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Optimal insurance design with a bonus^{*}

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Abstract

This paper investigates an insurance design problem, in which a bonus will be given to the insured if no claim has been made during the whole lifetime of the contract, for an expected utility insured. In this problem, the insured has to consider the so-called optimal *action* rather than the contracted compensation (or indemnity) due to the existence of the bonus. For any pre-agreed bonus, the optimal insurance contract is given explicitly and shown to be either the full coverage contract when the insured pays high enough premium, or a deductible one otherwise. The optimal contract and bonus are also derived explicitly if the insured is allowed to choose both of them. The contract turns out to be of either zero reward or zero deductible. In all cases, the optimal contracts are universal, that is, they do not depend on specific form of the utility of the insured. A numerical example is also provided to illustrate the main theoretical results of the paper.

Keywords: optimal insurance design; bonus-malus system; insurance contract with bonus; personalized contract; expected utility.

1 Introduction

Risk sharing, also known as "risk distribution", is a method of managing or reducing risk exposure by spreading the burden of loss among each member of a group based on a predetermined formula. It can be mathematically formulated as a multi-objective optimization problem in which a Pareto optimality is sought with respect to each member's risk preference.

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