

Market Microstructure

Quote Driven Markets

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- **Traders**
 - **Customers**
 - Institutional Investors:
 - Individual Investors:
 - **Dealers**
- **Intermediaries**
 - **Brokers:** Match customer orders when possible; otherwise, they transmit traders' orders to the market. Brokers do not trade for their own accounts.
 - **Specialists:** (NYSE) Agents responsible for providing liquidity and maintaining orderly trading in designated securities.
 - **Market Makers:** Agents who continuously buy and sell securities at their bid and ask prices, supplying liquidity.

- **Order-Driven Markets** (or Pure Auction Markets): Investors are represented by brokers and trade directly without market-maker intermediation. (e.g., Island, Paris Bourse)
 - Call Auction Markets: Trading occurs at specific times (e.g., at market open or fixing). Investors place orders (prices and quantities), which execute at a single clearing price that maximizes trade volume.
 - Continuous Auction Markets: Investors trade against resting orders submitted earlier by other investors (or floor brokers, if applicable). (e.g., Euronext, Toronto Stock Exchange, ECNs)
- **Quote-Driven Markets**
- **Hybrid Markets**

- **Order-Driven Markets**
 - Call Auction Markets
 - Continuous Auction Markets
- **Quote-Driven Markets:** Dealers post bid and ask quotes at which public investors can trade (e.g., Bond Markets MTS, FX markets, London Stock Exchange). In this case, dealers are also called market makers.
- **Hybrid Markets:** Call auction markets open to dealers and specialists (e.g., NYSE). Dealer markets where traders' limit orders are also posted (e.g., Nasdaq).

Quote-Driven Market



Name	Bid	Size	Name	Ask	Size
MLCO	18 1/4	10	LEHM	18 3/8	20
GSCO	18 1/4	20	MASH	18 1/2	10
PRUS	18 1/4	30	AGED	18 5/8	17
BEST	18 1/8	10	SHWD	18 5/8	10
ISCO	18 1/16	10	ISCO	18 3/4	50

- **Bid Price:** The price at which a market maker is willing to buy a given quantity of the asset.
- **Ask Price:** The price at which a market maker is willing to sell a given quantity of the asset.
- **Inside Spread:** The difference between the lowest ask price and the highest bid price.
- **Market Depth:** The maximum volume of trade available at the same price.
- **Tick Size:** The minimum allowable price increment for quotes.
- **Round Lot:** The standard trading unit.

Key Questions Addressed in This Course

- What factors influence price levels?
- Why do bid and ask prices differ?
- What determines the inside spread?
- What affects market depth?
- How can informed speculators best exploit their private information?
- What information is embedded in trading prices?
- What information is contained in trading volume?

Normal-CARA Mathematical Preliminaries

Let $\tilde{x} \sim N(m_x, \sigma_x^2)$ and $\tilde{y} \sim N(m_y, \sigma_y^2)$ with $\text{Cov}(\tilde{x}, \tilde{y}) = \sigma_{xy}$.
Then:

$$E[\tilde{x} | \tilde{y} = y] = m_x + (y - m_y) \frac{\sigma_{xy}}{\sigma_y^2} \quad (1)$$

If \tilde{z} follows $f(\tilde{z}|x) \sim N(x, \sigma_z^2)$, then:

$$f(\tilde{x} | \tilde{z} = z) \sim N\left(\frac{\frac{m_x}{\sigma_x^2} + \frac{z}{\sigma_z^2}}{\frac{1}{\sigma_x^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_z^2}}, \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\sigma_x^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma_z^2}}\right) \quad (2)$$

For a Constant Absolute Risk Aversion (CARA) utility function :

$$U(w) = -e^{-\gamma w} \quad (3)$$

where γ is the risk aversion coefficient.

Then:

$$E[U(x)] = E[-e^{-\gamma \tilde{x}}] = -e^{-\gamma\left(m_x - \gamma \frac{\sigma_x^2}{2}\right)} \quad (4)$$

- Inventory Model
- Informed Traders
 - Non-strategic informed traders (Glosten and Milgrom (1985))
 - Strategic informed traders (Kyle (1985))
- Informed Market Makers

A Simple Model of Quote-Driven Markets

- We consider a market where a **risky asset (security)** is exchanged for a **risk-free asset (money)**. The fundamental value of the risky asset is represented by the random variable \tilde{v} .
- **Trading Rules:**
 - ① Market makers simultaneously post bid and ask prices at which they are willing to buy or sell, respectively, a predefined quantity q of the security.
 - ② Traders decide whether to buy or sell the risky asset (submit market orders):
 - If they want to sell, they sell q shares of the risky asset to the market maker posting the highest bid price.
 - If they want to buy, they buy q shares of the risky asset from the market maker posting the lowest ask price.

Price competition among market makers can be modeled as two **first-price sealed-bid auctions** within a **common value framework**:

- Bid prices result from bidding strategies in a first-price auction to buy the risky asset.
- Ask prices result from bidding strategies in a first-price procurement auction to sell the risky asset.

Benchmark: Risk-Neutral Market Makers with No Information Asymmetry

Lemma

If market makers are risk-neutral, then:

$$\text{Ask price} = \text{Bid price} = E[\tilde{v}]$$

Proof: Bertrand competition.

Implications: When market makers are risk-neutral and share a common distribution for \tilde{v} , the inside spread is zero, minimizing transaction costs.

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The Economy

- **Fundamental Value of the Asset:** $\tilde{v} \sim N(V, \sigma^2)$
- **Liquidity Traders:** Experience liquidity shocks requiring them to either sell q units of the risky asset or buy q units.
- **Market Makers:** Agents responsible for clearing traders' market orders. The post-trade utility function for market maker i is:

$$u(C_i + I_i \tilde{v} - q(P - \tilde{v}))$$

- CARA utility function: $u(w) = -e^{-\gamma w}$
- Market maker i 's cash endowment: C_i
- Market maker i 's initial inventory: I_i
- Trading price: P
- Traded quantity: q

Definition

- The **bid reservation quote** rb_i for market maker i is the maximum price they are willing to pay for q additional units of the risky asset:

$$E[u(C_i + I_i \tilde{v})] = E[u(C_i + I_i \tilde{v} - q(rb_i - \tilde{v}))]$$

- The **ask reservation quote** ra_i for market maker i is the minimum price at which they are willing to sell q units of the risky asset:

$$E[u(C_i + I_i \tilde{v})] = E[u(C_i + I_i \tilde{v} + q(ra_i - \tilde{v}))]$$

Lemma

Given the CARA normal setup:

$$rb_i = V - \frac{\gamma\sigma^2}{2}(q + 2l_i)$$

$$ra_i = V + \frac{\gamma\sigma^2}{2}(q - 2l_i)$$

- Reservation quotes increase with V .
- Reservation quotes decrease with l_i .
- $rb_i < ra_i$.
- $ra_i - rb_i = \gamma\sigma^2 q$ increases with γ and σ .

Proof: Recall that for $\tilde{x} \sim N(m_x, \sigma_x^2)$, we have:

$$E[U(x)] = E[-e^{-\gamma\tilde{x}}] = -e^{-\gamma\left(m_x - \gamma\frac{\sigma_x^2}{2}\right)}$$

- Each market maker (MM) knows their own initial portfolio (C_i, I_i) but not those of others.
- MMs' inventories are independently and identically distributed (i.i.d.).

Computing the Optimal Quoting Strategy

$$\begin{aligned}W_i(0) &:= C_i + I_i \tilde{v} \\W_i(b) &:= W_i(0) + q(\tilde{v} - b).\end{aligned}$$

Note that:

$$\begin{aligned}E[u(W_i(b))] &= E[u(W_i(0))e^{-\gamma(rb_i-b)q}] \\&\simeq E[u(W_i(0))] + E[u(W_i(0))]\gamma q(b - rb_i)\end{aligned}$$

In the bid auction, MM i sets b_i^* such that:

$$\begin{aligned}b_i^* &\in \arg \max_b (E[u(W_i(b))] - E[u(W_i(0))]) \Pr(b_{-i} < b_i) \\&\simeq \arg \max_b (rb_i - b) \Pr(b_{-i} < b_i) \\b_i^* &\simeq E[\tilde{r}b_{-i}^{(1)} | \tilde{r}b_{-i}^{(1)} \leq rb_i]\end{aligned}$$

Note that rb_i is decreasing in I_i .

Lemma

In a symmetric equilibrium, MM i sets their bid and ask quotes as:

$$b(l_i) \simeq E[rb_i(\tilde{l}_{-i}^{(l)}) | \tilde{l}_{-i}^{(l)} > l_i]$$

$$a(l_i) \simeq E[ra_i(\tilde{l}_{-i}^{(h)}) | \tilde{l}_{-i}^{(h)} < l_i]$$

where $\tilde{l}_{-i}^{(l)}$ and $\tilde{l}_{-i}^{(h)}$ are the lowest and highest inventories among MM i 's competitors, respectively.

Empirical Implications

- The MM who wins the bid auction has the smallest inventory.
- The MM who wins the ask auction has the largest inventory.
- The larger an MM's inventory, the lower their bid and ask quotes.
- Transaction costs, measured as the inside spread:
 - Decrease with the number of MMs.
 - Increase with MMs' risk aversion γ .
 - Increase with the intrinsic asset risk σ^2 .

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 - Informed brokers
 - Informed market makers

Informed Non-Strategic Traders (Glosten and Milgrom JFE 1985)

The Economy: Agents from three groups trade the security for money:

- **Risk-Neutral Market Makers:** Provide liquidity to the market by trading the risky asset with other agents at their bid and ask prices.
- **Risk-Neutral Informed Speculators (Informed Traders):** Risk-neutral traders with some private information about the liquidation value of the risky asset.
- **Liquidity (or Noise) Traders:** Participate in the market for reasons other than speculation (e.g., liquidity needs, portfolio hedging, etc.); their excess demand is exogenous and random.

The trader population consists of a proportion μ of informed traders and $(1 - \mu)/2$ buyer liquidity traders and $(1 - \mu)/2$ seller liquidity traders.

- **Security Fundamental Value:**

$$\tilde{v} = \tilde{V} + \tilde{\varepsilon}$$

where $\tilde{V} \in \{V_1, V_2\}$, $\Pr(\tilde{V} = V_2) = \pi$, $V_1 < V_2$,
 $E[\tilde{\varepsilon}|\tilde{V}] = 0$, and $\text{Var}(\tilde{\varepsilon}|\tilde{V}) \geq 0$.

- **Informed Traders' Information:**

Each informed trader receives a private signal $\tilde{s} \in \{l, h\}$, with

$$\Pr(\tilde{s} = l|V_1) = \Pr(\tilde{s} = h|V_2) = r \in \left(\frac{1}{2}, 1\right)$$

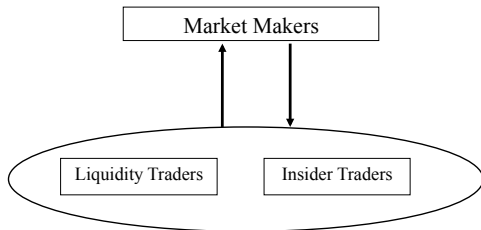
Signals are independent across informed traders and uncorrelated with $\tilde{\varepsilon}$.

$$V_1 \leq E[\tilde{v}|l] < E[\tilde{v}] < E[\tilde{v}|h] \leq V_2$$

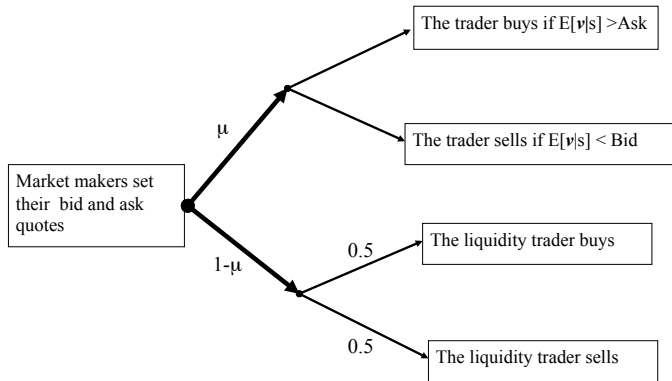
- Market makers have no private information about \tilde{v} .

Trading Mechanism

- ① Market makers submit bid and ask prices.
- ② Informed traders and liquidity traders submit anonymous orders.



Trading Mechanism



Theorem

In equilibrium, all market makers' bid and ask prices satisfy:

$$b^* = E[\tilde{v} | \text{trader sells at } b^*] = V_1 + \pi^S(\pi, \mu, r)(V_2 - V_1) \quad (5)$$

$$a^* = E[\tilde{v} | \text{trader buys at } a^*] = V_1 + \pi^B(\pi, \mu, r)(V_2 - V_1) \quad (6)$$

where

$$\pi^S(\pi, \mu, r) = \frac{(\mu(1-r) + (1-\mu)/2)\pi}{(1-\mu)/2 + \mu((1-r)\pi + r(1-\pi))}$$

$$\pi^B(\pi, \mu, r) = \frac{(\mu r + (1-\mu)/2)\pi}{(1-\mu)/2 + \mu(r\pi + (1-r)(1-\pi))}$$

- If $\mu > 0$ and $r > 1/2$, then the bid-ask spread is positive despite market makers being risk-neutral.
- The bid-ask spread increases with μ , the proportion of informed traders in the market.
- The bid-ask spread increases with r , the quality of informed traders' signals.
- The bid-ask spread increases with the relevance of traders' information, as measured by:

$$\text{Var}[\tilde{V}] = \pi(1 - \pi)(V_2 - V_1)^2$$

A Generalization of Glosten and Milgrom

The fundamental value of the asset is given by: $\tilde{v} = \tilde{V} + \tilde{\varepsilon}$, where $\tilde{V} \in [V_1, V_2]$ with density $f(\cdot)$, and $E[\tilde{\varepsilon} | \tilde{V}] = 0$, with $\text{Var}(\tilde{\varepsilon}) \geq 0$

- Risk-neutral market makers.
- Informed, risk-averse investors who buy with probability $D(a, V)$ and sell with probability $S(b, V)$.
 - $D(\cdot)$ is continuous and increasing in V and decreasing in a .
 - $S(\cdot)$ is continuous and decreasing in V and increasing in b .

Market maker's expected payoff:

$$W_{MM}^b(b) := E \left[(\tilde{V} - b)S(b, \tilde{V}) \right]$$

Bertrand competition should lead MMs to set b such that

$$E \left[(\tilde{V} - b)S(b, \tilde{V}) \right] = 0$$

- Do we know this equation has a solution in b ?
- What if there is more than one solution?

Existence of zero-profit equilibrium

- Supposes that there exists $\delta > 0$, such that $S(V - \delta, V) > 0$,
Then

$$E \left[(\tilde{V} - b)S(b, \tilde{V}) \right] \Big|_{b=V_1 - \delta} > 0$$

- Note that

$$\begin{aligned} & E \left[(\tilde{V} - b)S(b, \tilde{V}) \right] \Big|_{b=E[\tilde{V}]} = \\ & = \left(\int_{V_1}^{V_2} vS(E[\tilde{V}], v)f(v)dv - E[\tilde{V}] \int_{V_1}^{V_2} S(E[\tilde{V}], v)f(v)dv \right) < 0 \end{aligned}$$

because

$$E[\tilde{V}] = \int_{V_1}^{V_2} vf(v)dv > \int_{V_1}^{V_2} vf(v) \left(\frac{S(E[\tilde{V}], v)}{\int_{V_1}^{V_2} f(z)S(E[\tilde{V}], z)dz} \right) dv$$

- Hence $E \left[(\tilde{V} - b)S(b, \tilde{V}) \right]$ is nil for some $b \in (V_1 - \delta, E[\tilde{V}])$

Theorem

An equilibrium always exists. Market makers' expected profit is zero, and bid and ask prices satisfy:

$$b < E[\tilde{V}] < a$$

The spread $a - b$ increases with $\frac{\partial(D(a,V) - S(b,V))}{\partial V}$.

Generalized GM: Example

- Investors have a CARA utility function with risk aversion parameter γ .
- Investors hold an initial inventory I of the risky asset.
- The cumulative distribution of investor inventories is denoted by: $G(I) = \Pr(\text{Investor } i\text{'s inventory is less than } I)$.
- The fundamental value of the asset follows: $\tilde{v} = \tilde{V} + \tilde{\varepsilon}$, where

$$\tilde{V} \sim N(V, \sigma_V^2)$$

$$\tilde{\varepsilon} \sim N(0, \sigma_\varepsilon^2)$$

- Investors observe the realization of \tilde{V} , but not the realization of $\tilde{\varepsilon}$.

Exercise: Show that:

$$D(a, \tilde{V}) = G\left(\frac{\tilde{V} - a}{\gamma\sigma_\varepsilon^2} - \frac{1}{2}\right)$$

$$S(b, \tilde{V}) = 1 - G\left(\frac{\tilde{V} - b}{\gamma\sigma_\varepsilon^2} + \frac{1}{2}\right)$$

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The Economy:

Security liquidation value:

$$\tilde{v} \sim N(w, \sigma^2)$$

Three types of agents trade the security for money:

- **Noise traders:** Trade for liquidity reasons. Their aggregate market order is a random variable \tilde{m} , independent of \tilde{v} , with

$$\tilde{m} \sim N(0, \sigma_m^2)$$

- **A single informed speculator:** A risk-neutral trader who privately knows \tilde{v} but not \tilde{m} .
- **Risk-neutral dealers:** Provide liquidity to the market. They do not observe \tilde{v} or \tilde{m} .

Trading Protocol

- ① Liquidity traders and the informed trader simultaneously choose the quantity they want to trade.
No restrictions on trade volume.
 - m : Quantity traded by liquidity traders.
 - x : Quantity traded by the informed trader.
- ② Dealers observe the aggregate order $q = x + m$ and set a price p at which they clear the market.

Informed trader's payoff:

$$\Pi_I = x(\tilde{v} - p)$$

Dealers' payoff:

$$\Pi_D = (x + m)(p - \tilde{v})$$

Equilibrium Requirements

- ① Competition among dealers forces p to be set such that they earn zero expected profit:

$$E[\Pi_D] = E[(x + m)(p - \tilde{v}) | x + m] = 0 \Rightarrow$$

$$p^*(x + m) = E[\tilde{v} | x + m]$$

Remark: The conditional expectation depends on the informed trader's strategy $x^*(\cdot)$.

- ② The informed trader chooses the quantity x^* to maximize expected profit:

$$x^*(v) \in \arg \max_x E[x(v - p^*(x + \tilde{m}))]$$

Remark: The optimal x^* depends on the dealers' pricing strategy $p^*(\cdot)$.

Theorem

There exists a linear equilibrium where

$$x^*(v) = (v - w)\beta \quad (7)$$

$$p^*(x + m) = w + (x + m)\lambda \quad (8)$$

with $\beta := \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_m^2}{\sigma^2}}$ and $\lambda := \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma_m^2}}$.

The informed trader's ex-ante expected payoff is:

$$E[\Pi_I] = \frac{\sigma_m \sigma}{2}$$

The ex-ante transaction cost for trading z is:

$$z(\tilde{v} - E[\tilde{p}|z]) = \lambda z^2$$

- The informed trader's strategy becomes more (less) aggressive as σ_m^2 (resp. σ^2) increases.
- Price sensitivity to trading volume decreases (increases) as σ_m^2 (resp. σ^2) increases.
- The informed trader's profit increases with the amount of noise trading σ_m^2 and the precision of their signal σ^2 .
- Transaction costs decrease with noise trading σ_m^2 and increase with the precision of the informed trader's signal σ^2 .

- $\tilde{x} + \tilde{m} =$

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- $\tilde{x} + \tilde{m} = x^*(\tilde{v}) + \tilde{m} = \beta(\tilde{v} - w) + \tilde{m} :$

- $\tilde{x} + \tilde{m} = x^*(\tilde{v}) + \tilde{m} = \beta(\tilde{v} - w) + \tilde{m} : N(0, \beta^2\sigma^2 + \sigma_m^2)$

Proof 1/2

- $\tilde{x} + \tilde{m} = x^*(\tilde{v}) + \tilde{m} = \beta(\tilde{v} - w) + \tilde{m} : N(0, \beta^2\sigma^2 + \sigma_m^2)$
- $\text{Cov}(\tilde{v}, \tilde{x} + \tilde{m}) =$

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- $\text{Cov}(\tilde{v}, \tilde{x} + \tilde{m}) = \beta\sigma^2$.
- Recall that: if $\tilde{y} \sim N(m_y, \sigma_y^2)$, $\tilde{z} \sim N(m_z, \sigma_z^2)$, and $\text{Cov}(\tilde{y}, \tilde{z}) = \sigma_{yz}$, then

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$$\max_x E [x(v - (w + \lambda(x + \tilde{m})))] = \max_x x(v - w) - \lambda x^2$$

$$\Rightarrow x^*(v) = \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{2\lambda}\right)}_{\beta} (v - w) = \beta(v - w)$$

②

$$\lambda = \frac{\beta\sigma^2}{\beta^2\sigma^2 + \sigma_m^2}$$

$$\beta = \frac{1}{2\lambda}$$

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②

$$\lambda = \frac{\beta\sigma^2}{\beta^2\sigma^2 + \sigma_m^2}$$

$$\beta = \frac{1}{2\lambda}$$

which is satisfied for:

$$\beta = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_m^2}{\sigma^2}}$$

and

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma_m^2}}$$

Main Implications from Glosten & Milgrom and Kyle

- 1 Uninformed dealers compete in quotes to attract traders' market orders.
- 2 Traders can be either informed or uninformed about \tilde{V} .
- 3 Semi-strong form informational efficiency: The transaction price at which an order x is executed satisfies:

$$p(x) = E[\tilde{V}|x]$$

$$E[p(\tilde{x})] = E[\tilde{V}]$$

- 4 Price sensitivity to volume increases with:
 - Adverse selection: The probability of facing an informed trader.
 - $\text{Var}(\tilde{V})$: The significance of the informed trader's information.
- 5 Market makers/dealers earn zero expected profit.

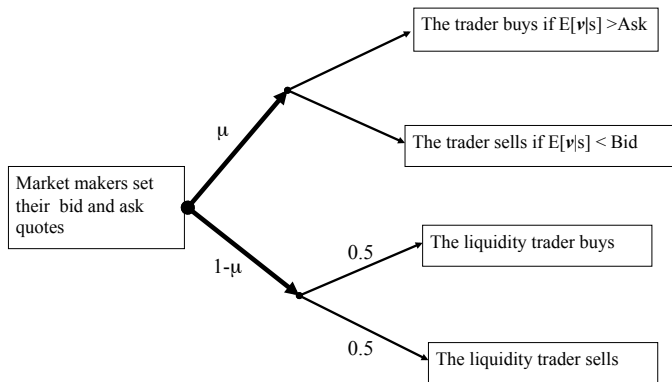
- Inventory model
- Informed traders
 - Non-strategic informed traders
 - Strategic informed traders
- Informed market makers

Economy:

- Fundamental asset value : $\tilde{v} = \tilde{V} + \tilde{\varepsilon}$, with $\tilde{V} \in \{V_1, V_2\}$, $\Pr(\tilde{V} = V_2) = \pi$, and $E[\tilde{\varepsilon} | \tilde{V}] = 0$.
- Market participants :
 - Risk-neutral market makers :
 - MM1 : A market maker who knows \tilde{V} .
 - MM2 : One or more uninformed market makers.
 - μ informed speculators who know \tilde{V} .
 - $1 - \mu$ liquidity (or noise) traders who buy or sell with probability $1/2$.

- ① Market makers simultaneously post bid and ask prices at which they are willing to buy or sell a fixed institutional amount $q = 1$ of the security.
- ② Traders decide whether to buy or sell the risky asset (submit market orders):
 - If they wish to sell, they sell $q = 1$ shares to the market maker offering the highest bid.
 - If they wish to buy, they buy $q = 1$ shares from the market maker quoting the lowest ask price.

Trading Mechanism



Market Makers' Payoff Functions

First-price sealed-bid and ask auctions in a common value framework with one informed bidder and adverse selection from traders.

- MM1's expected payoff for a given $\tilde{V} \in \{V_1, V_2\}$:

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$$(a_1 - V_1) \Pr(a_2 > a_1)^{\frac{1-\mu}{2}} + (V_1 - b_1) \Pr(b_2 < b_1)^{\frac{1+\mu}{2}}, \quad \tilde{V} = V_1$$

$$(a_1 - V_2) \Pr(a_2 > a_1)^{\frac{1+\mu}{2}} + (V_2 - b_1) \Pr(b_2 < b_1)^{\frac{1-\mu}{2}}, \quad \tilde{V} = V_2$$

- MM2's expected payoff:

Market Makers' Payoff Functions

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$$(a_1 - V_2) \Pr(a_2 > a_1) \frac{1+\mu}{2} + (V_2 - b_1) \Pr(b_2 < b_1) \frac{1-\mu}{2} \quad , \quad \tilde{V} = V_2$$

- MM2's expected payoff:

$$(1 - \pi)(a_2 - V_1) \Pr(a_1 > a_2 | V_1) \frac{1-\mu}{2} + \pi(a_2 - V_2) \Pr(a_1 > a_2 | V_2) \frac{1+\mu}{2} \\ + (1 - \pi)(V_1 - b_2) \Pr(b_1 < b_2 | V_1) \frac{1+\mu}{2} + \pi(V_2 - b_2) \Pr(b_1 < b_2 | V_2) \frac{1-\mu}{2}$$

Equilibrium Quoting Strategy

Lemma

The equilibrium quoting strategy is in mixed strategies, fully revealing (MM1's quotes reveal \tilde{V}), and unique.

- If $\tilde{V} = V_2$, it is profitable to buy :
 - ① MM1 randomizes its bid in $]V_1, b^*]$.
 - ② MM1 sets $a_1 = V_2$.
- If $\tilde{V} = V_1$, it is profitable to sell :
 - ① MM1 sets $b_1 = V_1$.
 - ② MM1 randomizes its ask in $]a^*, V_2]$.
- MM2 does not know whether it is profitable to buy or sell:
 - ① MM2 randomizes its bid in $[V_1, b^*]$.
 - ② MM2 randomizes its ask in $[a^*, V_2]$.

a^* and b^* are the bid and ask prices in Glosten and Milgrom.

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