Behavioral Insurance: Theory and Practice

28, Dec., 2020

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People's decisions are always made rational?









Why do people make irrational decisions?

- Would more people want to buy insurance after a flood?
- After a few years without flooding, would people want to terminate their contracts?

Theory of Behavioral Insurance



Traditional Economics Theory

People always act sensibly

- > People have complete information
- Making rational actions to choose the one with the greatest expected utility among the options

Will it be?



Allais and Ellsberg's Paradox

People do not always make rational decisions.

They could not explain why.



Behavioral Economics





- Kahneman and Tversky published Prospect theory in 1979
- Presenting empirical research results that the decisionmaker's selection process violates the expected utility theory
- Describing abnormal phenomena that cannot be explained by expected utility theory
- Behavioral economics began with psychologists
 - Incorporating lessons from psychology into economics



Prospect Theory_Value Function

1 Reference point dependence

- Everyone has a different reference point
- Value is measured as a change from a reference point

Who will be happier when assets change in the past year?

A: From 400 mil. to 300 mil., B: From 100 mil. to 200 mil.

- Traditional economics: A is happier Behavioral economics: B is happier
- Reference point: A is 400 mil., B is 100 mil.



Prospect Theory_Value Function

(2) Loss Aversion

Subjective value of loss >Subjective value of profit

Negative value when lose \$100 > Positive value when earn \$100



Prospect Theory_Value Function

3 Diminishing sensitivity

When the size of profit or loss is small, it is sensitive to the change of the value and has a great influence on the subjective value, but the effect on the subjective value decreases as the value of profit or loss increases.

Value of 100 profits obtained twice in a row > Value of 200 profits at one time

Practice of Behavioral Insurance

Framing Effect

Which product will you choose?

Insurance 1(Negative Frame)

- · Premium is \$1,000
- · \$600 deductible

Insurance 2(Positive Frame)

- Premium is \$1,600
- Not deductible
- \$600 refund in case of no accident

Framing Effect

Intention to purchase insurance

Insurance 1 Insurance 2 44% 68%



Status-quo Bias: **Default option of retirement pension**

- Retirement pension was first introduced in the U.S.
- Workers subscribed to retirement pension if they wanted
- Subscription rate was very low
- Introduced default option(Sep. 2001)
 - ➤ If not want to join a retirement pension, withdraw it within 90 days
- Subscription rate increased considerably



Numerical Information and Risk Perception

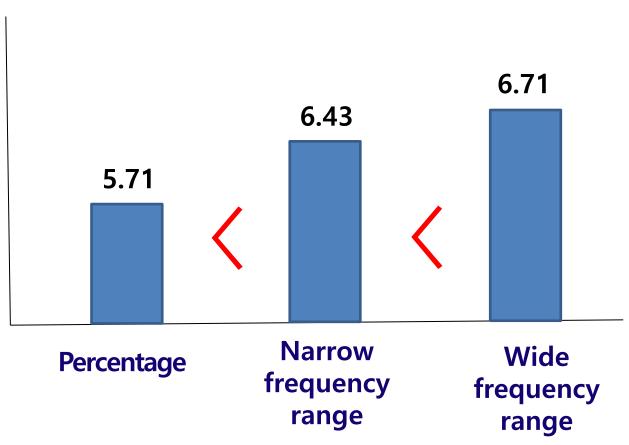
How dangerous do you feel about disease A?

- Group 1
 Every year, 12% of adults die of disease A
- Group 2
 Every year, 12 out of 100 adults die of disease A
- Group 3
 Every year, 1,200 out of 10,000 adults die of disease A



Numerical Information and Risk Perception

Degree of risk



Thank You!!

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