

Equilibrium Participation in Public Good Economies

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Participation in Mechanisms



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Previous Work

- The need for a mechanism
 - Voluntary contributions typically inefficient
 - Misrevelation of preferences
- Mechanisms as part of a larger game:
- Participation decision **before** the mechanism
 - Saijo & Yamato '99: Participation drops in n
 - Dixit & Olson '00: MSNE $\Pr(\text{efficient})$ drops in n
 - Shinohara '07: Prop.C.S. \implies Efficient coalitions are strict NE
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 $g(\theta) = a$, but then players move to $h(a, \theta)$
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The Current Paper

- Economy with 1 private, 1 public good
- (Unspecified) mechanism selects an allocation
- Allocation defines the participation game
- Possible models of the participation decision:
 - Full enforcement: chosen allocation is realized
 - No enforcement: voluntary contribution game
 - This paper: either contribute as requested or not at all
- An allocation satisfies **equilibrium participation (EP)** if it is a NE for all agents to participate
 - Property of **allocations**, not mechanisms
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An Example

- 2 agents, 1 pvt good $x = (x_1, x_2)$, 1 pub good y
- Constant marginal cost $c'(y) = 6$
- Endowments of pvt good only: $\omega_1 = \omega_2 = 8$
- For any (x, y) , define $t_i = \omega_i - x_i$
- $$u_i(x_i, y) = \begin{cases} x_i + 10y & \text{if } y \leq 1/2 \\ x_i + 4y + 3 & \text{if } y \in [1/2, 1] \\ x_i + 1y + 6 & \text{if } y \geq 1 \end{cases}$$
- Individual optimum: $y^* = 1/2$
- PO: $y^o = 1$ and $\sum_i (\omega_i - x_i) = 6$

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An Example

- Suppose a PO & IR mechanism selects $(y, t_1, t_2) = (1, 3, 3)$

- 1 If agents can't opt out, allocation stands
- 2 If agents can freely adjust t_i , get $y^* = 1/2$ in NE
- 3 Either in (pay t_i) or out (pay nothing):

$t_1 \backslash t_2$	3	0
3	12, 12	10, 13
0	13, 10	8, 8

PSNE: only 1 contributor $\implies y = 1/2$

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Unique NE outcome: full contribution, $y = 1$

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Unique NE outcome: full contribution, $y = 1$

- Allocations: $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}_+^{n+1}$
- $t_i = \omega_i - x_i$, $T = \sum_i t_i$, $T_{-i} = T - t_i$
- PG production function: $F(T)$
- Economy: $e = (\{\succeq_i, \omega_i\}_{i=1}^n, F) \in \mathcal{E}$
- $\mathcal{Z}(e)$ = feasible allocations
- SCC: maps e into subsets of $\mathcal{Z}(e)$
Example: $\mathcal{IR}(e) = \{(x, y) : (x_i, y) \succeq_i (\omega_i, 0) \ \forall i\}$
- Mechanism: $\Gamma = (S, g)$ where $g : S \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(e)$

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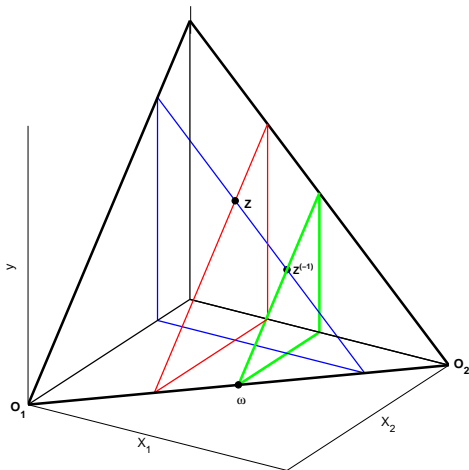
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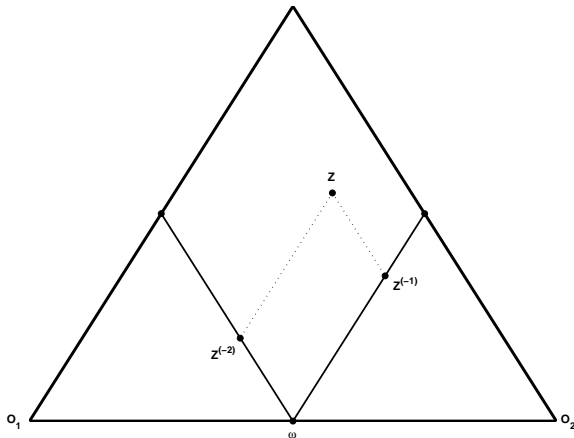
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Kolm Triangle

- Let $\omega = (1/2, 1/2)$ and $F(T) = T$

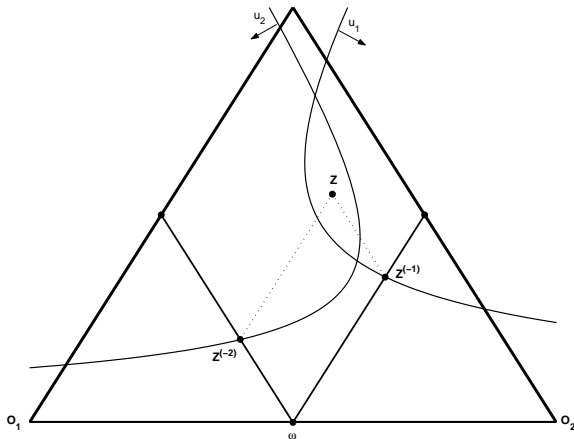


Kolm Triangle: Drop-Out Points



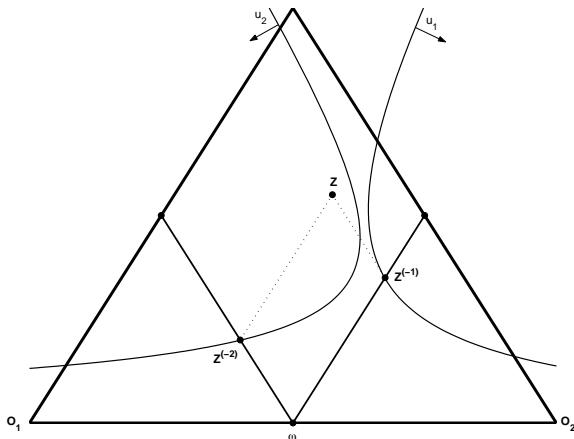
Kolm Triangle: Equilibrium Participation

- Equilibrium Participation (EP): $(x, y) \succeq_i (\omega_i, y^{(-i)}) \forall i$



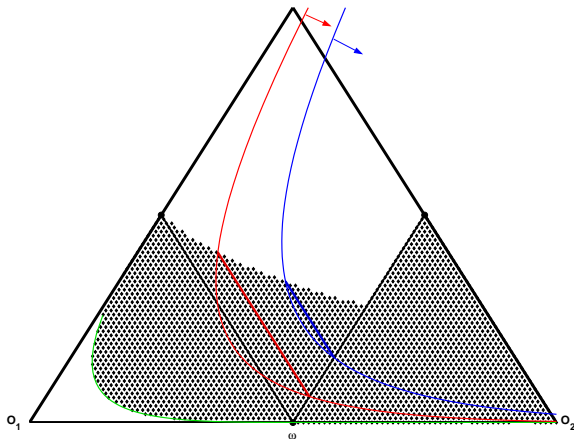
Kolm Triangle: EP Fails

- Equilibrium Participation: $(x, y) \succeq_i (\omega_i, y^{(-i)}) \quad \forall i$



Kolm Triangle: The EP Set

- $\mathcal{EP}_i(e) = \{ (x, y) : (x, y) \text{ satisfies EP for } i \}$ and
 $\mathcal{EP}(e) = \bigcap_i \mathcal{EP}_i(e)$



Definition

Given any allocation $(x, y) \in \mathcal{Z}(e)$, for each i define

$$x^{(-i)} = \omega_i$$

$$y^{(-i)} = \begin{cases} F(T_{-i}) & \text{if } t_i \geq 0, T_{-i} \geq 0, \& y \geq F(T_{-i}) \\ 0 & \text{if } T_{-i} < 0 \\ y & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

The allocation (x, y) satisfies **equilibrium participation (EP_{*i*})** for i if $(x, y) \succeq_i (x^{(-i)}, y^{(-i)})$. The allocation (x, y) satisfies **equilibrium participation (EP)** if it satisfies EP_{*i*} for every i .

EP vs. NE and IR

- $\mathcal{NE}(e) = \{ (x, y) : (x, y) \text{ is a PSNE outcome of the VCM} \}$

Theorem

$$\mathcal{NE}(e) \subseteq \mathcal{EP}(e) \quad \forall e$$

- $\mathcal{IR}(e) = \{ (x, y) : (x, y) \succeq_i (\omega, 0) \quad \forall i \}$

Theorem

If preferences are monotonic, then $\mathcal{EP}(e) \subseteq \mathcal{IR}(e)$

Proof.

$$(x, y) \succeq_i \left(\omega, y^{(-i)} \right) \succeq_i (\omega, 0)$$



EP vs. Pareto Optimality

Theorem

There are economies in which no PO point is the equilibrium outcome of an induced participation game (thus, $\mathcal{PO}(e) \cap \mathcal{EP}(e) = \emptyset$)

- Fix $n \geq 2$, let $F(T) = T$, $\omega_i = 1/n$, and

$$u_i(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{3}{2n}y + x_i & \text{if } y \leq 1 \\ \frac{1}{2n}y + \frac{1}{n} + x_i & \text{if } y \geq 1 \end{cases} \quad \forall i$$

- Note: $MRS < MC$ everywhere
- PO: $(x^o, y^o) : y^o = \sum_i t_i^o = 1$
- If $t_i^o > 0$ then $y^{o(-i)} = 1 - t_i^o < 1$, so

$$u_i(x^o, y^o) = \frac{3}{2n} + \omega_i - t_i^o$$
$$u_i(\omega, y^{o(-i)}) = \frac{3}{2n}(1 - t_i^o) + \omega_i$$

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Quasi-Linear Economies

- $u_i(x, y) = v_i(y) - t_i$
- Feasibility: $t_i \geq c(y) - c(y^{(-i)}) = \int_{y^{(-i)}}^y c'(y) dy$
- EP: $t_i \leq v_i(y) - v_i(y^{(-i)}) = \int_{y^{(-i)}}^y v'_i(y) dy$
- Thus:

$$\int_{y^{(-i)}}^y c'(y) dy \leq t_i \leq \int_{y^{(-i)}}^y v'_i(y) dy$$

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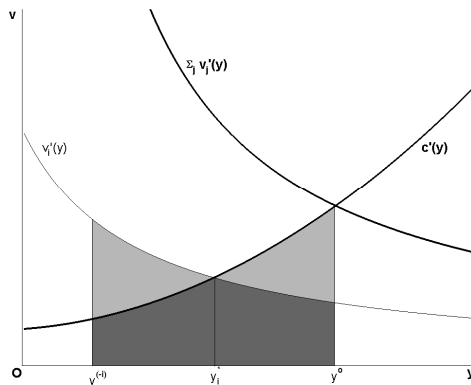
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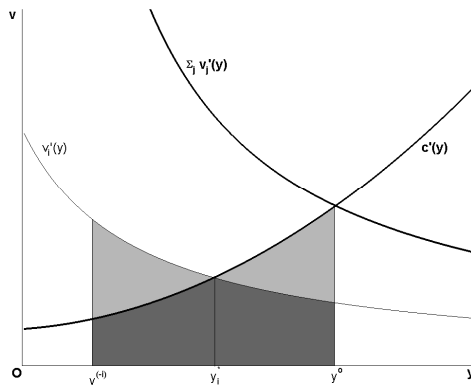
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- Counter-example:
 - Pick (x, y) with $y > 0$ and $t_2 = \dots = t_n = 0$ satisfying EP
 - Add new agent $n+1$, set $t_{n+1} = 0$
 - EP still satisfied
 - Repeat
- Fundamental discontinuity
 - Constant $y > 0$ for any finite n
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- Milleron '72: Splitting economies:
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- Replicates $r \in \{1, \dots, R\}$
- Agent = (i, r)
- $\omega_{i,r} = \omega_i / R$, so $\sum_i \sum_r \omega_{i,r} = \sum_i \omega_i$
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Theorem

If preferences are monotonic (strictly in the private good) and continuous and the production function is continuous, then $\{(x, y) : (x, y) \text{ satisfies EP}\}$ shrinks to $\{(\omega, 0)\}$ as an economy is infinitely split.

Proof.

As economy is split, budget constraints (ω_i/R) shrink so each agent becomes 'small' in production. By continuity, $|y^{(-i)} - y| \rightarrow 0$, but $|t_i/\omega_i| \not\rightarrow 0$ for some i . By strict monotonicity in the private good and continuity of preferences i must prefer to opt out for large enough R . \square

- Also true for replica economies with crowding in PG

- Small economies:
 - Can try to use large, asymmetric transfers, though unfair
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