

# Optimal make-take fees for market making regulation

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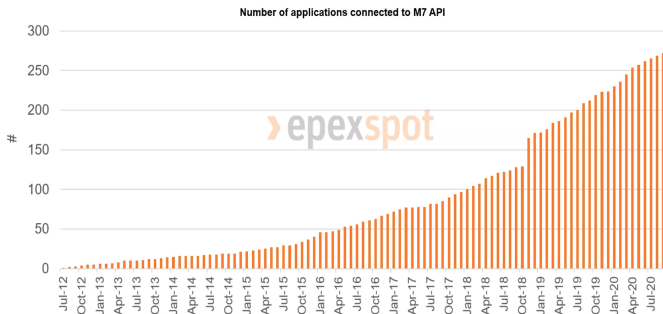
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# Robot trading on electricity market

The number of applications connected to the EPEX SPOT M7 API is steadily growing



2020 - EPEX SPOT - Confidential

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# Trading Makers-Takers fees... towards Fintech

## Makers & Takers

The SEC is scrutinizing a common practice where exchanges pay some stock-market players rebates and charge fees to others. Here's how it works:



**A high-frequency trading firm** offers to sell 100 shares of XYZ stock for \$10.02 a share and buy at \$10.00 a share.



**A broker for a mutual fund** buys 100 shares of XYZ for \$10.02.

### The high-frequency trader

is paid **25¢** because his sell order helped 'make' the trade take place.

The **exchange** keeps the difference of **5¢**.

The **fund's broker** must pay the exchange **30¢** because he took an available order.

Source: WSJ staff reports

The Wall Street Journal

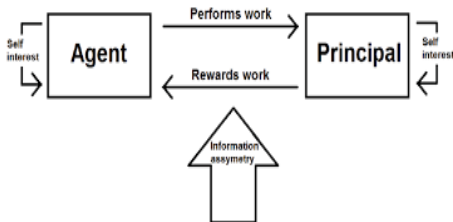
# Delegation problem: accounting for moral hazard

$X$ : value of an output process owned by Principal

Agent devotes effort  $a$ , thus impacting distribution of  $X \Rightarrow X^a$

- cost of effort  $c(a)$
- compensation  $\xi$ : contract

Choose  $\xi$  so that Agent devotes effort in the interest of Principal

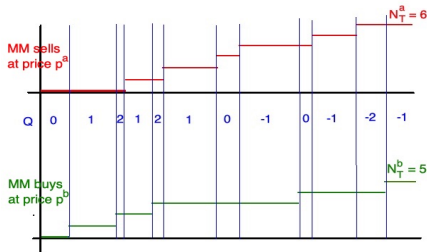
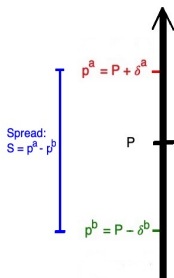


# Market makers, and brokers trading

- Fundamental price  $\{P_t\}_{t \geq 0}$ :  $dP_t = \sigma dW_t$
- **Market Maker** sets bid-ask prices  $p_t^b = P_t - \delta_t^b$  and  $p_t^a = P_t + \delta_t^a$
- $N_t^b, N_t^a$ : # trades, unit jump point process with intensities

$$\lambda_t^b = \lambda(\delta_t^b) \text{ and } \lambda_t^a = \lambda(\delta_t^a), \text{ with } \lambda(x) = Ae^{-\frac{k}{\sigma}(x+c)}$$

$\Rightarrow$  MM inventory  $Q_t = N_t^b - N_t^a$ , where



# Market makers, and brokers trading

MM and Platform have constant absolute risk aversion

$$U_A(x) = -e^{-\gamma x}, \quad U_P(x) = -e^{-\eta x}$$

- MM chooses bid and ask prices:

$$V_A(\xi) := \sup_{\delta=(\delta^b, \delta^a)} \mathbb{E}^{\delta} U_A\left(\xi + \int_0^T p_t^a dN_t^a - p_t^b dN_t^b + Q_T P_T\right)$$

- Given **optimal response**  $\delta^*(\xi)$ , **Platform** chooses optimal contract

$$V_P = \sup_{\xi \in \Xi_R} \mathbb{E}^{\delta^*(\xi)} U_P(-\xi + c(N_T^a + N_T^b))$$

$c$ : fee paid by broker  $\implies c$  affects the arrival process...

Avellaneda & Stoikov '08 corresponds to  $\xi = 0$

# Optimal MM compensation

Let

$$u(t, q) = \sum_{p \geq 0} \frac{[C_1'(T-t)]^p}{p!} \sum_{j \geq 0} \frac{[C_1'(T-t)]^j}{j!} e^{-C_1(T-t)(q+j-p)^2} \mathbf{1}_{\{|q+j-p| \leq \bar{q}\}},$$

with constants  $C_1, C_1'$ . Then,

## Optimal contract is

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\xi} = & U_A^{-1}(R) + \int_0^T \hat{Z}_t^a dN_t^a + \hat{Z}_t^b dN_t^b + \hat{Z}_t^P dP_t \\ & + \left( \frac{1}{2} \gamma \sigma^2 (\hat{Z}_t^P + Q_t)^2 - H(\hat{Z}_t, Q_t) \right) dt \end{aligned}$$

where  $\hat{Z}_t^P = \frac{-\gamma}{\eta + \gamma} Q_t$ : inventory risk sharing

$$\text{and } \hat{Z}_t^i = c + \frac{1}{\eta} \left[ \ln \left( \frac{u(t, Q_t)}{u(t, Q_t + \varepsilon_i)} \right) - \zeta_0 \right], \quad i = b, a, \quad \varepsilon_b = 1, \quad \varepsilon_a = -1,$$

$$\zeta_0 := -\log \left( 1 - \frac{1}{(1 + \frac{k}{\sigma\gamma})(1 + \frac{k}{\sigma\eta})} \right)$$

# Effect of the exchange optimal incentive policy

Parameters values from [Guéant, Lehalle and Fernandez-Tapia](#):

$$T = 600s, \quad \sigma = 0.3\text{Tick}.s^{-1/2}, \quad A = 0.9s^{-1}, \quad k = 0.3s^{-1/2}, \\ \bar{q} = 50 \text{ unities}, \quad \gamma = 0.01\text{Tick}^{-1}, \quad \eta = 1\text{Tick}^{-1}, \quad c = 0.5\text{Tick}.$$

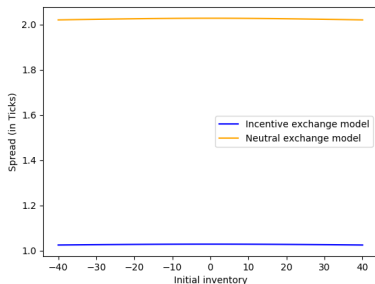


# Impact of the incentive policy on the spread

The optimal spread is given by  $\widehat{S}_t = \widehat{\delta}_t^a + \widehat{\delta}_t^b$  with

$$\widehat{\delta}_t^i = \delta_t^i(\widehat{\xi}) = -\widehat{Z}_t^i + \frac{1}{\gamma} \log \left( 1 + \frac{\sigma\gamma}{k} \right), \quad i = a, b$$

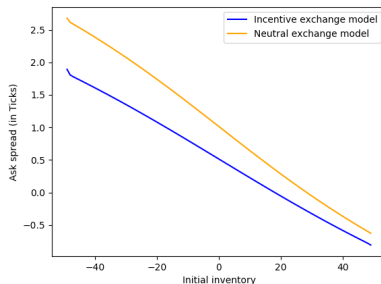
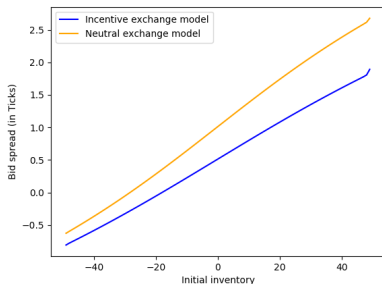
Incentive contract induces spread to be cut by half



Optimal initial spread with/without the exchange incentive policy in terms of initial inventory  $Q_0$ .

# Impact of the incentive policy on the spread

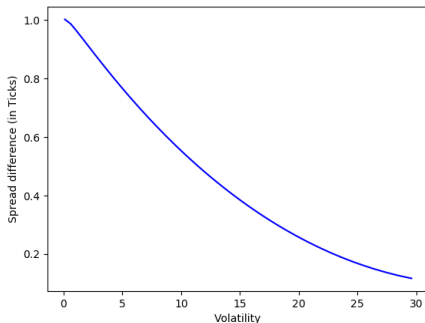
Incentive contract induces bid and ask spreads to be cut by half



Optimal initial bid (left) and ask (right) spread component with/without the exchange incentive policy in terms of initial inventory  $Q_0$ .

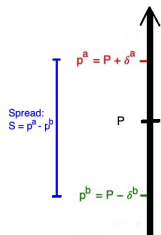
# Impact of the volatility on the incentive policy

Incentive contract effect decreases with volatility...



Initial optimal spread difference (with/without incentive)  
in terms of the volatility  $\sigma$ .

# Regulation implication: how to choose the constant fee $c$



Bid-ask spread  $\hat{S}_t$  is explicit...

**Assume** Exchange fixes the transaction cost  $c$  so that  $\hat{S}_t = 1$

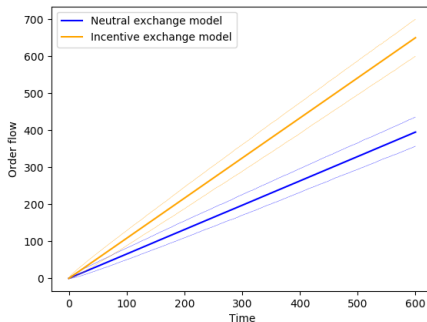
Then, we compute that

$$c \approx \frac{\sigma}{k} - \frac{1}{2} \text{Tick}$$

# Impact of the incentive policy on the market liquidity

$$\# \text{ transactions} = N_T^a + N_T^b$$

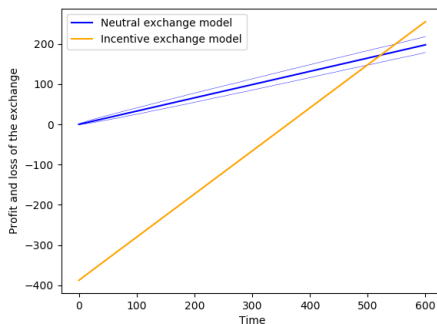
Incentive contract induces more transactions...



Average order flow with 95% confidence interval  
with/without incentive policy (5000 scenarios).

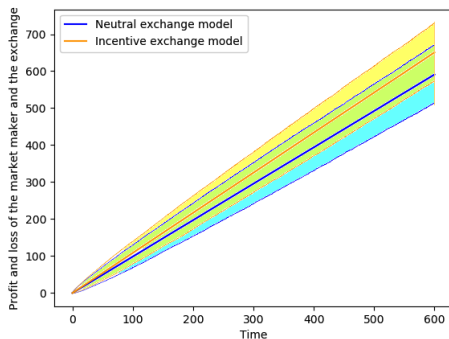
# Impact of the incentive policy on the platform P&L

$$-\hat{\xi} + c(N_T^a + N_T^b)$$



platform P&L with 95% confidence interval  
with/without incentive policy (5000 scenarios).

# Impact of the incentive policy on the market maker and exchange profit and loss



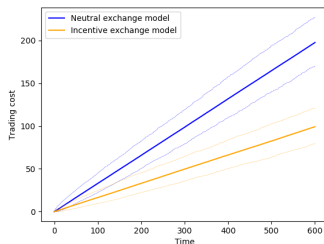
Aggregate P&L of MM and exchange with 95% confidence interval with/without incentive policy (5000 scenarios).

# Impact of the incentive policy on trading costs

- One market taker buying a fixed quantity  $Q_{final} = 200$  shares

trading cost  $\int_0^T \delta_s^a dN_s^a$ . with or without incentive

Incentive contract decreases significantly the average trading cost



Average trading cost with 95% confidence interval  
with/without incentive policy (5000 scenarios).

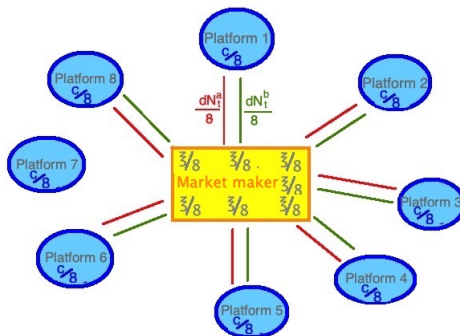


# Summarizing the benefits from optimal contracting

## Benefits of the exchange incentive policy

- Smaller spread.
- Increase of the market liquidity.
- Increase of the profit and loss of the MM and the exchange.
- Less transaction costs.

## Symmetric platforms in Nash equilibrium



1 Market maker  
facing  $n$  symmetric platforms

# Optimal MM compensation: main result

## Theorem

There exists a unique symmetric Nash equilibrium with optimal contract

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{\xi}^{(n)} = U_A^{-1}(R) &+ \int_0^T \widehat{Z}_t^{n,a} dN_t^a + \widehat{Z}_t^{n,b} dN_t^b + \widehat{Z}_t^{n,P} dP_t \\ &+ \left( \frac{1}{2} \gamma \sigma^2 (\widehat{Z}_t^{n,P} + Q_t)^2 - H(\widehat{Z}_t^n, Q_t) \right) dt\end{aligned}$$

$\widehat{Z}_t^{n,P} = \frac{-n\gamma}{\eta+n\gamma} Q_t$ : inventory risk sharing  $\xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} -Q_t$  (Selling firm effect)

and  $\widehat{Z}_t^{n,i} = c + \frac{n}{\eta} \left[ \ln \left( \frac{u_n(t, Q_t)}{u_n(t, Q_t + \varepsilon_i)} \right) - \zeta_0 \right]$ ,  $i = b, a$   $\varepsilon_b = 1$ ,  $\varepsilon_a = -1$ ,