0.5	0.5
0	0	1

	Sick (S)	Healthy (H)
Bob's p	$1/2$	$1/2$
$1/2$	1	0
0	0.5	0.5
$1/2$	0	1

	Sick (S)	Healthy (H)
Charlie's p	$1/3$	$1/3$
$1/3$	1	0
$1/3$	0.5	0.5
$1/3$	0	1

Vaccine Example

$$p_{\Pi}(S) =$$



Given Π , what can we learn about p ?

Main Result:

Π generates a partition of $\Delta(\Omega)$ based on p_Π .
 p and q can be distinguished iff $p_\Pi \neq q_\Pi$

Assumptions:

1. Π is known
2. p_Π is derived from p and Π via *reduction*
3. p_Π can be elicited (BQSR, MPL, ...)

Vaccine Example: Two Subjects

Now suppose vaccine trial has two patients (iid)

$Y = \{0, 1, 2\}$ gives # of Healthy patients

		Y		
		0	1	2
Ω	0	1	0	0
	1/2	0.25	0.50	0.25
	1	0	0	1

Three linearly independent columns! Π has full rank.

$$p_{\Pi} = \vec{p} \cdot \Pi \implies p_{\Pi} \cdot \Pi^{-1} = \vec{p}!!$$

Full rank \implies We can perfectly back out any belief!

In general, with k observations, you learn the first k moments of p

Three states: two moments is enough to learn p

$|\Omega| = n$: then $n - 1$ observations gives you p

Other Stuff We Know

- Can elicit *median* of $\omega \Leftrightarrow$ can elicit entire p
- Can add covariates
 - Π_{man} and Π_{woman} , $Y = (Y_{man} \times Y_{woman})$
- Infinite states & signals
 - Gaussian linear model: $y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \varepsilon$
 - Full rank! One observation gives entire p
 - Non-parametric linear model: $E[y|x] = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$
 - One obs: $E_p[\beta_0], E_p[\beta_1]$.
 - Two obs: $Var_p[\beta_0], Var_p[\beta_1]$.
 - ...
 - Probit: $y = \mathbb{1}_{\{\beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \varepsilon > 0\}}$
 - Need *infinite* data to get $E_p[\beta_0], E_p[\beta_1]$!!
- New ordering of Information Structures
 - “ Π_2 elicits more than Π_1 ”
 - Blackwell Dominance \Rightarrow Elicits More

Summary of Belief Elicitation

- BQSR and MPL both work fine

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- BQSR and MPL both work fine
- Manipulation doesn't seem to be a huge problem

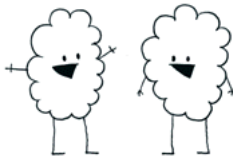
Summary of Belief Elicitation

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- You can do coarse elicitation

Summary of Belief Elicitation

- BQSR and MPL both work fine
- Manipulation doesn't seem to be a huge problem
- You can do coarse elicitation
- Unobservable states limits what we can learn
 - More observations helps

Sorry!!



Do Incentives Matter?

Overarching goal: Strict incentive compatibility of experiments

Why pay?

- Real payments \uparrow risk aversion
 - Smith & Walker (1993), Wilcox (1993), Beattie & Loomes (1997), Camerer & Hogarth (1999)
 - Holt & Laury (2005): hypothetical stake size doesn't matter
- Real payments \uparrow selfishness
 - Sefton (1992); Forsythe, Horowitz, Savin, & Sefton (1994); Clot, Grolleau & Ibanez (2018)
- Real payments \uparrow correlation with Big 5
 - Lönnqvist et al. (2011)
- Hypothetical bias is real, hard to predict
 - Haghani et al. (2021); Laury & Holt (2008)
- But there are arguments not to pay...
 - Rubinstein (2001,2013); Harbi et al. (2015); Falk et al. (2016); Ben-Ner et al. (2008)