

# Supplement to “Dynamic optimal taxation with private information”.

Stefania Albanesi  
Duke University

Christopher Sleet  
University of Iowa

October 13, 2004

## 1 Proofs from Section 2

We state first several basic results from the component planner’s problem. Recall that this problem is:

$$B_t(w_t) = \inf_{\substack{\varphi: \Theta \rightarrow \mathcal{U}, \varsigma: \Theta \rightarrow \mathcal{V} \\ \omega: \Theta \rightarrow \mathcal{W}_{t+1}}} \int_{\Theta} [C(\varphi(\theta)) - Y(\varsigma(\theta)) + q_t B_{t+1}(\omega(\theta))] d\pi \quad (\text{S1})$$

subject to the temporary incentive-compatibility constraint:

$$\forall \theta, \theta', \quad \varphi(\theta) + \theta \varsigma(\theta) + \beta \omega(\theta) \geq \varphi(\theta') + \theta \varsigma(\theta') + \beta \omega(\theta'), \quad (\text{S2})$$

and the promise-keeping constraint:

$$w_t = \int_{\Theta} [\varphi(\theta) + \theta \varsigma(\theta) + \beta \omega(\theta)] d\pi. \quad (\text{S3})$$

In the terminal period  $T$ , the component planner solves:

$$B_T(w_T) = \inf_{\substack{\varphi: \Theta \rightarrow \mathcal{U} \\ \varsigma: \Theta \rightarrow \mathcal{V}}} \int_{\Theta} [C(\varphi(\theta)) - Y(\varsigma(\theta))] d\pi \quad (\text{S4})$$

subject to the temporary incentive-compatibility constraint:

$$\forall \theta, \theta', \quad \varphi(\theta) + \theta \varsigma(\theta) \geq \varphi(\theta') + \theta \varsigma(\theta'), \quad (\text{S5})$$

and the promise-keeping constraint:

$$w_T = \int_{\Theta} [\varphi(\theta) + \theta \varsigma(\theta)] d\pi. \quad (\text{S6})$$

Since  $\mathcal{Y}$  is compact and  $v : \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous,  $\mathcal{V}$  is compact. We assume in the remainder that  $\mathcal{U}$ ,  $\Theta$  and  $\pi$  are such that solutions exist to problems (S1) and (S4) and that each  $B_t$  is continuous. We give two sets of sufficient conditions. The first is that  $\Theta$  is discrete and  $\mathcal{U}$  is compact. In this case, standard arguments can be applied to establish that a solution to these problems exists and that each  $B_t$  is continuous. An argument of Kahn (1993, p. 128-9) shows that the following conditions are sufficient for a solution to problem (S4) to exist: 1)  $\Theta = [\underline{\theta}, \bar{\theta}]$ , 2)  $\pi$  admits a continuous density and 3)  $\mathcal{U}$  is

unbounded. Kahn's formulation coupled with the Theorem of the Maximum can be used to establish that  $B_T$  is continuous. These last arguments can then be applied iteratively to show that a solution to each problem (S1) exists and that each  $\{B_t\}$  is continuous.

Once existence of a solution is established a routine dynamic programming argument can be used to establish the strict convexity of each  $B_t$ .

**Lemma S1** *Each function  $\varphi_t^*(w_t, \cdot)$ ,  $\varsigma_t^*(w_t, \cdot)$ ,  $\omega_{t+1}^*(w_t, \cdot)$  is monotone.*

PROOF: By a standard argument, if  $(\varphi', \varsigma')$  satisfies the period  $T$  incentive-compatibility (S5), then  $\varphi'$  and  $\varsigma'$  are monotone in  $\theta$ . Hence,  $(\varphi_T^*(w_T, \cdot), \varsigma_T^*(w_T, \cdot))$  are monotone. Similarly, if  $(\varphi', \varsigma', \omega')$  satisfies the incentive-compatibility condition (S2), then  $\varsigma'$  and  $d' = \varphi' + \beta\omega'$  are monotone. Hence, for  $t < T$ ,  $(d_t^*(w_t, \cdot), \varsigma_t^*(w_t, \cdot))$  are monotone, where  $d_t^*(w_t, \cdot) = \varphi_t^*(w_t, \cdot) + \beta\omega_{t+1}^*(w_t, \cdot)$ . Let  $(\varphi'(d), \omega'(d))$  denote the solution to

$$\sup_{(\varphi', \omega') : d = \varphi' + \beta\omega'} [C(\varphi') + q_t B_{t+1}(\omega')].$$

It is easy to check that  $(\varphi_t^*(w_t, \theta), \omega_{t+1}^*(w_t, \theta)) = (\varphi'(d_t^*(w_t, \theta)), \omega'(d_t^*(w_t, \theta)))$ . The strict convexity of  $C$  and  $B_{t+1}$  imply that  $(\varphi'(d), \omega'(d))$  are strictly increasing. Since  $d_t^*$  is monotone, it then follows that  $\varphi_t^*$  and  $\omega_{t+1}^*$  are monotone as well. ■

**Lemma S2** *Each  $B_t$ ,  $t \in \{0, \dots, T\}$  is strictly increasing.*

PROOF: We first show  $B_T$  is strictly increasing. Let  $w_T$  and  $w'_T$  lie in  $\mathcal{W}_T$  with  $w_T > w'_T$ . Suppose that  $B_T(w_T) < B_T(w'_T)$ . Let  $\{\varphi(w_T, \cdot), \varsigma(w_T, \cdot)\}$  be a solution to (S4) at  $w_T$ . The incentive-compatibility constraints imply that  $\varsigma(w_T, \cdot)$  is monotone increasing (see Lemma S1). If  $\varsigma(w_T, \bar{\theta}) = \underline{v} = \min_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} v(y)$ , it follows that the optimal  $\{\varphi(w_T, \cdot), \varsigma(w_T, \cdot)\}$  are constant functions. Hence construct a new allocation  $\{\varphi', \varsigma'\}$  by setting  $\varsigma'(\theta) = \varsigma(w_T, \theta) = \underline{v}$  and  $\varphi' = w'_T - E[\theta]\underline{v}$ . This is feasible and incurs a lower cost than the original allocation. This contradicts  $B_T(w_T) < B_T(w'_T)$ .

Suppose then that  $\varsigma(w_T, \bar{\theta}) > \underline{v} = \min_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} v(y)$ . Let  $\theta(\gamma) = \sup_{\varsigma(w_T, \theta) \leq \gamma} \theta$  and define

$$F(\gamma) = \int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\theta(\gamma)} [\varphi(w_T, \theta) + \varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}) - \varphi(w_T, \theta(\gamma)) + \theta\varsigma(w_T, \theta)] d\pi + \int_{\theta(\gamma)}^{\bar{\theta}} [\varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}) + \theta\varsigma(w_T, \theta(\gamma))] d\pi. \quad (S7)$$

Thus,  $F : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is increasing. Suppose  $F(\varsigma(w_T, \underline{\theta})) \geq w'_T$ . Then construct a new allocation by setting  $\varsigma'(\theta) = \tilde{\varsigma} = \varsigma(w_T, \underline{\theta})$  and  $\varphi'(\theta)$  equal to a constant  $\tilde{\varphi}$ . Reduce  $\tilde{\varphi}$  below  $\varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta})$  until either  $w'_T = \tilde{\varphi} + E[\theta]\tilde{\varsigma}$  or  $\tilde{\varphi} = \min_{u \in \mathcal{U}} u$ . In the second case, reduce  $\tilde{\varsigma}$  until  $w'_T = \tilde{\varphi} + E[\theta]\tilde{\varsigma}$ . The new allocation is clearly incentive-compatible and has a cost strictly less than the original one. This contradicts  $B_T(w_T) < B_T(w'_T)$ .

Suppose next that  $F(\varsigma(w_T, \underline{\theta})) < w'_T$ . Then find  $\gamma'$  such that  $\lim_{\gamma \uparrow \gamma'} F(\gamma) \leq w'_T \leq \lim_{\gamma \downarrow \gamma'} F(\gamma)$ . Without loss of generality, we assume that  $\{\varphi(w_T, \cdot), \varsigma(w_T, \cdot)\}$  are continuous from the right. Let  $\Theta(\gamma') = \Theta \cap [0, \theta(\gamma'))$  and  $\tilde{\varsigma} = \lim_{\theta \uparrow \theta(\gamma') : \theta \in \Theta(\gamma')} \varsigma(w_T, \theta)$  and  $\tilde{\varphi} = \lim_{\theta \uparrow \theta(\gamma') : \theta \in \Theta(\gamma')} \varphi(w_T, \theta)$ . Let  $\varsigma^\lambda = (1 - \lambda)\tilde{\varsigma} + \lambda\varsigma(w_T, \theta(\gamma'))$  and  $\varphi^\lambda = (1 - \lambda)\tilde{\varphi} + \lambda\varphi(w_T, \theta(\gamma'))$ . Define

$$D(\lambda) = \int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\theta(\gamma')} [\varphi(w_T, \theta) + \varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}) - \varphi^\lambda + \theta\varsigma(w_T, \theta)] d\pi + \int_{\theta(\gamma')}^{\bar{\theta}} [\varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}) + \theta\varsigma^\lambda] d\pi. \quad (S8)$$

This function is continuous and increasing in  $\lambda$ . Additionally,  $D(0) = \lim_{\gamma \uparrow \gamma'} F(\gamma) \leq w'_T \leq \lim_{\gamma \downarrow \gamma'} F(\gamma) \leq D(1)$ . Thus, there exists a  $\lambda' \in [0, 1]$  such that  $D(\lambda') = w'_T$ . Consider the new utility allocation

$$\varphi'(\theta) = \begin{cases} \varphi(w_T, \theta) + \varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}) - \varphi^{\lambda'} & \theta \in \Theta \cap [0, \theta(\gamma')) \\ \varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}) & \theta \in \Theta \cap [\theta(\gamma'), \infty) \end{cases}$$

$$\varsigma'(\theta) = \begin{cases} \varsigma(w_T, \theta) & \theta \in \Theta \cap [0, \theta(\gamma')) \\ \varsigma^{\lambda'} & \theta \in \Theta \cap [\theta(\gamma'), \infty) \end{cases}$$

This new allocation is incentive-compatible. For  $\theta < \theta(\gamma')$ , it is immediate from the incentive compatibility of the original allocation that for  $\theta' < \theta(\gamma')$ ,

$$\varphi(w_T, \theta) + \varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}) - \varphi^{\lambda'} + \theta\varsigma(w_T, \theta) \geq \varphi(w_T, \theta') + \varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}) - \varphi^{\lambda'} + \theta\varsigma(w_T, \theta').$$

For  $\theta' \geq \theta(\gamma')$ , the associated allocation is  $\{\varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}), \varsigma^{\lambda'}\}$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(w_T, \theta) + \varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}) - \varphi^{\lambda'} + \theta\varsigma(w_T, \theta) &= \varphi(w_T, \theta) + \theta\varsigma(w_T, \theta) + \varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}) - \varphi^{\lambda'} \\ &\geq (1 - \lambda')\{\tilde{\varphi} + \theta\tilde{\varsigma}\} + \lambda'\{\varphi(w_T, \theta(\gamma')) + \theta\varsigma(w_T, \theta(\gamma'))\} \\ &\quad + \varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}) - \varphi^{\lambda'} \\ &= \varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}) + \theta\varsigma^{\lambda'}. \end{aligned}$$

Conversely, for  $\theta \geq \theta(\gamma') > \theta'$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}) + \theta\varsigma^{\lambda'} &= \varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}) - \varphi^{\lambda'} + (1 - \lambda')\{\tilde{\varphi} + \theta\tilde{\varsigma}\} + \lambda'\{\varphi(w_T, \theta(\gamma')) + \theta\varsigma(w_T, \theta(\gamma'))\} \\ &\geq \varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}) - \varphi^{\lambda'} + (1 - \lambda')\{\varphi(w_T, \theta') + \theta\varsigma(w_T, \theta')\} + \lambda'\{\varphi(w_T, \theta') + \theta\varsigma(w_T, \theta')\} \\ &\quad + (1 - \lambda')(\theta - \tilde{\theta})\tilde{\varsigma} + \lambda'(\theta - \theta(\gamma'))\varsigma(w_T, \theta(\gamma')) \\ &= \varphi(w_T, \theta') + \varphi(w_T, \bar{\theta}) - \varphi^{\lambda'} + \theta\varsigma(w_T, \theta'). \end{aligned}$$

Where we use the fact that if  $\hat{\varphi}(\hat{\theta}) + \hat{\theta}\hat{\varsigma}(\hat{\theta}) \geq \varphi(\theta) + \hat{\theta}\varsigma(\theta)$  and  $\varsigma(\hat{\theta}) \geq \varsigma(\theta)$  then  $\hat{\varphi}(\hat{\theta}) + \theta'\varsigma(\hat{\theta}) \geq \varphi(\theta) + \theta'\varsigma(\theta)$  for  $\theta' > \hat{\theta}$ . This new allocation delivers a cost strictly less than that implied by the original allocation. This contradicts  $B_T(w_T) < B_T(w'_T)$  and we conclude that  $B_T$  is strictly increasing. A similar argument can be applied iteratively to establish that each  $B_t$  is strictly increasing. ■

## 2 Implementation for $T = \infty$

For  $T = \infty$ , we assume that  $\mathcal{U}$  is a compact set. By our previous assumptions  $\mathcal{Y}$  is compact and  $v$  continuous, hence,  $\mathcal{V}$  is a compact set. In this infinite period setting, this assumption guarantees that a utility allocation satisfying the temporary incentive-compatibility constraints (6) also satisfies the incentive-compatibility condition (5). The definition of an equilibrium in a component planning economy is almost identical to that given in Definition 1 in the paper. We simply require that  $\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} q_t < \infty$  and that Conditions 1 and 2 in that definition are replaced by:

1' For all  $t$ ,  $B_t$  and  $B_{t+1}$  satisfy (S1). Additionally, each  $B_t \geq -\bar{y}(1 + \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} q_t)$ .<sup>1</sup>

2' For all  $t$ ,  $\{\varphi_t^*, \varsigma_t^*, \omega_{t+1}^*\}$  attain the infima in the problems (S1).

Similarly, the definition of a competitive equilibrium in a market economy is the same as Definition 2 except for the requirement that  $\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \hat{q}_t < \infty$  and the replacement of Conditions 1 and 2 in that definition with:

1' For all  $t$ ,  $V_t$  and  $V_{t+1}$  satisfy (17). Additionally, each  $V_t : B_t \rightarrow \mathcal{W}_t$ .

2' For all  $t$ ,  $\{\hat{c}_t, \hat{y}_t, \hat{b}_{t+1}\}$  attain the infima in the problems (17).

The definition of implementation is identical to that in the finite period case. We now have the following proposition.

**Proposition 1** *Assume  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $\mathcal{V}$  are compact. Let  $\xi^{CP} = \{\{q_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}, \{\varphi_t^*, \varsigma_t^*, \omega_{t+1}^*\}_{t=0}^{\infty}, \{B_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}, \{\Psi_{t+1}\}_{t=0}^{\infty}\}$  be an **equilibrium** of a infinite-period component planner economy  $\mathcal{E}^{CP}(\{\underline{U}_{t+1}\}_{t=0}^{\infty}, \{G_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}, \Psi_0)$ . Then, the associated constrained efficient utility allocation can be **implemented** by a competitive equilibrium in a market economy with taxes and borrowing limits.*

PROOF: Truncate the infinite-period market economy at  $T < \infty$ . Set the agent's period  $T + 1$  value function in the truncated economy to  $\hat{V}_{T+1} = B_{T+1}^{-1}$ . Set the prices in the market economy to  $\{q_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ . Subdivide each period  $t \in \{0, \dots, T\}$  into two sub-periods. In the first the agent exerts labour supply  $y_t$  and obtains some after-tax resources  $x_t = b_t + y_t - T_t(b_t, y_t)$ . In the second, the agent allocates  $x_t$  between consumption  $c_t$  and savings  $b_{t+1}$ . Each period of the component planner's problem can be similarly sub-divided. In the first sub-period, the agent makes a report and the component planner allocates utility from labour supply and an interim utility promise; in the second, the planner allocates the interim utility promise between utility from consumption and a continuation utility promise. By repeated application of the argument in the proof of Proposition 1, beginning in period  $T$ , a sequence of tax functions  $\{T_t\}_{t=0}^T$  and borrowing limits  $\{\underline{b}_{t+1}\}_{t=0}^{T-1}$  can be constructed such that confronted with these sequences, it is optimal for an agent with initial wealth  $B_0(w_0)$  to choose the same period  $T$ -truncated allocation,  $\{c_t, y_t\}_{t=0}^T$  as is awarded to an agent with a  $w_0$ -utility promise by the component planner.

By successively increasing  $T$ , a sequence of tax functions  $\{T_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$  and borrowing limits  $\{\underline{b}_{t+1}\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$  can be constructed which, along with  $\{G_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$  and  $\Lambda_0$  define a market economy. Set  $f = B_0$ . If an agent with an initial quantity of claims  $B_0(w_0)$  selects  $z^*(w_0)$ , the allocation obtained by a  $w_0$ -promise agent in the component economy, then she too receives a payoff of  $w_0$ . Suppose there is some alternative allocation available to the agent in the constructed market economy that gives a payoff of  $\tilde{U}^{\infty} > w_0 + \varepsilon > w_0$ . Let  $\tilde{U}^T$  denote the payoff earned from this allocation over the initial  $T$  periods, and let  $\tilde{b}_{T+1}$  denote the agent's savings at date  $T$  under this allocation. Similarly, let  $U^T$  be the agent's payoff from  $z^*(w_0)$  over the initial  $T$  periods and let  $b_{T+1}$  be the agent's savings at date  $T$  under this allocation. Now since agents choose to select the component planner allocation in the truncated economy:  $U^T(w_0) + \beta^T E \hat{V}_{T+1}(b_{T+1}) \geq \tilde{U}^T + \beta^T E \hat{V}_{T+1}(\tilde{b}_{T+1})$  Hence, since the agent's utility functions are bounded,  $w_0 = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} [U^T(w_0) + \beta^T E \hat{V}_{T+1}(b_{T+1})] \geq \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} [\tilde{U}^T + \beta^T E \hat{V}_{T+1}(\tilde{b}_{T+1})] = \tilde{U}^{\infty} > w_0 + \varepsilon$ . This is a contradiction. It then follows that *in the untruncated economy*, the agent with initial wealth  $B_0(w_0)$  selects the allocation obtained by an agent with an initial utility promise of  $w_0$ . Condition 2 in the implementation definition is satisfied. ■

<sup>1</sup>This boundedness in conjunction with an argument similar to Theorem 4.14 in Stokey, Lucas and Prescott (1989) guarantees that the sequence of  $\{B_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$  satisfies the Bellman equation (S1).

### 3 Deriving Wedges

For expositional ease, we focus on the case  $\Theta = [\underline{\theta}, \bar{\theta}]$  and assume that the functions that comprise the optimal utility allocation rule,  $\zeta^* = \{\{\varphi_t^*, \varsigma_t^*, \omega_{t+1}^*\}_{t=0}^{T-1}, \varphi_T^*, \varsigma_T^*\}$ , are piecewise differentiable in  $\theta$ .<sup>2</sup> We assume that  $\pi$  admits a continuous density  $\rho$ . As a notational convention, if  $x : \Theta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a piecewise differentiable function, then we denote its derivative at  $\theta$  by  $\dot{x}(\theta)$ . Define the function  $U : \Theta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by:

$$U(\theta) \equiv \varphi(\theta) + \theta\varsigma(\theta) + \beta\omega(\theta). \quad (\text{S9})$$

By standard arguments, for example Salanié (1997),  $\{\varphi, \varsigma, \omega\}$  is incentive compatible if and only if:

$$\dot{U}(\theta) = \varsigma(\theta) \quad \text{a.e. } \theta, \quad (\text{S10})$$

$$\varsigma(\theta) \text{ non-decreasing in } \theta. \quad (\text{S11})$$

We formulate the period  $t \in \{0, \dots, T-1\}$  problem of a component planner with utility promise  $w_t$  as an optimal control problem.<sup>3</sup> To obtain the component planner's period  $t$  Hamiltonian, we use (S9) to replace  $\varphi$  with  $U$  and we drop the constraint that  $\varsigma(\theta)$  is non-decreasing<sup>4</sup>:

$$H_t^{w_t}(U, \varsigma, \omega; \chi, \lambda, \phi)(\theta) = -\chi(U(\theta) - w_t)\rho(\theta) - \lambda(\theta)\varsigma(\theta) + [C(U(\theta) - \theta\varsigma(\theta) - \beta\omega(\theta)) - Y(\varsigma(\theta)) + q_t B_{t+1}(\omega(\theta))] \rho(\theta) + \phi(\theta)(\omega(\theta) - \underline{\omega}_t)\rho(\theta). \quad (\text{S12})$$

Here  $\chi$  is the multiplier on the promise-keeping constraint  $w_t = \int_{\underline{\theta}}^{\bar{\theta}} U(\theta)\rho(\theta)d\theta$ ,  $\lambda$  is the costate variable associated with the incentive compatibility constraint (1) and  $\phi(\theta)$  is the multiplier on the constraint  $\omega(\theta) \geq \underline{\omega}_t$ . The component planner's problem in period  $t$  can then be written as:

$$B_t(w_t) = \inf_{\{\chi, \lambda, \phi\}} \sup_{\{U, \varsigma, \omega\}} \int H_t^{w_t}(U, \varsigma, \omega; \chi, \lambda, \phi)(\theta)d\theta. \quad (\text{S13})$$

Denote the optimal multipliers by  $\{\chi_t^*, \lambda_t^*, \phi_t^*\}$ . The first order conditions from (S13) imply a particular pattern of wedges. We describe this pattern in terms of the constrained efficient resource allocation rule.

THE INSURANCE WEDGE: The first order condition for  $U(\theta)$  at  $t$ , re-expressed in terms of consumption is:

$$\dot{\lambda}_t^*(w_t, \theta) = - \left[ \chi_t^*(w_t) - \frac{1}{u'(c_t^*(w_t, \theta))} \right] \rho(\theta), \quad (\text{S14})$$

Thus, if  $\dot{\lambda}_t^*(w_t, \cdot)/\rho(\cdot)$  is non-constant then an agent's marginal utility of consumption is not equated across states and insurance against preference shocks is imperfect. As observed in Lemma 1,  $\varphi_t^*$ , and, hence,  $c_t^*$  are monotone in  $\theta$ . Strict monotonicity stems from the binding incentive-compatibility constraint.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Kahn (1993) provides conditions for an optimal static mechanism to be absolutely continuous.

<sup>3</sup>The period  $T$  problem can be similarly formulated. For brevity we omit it.

<sup>4</sup>See Salanié (1997) for sufficient conditions to ensure that it is not binding.

<sup>5</sup>The transversality condition on  $U$  implies that  $\lambda_t^*(w_t, \bar{\theta}) = \lambda_t^*(w_t, \underline{\theta}) = 0$ . From Lemma S1,  $c_t^*$  is non-increasing. It follows that  $\dot{\lambda}_t^*(w_t)$  is non-increasing and if  $\lambda_t^*(w_0, \theta) \neq 0$  for some  $\theta$ , then  $\dot{\lambda}_t^*(w_0, \cdot)$  is non-constant.

THE EFFORT WEDGE: The first order conditions for  $U(\theta)$  and  $\varsigma(\theta)$  at  $t$ , re-expressed in terms of consumption and labour imply:

$$\frac{-\theta v'(y_t^*(w_t, \theta))}{u'(c_t^*(w_t, \theta))} = 1 + \frac{\lambda_t^*(w_t, \theta) v'(y_t^*(w_t, \theta))}{\rho(\theta)}, \quad (\text{S15})$$

Since the social shadow price of labour is 1,  $-\frac{\lambda_t^*(w_t, \theta) v'(y_t^*(w_t, \theta))}{\rho(\theta)}$  represents the wedge between this shadow price and the agent's private shadow price of labour. When  $\lambda_t^*(w_t, \theta) > 0$ , it is positive.

THE INTERTEMPORAL WEDGE: Combining the first order conditions for  $U(\theta)$ ,  $\omega(\theta)$  and the envelope condition from the component planner's first period problem yields the following *inverted Euler equation*:

$$\frac{1}{u'(c_t^*(w_t, \theta))} = \frac{q_t}{\beta} E_{\theta'} \left[ \frac{1}{u'(c_{t+1}^*(\omega_{t+1}^*(w_t, \theta), \theta'))} \right] + \eta_t^*(w_t, \theta),$$

Assuming that the lower bound on  $\omega_{t+1}^*(w_t, \theta)$  does not bind and  $\eta_t^*(w_t, \theta) = 0$ , we have, by Jensen's inequality,

$$q_t \leq \beta E_t \left[ \frac{u'(c_{t+1}^*(\omega_{t+1}^*(w_t, \theta), \theta'))}{u'(c_t^*(w_t, \theta))} \right]. \quad (\text{S16})$$

This inequality is strict if  $u'(c_{t+1}^*(\omega_{t+1}^*(w_t, \theta), \cdot))$  is non-constant, which is the case in this problem when the incentive-compatibility constraint binds. Thus, there is a wedge between the social shadow price of a claim  $q_t$  and the private shadow price  $\beta E_{\theta'}[u'(c_{t+1}^*(\omega_{t+1}^*(w_t, \theta), \theta'))]/u'(c_t^*(w_t, \theta))$ .

## 4 Proofs from Section 4

The following lemma characterises the value and policy functions from Revealing Examples 1 and 2.

**Lemma 2:** *Assume that  $\inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}} C(u + \underline{\theta} \Delta v) - C(u) < \Delta y < \sup_{u \in \mathcal{U}} C(u) - C(u - \underline{\theta} \Delta v)$ .*

1. *There exists a  $\underline{w}_1$  such that for  $w_1 < \underline{w}_1$ ,  $\varsigma_1^*(w_1, \bar{\theta}) = v(\bar{y})$  and for  $w_1 > \underline{w}_1$ ,  $\varsigma_1^*(w_1, \bar{\theta}) = v(\underline{y})$ . Similarly, there exists a  $\bar{w}_1 \geq \underline{w}_1$ , such that for  $w_1 < \bar{w}_1$ ,  $\varsigma_1^*(w_1, \underline{\theta}) = v(\bar{y})$  and for  $w_1 > \bar{w}_1$ ,  $\varsigma_1^*(w_1, \underline{\theta}) = v(\underline{y})$ .*
2. *There exists a  $\underline{w}_0$  such that for  $w_0 \leq \underline{w}_0$ ,  $\omega^*(w_0) \leq \underline{w}_1$  and for  $w_0 > \underline{w}_0$ ,  $\omega^*(w_0) > \underline{w}_1$ . Similarly, there exists a  $\bar{w}_0 \geq \underline{w}_0$ , such that for  $w_0 < \bar{w}_0$ ,  $\omega^*(w_0) < \underline{w}_1$  and for  $w_0 \geq \bar{w}_0$ ,  $\omega^*(w_0) \geq \underline{w}_1$ .*

PROOF, PART 1. The two incentive constraints imply that  $\varsigma(\bar{\theta}) \geq \varsigma(\underline{\theta})$  and  $\varphi(\underline{\theta}) \geq \varphi(\bar{\theta})$ . Hence, the ‘‘upward’’ incentive constraint:  $\varphi(\underline{\theta}) + \underline{\theta} \varsigma(\underline{\theta}) \geq \varphi(\bar{\theta}) + \underline{\theta} \varsigma(\bar{\theta})$  must hold with equality at the optimum. If not  $\varphi(\underline{\theta}) > \varphi(\bar{\theta})$ , but then the strict convexity of  $C$  implies that the planner can reduce her costs by lowering  $\varphi(\underline{\theta})$  by  $\varepsilon$  and raising  $\varphi(\bar{\theta})$  by  $\varepsilon \pi(\underline{\theta})/\pi(\bar{\theta})$ . The promise keeping and upward incentive constraint can then be used to eliminate the  $\varphi$  variables from the planner's problem. We drop the downward incentive constraint  $\varphi(\bar{\theta}) + \bar{\theta} \varsigma(\bar{\theta}) \geq \varphi(\underline{\theta}) + \bar{\theta} \varsigma(\underline{\theta})$ , and consider the following problem:

$$\sup_{\{\varsigma(\underline{\theta}), \varsigma(\bar{\theta})\}} \{C(w_1 - (\bar{\theta} - \underline{\theta}) \varsigma(\bar{\theta}) \pi(\bar{\theta}) - \underline{\theta} \varsigma(\underline{\theta})) - Y(\varsigma(\underline{\theta}))\} \pi(\underline{\theta}) + \{C(w_1 - E[\theta] \varsigma(\bar{\theta})) - Y(\varsigma(\bar{\theta}))\} \pi(\bar{\theta}). \quad (\text{S17})$$

It follows from (S17), the convexity of  $C$  and  $-Y$  and the assumption that there is a critical  $A$  such that if  $A(w_1) \equiv w_1 - (\bar{\theta} - \underline{\theta}) \varsigma_1^*(w_1, \bar{\theta}) \pi(\bar{\theta}) > A$ , then  $\varsigma_1^*(w_1, \underline{\theta}) = v(\underline{y})$ . If  $A(w_1) < A$ ,  $\varsigma_1^*(w_1, \underline{\theta}) = v(\bar{y})$ . Suppose that  $A(w_1) > A$ , then

$C(A(w_1) - \underline{\theta}v(\underline{y})) - \underline{y} < C(A(w_1) - \underline{\theta}v(\bar{y})) - \bar{y}$ . Also,  $w_1 = A(w_1) + (\bar{\theta} - \underline{\theta})\varsigma_1^*(w_1, \bar{\theta})\pi(\bar{\theta}) > A(w_1)$ . So, by the convexity of  $C$ ,  $C(w_1 - \underline{\theta}v(\underline{y})) - \underline{y} < C(w_1 - \underline{\theta}v(\bar{y})) - \bar{y}$ . Again by the strict convexity of  $C$ ,  $C(w_1 - E[\theta]v(\underline{y})) - \underline{y} < C(w_1 - E[\theta]v(\bar{y})) - \bar{y}$ . Thus, if  $A(w_1) > A$ , it follows from (S17) that the cost in state  $\bar{\theta}$  is lower if  $\varsigma(\bar{\theta}) = v(\underline{y})$ . The cost in state  $\underline{\theta}$  is also lower if  $\varsigma(\bar{\theta}) = v(\underline{y})$ . So in fact  $\varsigma_1^*(w_1, \bar{\theta}) = v(\underline{y})$ . It follows that there exists a critical  $\bar{w}_1 = A + (\bar{\theta} - \underline{\theta})v(\underline{y})\pi(\bar{\theta})$ , such that for  $w_1 > \bar{w}_1$ ,  $\varsigma_1^*(w_1, \underline{\theta})$  and  $\varsigma_1^*(w_1, \bar{\theta})$  equal  $v(\underline{y})$ , for  $w_1 < \bar{w}_1$ ,  $\varsigma_1^*(w_1, \underline{\theta})$  equals  $v(\bar{y})$ . For  $w_1 < \bar{w}_1$ ,  $\varsigma_1^*(w_1, \bar{\theta})$  solves

$$\sup_{\{\varsigma(\bar{\theta})\}} \{C(w_1 - (\bar{\theta} - \underline{\theta})\varsigma(\bar{\theta})\pi(\bar{\theta}) - \underline{\theta}v(\bar{y}))\}\pi(\underline{\theta}) + \{C(w_1 - E[\theta]\varsigma(\bar{\theta})) - Y(\varsigma(\bar{\theta}))\}\pi(\bar{\theta}).$$

It follows easily from the convexity of  $C$  and  $-Y$  that there exists a critical  $\underline{w}_1 \in \mathcal{W}_1$ , such that for  $w_1 > \underline{w}_1$ ,  $\varsigma^*(w_1, \bar{\theta}) = v(\underline{y})$ , and for  $w_1 < \underline{w}_1$ ,  $\varsigma_1^*(w_1, \bar{\theta}) = v(\bar{y})$ . (The set  $w_1 < \underline{w}_1$  may be empty). It follows from the above discussion that the solution to (S17) satisfies the upwards incentive constraint with equality and  $\varsigma_1^*(w_1, \cdot)$  is non-decreasing. Hence, this solution satisfies the downwards incentive constraint and solves the original component planner's problem.

**Part 2.** It follows from Part 1 that:

$$B_1(w) = \begin{cases} B_{11}(w_1) &= C(w_1 - E[\theta]v(\bar{y})) - \bar{y} && \text{for } w_1 < \underline{w}_1 \\ B_{12}(w_1) &= \{C(w_1 - (\bar{\theta} - \underline{\theta})v(\underline{y})\pi(\bar{\theta}) - \underline{\theta}v(\bar{y})) - \bar{y}\}\pi(\underline{\theta}) \\ &\quad + \{C(w_1 - E[\theta]v(\underline{y})) - \underline{y}\}\pi(\bar{\theta}) && \text{for } w_1 \in (\underline{w}_1, \bar{w}_1) \\ B_{13}(w_1) &= C(w_1 - E[\theta]v(\underline{y})) - \underline{y} && \text{for } w_1 > \bar{w}_1. \end{cases}$$

Let  $B_{0i}(w_0) = \sup C(w_0 - \beta w_1) + qB_{1i}(w_1)$ . Let  $w_{1i}^*(w_0)$  denote the solutions to these problems, where  $C'(w_0 - \beta w_{1i}^*(w_0)) = q/\beta B'_{1i}(w_{1i}^*(w_0))$ . Clearly,  $B'_{11} > B'_{12} > B'_{13}$ , and so  $w_{11}^*(w_0) < w_{12}^*(w_0) < w_{13}^*(w_0)$ . Now for  $i = 1, 2$ ,  $B_{0i} - B_{0i+1}$  is continuous and differentiable. Also,  $B'_{0i}(w_0) = C'(w_0 - \beta w_{1i}^*(w_0)) > C'(w_0 - \beta w_{1i+1}^*(w_0)) = B'_{0i+1}(w_0)$  and so  $B_{0i} - B_{0i+1}$  is decreasing. It follows that there exist a pair of numbers  $(\underline{w}_1, \bar{w}_1)$  each in  $\mathcal{W}_1$  that satisfy the conditions of the Lemma. (Note:  $\underline{w}_1$  may equal  $\min \mathcal{W}_1$  or  $\max \mathcal{W}_1$  and similarly for  $\bar{w}_1$ . It follows from the first order conditions  $C'(w_0 - \beta w_{1i}^*(w_0)) = q/\beta B'_{1i}(w_{1i}^*(w_0))$  and the strict convexity of  $B_{1i}$  that each  $w_{1i}^*(w_0)$  is increasing. Hence,  $\omega^*$  is increasing. ■

**Lemma S3.**  $B_1$  is differentiable on  $(\underline{w}_1, \bar{w}_1)$ .

PROOF: It follows from Lemma 2 that

$$B_1(w) = \begin{cases} B_{11}(w_1) &= C(w_1 - E[\theta]v(\bar{y})) - \bar{y} && \text{for } w_1 < \underline{w}_1 \\ B_{12}(w_1) &= \{C(w_1 - (\bar{\theta} - \underline{\theta})v(\underline{y})\pi(\bar{\theta}) - \underline{\theta}v(\bar{y})) - \bar{y}\}\pi(\underline{\theta}) \\ &\quad + \{C(w_1 - E[\theta]v(\underline{y})) - \underline{y}\}\pi(\bar{\theta}) && \text{for } w_1 \in (\underline{w}_1, \bar{w}_1) \\ B_{13}(w_1) &= C(w_1 - E[\theta]v(\underline{y})) - \underline{y} && \text{for } w_1 > \bar{w}_1. \end{cases}$$

Each  $B_{1i}$  is strictly convex and differentiable. Hence,  $B_1$  is piecewise strictly convex and differentiable except at  $\underline{w}_1$  and  $\bar{w}_1$ . ■

**Lemma 5:** If  $C''' > 0$ , then  $\frac{\partial \hat{\theta}_1^*}{\partial w_1} \leq 0$ .

PROOF: The component planner's problem can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\hat{\theta} \in [\underline{\theta}, \bar{\theta}]} & \{C(w_1 + K + \hat{\theta}(1 - \Pi(\hat{\theta}))\Delta v - \Delta v \int_{\hat{\theta}}^{\bar{\theta}} \theta f(\theta) d\theta - \bar{y})\Pi(\hat{\theta}) \\ & + \{C(w_1 + K - \hat{\theta}\Pi(\hat{\theta})\Delta v - \Delta v \int_{\hat{\theta}}^{\bar{\theta}} \theta f(\theta) d\theta - \underline{y})\}(1 - \Pi(\hat{\theta})). \end{aligned}$$

Assuming the boundary constraints do not bind, the first order condition with respect to  $\widehat{\theta}$  is:

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &= C'(w_1 + K + \widehat{\theta}^*(1 - \Pi(\widehat{\theta}^*)))\Delta v - \Delta v \int_{\widehat{\theta}^*}^{\bar{\theta}} \theta f(\theta) d\theta \\
&\quad - C'(w_1 + K - \widehat{\theta}^* \Pi(\widehat{\theta}^*))\Delta v - \Delta v \int_{\widehat{\theta}^*}^{\bar{\theta}} \theta f(\theta) d\theta \} \Pi(\widehat{\theta}^*)(1 - \Pi(\widehat{\theta}^*))\Delta v \\
&\quad + [\{C(w_1 + K + \widehat{\theta}^*(1 - \Pi(\widehat{\theta}^*)))\Delta v - \Delta v \int_{\widehat{\theta}^*}^{\bar{\theta}} \theta f(\theta) d\theta - \bar{y}\} \\
&\quad - \{C(w_1 + K - \widehat{\theta}^* \Pi(\widehat{\theta}^*))\Delta v - \Delta v \int_{\widehat{\theta}^*}^{\bar{\theta}} \theta f(\theta) d\theta - \underline{y}\}] f(\widehat{\theta}^*).
\end{aligned}$$

So we have:

$$\frac{\partial \widehat{\theta}^*}{\partial w_1} = -\frac{N}{D},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
N &= \{C''(\bar{u}_1^*) - C''(\underline{u}_1^*)\} \Pi(\widehat{\theta}^*)(1 - \Pi(\widehat{\theta}^*)) \\
&\quad + [\{C'(\bar{u}_1^*) - \bar{y}\} - \{C'(\underline{u}_1^*) - \underline{y}\}] f(\widehat{\theta}^*)
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
D &= \{C''(\bar{u}_1^*)(1 - \Pi(\widehat{\theta}^*)) + C''(\underline{u}_1^*)\Pi(\widehat{\theta}^*)\} \Pi(\widehat{\theta}^*)(1 - \Pi(\widehat{\theta}^*))\Delta v^2 \\
&\quad + \{C'(\bar{u}_1^*)(2 - 3\Pi(\widehat{\theta}^*)) - C'(\underline{u}_1^*)(1 - 3\Pi(\widehat{\theta}^*))\} f(\widehat{\theta}^*)\Delta v \\
&\quad + [\{C(\bar{u}_1^*) - \bar{y}\} - \{C(\underline{u}_1^*) - \underline{y}\}] f'(\widehat{\theta}^*)
\end{aligned}$$

If  $C''' > 0$ , then  $N > 0$ . Since  $\widehat{\theta}^*$  is a minimum,  $D > 0$ . Consequently, the wealth effect is negative. ■

## References

- [1] Kahn, C. 1993. Existence and characterisation of optimal employment contracts on a continuous state space. *Journal of Economic Theory* 59:122-144.
- [2] Salanié, B. 1997. *The economics of contracts: a primer*. MIT Press: Cambridge, Mass.
- [3] Stokey, N., R. Lucas with E. Prescott. 1989. *Recursive methods in economic dynamics*. Harvard University Press: Cambridge, Mass.