

Alesina + Drazen

- Model ① focus is on taxes + monetization  
if taxes do not  $\uparrow \Rightarrow \uparrow$  money to pay  
for deficits  $\Rightarrow \uparrow$  debt  $\Rightarrow \uparrow$  inflation
- ② Costs to maintaining pub. stance (status quo)  
③ Heterogeneity in policy

Time: Continuous

Economy:  $t \leq 0$  balanced budget

$t = 0$  shocks  $\Rightarrow b_0 \geq 0$  debt

$g_0$ : gov't expend  
at  $t=0$

$b_0$   $\left. \begin{array}{l} (1-\delta) \text{ debt} \\ \delta \text{ tax} \end{array} \right\}$  expenditure

$$\dot{b}(t) = (1-\delta)[rb(t) + g_0]$$

$\uparrow$   $\uparrow$   $\uparrow$   
 $\Delta$  in debt deficit total gov't spending

$$\dot{\tau}(t) = \delta[rb(t) + g_0]$$

$\uparrow$   $\uparrow$   $\uparrow$   
taxes prop. taxes total gov't spending

(1)

(2)

Using  $(F.O.D.) =$

$$b(t) = b_0 e^{(1-\delta)t} + \frac{g_0}{r} (e^{(1-\delta)t} - 1) \quad \text{assume } g^T = g_0 \forall t$$

Not going to show this (subst (3)  $\Rightarrow$  (2))

$$r(t) = \delta r b e^{-(1-\delta)t} \quad \bar{b} = b_0 + g_0/r \quad (4)$$

No ice taxes  $\uparrow$  if rate of finance  $\uparrow$

For stabilization  $\Rightarrow \uparrow$  in taxes to prevent  $\uparrow$  in debt post stab. expenditures

$$\Rightarrow r(T) = r b(T) + g_T \quad \text{by } \cancel{\delta} \text{ substituting}$$

(3) + (4)  $\Rightarrow$  if  $g^T = g_0$   
 $\uparrow$   $r(T) = r \bar{b} e^{-(1-\delta)T}$

this is stabilization tax rate

See Below

Payoffs:

utility loss  $i$ 's  $\frac{\text{degree of loss}}{\text{loss}}$  is  $\theta_i$  from distortionary taxes private info.  $\theta \sim F(\theta) \quad F(\theta) \sim [\underline{\theta}, \bar{\theta}]$

$$K_i(t) = \theta_i r(t)$$

utility loss  $\uparrow$  rate of loss  $\uparrow$  tax rate (actual tax)  $\uparrow$  so it is  $T$  in tax rate

$$u_i(t) = c_i(t) - y - K_i(t)$$

consumption  $\uparrow$  normalization constant across all individ  $\uparrow$  heterogeneity (cost from tax)

Note: ①  $y$   
 ② No  $g$  u not source of het

Cover

Players: 2 groups  $i=1,2$

Allocation after stabilization:  $\alpha > 1/2$  st.  $r(t)$   $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha \rightarrow \text{loser} \\ (1-\alpha) \rightarrow \text{winner} \end{array} \right.$

- ①  $\alpha$  is fixed
- ② post-stabilization taxes are less distortionary

steps: <sup>(1)</sup> write down lifetime (intertemporal) b.c.'s  
(budget constraint)

Ex: Loser

$$\int_0^T c^D(x) e^{-rx} dx + \int_T^\infty c^L(x) e^{-rx} dx$$

cons. during destabil.
consump after stab.

$$= \int_0^T \left( y - \frac{1}{2} \alpha r \bar{b} e^{(1-\alpha)rx} \right) e^{-rx} dx$$

$$+ \int_T^\infty \left( y - \alpha r \bar{b} e^{(1-\alpha)rT} \right) e^{-rx} dx$$

cons. const before level of tax x budget def. + exp.

cons const after level of tax

(2) solve for consumption path.  $c^D, c^L, c^W$

$$c^D(t) = y - \frac{\alpha}{2} r \bar{b} e^{(1-\alpha)rT}$$

(3) solve utility  $u_i^D$  (before) — function of  $\theta_i$

(4) after stabilization

$$v^j = \frac{u_i^j}{r} \leftarrow \text{discounted value}$$

(5) calculate using  $u_i(t) = c_i(t) - y - k_i(t)$

and  $c^D(t), c^L(t), c^W(t)$

$$\text{get } \left[ \underset{\Delta_{WL}}{v^W(T)} - v^L(T) = (2\alpha - 1) \bar{b} e^{-(1-\alpha)rT} \right]$$

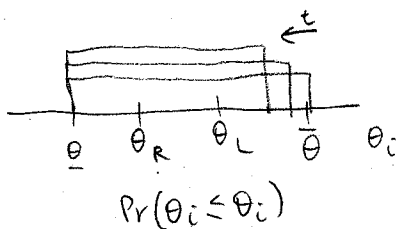
diff. in being a winner and a loser

Basically want to get to this point - I didn't even go through it too carefully.

- ① difference  $\uparrow$  in  $\alpha$
- ②  $\Delta_{WL} \uparrow$  in  $\bar{b}$
- ③  $\Delta_{WL} \uparrow$  in  $1-\alpha$

1) strategies: Choose when to concede ← this is the stopping time  
 2) Consumption

Solutions:



over time, reveal type by lack of concession

let  $u^D(t) \equiv$  be pre-stabilization utility

$v^j(t) \equiv$  post-stab utility  $j = W, L$   
 winner loser

$$\Rightarrow U^j(T) = \int_0^T u^D(x) e^{-rx} dx + e^{-rt} v^j(T) \quad j = W, L$$

↑ utility of winner at time T      ↑ pre-stab utility      ↑ discount at t      ↑ value

$$EU(T_i) = [1 - H(T_i)] u^L(T_i) + \int_0^{T_i} u^W(x) h(x) dx \quad (8)$$

↑ EU of player stopping at  $T_i$       ↑ losing      ↑ utility of losing w/  $T_i = T_i$       ↑ value of winning      ↑ Prob. win other (concede before you do)

Prob. opp's. s.t.  $> T_i$  opponent stop before you do

dist stopping times before you

So optimal strat. for  $i$  is

$$\max_{\{c_{it}\}, T_i} EU(T_i)$$

- use:
- ① linear utility  $\Rightarrow$  any  $c$  satisfying the intertemporal budget constraint is optimal
  - ②  $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}$  split of pre-stabilization losses

5: Now have all we need for und. what makes people  
 stop. when accept loser?  $T_i(\theta_i)$

lemma 1.  $\frac{\partial T_i^*(\theta)}{\partial \theta} < 0$

write down EU and solve: just diff. EU earlier

$$\frac{\partial EU}{\partial T_i} = e^{-rT_i} \left\{ h(T_i) [V^w(T_i) - V^L(T_i)] + (1 - H(T_i)) [U_i^D(T_i) - rV^L(T_i) + \frac{\partial V^L(T_i)}{\partial T_i}] \right\}$$

substitute:  $V^w(T), V^L(T)$  and  $u_i^D(t)$   
 diff w.r.t  $\theta_i$

$\frac{\partial^2 EU}{\partial T_i \partial \theta_i} < 0 \Rightarrow$  ~~your EU~~  $\Rightarrow$  your EU  $\downarrow$  as  $T_i \uparrow$  w/  $\uparrow \theta_i$

$\Rightarrow$  optimal  $T_i$  is  $\downarrow$  in  $\theta_i$

NE  $\rightarrow$  write down  $EU(\theta_i) = Pr(\theta_i < \theta_j) [EU(\theta_i < \theta_j)] + Pr(\theta_i > \theta_j) [EU(\theta_i > \theta_j)]$

Steps: 1. write down  $EU(\theta_i)$   
 2. differentiate with respect to  $\theta_i$

3. set  $\theta_i = \theta_j$  to get symmetry

4. Result

MB=MC

$$\left[ -\frac{f(\theta)}{F(\theta)} \frac{1}{T'(\theta)} \right] \frac{2\alpha - 1}{r} = \theta \left( \theta + \frac{1}{2} - \alpha \right)$$

Annotations:  
 - hazard rate of concession:  $-\frac{f(\theta)}{F(\theta)}$   
 - change in time for conceding w.r.t. to time:  $\frac{1}{T'(\theta)}$   
 - ongoing value of writing vs. losing  $\Delta WL$ :  $\theta$   
 - cost of writing:  $\theta \left( \theta + \frac{1}{2} - \alpha \right)$

and  $T(\bar{\theta}) = 0$   
 highest type stops right away  $\rightarrow T(\bar{\theta}) = 0$

## Interpretation

① MB, MC

② Need  $\theta > \alpha - \frac{1}{2}$

③ dynamics - "walking down the  $\theta$  scale"

④  $\Rightarrow$  Delay

w/②  $\Rightarrow$  "inefficient" delay (in part to sense)

⑤ Optimal to act immediately if  $\theta$  known

⑥ Sources of delay

- heterogeneity ( $\theta$ )

- dilution ( $\alpha$ )

- incomplete information

⑦ Comparative statics

$$\frac{\partial T_i^*(\theta)}{\partial \delta} < 0$$

$\uparrow$   
 $\uparrow$  population taxed  $\Rightarrow$  stabilization faster