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Reestablishing Stability and Avoiding a Credit Crunch: Comparing Different Bad Bank Schemes

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Abstract

This paper develops a model to analyze two different bad bank schemes, an outright sale of toxic assets to a state-owned bad bank and a repurchase agreement between the bad bank and the initial bank. For both schemes, we derive a critical transfer payment that induces a bank manager to participate. Participation improves the bank's solvency and enables the bank to grant new loans. Therefore, both schemes can reestablish stability and avoid a credit crunch. However, an outright sale will be less costly to taxpayers than a repurchase agreement only if the transfer payment is sufficiently low.

JEL classification: G21, G28, G30

Keywords: bad banks, financial crisis, financial stability, credit crunch

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1 Introduction

The worldwide financial crisis, which broke out in August 2007, led to severe losses in the financial sector. Banks suffered from so-called toxic assets in their balance sheets. Uncertainty about the "true value" of these assets and necessary depreciations, which significantly reduced the banks' capital, raised concerns about the stability of the banking sector and a significant reduction in credit supply.

In response to these developments, governments in several countries implemented concepts to relieve banks' balance sheets from risks. Distressed banks were offered to transfer their toxic assets to publicly sponsored special purpose vehicles, so-called bad banks. While all implemented bad bank schemes aim to clean up the banks' balance sheet at least temporarily, the concrete design of the schemes varies significantly across countries. In particular, they differ with respect to the risk-distribution between the distressed bank and the bad bank, and therefore, the taxpayers. In Germany, for example, the risk remains largely with the distressed bank, while in Switzerland the bad bank scheme allows for a more or less complete risk transfer to the bad bank. To mitigate the financial crisis, a couple of other countries like the US (Troubled Asset Relief Program) and Ireland (National Asset Management Agency) also adopted concepts similar to a bad bank scheme. Moreover, bad bank schemes were occasionally used prior to the worldwide financial crisis. Examples are the banking crisis in Sweden in the early 1990s and the US-Savings & Loan crisis of the 1980s.[1]

Against this background, this paper develops a model which allows for a comparison of two different bad bank schemes. The first scheme is characterized by a full transfer of the risk of the toxic asset to the taxpayers. Under the second scheme, the risk of the toxic asset remains with the distressed bank. We focus on two particular aspects. First, we investigate whether the different bad bank schemes are appropriate to stabilize the banking sector and to avoid a credit crunch. Second, we compare the different bad bank schemes with respect to their expected costs to taxpayers.

In our theoretical analysis, we consider a single commercial bank whose balance sheet consists of a risky asset that is funded by equity and deposits. Due to write-offs on the asset, the bank's equity is just sufficient to meet a minimum capital requirement. The

[1] For a description of the German and Swiss bad bank scheme see Deutsche Bundesbank (2009) and Goddard, Molyneux, et al. (2009). Overviews over the Troubled Asset Relief Program and the National Asset Management Agency can be found in U.S. Department of the Treasury (2009) and Honohan (2009). The bad bank schemes applied in the Swedish crisis and the US-Savings & Loan crisis are described in Englund (1999) and FDIC (1997).

bank is unable to attract new capital. Therefore, it is neither able to bear further possible depreciations from the toxic asset nor to grant new loans. In this situation, a risk-neutral bank manager has the opportunity to hive off the toxic asset to a bad bank. Concerning the risk allocation between the initial bank and the taxpayers, we consider two extreme cases. In the first case, the bank can make an outright sale of the toxic asset to a state-owned bad bank so that the risk of the toxic asset is fully borne by the taxpayers. In the second case, the transfer of the toxic asset to the bad bank involves a repurchase agreement between the distressed bank and the bad bank implying that the risk of the toxic asset remains with the distressed bank. The idea of the second scheme is to give the bank some time to generate profits from its newly granted loans so that it will be able to bear possible losses from the toxic asset at a later date.

Our theoretical analysis reveals that under both bad bank schemes, the price, at which the toxic asset can be transferred to the bad bank, plays a crucial role. First, this transfer price must be high enough to induce the bank manager to participate in the bad bank scheme. Thus, there exists a minimum transfer price which has to be paid to stabilize the banking sector, since the banking sector will only become more stable if the manager transfers the toxic asset. Furthermore, the supply of new loans increases in the transfer price, i.e. if the danger of a credit crunch is high, the transfer payment must be sufficiently high to avert this threat.

From our theoretical analysis we conclude that if the transfer price is sufficiently high, a bad bank will stabilize the banking sector and avoid a credit crunch under both schemes, an outright sale as well as a repurchase agreement. Concerning the superiority of one scheme, the expected costs to taxpayers have to be considered. In case of an outright sale, the taxpayers can benefit from the potential returns on the toxic asset but do not reobtain the transfer payment. On the contrary, a repurchase agreement implies that the potential returns on the toxic asset remain at the distressed bank while the taxpayers reobtain the transfer price at least with positive probability. Therefore, an outright sale will be superior to a repurchase agreement if the necessary transfer payment is relatively low. Otherwise, if the necessary transfer payment is relatively high, the repurchase agreement concept will involve less expected costs to the taxpayers.

The related literature on bad bank schemes can be divided into three groups. The first group examines bad bank schemes that were implemented prior to the worldwide financial crisis. Macey (1999) and Bergström, Englund, and Thorell (2003) analyze the banking crisis in Sweden in the early 1990s. White (1991) and Curry and Shibut (2000) explore the US-Savings & Loan crisis of the 1980s. The second group discusses the pros and cons of a bad bank scheme from a political economy perspective in the light of the worldwide financial crisis.[2] Our paper is most closely related to the third group of the literature, which develops theoretical models to analyze governmental bank bailout policies. While the effects of different recapitalization plans for distressed banks are, in general, relatively well understood,[3] the theoretical literature particularly focussing on bad bank schemes is still in its infancy. Mitchell (2001) analyzes the implications of different policies to clean bank's balance sheets, among which are debt transfers (possibly to a bad bank) and debt cancelations, for bank behavior under asymmetric information. Dietrich and Hauck (2011) compare several forms of policy measures to stop a fall in loan supply following a banking crisis. They show that while debt or capital subsidies can lead to overinvestment and excessive risk taking, a sale of toxic assets to a bad bank does not generate adverse incentives but may have higher fiscal costs. While these contributions compare a single bad bank scheme similar to an outright sale to other forms of public interventions, our paper explicitly compares different bad bank schemes in a unified framework. In particular, we investigate two bad bank schemes, an outright sale and a repurchase agreement, with respect to their appropriateness for reestablishing the stability of the banking sector and avoiding a credit crunch as well as with respect to their expected costs to taxpayers.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 develops the model and derives the critical transfer payment at which the bank manager is willing to participate in the respective bad bank schemes. Section 3 discusses policy implications, section 4 concludes the paper.

2 The Model

2.1 Framework

We consider a risk-neutral, zero-interest-rate economy where the asset side of a commercial bank's balance sheet consists of a risky asset. The commercial bank must back this asset with sufficient capital due to a minimum capital requirement. Write-offs on the asset have reduced the bank's capital down to the minimum amount the bank must hold to fulfill this requirement. The bank is unable to raise new capital. Furthermore, there is a danger

[2] See, e.g., Bebchuk (2008), Fitzpatrick (2008), Bebchuk (2009), Buiter (2009), Hall and Woodward (2009), Panetta, Faeg, et al. (2009), Schäfer and Zimmermann (2009) and van Suntum and Ilgmann (2011).

[3] See, e.g, Aghion, Bolton, and Fries (1999), Corbett and Mitchell (2000), Osano (2002, 2005), Tanaka and Hoggarth (2006), Acharya and Yorulmazer (2008) and Philippon and Schnabl (2010).

Assets		Liabilities	
Toxic Asset	θY	Deposits	D^{nB}
		Capital	V_0^{nB}

Figure 1: No Transfer of the Toxic Asset, Balance Sheet at $t = 0$.

of further necessary write-offs on the risky asset. Consequently, the bank cannot grant new loans and may become insolvent unless it obtains outside help.

In this situation, the bank manager has the option to hive off the impaired asset to a government-owned bad bank. If he decides to do so, he can exchange the asset for safe government bonds. This transaction allows him to grant new loans since government bonds are not subject to a capital requirement.

No Transfer of the Toxic Asset, No New Loans

There are two dates $t = 0, 1$. At date $t = 0$ the bank possesses an impaired risky financial asset (toxic asset). The asset matures at date $t = 1$. At this date, it yields a (gross) return $\tilde{K}$, which is equal to $Y > 0$ with probability θ and zero with probability $1 - \theta$.

Figure 1 presents the balance sheet at $t = 0$ for the case that the bank manager does not hive off the toxic asset to a bad bank. Then, he will not be able to grant new loans. Accordingly, the asset side of the bank's balance sheet consists of the risky asset only. Its book value is given by its expected payoff θY. The liability side consists of deposits D^{nB} and capital V_0^{nB} (the superscript nB indicates that the manager does not transfer the risky asset to a bad bank, the subscript 0 stands for date $t = 0$). The balance sheet identity at $t = 0$ is therefore

$$\theta Y = D^{nB} + V_0^{nB}. \tag{1}$$

The bank's capital just meets the capital requirement. It satisfies $V_0^{nB} = r\theta Y$, where $r \in (0, 1)$ denotes the minimum ratio of capital to risky assets. In conjunction with the balance sheet identity (1), this implies

$$D^{nB} = (1 - r)\theta Y. \tag{2}$$

The balance sheet at $t = 1$ is shown in Figure 2. We assume that a full deposit insurance exists, so that depositors do not bear any losses. They receive D^{nB} irrespective of the actual return on the risky asset. In contrast, the capital value and the insurance

Assets		**Liabilities**		**Assets**		**Liabilities**	
Toxic Asset	Y	Deposits	D^{nB}	Toxic Asset	0	Deposits	D^{nB}
Insurance	0	Capital	$Y - D^{nB}$	Insurance	D^{nB}	Capital	0
Solvency: $\tilde{K} = Y \geq D^{nB}$				**Insolvency:** $\tilde{K} = 0 < D^{nB}$			

Figure 2: No Transfer of the Toxic Asset, Balance Sheet at $t = 1$.

payment depend on the outcome of the risky asset at $t = 1$. With probability θ, the asset succeeds in which case its return $\tilde{K} = Y$ suffices to repay D^{nB} to depositors. Consequently, the bank will be solvent, the insurance must not pay anything and capital holders will receive the residual return $Y - D^{nB}$ (see the left hand side of Figure 2). With probability $1 - \theta$, the asset fails, $\tilde{K} = 0$. Then, the bank will be insolvent, the insurance must pay D^{nB} to depositors and capital will be worthless. This case is shown on the right hand side of Figure 2. Accordingly, from a date $t = 0$ perspective, the bank is expected to be solvent with probability θ and the expected value of bank capital satisfies

$$E[\tilde{V}_1^{nB}] = \theta(Y - D^{nB}). \tag{3}$$

Transfer of the Toxic Asset, New Loans

At $t = 0$, the bank manager has the opportunity to hive off the risky asset to a government-owned bad bank. If he decides to do so, he will incur non-pecuniary stigma costs B which reflect a loss of reputation for the manager. Furthermore, he will obtain safe government bonds worth Z in exchange for the risky asset. This transfer payment Z must satisfy

$$Z \geq D^{nB}. \tag{4}$$

Otherwise the bank would be bankrupt directly after having transferred its risky asset.

Figure 3 presents the resulting balance sheet at $t = 0$. The asset side consists of the newly obtained government bonds Z and the volume L_0 of newly granted loans. The bank can grant these loans because government bonds are not subject to capital requirements. The bank's liabilities consist of deposits D^B and capital V_0^B (where the subscript B indicates that the manager has transferred the risky asset to the bad bank) so that the balance sheet identity at $t = 0$ is

$$Z + L_0 = D^B + V_0^B. \tag{5}$$

Assets		Liabilities	
Government Bonds	Z	Deposits	D^B
New Loans	L_0	Capital	V_0^B

Figure 3: Transfer of the Toxic Asset, Balance Sheet at $t = 0$.

Since the bank is unable to attract new capital and is not allowed to sell the government bonds, it must refinance new loans by acquiring new deposits. The supply of fully insured deposits is totally elastic. Therefore, the total volume D^B of deposits is given by the sum of "old" deposits D^{nB} and the volume L_0 of new loans:

$$D^B = D^{nB} + L_0. \tag{6}$$

At $t = 1$, the return on the new loans is a random variable denoted by $\tilde{L}_1$. With probability θ_{new}, the loans are successful and yield $\tilde{L}_1 = (1 + \alpha)L_0$, where α reflects the net rate of return on these loans. With probability $1 - \theta_{new}$, they fail and yield nothing, $\tilde{L}_1 = 0$. The newly granted loans are less risky than the toxic asset, $\theta_{new} > \theta$. Moreover, they have a positive expected net return per unit, $\theta_{new}(1 + \alpha) > 1$.

The properties of the balance sheet at $t = 1$ depend on the concrete design of the bad bank scheme. We will analyze two different schemes. The first corresponds to an outright sale of the toxic asset to the bad bank. Under this scheme, the bank manager exchanges the risky asset for safe government bonds at $t = 0$. Thereafter, no further transaction takes place between the bank and the bad bank. That is, the bank neither bears further losses of the risky asset nor benefits from its potential profits. The second scheme resembles a repurchase agreement. While the impaired asset is still transferred to the bad bank at $t = 0$ in exchange for safe government bonds, the bank now agrees to buy the asset back at $t = 1$ and to return the government bonds at this date. Under this scheme, the bank still bears the risk of the toxic asset but also participates in possible profits. We discuss the implications of both schemes for the balance sheet at $t = 1$ in sections 2.3 and 2.4.

Preferences

The bank manager aims to maximize his utility. When deciding on whether to transfer the toxic asset to the bad bank or not, he therefore compares his utility under both situations. If he does not transfer the asset, his utility U^{nB} will depend on the expected capital value

$E[\tilde{V}_1^{nB}]$ only. Instead, if he transfers the asset, his utility U^B will be determined by the expected capital value $E[\tilde{V}_1^B]$ and the non-pecuniary stigma costs:

$$U^{nB} = E[\tilde{V}_1^{nB}], \tag{7}$$

$$U^B = E[\tilde{V}_1^B] - B. \tag{8}$$

2.2 New Lending

If the bank manager participates in a bad bank scheme, he will be able to grant new loans. However, these loans are risky, so that the bank manager must back them with capital. According to the minimum capital requirement, bank capital must satisfy $V_0^B \geq rL_0$. In conjunction with (2), (5) and (6), this directly leads to

Lemma 1: *If the bank manager hives off the toxic asset to the bad bank at $t = 0$, the volume of new loans must satisfy*

$$L_0 \leq \tfrac{1}{r}(Z - D^{nB}) = \theta Y + \tfrac{1}{r}(Z - \theta Y) =: L_0^{max}(Z). \tag{9}$$

The Lemma reveals that the minimum capital requirement imposes a restriction on the volume of new loans. According to (9), the maximum loan volume L_0^{max} depends on the size of the transfer payment Z relative to the book value θY of the toxic asset. To interpret this maximum loan volume, it is useful to distinguish between two effects that a bad bank scheme can have on the bank manager's ability to grant new loans.

First, there will be an asset substitution effect (first term on the right hand side of (9)). The bad bank scheme allows the manager to replace his risky asset by safe government bonds. As long as the transfer payment is equal to the book value of the risky asset, $Z = \theta Y$, participation in the bad bank scheme leaves the bank's capital unchanged. However, this capital, which has been used to back the risky asset, is now available for backing loans since government bonds do not require capital backing. Therefore, an amount equal to the book value of the toxic asset θY can be granted as new loans.

Second, there will be a capital change effect whenever the transfer payment Z differs from the book value θY of the toxic asset (second term on the right hand side of (9)). This effect is due to the bank's additional capital (in case of $Z > \theta Y$) or capital loss (in case of $Z < \theta Y$) when participating in a bad bank. If $Z > \theta Y$, the bank will receive additional capital. Multiplied by $\frac{1}{r} > 1$ we obtain the amount of new loans that can additionally be granted. If $Z < \theta Y$, the bank will "lose" capital with the transfer of the risky asset

Assets			**Liabilities**	**Assets**			**Liabilities**
Government Bonds	Z	Deposits	D^B	Government Bonds	Z	Deposits	D^B
New Loans	$\tilde{L}_1$	Capital	$Z+\tilde{L}_1-D^B$	New Loans	$\tilde{L}_1$	Capital	0
Insurance	0			Insurance	$D^B-(Z+\tilde{L}_1)$		
Solvency: $Z+\tilde{L}_1 \geq D^B$				**Insolvency:** $Z+\tilde{L}_1 < D^B$			

Figure 4: Outright Sale, Balance Sheet at $t = 1$.

to the bad bank. Therefore, the amount of new loans is lower than the book value θY of the risky asset.Consequently, L_0^{max} increases in Z since either, there is an increase in additional capital or a decrease in lost capital: $\frac{\partial L_0^{max}}{\partial Z} = \frac{1}{r} > 0$.

2.3 Outright Sale of the Toxic Asset

In this section, we analyze a bad bank scheme, which resembles an outright sale (OS) of the toxic asset. Under the OS-scheme, the bank manager can exchange the asset for safe government bonds worth Z at $t = 0$. This transaction is irrevocable. Consequently, the bank neither bears losses nor benefits from returns on the toxic asset at $t = 1$.

Expected Capital Value

The consequences of a participation in the OS-scheme for the bank's balance sheet at $t = 1$ are shown in Figure 4. The asset side consists of the government bonds, the new loans and a possible payment from the deposit insurance. The liability side consists of deposits and capital. The figure distinguishes between two cases. If the government bonds and the return on the new loans cover the volume of deposits, $Z + \tilde{L}_1 \geq D^B$, the bank will be able to meet its liabilities vis-a-vis depositors. The bank is thus solvent. Therefore, it will pay D^B to depositors, the insurer will pay nothing, and capital holders will obtain the residual return $Z + \tilde{L}_1 - D^B$ (see the left hand side of Figure 4). On the contrary, if the total return $Z + \tilde{L}_1$ falls short of D^B, the bank will be insolvent. In this case, the bank's assets will be used to repay deposits, the insurance must settle the remaining claim $D^B - (Z + \tilde{L}_1)$ of depositors, and the value of capital will be zero (see the right hand side of Figure 4).

From the discussion of the bank's balance sheet, it follows that the value of bank capital at $t = 1$ is equal to $\max\{Z + \tilde{L}_1 - D^B, 0\}$. At this date, there can be two states of the world. The new loans succeed with probability θ_{new}. Then, they yield a (gross) return $\tilde{L}_1 = (1+\alpha)L_0$ and the bank will be solvent.[4] With probability $1-\theta_{new}$, the new loans yield no return, $\tilde{L}_1 = 0$. In this case, the bank will be solvent only if $Z \geq D^B$. As a consequence, from the perspective of date $t = 0$, the expected capital value satisfies

$$E[V_1^B] = \theta_{new}(Z + (1+\alpha)L_0 - D^B) + (1-\theta_{new}) \max\{0, Z - D^B\}. \tag{10}$$

Inserting (6) in (10) yields

$$E[V_1^B] = \theta_{new}(Z + \alpha L_0 - D^{nB}) + (1-\theta_{new}) \max\{0, Z - D^{nB} - L_0\}. \tag{11}$$

Since the new loans have a positive expected net return, $\theta_{new}(1+\alpha) > 1$, it follows from (10) that the expected capital value at $t = 1$ is increasing in the loan volume, $\frac{\partial E[V_1^B]}{\partial L_0} > 0$.

The Bank Manager's Optimizing Behavior

If the bank manager has decided to transfer the toxic asset to the bad bank at $t = 0$, he aims to maximize his utility as given in (8), which is increasing in the expected capital value $E[V_1^B]$. Furthermore, we have just seen that $E[V_1^B]$ is increasing in L_0. Therefore, the bank manager will grant the maximum possible amount of new loans L_0^{max} if he participates in the OS-scheme. We can infer from (6) and (9) that granting these loans requires $D^B = Z + (1-r)L_0^{max}$. Consequently, the bank will be insolvent if the new loans fail because then, the government bonds Z will not suffice to satisfy the depositors' total claim D^B. Thus, the bank will be solvent at $t = 1$ with probability θ_{new} if the bank manager hives off the toxic asset to the bad bank. Together with (6), (8) and (10), this implies that the bank manager's utility U^B of participating in the OS-scheme will be

$$U^B = \theta_{new}(Z + \alpha L_0^{max}(Z) - D^{nB}) - B. \tag{12}$$

By contrast, if the manager decides against transferring the asset, it follows from (3) and (7) that the bank will be solvent with probability θ and that his utility U^{nB} will be

$$U^{nB} = \theta(Y - D^{nB}). \tag{13}$$

[4]To see this, note that if the new loans succeed, it follows from (4) that $Z + \tilde{L}_1 = Z + (1+\alpha)L_0 \geq D^{nB} + (1+\alpha)L_0$ while (6) implies $D^B = D^{nB} + L_0 < D^{nB} + (1+\alpha)L_0$. Accordingly, we have $Z + \tilde{L}_1 > D^B$ so that the bank is solvent.

The bank manager is willing to transfer the asset to the bad bank at $t = 0$ only if $U^B \geq U^{nB}$. Inserting (12) and (13) into this condition and rearranging terms yields:

$$\theta_{new} Z + \theta_{new} \alpha L_0^{max}(Z) \geq \theta Y + (\theta_{new} - \theta) D^{nB} + B. \tag{14}$$

Condition (14) states that the bank manager will decide in favor of the bad bank scheme if his expected benefits are not outweighed by the expected costs. The left hand side of (14) reflects the manager's expected benefits of transferring the toxic asset, the right hand side reflects his expected costs. The expected benefits stem from the government bonds Z and the potential return αL_0^{max} on the newly granted loans. The manager will benefit from both only if the new loans succeed, since otherwise the bank will be insolvent so that Z will be used to repay depositors and the new loans yield nothing. Therefore, Z and αL_0^{max} have to be multiplied by θ_{new}. The expected costs consist of the foregone expected (gross) return θY of the toxic asset, an increase in expected old liabilities $(\theta_{new} - \theta) D^{nB}$ and the stigma costs B. Expected old liabilities increase by $(\theta_{new} - \theta) D^{nB}$ because if the bank manager participates in the OS-scheme, the probability of bank solvency will increase from θ to θ_{new}. That is, it becomes more likely that the bank will repay depositors without aid from the deposit insurer.[5] After inserting (9) into the condition (14) and rearranging terms, we obtain

Proposition 1: *Under the OS-scheme, the bank manager will transfer the toxic asset to the bad bank and the probability of the bank's solvency will increase from θ to θ_{new} only if*

$$Z \geq \theta Y + \tfrac{r}{\theta_{new}(\alpha + r)} [B - \widehat{B}] =: Z_{OS}^*, \tag{15}$$

where $\widehat{B}$ is defined by

$$\widehat{B} = \theta_{new} \theta Y + \theta_{new} \alpha \theta Y - \theta Y - (\theta_{new} - \theta) D^{nB}. \tag{16}$$

The proposition states that the bank manager will only use the bad bank if he receives sufficient government bonds in exchange for the toxic asset. The transfer payment Z may not be smaller than the critical payment Z_{OS}^* because otherwise the manager's expected

[5]If there was a perfectly risk-related insurance premium, this premium would decrease in case of bad bank participation, which would compensate higher expected old liabilities. However, we abstract from such issues by assuming that the insurance premium is not influenced by a transfer of the toxic asset to the bad bank. For a detailed analysis of deposit insurance premia, risk and moral hazard, see, for example, Freixas and Rochet (2008, p. 313 et seq.).

costs of the transfer would exceed his expected benefits. According to (15), the threshold Z^*_{OS} is linearly increasing in the stigma costs B. For $B = \widehat{B}$, it is equal to the toxic asset's book value, $Z^*_{OS} = \theta Y$. In this case, the bank manager will participate in the bad bank scheme even if the scheme has only an asset substitution effect without improving bank capital at $t = 0$. For $B > \widehat{B}$, the threshold Z^*_{OS} is larger than θY. Then, the scheme must not only allow for asset substitution but also increase the capital of the bank. This will give the bank manager the opportunity to grant a larger amount of new loans, which have a positive expected net return, and which will compensate him for the higher stigma costs. For $B < \widehat{B}$, the threshold Z^*_{OS} is smaller than θY so that the bank manager will participate in the bad bank scheme even if this is detrimental for bank capital.

The interpretation of the critical stigma costs $\widehat{B}$ as defined in (16) is straightforward: As the critical transfer payment Z^*_{OS} ensures that the manager's expected costs of transferring the asset equal his expected benefits, the non-pecuniary stigma costs $\widehat{B}$ simply reflect the difference between the manager's expected benefits and his expected pecuniary costs when transferring the toxic asset at a price equal to its book value ($Z = \theta Y$).[6] The threshold Z^*_{OS} as defined in (15) increases in the stigma costs since a higher B implies higher expected costs for the bank manager he must be compensated for:

$$\frac{\partial Z^*_{OS}}{\partial B} = \frac{r}{\theta_{new}(\alpha + r)} > 0. \tag{17}$$

2.4 Repurchase of the Toxic Asset

The bad bank scheme analyzed in this section is comparable to a repurchase agreement (RA). At $t = 0$, the bank manager can exchange the impaired asset against safe government bonds Z. However, at $t = 1$ the bank reobtains the asset and is obliged to repay Z to the bad bank. Like the OS-scheme, the RA-scheme allows the bank manager to grant new loans at $t = 0$, as the government bonds are not subject to a capital requirement. However, unlike the OS-scheme, the RA-scheme ensures that the bank still participates in the risks and benefits of the toxic asset. The idea is that if the new loans turn out to be successful at $t = 1$, the profit can offset possible losses from the impaired asset. By transferring the asset to a bad bank, the bank thus only buys time under this scheme.

[6]To see this, recall from the left hand side of (14) that the expected pecuniary benefits are $\theta_{new} Z + \theta_{new} \alpha L_0^{max}$. If the transfer payment corresponds to the book value of the toxic asset, $Z = \theta Y$, the bank manager can grant new loans $L_0^{max} = \theta Y$. Therefore, expected benefits will be $\theta_{new}\theta Y + \theta_{new}\alpha\theta Y$ (see the first two terms in (16)). Moreover, recall from the right hand side of (14) that the expected pecuniary costs are $\theta Y + (\theta_{new} - \theta) D^{nB}$ (see the last two terms in (16)).

Assets		Liabilities	
Government Bonds	Z	Deposits	D^B
Toxic Asset	$\tilde{K}$	Bad Bank	Z
New Loans	$\tilde{L}_1$	Capital	$\tilde{K}+\tilde{L}_1-D^B$
Insurance	0		

Solvency: $\tilde{K}+\tilde{L}_1 \geq D^B$

Assets		Liabilities	
Government Bonds	Z	Deposits	D^B
Toxic Asset	$\tilde{K}$	Bad Bank	Z
New Loans	$\tilde{L}_1$	Capital	0
Insurance	$D^B-(\tilde{K}+\tilde{L}_1)$		

RA_S**: Insolvency:** $\tilde{K}+\tilde{L}_1 < D^B$

Assets		Liabilities	
Government Bonds	Z	Deposits	D^B
Toxic Asset	$\tilde{K}$	Bad Bank	$\max\{Z+\tilde{K}+\tilde{L}_1-D^B, 0\}$
New Loans	$\tilde{L}_1$	Capital	0
Insurance	$\max\{0, D^B-(Z+\tilde{K}+\tilde{L}_1)\}$		

RA_J**: Insolvency:** $\tilde{K}+\tilde{L}_1 < D^B$

Figure 5: Repurchase Agreement, Balance Sheet at $t = 1$.

Expected Capital Value

Figure 5 illustrates the commercial bank's balance sheet at $t = 1$. If the total (gross) returns $\tilde{K}+\tilde{L}_1$ on the toxic asset and the new loans are sufficient to cover the claim D^B of depositors, the bank can fully meet its liabilities. It is thus solvent. Therefore, the bad bank reobtains the transfer payment Z, the bank uses some of its investment returns to repay depositors and capital holders receive the residual proceeds, which are worth $\tilde{K}+\tilde{L}_1-D^B$. This case is shown on the left hand side of Figure 5.

What will happen if the total investment returns $\tilde{K}+\tilde{L}_1$ fall short of D^B? Then, the bank will be insolvent at $t = 1$ because its total liabilities $Z + D^B$ will exceed its total assets $Z+\tilde{K}+\tilde{L}_1$. Accordingly, capital will be worthless and the order in which the claim of the bad bank and depositors are served becomes relevant. Suppose first that the claim of the bad bank is $s$enior to deposits. We will refer to this variant of a repurchase agreement scheme as the RA_S-scheme. Under this scheme, the bad bank still obtains Z, and the investment returns $\tilde{K}+\tilde{L}_1$ are left for repaying deposits. As these proceeds do not suffice, the deposit insurer must bear the difference between the claim D^B of depositors and the investment returns $\tilde{K}+\tilde{L}_1$. The upper balance sheet on the right hand side of Figure 5 illustrates this scenario. Now, suppose that the bad bank's claim is $j$unior to deposits (RA_J). Then, bank capital is still worthless and the bad bank becomes the residual claimant (see the lower balance sheet on the right hand side of Figure 5). If the total assets $Z+\tilde{K}+\tilde{L}_1$ cover the claim D^B of depositors, the bank will repay depositors in full so that no assistance from the deposit insurer is needed. The bad bank receives the residual proceeds $Z+\tilde{K}+\tilde{L}_1-D^B$ in this case. Otherwise, if the total assets $Z+\tilde{K}+\tilde{L}_1$ are smaller than D^B, they are fully transferred to depositors, and the deposit insurer settles the depositors' remaining claims. The bad bank does not receive any payment.

We have seen that the distinction between the two variants of a repurchase agreement (RA_S and RA_J) neither plays a role for the bank's solvency nor for the value of bank capital at $t = 1$, which is equal to $\min\{\tilde{K} + \tilde{L}_1 - D^B, 0\}$. Therefore, this distinction is irrelevant for the behavior of the bank manager so that we will simply refer to the *RA*-scheme in the rest of this section. However, distinguishing between the two variants will be highly relevant for the discussion of the policy implications in section 3.

Let us now have a closer look on the bank's solvency and capital at $t = 1$ and the value of bank capital at this date under the *RA*-scheme. The bank will be solvent if the total investment proceeds $\tilde{K} + \tilde{L}_1$ of the toxic asset and the new loans cover the volume of deposits D^B. The toxic asset yields $\tilde{K} = Y$ at $t = 1$ with probability θ. Otherwise, it yields no return, $\tilde{K} = 0$. The return on the new loans at $t = 1$ is $\tilde{L}_1 = (1 + \alpha)L_0$ with probability θ_{new} and $\tilde{L}_1 = 0$ otherwise. The two investments are uncorrelated. Therefore, with respect to the total investment return and bank solvency at $t = 1$, we need to distinguish between four states of the world (see Figure 6). (a) With probability $\theta\theta_{new}$, both investments succeed. Then, the total return $Y + (1 + \alpha)L_0$ at $t = 1$ suffices to repay D^B to depositors. The bank is thus solvent. (b) With probability $(1 - \theta)\theta_{new}$, only the new loans succeed. Then, the total return on the investments is equal to $(1 + \alpha)L_0$. Due to (6), this amount covers the liabilities D^B vis-a-vis depositors only if

$$L_0 \geq \tfrac{D^{nB}}{\alpha} =: \overline{L}_0. \tag{18}$$

The volume of new loans may thus not be too small because otherwise, the proceeds of the new loans fall short of the liabilities since these proceeds have to cover the bank's new as well as its old liabilities. (c) With probability $\theta(1-\theta_{new})$, only the toxic asset succeeds. In this case, the total return Y suffices to avoid insolvency only if $Y \geq D^B$. Together with (6), this leads to the solvency condition

$$L_0 \leq Y - D^{nB} =: \underline{L}_0. \tag{19}$$

To avoid insolvency, the volume of new loans may thus not be too large. This is because the bank's liabilities increase in the volume of the new loans and these liabilities also have

	Probability		$\hat{\hat{L}}_0$	$\hat{L}_0$	L_0
Both investments succeed:	$\theta\theta_{new}$	solvent	solvent	solvent	
Only new loans succeed:	$(1-\theta)\theta_{new}$	insolvent	insolvent	solvent	
Only toxic asset succeeds:	$\theta(1-\theta_{new})$	solvent	insolvent	insolvent	
No investment succeeds:	$(1-\theta)(1-\theta_{new})$	insolvent	insolvent	insolvent	
Probability of Solvency:		θ	$\theta\theta_{new}$	θ_{new}	

Figure 6: Loan Volume and Bank's Solvency.

to be covered by the proceeds of the toxic asset. (d) With probability $(1-\theta)(1-\theta_{new})$, both investments fail and yield no return at all implying that the bank is insolvent.

From the four states of the world, we can infer that the expected date $t = 1$ value of the bank capital in case of participation in the RA-scheme is:

$$\begin{aligned} E[V_1^B] &= \theta\theta_{new}(Y + (1+\alpha)L_0 - D^B) + (1-\theta)\theta_{new}\max\{(1+\alpha)L_0 - D^B, 0\} \\ &+ \theta(1-\theta_{new})\max\left\{Y - D^B, 0\right\} + (1-\theta)(1-\theta_{new})0. \end{aligned}$$

Due to (6), this can be rewritten to

$$\begin{aligned} E[V_1^B] &= \theta\theta_{new}(Y + \alpha L_0 - D^{nB}) + (1-\theta)\theta_{new}\max\{\alpha L_0 - D^{nB}, 0\} \\ &+ \theta(1-\theta_{new})\max\left\{Y - D^{nB} - L_0, 0\right\} + (1-\theta)(1-\theta_{new})0, \end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

so that we obtain $\frac{\partial E[V_1^B]}{\partial L_0} > 0$. The expected value of bank capital is thus increasing in L_0 under the RA-scheme.

The Bank Manager's Optimizing Behavior

For the sake of simplicity, we restrict our subsequent analysis of the bank manager's behavior to the plausible case[7]

$$(1+\alpha) \leq \tfrac{1}{1-(1-r)\theta}, \tag{21}$$

which implies $\underline{L}_0 \leq \overline{L}_0$. Recall from (13) that if the bank manager does not transfer the toxic asset to the bad bank, the probability of bank solvency will be θ, the bank will only survive if the toxic asset does not fail. If the manager decides to transfer the asset, the

[7]Assuming a minimum capital ratio of $r = 0.08$ and a probability of repayment of the risky asset $\theta = 0.2$, the return on the new loans had to exceed $\alpha = 0.22$ to violate (21). For a rising θ, the maximum α rises as well.

probability of the bank's solvency *may* increase. Figure 6 illustrates that it will increase if $L_0 > \overline{L}_0$. If $L_0 < \overline{L}_0$, the probability of the bank's solvency will not change or even decrease. As the government aims at improving the probability of the bank's solvency (we will comment on this in section 3), we assume that the government offers a transfer payment[8]

$$Z \geq D^{nB} + \tfrac{rD^{nB}}{\alpha} =: \overline{Z}, \tag{22}$$

which implies $L_0^{max} \geq \overline{L}_0$. Only with such a transfer payment, the RA-scheme has the potential to improve the bank's solvency.

As the bank manager's utility U^B is increasing in $E[V_1^B]$, which in turn is increasing in L_0, the manager will grant the maximum volume L_0^{max} under the RA-scheme. From this and (20) in conjunction with (8) and $Z \geq \overline{Z}$, we can infer that the bank manager's utility of participating in the RA-scheme satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} U^B = {} & \theta\theta_{new}(Y + \alpha L_0^{max}(Z) - D^{nB}) + \theta(1-\theta_{new})0 \\ & + (1-\theta)\theta_{new}(\alpha L_0^{max}(Z) - D^{nB}) + (1-\theta)(1-\theta_{new})0 - B. \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

The bank manager will hive off the toxic asset to the bad bank at $t = 0$ only if $U^B \geq U^{nB}$. Due to (13) and (23), this results in

$$\theta_{new}\alpha L_0^{max}(Z) \geq \theta Y(1-\theta_{new}) + (\theta_{new} - \theta)D^{nB} + B. \tag{24}$$

Analogously to (14), condition (24) states that the bank manager will opt for the RA-scheme if the expected benefits outweigh the expected costs. According to the left hand side of (24) the expected benefit of the RA-scheme stems from the expected return on the new loans as it is the case under the OS-scheme. Unlike the OS-scheme, however, the RA-scheme does not allow the manager to benefit from the government bonds because these bonds are either returned to the bad bank at $t = 1$ or used to repay deposits. The right hand side of (24) reflects his expected costs. Like an outright sale, the RA-scheme is associated with stigma costs B and an increase in expected old liabilities $(\theta_{new} - \theta)D^{nB}$. Furthermore, the costs of the RA-scheme consist of a *probably* foregone potential return on the toxic assets $\theta Y(1 - \theta_{new})$. While under the OS-scheme the expected return on the toxic asset is foregone with probability 1, it is foregone under the RA-scheme with probability $1 - \theta_{new}$ only. With this probability, the new loans fail, in which case the

[8]One obtains $\overline{Z}$ by inserting (9) in (18) for $L_0 = L_0^{max}$.

bank is insolvent and the return on the toxic asset has to be used to repay depositors. In conjunction with (9) and the requirement $Z \geq \overline{Z}$, (24) directly leads to

Proposition 2: *Under the RA-scheme, the bank manager will transfer the toxic asset to the bad bank and the probability of bank solvency increases from θ to θ_{new} only if*

$$Z \geq \max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\}, \tag{25}$$

where Z^*_{RA} is defined by

$$Z^*_{RA} = \theta Y + \tfrac{r}{\theta_{new}\alpha}(B - \widehat{B}). \tag{26}$$

According to the proposition, the RA-scheme improves the bank's solvency provided that two preconditions are met. First, the transfer payment Z and the resulting volume of new loans must be sufficiently large so that the bank survives whenever the new loans succeed, $Z \geq \overline{Z}$. Second, it must be sufficiently large to incite the bank manager to transfer the toxic asset to the bad bank, $Z \geq Z^*_{RA}$. As it was the case under the OS-scheme, the threshold Z^*_{RA} is linearly increasing in the stigma costs B and equal to the book value θY of the toxic asset for $B = \widehat{B}$. Consequently, the manager again is satisfied with pure asset substitution (without a change in bank capital) if $B = \widehat{B}$. He will require a capital increase, $Z^*_{RA} > \theta Y$, if $B > \widehat{B}$, and accept a capital loss, $Z^*_{RA} < \theta Y$ if $B < \widehat{B}$.

The critical stigma costs $\widehat{B}$ relevant for the RA-scheme are identical to those relevant for the OS-scheme. They again reflect the manager's expected pecuniary benefits less his expected pecuniary costs of transferring the toxic asset to the bad bank in exchange for a transfer payment $Z = \theta Y$.[9] However, the threshold Z^*_{RA} increases more in B than the threshold Z^*_{OS}:

$$\tfrac{\partial Z^*_{RA}}{\partial B} = \tfrac{r}{\theta_{new}\alpha} > \tfrac{r}{\theta_{new}(\alpha+r)} = \tfrac{\partial Z^*_{OS}}{\partial B}. \tag{27}$$

If stigma costs increase by one unit, the transfer payment Z^* must rise until the manager's expected return has also increased by one unit. However, since under the RA-scheme, the manager never benefits from the proceeds of the government bonds Z, the marginal

[9] According to (24), his expected pecuniary benefits are $\theta_{new}\alpha L_0^{max}$, while his expected pecuniary costs are $\theta Y(1-\theta_{new}) + (\theta_{new} - \theta)D^{nB}$. For $Z = \theta Y$, the benefits will therefore be $\theta_{new}\alpha\theta Y$ (recall from (9) that $L_0^{max}(Z = \theta Y) = \theta Y$) so that the critical stigma costs are given by $\widehat{B} = \theta_{new}\alpha\theta Y - (1-\theta_{new})\theta Y - (\theta_{new} - \theta)D^{nB}$, which is identical to (16). Intuitively, the RA-scheme is associated with a lower expected benefit and lower expected pecuniary costs than the OS-scheme. The expected benefit differs by $\theta_{new}Z = \theta_{new}\theta Y$ because the bank manager does not obtain the proceeds of the government bonds under the RA-scheme. Expected costs differ by the same amount $\theta_{new}\theta Y$ because under the RA-scheme, the return on the toxic asset is foregone with probability $1-\theta_{new}$ while it is foregone with certainty under the OS-scheme.

expected return of Z is lower than in case of the OS-scheme. Consequently, the increase in Z must be higher to compensate the manager for higher stigma costs.

3 Policy Implications

In the preceding section, we have investigated the incentives of a bank manager to hive off a toxic asset to a bad bank under two different bad bank schemes. Based on the results obtained there, this section takes a different perspective and discusses policy implications of our analysis. We will ask which bad bank scheme is optimal from the viewpoint of the policy maker who wishes to minimize the expected taxpayers' costs. We proceed as follows. First, we clarify the costs of the different bad bank schemes. Then, we determine the cost minimizing scheme for the case that the policy maker aims at (a) improving the stability of the banking sector, and (b) avoiding a credit crunch.

3.1 Expected Costs to the Taxpayers

If the policy maker establishes a state-owned bad bank to relief a commercial bank from its toxic asset, the taxpayers may bear possible losses or may benefit from possible profits. The different bad bank schemes have different implications with respect to these losses and gains. Potential payments of the deposit insurer are not part of the taxpayers' cost function since the deposit insurance is assumed to be privately-sponsored.

Under the OS-scheme, the commercial bank sells the toxic asset to the bad bank. In return, the commercial bank obtains safe government bonds Z from the bad bank. Since no further transaction takes place between the commercial bank and the bad bank, expected taxpayers' costs are

$$E[C_{OS}] = Z - \theta Y. \tag{28}$$

They consist of the price Z the bad bank pays in form of government bonds for the toxic asset less its expected return θY. Accordingly, the OS-scheme involves the possibility of future upside gains for the taxpayers.[10]

If the policy maker implements the RA-scheme, the bank manager will still exchange the toxic asset against government bonds at $t = 0$. However, this transaction is reversed in $t = 1$. The risks and benefits of the toxic asset are thus left to the commercial bank.

[10] However, as pointed out by Beck, Coyle, Dewatripont, Freixas, and Seabright (2010, p. 44), there are strong incentives for politicians to exaggerate the likelihood of this outcome.

The costs of the RA-scheme to the taxpayers depend on whether the bad bank's claim Z at $t = 1$ is senior or junior to deposits. If it is senior (RA_S), the expected costs will be

$$E[C_{RA_S}] = 0. \tag{29}$$

The RA_S-scheme is thus costless to the taxpayers. This is because the bad bank will always reobtain the government bonds from the commercial bank at $t = 1$ under this scheme, irrespective of whether the commercial bank is solvent or not.

If the claim of the bad bank is junior to deposits, the taxpayers will only incur no costs if the commercial bank is solvent and able to return Z to the bad bank at $t = 1$. We know from Proposition 2 that the commercial bank will be solvent under the RA-scheme whenever the new loans succeed, which happens with probability θ_{new}. They fail with probability $1 - \theta_{new}$. Then, the commercial bank is insolvent so that the bad bank has a residual claim on the bank's assets. Therefore, the expected costs to the taxpayers under the RA_J-scheme will be given by

$$E[C_{RA_J}] = \theta(1 - \theta_{new}) \min\{D^B - Y, Z\} + (1 - \theta)(1 - \theta_{new}) \min\{D^B, Z\}. \tag{30}$$

The first term of the right hand side of (30) reflects the taxpayers' costs if only the toxic asset succeeds. Then, the return Y on the toxic asset will be used to repay depositors. To settle the remaining claim $D^B - Y$ of depositors the government bonds will be used. Therefore, the bad bank will either lose government bonds worth $D^B - Y$ or it will lose its total claim Z on the commercial bank, depending on which amount is smaller. The second term on the right hand side of (30) reflects the costs if none of the assets succeeds. For this case, essentially the same argument holds except that there are no returns on the toxic asset in this case. Recall from the previous section that if the bank manager hives of the toxic asset to the bad bank, he will always grant the maximum volume L_0^{max} of new loans. Due to (6) and (9), we therefore obtain $D^B = D^{nB} + L_0^{max} > Z$, so that (30) becomes

$$E[C_{RA_J}] = \theta(1 - \theta_{new}) \min\{D^B - Y, Z\} + (1 - \theta)(1 - \theta_{new})Z. \tag{31}$$

3.2 Reestablishing Stability of the Banking Sector

In the financial crisis which started in 2007, a major concern was that the failure of large, systemically important banks might propagate through the entire financial system causing substantial instabilities in the banking sector. A policy maker who wishes to reduce the risk of such banking sector instabilities in times of crisis should therefore adopt measures to improve the solvency of these systemically important banks. Our model suggests that a bad bank scheme can be useful in this regard. Therefore, this section asks which scheme the policy maker should apply if he wishes to improve the solvency of a large bank at minimum costs to the taxpayers.

We know from Proposition 1 and 2 that the policy maker can improve the solvency of the bank by offering a bad bank scheme which is sufficiently favorable for the bank manager. That is, the policy maker must offer sufficient government bonds Z in exchange for the toxic asset, so that the bank manager makes use of the offer, $Z \geq Z^*_{OS}, Z^*_{RA}$. Moreover, in case of the RA-scheme, the volume of new loans must be large enough ($L_0^{max} \geq \overline{L}_0$) to avoid insolvency whenever only the new loans succeed which implies $Z \geq \overline{Z}$. Provided that these conditions are met, the probability of bank solvency increases from θ to θ_{new} under both, the OS-scheme and the RA-scheme. Besides, once these conditions are met, any further increase of the offered transfer payment Z has no effect on the probability of bank solvency. Therefore, as the expected costs to the taxpayers (weakly) increase in Z, the policy maker will always offer the smallest possible Z consistent with the bad bank scheme applied. Denoting the weak (strict) preference relation by $\succeq$ ($\succ$), we obtain

Proposition 3: *If the policy maker aims to improve the probability of solvency of the commercial bank, his preference order will satisfy*

$$\begin{aligned} &OS \succeq RA_S \succ RA_J \quad &&\text{if} \quad B \leq \widehat{B}, \\ &RA_S \succ OS \succ RA_J \quad &&\text{if} \quad B \in (\widehat{B}, \widehat{\widehat{B}}), \\ &RA_S \succ RA_J \succeq OS \quad &&\text{if} \quad B \geq \widehat{\widehat{B}}, \end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

where $\widehat{B}$ is defined in (16) and where $\widehat{\widehat{B}} > \widehat{B}$ denotes the critical stigma costs for which $E[C_{OS}(Z^*_{OS})] = E[C_{RA_J}(\max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\})]$.

Proof: See appendix.

The proposition reveals the policy maker's preference order with respect to the different bad bank schemes. Let us now comment on this preference order.

(a) From the policy maker's point of view the repurchase agreement in which the bad bank's claim is senior to deposits (RA_S-scheme) is always superior to the one in which it is junior to deposits (RA_J-scheme), irrespective of the stigma costs B. This is not surprising. As long as the claim of the bad bank has priority over deposits, the bad bank will reobtain

Z at $t = 1$ even if the commercial bank fails. Accordingly, the bad bank reobtains Z with certainty. In contrast, the repayment of Z is uncertain under the RA_J-scheme. As the claim of the bad bank is subordinated to deposits, the bad bank will reobtain less than Z (maybe even nothing) if the commercial bank is insolvent. Consequently, $RA_S \succ RA_J$ for all B.

(b) The stigma costs B become crucial for the preference order when taking an outright sale (OS-scheme) into account. At low stigma costs ($B \leq \widehat{B}$), the policy maker prefers an outright sale of the toxic asset over both variants of the repurchase agreement (RA). The relatively low stigma costs imply that the transfer payment Z is also relatively low. This means that under the OS-scheme, the transfer is associated with an expected profit for the taxpayers ($Z \leq \theta Y$). This profit is out of reach under both RA-schemes since possible proceeds of the toxic asset remain with the commercial bank. Consequently, $OS \succeq RA_S, RA_J$ for $B \leq \widehat{B}$.

(c) For stigma costs being higher than $\widehat{B}$, the transfer payment Z^* must be higher than θY. In this case, an outright sale of the toxic asset to the bad bank leads to an expected loss to the taxpayers. Since the RA_S-scheme is costless to taxpayers (they reobtain the transfer payment Z with certainty), $RA_S \succ OS$ for all $B > \widehat{B}$.

(d) For stigma costs being higher than $\widehat{B}$ but lower than $\widehat{\widehat{B}}$, the OS-scheme is superior to the RA_J-scheme, while for stigma costs higher than $\widehat{\widehat{B}}$, the policy maker prefers the RA_J-scheme over the OS-scheme. The explanation for this result is as follows. From the policy maker's point of view the advantage of the OS-scheme is that the taxpayers may benefit from potential proceeds of the toxic asset. However, the disadvantage is that the transfer payment Z is lost, irrespective of the outcome of the toxic asset. In contrast, the bad bank does not participate in potential proceeds of the toxic asset under the RA_J-scheme but possibly reobtains Z. For relatively small stigma costs $B < \widehat{\widehat{B}}$, Z^* is that small that the advantage of the OS-scheme of participating in possible proceeds of the toxic asset outweighs the advantage of the RA_J-scheme of possibly reobtaining Z^*. Instead, for $B \geq \widehat{\widehat{B}}$ the transfer payment Z^* becomes that high that reobtaining Z^* is more important so that the advantage of the RA_J-scheme outweighs the advantage of the OS-scheme. Consequently, $OS \succ RA_J$ for $B < \widehat{\widehat{B}}$ and $RA_J \succeq OS$ for $B \geq \widehat{\widehat{B}}$.

3.3 Avoiding a Credit Crunch

As the recent financial crisis unfolded, not only the stability of the banking sector was a major issue. There were also fears that the financial crisis might lead to a credit crunch

(European Central Bank, 2007). We have seen in section 2 that a bad bank scheme can foster new lending. In doing so, it can serve as a measure to avoid a credit crunch. In this section, we ask which bad bank scheme a policy maker will apply if he aims at improving the solvency of a single commercial bank as well as fostering new lending to prevent a credit crunch at minimum expected costs.

A bad bank scheme relieves a commercial bank from its toxic asset at least temporarily. The commercial bank obtains safe government bonds Z in exchange for its toxic asset. Unlike this toxic asset, the government bonds must not be backed with capital. Therefore, the bad bank scheme allows the bank manager to grant new loans with the maximum volume of new loans L_0^{max} increasing in Z. We have argued above that under both, the OS- and the RA-scheme, the bank manager will indeed grant this maximum volume of new loans. Accordingly, if the policy maker has a target minimum loan volume L_0^{pm}, it follows from (9) that he must offer a transfer price

$$Z \geq \theta Y + r(L_0^{pm} - \theta Y) =: Z^{pm}. \tag{33}$$

In addition, the offer of the policy maker must also satisfy $Z \geq Z_{OS}^*$ or $Z \geq \max\{Z_{RA}^*, \overline{Z}\}$ to make sure that the bank manager has an incentive to participate in the respective bad bank scheme and that the solvency of the bank improves. This leads us to

Proposition 4: *If the policy maker aims to improve the solvency of the commercial bank and to ensure that the loan volume of the commercial bank does not fall short of L_0^{pm}, his preference order will satisfy*

1. *If $B \leq \widehat{B}$*

$$\begin{aligned} OS \succeq RA_S \succ RA_J \quad & if \quad L_0^{pm} \leq \theta Y, \\ RA_S \succ OS \succ RA_J \quad & if \quad L_0^{pm} \in (\theta Y; \widehat{L}_0^{pm}), \\ RA_S \succ RA_J \succeq OS \quad & if \quad L_0^{pm} \geq \widehat{L}_0^{pm}. \end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

2. *If $B \in (\widehat{B}, \widehat{\widehat{B}})$*

$$\begin{aligned} RA_S \succ OS \succ RA_J \quad & if \quad L_0^{pm} < \widehat{L}_0^{pm}, \\ RA_S \succ RA_J \succ OS \quad & if \quad L_0^{pm} \geq \widehat{L}_0^{pm}. \end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

3. *If $B \geq \widehat{\widehat{B}}$*

$$RA_S \succ RA_J \succ OS \quad for\ all\ L_0^{pm}, \tag{36}$$

where $\widehat{B}$ is defined in (16), $\widehat{\widehat{B}}$ denotes the critical stigma costs for which $E[C_{OS}(Z^*_{OS})] = E[C_{RA_J}(\max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\})]$, and $\widehat{L}^{pm}$ denotes the critical amount of new loans that corresponds to the critical transfer payment $\widehat{Z} > \theta Y$ for which $E[C_{OS}(\max\{\widehat{Z}, Z^*_{OS})] = E[C_{RA_J}(\max\{\widehat{Z}, \overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\})]$.

Proof: See appendix

The proposition states that the policy maker's preference order depends on the stigma costs and the target loan volume L_0^{pm}. Like in Proposition 3, this result reflects the costs and benefits of the different bad bank schemes to the taxpayers, and, therefore, to the policy maker.

(a) The policy maker will always prefer the RA_S-scheme over the RA_J-scheme as the former is costless while the latter implies a loss of the transfer payment Z with positive probability.

(b) To determine the preference order with respect to the RA-schemes and the OS-scheme we have to distinguish between different levels of the stigma costs and the target loan volume. Under the OS-scheme, the policy maker loses the transfer payment with certainty but benefits from the return on the toxic asset. Accordingly, an outright sale will be most preferred whenever the transfer payment Z is smaller than the expected return θY on the toxic asset. Then, the OS-scheme allows for a profit, which is out of reach under a repurchase agreement. The policy maker will be able to make such a profit only if two conditions are met. First, the stigma costs B of the bank manager must be sufficiently small, $B \leq \widehat{B}$, so that he accepts the OS-scheme even if this leads to a capital loss for the bank. Second, the target loan volume L_0^{pm} of the policy maker must be sufficiently small, $L_0^{pm} \leq \theta Y$, so that it can even be reached if the bank loses capital.

(c) If one of these just mentioned conditions is violated, the transfer payment under the OS-scheme must exceed the expected return on the toxic asset. In this case, the policy maker will prefer the costless RA_S-scheme over the costly OS-scheme. Moreover, if both, the stigma costs B and the target loan volume L_0^{pm} are at most intermediate, the transfer payment under the OS-scheme will be intermediate as well so that an outright sale leads to lower costs than the RA_J-scheme.

(d) Only if either the stigma costs or the target loan volume are large, the policy maker must offer a rather large transfer payment. Then, he prefers to reobtain the transfer payment with at least some probability under the RA_J-scheme over benefiting from the return on the toxic asset under an outright sale.

4 Summary

The worldwide financial crisis that broke out in 2007 led to severe losses for banks caused by toxic assets. As a response, several governments implemented bad banks to relieve banks' balance sheets from these assets.

In our paper, we have focussed on two different bad bank schemes and their appropriateness for achieving a policy maker's objectives of reestablishing stability and avoiding a credit crunch. First, we have discussed an outright sale of the toxic asset to the bad bank. Second, we have analyzed a repurchase agreement. We have shown that under both schemes, there exists a critical transfer payment that induces the bank manager to participate in the bad bank. If the policy maker offers a transfer payment that is sufficiently large so that the bank manager will hive off the toxic asset, the bank's probability of solvency will increase. Whenever the commercial bank is systemically important, this will improve the stability of the banking sector. Consequently, both bad bank schemes are appropriate instruments to reestablish stability. Moreover, we have shown that a transfer of the toxic asset to the bad bank will release bank's equity. Therefore, the bank is able to grant new loans. The policy maker is able to control the amount of new loans by offering a corresponding transfer payment. Consequently, both bad bank schemes are able to avoid a credit crunch.

However, the two schemes differ with respect to their expected costs to the taxpayers. On the one hand, an outright sale allows the policy maker to benefit from potential returns on the toxic asset. On the other hand, a repurchase agreement allows the policy maker to possibly reobtain the transfer payment which is lost under an outright sale. Therefore, only if the transfer payment is sufficiently low, e.g. caused by low stigma costs or a low target loan volume, the policy maker mostly prefers an outright sale. Otherwise, if the transfer payment is rather large, a scheme with a repurchase agreement is preferred.

5 Appendix

Proof of Proposition 3

We proceed in two steps. First, we determine the minimum expected costs $E[C_k^{min}]$ under the different bad bank schemes $k = OS, RA_S, RA_J$. Second, we derive the preference order of the policy maker by comparing the respective minimum expected costs.

First Step: Minimum Expected Costs of the Policy Maker

The policy maker will always offer the smallest possible Z, which is consistent with the respective bad bank scheme. By inserting these critical transfer payments as given in Proposition 1 and 2 in the corresponding expected cost functions as given in (28), (29) and (31), we obtain

$$E[C_{OS}^{min}] = E[C_{OS}(Z_{OS}^*)] = Z_{OS}^* - \theta Y = \tfrac{r}{\theta_{new}(\alpha+r)}[B - \widehat{B}], \tag{37}$$

$$E[C_{RA_S}^{min}] = 0, \tag{38}$$

$$E[C_{RA_J}^{min}] = E[C_{RA_J}(\max\{\overline{Z}, Z_{RA}^*\})]. \tag{39}$$

Before we proceed with the second step, it is useful to have a closer look at (39). Note that if the bank manager hives of the toxic asset to the bad bank, he will always grant the maximum volume L_0^{max} of new loans. Inserting this and (6) in (31), where we use $\underline{L}_0$ as defined in (19) for the sake of a less complex presentation, yields

$$E[C_{RA_J}(Z)] = \theta(1-\theta_{new})\min\{L_0^{max} - \underline{L}_0, Z\} + (1-\theta)(1-\theta_{new})Z. \tag{40}$$

As $E[C_{RA_J}(Z)]$ is increasing in Z (note that L_0^{max} is increasing in Z, see (9)), we can rewrite (39) to

$$E[C_{RA_J}^{min}] = \max\{E[C_{RA_J}(\overline{Z})], E[C_{RA_J}(Z_{RA}^*)]\}. \tag{41}$$

Moreover, two properties of (40) will be important in the following. (a) If $Z = \overline{Z}$, it follows from (9) and (22) that $L_0^{max} = \overline{L}_0$. Insertion of this and $\overline{Z}$ in (40) yields

$$E[C_{RA_J}(\overline{Z})] = \theta(1-\theta_{new})\min\{\overline{L}_0 - \underline{L}_0, \overline{Z}\} + (1-\theta)(1-\theta_{new})\overline{Z} > 0. \tag{42}$$

(b) If $Z = Z^*_{RA}$, it follows from inserting (26) in (9) that $L_0^{max} = \theta Y + \frac{B-\widehat{B}}{\theta_{new}\alpha}$. Insertion of this and (26) in (40) yields

$$\begin{aligned} E[C_{RA_J}(Z^*_{RA})] &= \theta(1-\theta_{new})\min\{\theta Y + \tfrac{B-\widehat{B}}{\theta_{new}\alpha} - \underline{L}_0, \theta Y + \tfrac{r}{\theta_{new}\alpha}[B-\widehat{B}]\} \\ &+ (1-\theta)(1-\theta_{new})(\theta Y + \tfrac{r}{\theta_{new}\alpha}[B-\widehat{B}]). \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

Second step: Preference Order of the Policy Maker

We now derive the preference order of the policy maker. As he aims at minimizing his expected costs, we obtain:

- He always prefers the RA_S-scheme over the RA_J-scheme, $RA_S \succ RA_J$, because (38), (41) and (42) imply $E[C^{min}_{RA_S}] = 0 < E[C^{min}_{RA_J}]$.
- He prefers the RA_S-scheme over the OS-scheme, $RA_S \succ OS$, only if $E[C^{min}_{RA_S}] < E[C^{min}_{OS}]$. Due to (37) and (38), this condition results in $B > \widehat{B}$.
- He prefers the OS-scheme over the RA_J-scheme, $OS \succ RA_J$, only if $E[C^{min}_{OS}] < E[C^{min}_{RA_J}]$. Due to (37) and (41), this condition is met if either

$$E[C_{OS}(Z^*_{OS})] = \tfrac{r}{\theta_{new}(\alpha+r)}[B-\widehat{B}] < E[C_{RA_J}(\overline{Z})] \quad (44)$$

or

$$E[C_{OS}(Z^*_{OS})] = \tfrac{r}{\theta_{new}(\alpha+r)}[B-\widehat{B}] < E[C_{RA_J}(Z^*_{RA})]. \quad (45)$$

Now, note that the left hand side of (44) and (45) is equal to zero for $B = \widehat{B}$ and linearly increasing in B with

$$\frac{\partial E[C_{OS}(Z^*_{OS})]}{\partial B} = \frac{r}{\theta_{new}(\alpha+r)}. \quad (46)$$

Moreover:

  - It follows from (42) and the definition of $\overline{Z}$ as given in (22) that the right hand side of (44) is positive and independent of B. Accordingly, there exists a $B^{crit}_{\overline{Z}} > \widehat{B}$ such that:
    * the condition (44) is met if $B < B^{crit}_{\overline{Z}}$,
    * the condition (44) is violated if $B \geq B^{crit}_{\overline{Z}}$,

  so that we can already conclude that if $B < \widehat{B} < B^{crit}_{\overline{Z}}$, it follows that $OS \succ RA_J$.

– Therefore, we can now restrict our attention to $B \geq \widehat{B}$. It follows from (43) and the definition of $\underline{L}_0$ that the right hand side of (45) is strictly positive for $B = \widehat{B}$ and linearly increasing in B with

$$\frac{\partial E[C_{RA_J}(Z^*_{RA})]}{\partial B} = \begin{cases} (1-\theta_{new})\frac{\theta+(1-\theta)r}{\theta_{new}\alpha} & \text{if} \quad B-\widehat{B} < \frac{\theta_{new}\alpha \underline{L}_0}{1-r} \\ (1-\theta_{new})\frac{r}{\theta_{new}\alpha} < \frac{\partial E[C_{OS}(Z^*_{OS})]}{\partial B} & \text{if} \quad B-\widehat{B} \geq \frac{\theta_{new}\alpha \underline{L}_0}{1-r}. \end{cases} \tag{47}$$

Accordingly, there exists a $B^{crit}_{Z^*_{RA}} > \widehat{B}$ such that

* the condition (45) is met if $B \in [\widehat{B}, B^{crit}_{Z^*_{RA}})$,
* the condition (45) is violated if $B \geq B^{crit}_{Z^*_{RA}}$.

From the two cases, it directly follows that $OS \succ RA_J$ only if $B < \widehat{\widehat{B}}$ with $\widehat{\widehat{B}} := \max\{B^{crit}_{\underline{Z}}, B^{crit}_{Z^*_{RA}}\}$.

Proof of Proposition 4

We know from (33) that if the policy maker has a target minimum loan volume L_0^{pm}, he must offer government bonds worth

$$Z \geq \theta Y + r(L_0^{pm} - \theta Y) =: Z^{pm}. \tag{48}$$

There is thus a one-to-one relationship between L_0^{pm} and Z^{pm}. For the sake of simplicity, we will use the minimum transfer payment Z^{pm} instead of the target minimum loan volume L_0^{pm} to prove the preference order of the policy maker.

We proceed in three steps. First, we clarify the minimum expected costs to the taxpayers, and thus the policy maker, under the different bad bank schemes. Second, we derive an intermediate result to simplify the proof. Third, we determine the preference order of the policy maker.

First Step: Minimum Expected Costs to the Taxpayers

If the policy maker wishes to ensure that the bank manager grants at least new loans L^{pm}, it follows from (15), (25) and (48) that he must offer a transfer payment $Z \geq \max\{Z^*_{OS}, Z^{pm}\}$ under the OS-scheme while he must offer a payment $Z \geq$

$\max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}, Z^{pm}\}$ under the RA-scheme. Therefore, we obtain from (28), (29) and (31) for the policy maker's minimum expected costs

$$E\left[C^{min}_{OS}\right] = E\left[C_{OS}\left(\max\left\{Z^*_{OS}, Z^{pm}\right\}\right)\right], \tag{49}$$

$$E\left[C^{min}_{RA_S}\right] = 0, \tag{50}$$

$$E\left[C^{min}_{RA_J}\right] = E\left[C_{RA_J}\left(\max\left\{Z^*_{RA}, \overline{Z}, Z^{pm}\right\}\right)\right] > 0. \tag{51}$$

Second Step: An Intermediate Result

Let us for now assume that the policy maker offers the same transfer payment $Z \geq \theta Y$ under the OS-scheme and the RA_J-scheme. Then, there exists a $\check{Z} > \theta Y$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} E[C_{OS}(Z)] &< E[C_{RA_J}(Z)] \quad \text{if} \quad Z \in [\theta Y, \check{Z}), \\ E[C_{OS}(Z)] &\geq E[C_{RA_J}(Z)] \quad \text{if} \quad Z \geq \check{Z}. \end{aligned} \tag{52}$$

That is, for small Z the OS-scheme is always preferred over the RA_J-scheme while for large Z the preference order changes and the RA_J-scheme is preferred over the OS-scheme. This is because

- on the one hand, it follows from (28) that $E[C_{OS}] = 0$ if $Z = \theta Y$ and that $E[C_{OS}]$ is increasing in Z with $\frac{\partial E[C_{OS}]}{\partial Z} = 1$,
- on the other hand, inserting (6) and (9) in (31) yields

$$E\left[C_{RA_J}\right] = \theta(1-\theta_{new})\min\{D^{nB} + \tfrac{1}{r}(Z - D^{nB}) - Y, Z\} + (1-\theta)(1-\theta_{new})Z$$

  implying $E[C_{RA_J}] > 0$ for all $Z \geq \theta Y$ and that $E[C_{RA_J}]$ is increasing in Z with

$$\frac{\partial E[C_{RA_J}]}{\partial Z} = \begin{cases} \frac{\theta(1-\theta_{new})}{r} + (1-\theta)(1-\theta_{new}) & \text{if} \quad Z < D^{nB} + \frac{r}{1-r}Y \\ (1-\theta_{new}) < 1 & \text{if} \quad Z \geq D^{nB} + \frac{r}{1-r}Y. \end{cases} \tag{53}$$

Third step: Preference Order of the Policy Maker

We will now derive the preference order of the policy maker with respect to the OS-scheme, the RA_S-scheme and the RA_J-scheme. As a direct consequence of (50) and (51), we obtain $RA_S \succ RA_J$. The preference order with respect to the OS-scheme, on the one hand, and the two RA-schemes, on the other hand, depends on the stigma costs B. We will distinguish between three cases: $B \leq \widehat{B}$, $B \in (\widehat{B}, \widehat{\widehat{B}})$, and $B \geq \widehat{\widehat{B}}$.

Case a: $B \leq \hat{B}$

Suppose that $B \leq \hat{B}$. Then (15) and (26) implies $Z^*_{OS} \leq \theta Y$ and $Z^*_{RA} \leq \theta Y$.

1. For $Z^{pm} \leq \theta Y$, the transfer payment under the OS-scheme satisfies $\max\{Z^*_{OS}, Z^{pm}\} \leq \theta Y$ so that (49), (50) and (51) in conjunction with (28) implies $E[C^{min}_{OS}] \leq 0 = E[C_{RA_S}] < E[C_{RA_J}]$. This leads to the preference order $OS \succeq RA_S \succ RA_J$.

2. For $Z^{pm} > \theta Y$, it follows from (49) and (51) in conjunction with (28) that

$$E[C^{min}_{OS}] = E[C_{OS}(Z^{pm})] > 0 \tag{54}$$

$$E[C^{min}_{RA_J}] = \begin{cases} E[C_{RA_J}(\overline{Z})] & \text{if} \quad Z^{pm} \leq \overline{Z} \\ E[C_{RA_J}(Z^{pm})] & \text{if} \quad Z^{pm} > \overline{Z} \end{cases} . \tag{55}$$

   Note that (50) and (54) directly lead to $E[C^{min}_{OS}] > E[C^{min}_{RA_S}]$ and thus $RA_S \succ OS$. To derive the preference order with respect to the OS-scheme and the RA_J-scheme for the case $Z^{pm} > \theta Y$, it is useful to distinguish between different levels of Z^{pm}.

   (a) Suppose that $Z^{pm} \in (\theta Y, \tilde{Z})$. Then, we have

   $$E[C^{min}_{OS}] = E[C_{OS}(Z^{pm})] < E[C_{RA_J}(Z^{pm})] \leq E[C^{min}_{RA_J}].$$

   The first (in)equality follows from (54), the second follows from (52) and the third follows from (55). Accordingly, we obtain $OS \succ RA_J$ in this case.

   (b) Suppose that $Z^{pm} \geq \max\{\tilde{Z}, \overline{Z}\}$. Then, we have

   $$E[C^{min}_{OS}] = E[C_{OS}(Z^{pm})] \geq E[C_{RA_J}(Z^{pm})] = E[C^{min}_{RA_J}].$$

   Again, the first (in)equality follows from (54), the second follows from (52) and the third follows from (55). Accordingly, we obtain $RA_J \succeq OS$ in this case.

   (c) Suppose that $Z^{pm} \in [\tilde{Z}, \max\{\tilde{Z}, \overline{Z}\})$, which is feasible only if $\tilde{Z} < \overline{Z}$. Then, it follows from (54) and (55) in conjunction with (28) that $\frac{\partial E[C^{min}_{OS}]}{\partial Z^{pm}} = 1$ and $\frac{\partial E[C^{min}_{RA_J}]}{\partial Z^{pm}} = 0$.

   Consequently, we can conclude that there exists a $\hat{Z} > \theta Y$ such that

   - $RA_S \succ OS \succ RA_J$ if $Z^{pm} \in (\theta Y, \hat{Z})$ and thus $L^{pm}_0 \in (\theta Y, \hat{L}^{pm}_0)$,
   - $RA_S \succ RA_J \succ OS$ if $Z^{pm} \geq \hat{Z}$ and thus $L^{pm}_0 \geq \hat{L}^{pm}_0$.

Case b: $B \in (\hat{B}, \hat{\hat{B}})$

Suppose that $B \in (\hat{B}, \hat{\hat{B}})$. Then (15) and (26) implies $Z^*_{RA} > Z^*_{OS} > \theta Y$.

1. For $Z^{pm} \leq Z^*_{OS}$ the transfer payment under the OS-scheme satisfies $\max\{Z^*_{OS}, Z^{pm}\} = Z^*_{OS}$ and the transfer payment under the RA-schemes satisfies $\max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}, Z^{pm}\} = \max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\}$. Therefore, like in Proposition 3, we obtain $RA_S \succ OS \succ RA_J$.

2. For $Z^{pm} > Z^*_{OS}$, it follows from (49) and (51) in conjunction with (28) that

$$E[C^{min}_{OS}] = E[C_{OS}(Z^{pm})] > 0 \tag{56}$$

$$E[C^{min}_{RA_J}] = \begin{cases} E[C_{RA_J}(\max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\})] & \text{if} \quad Z^{pm} \leq \max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\} \\ E[C_{RA_J}(Z^{pm})] & \text{if} \quad Z^{pm} > \max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\} \end{cases}. \tag{57}$$

Note that (50) and (56) directly lead to $E[C^{min}_{OS}] > E[C^{min}_{RA_S}]$ and thus $RA_S \succ OS$. To derive the preference order with respect to the OS-scheme and the RA_J-scheme for the case $Z^{pm} > Z^*_{OS}$, it is useful to distinguish between different levels of Z^{pm}.

(a) Suppose that $Z^{pm} \in (Z^*_{OS}, \tilde{Z})$, which is feasible only if $\tilde{Z} > Z^*_{OS}$. Then, we have

$$E[C^{min}_{OS}] = E[C_{OS}(Z^{pm})] < E[C_{RA_J}(Z^{pm})] \leq E[C^{min}_{RA_J}].$$

The first (in)equality follows from (56), the second follows from (52) and the third follows from (57). Accordingly, we obtain $OS \succ RA_J$ in this case.

(b) Suppose that $Z^{pm} \geq \max\{\tilde{Z}, \max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\}\}$. Then, we have

$$E[C^{min}_{OS}] = E[C_{OS}(Z^{pm})] \geq E[C_{RA_J}(Z^{pm})] = E[C^{min}_{RA_J}].$$

Again, the first (in)equality follows from (56), the second follows from (52) and the third follows from (57). Accordingly, we obtain $RA_J \succeq OS$ in this case.

(c) Suppose that $Z^{pm} \in [\tilde{Z}, \max\{\tilde{Z}, \max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\}\})$, which is feasible only if $\tilde{Z} < \max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\}$. Then, it follows from (56) and (57) in conjunction with (28) that $\frac{\partial E[C^{min}_{OS}]}{\partial Z^{pm}} = 1$ and $\frac{\partial E[C^{min}_{RA_J}]}{\partial Z^{pm}} = 0$.

Consequently, we can conclude that there exists a $\hat{Z} > \theta Y$ such that

- $RA_S \succ OS \succ RA_J$ if $Z^{pm} \in (\theta Y, \hat{Z})$ and thus $L^{pm}_0 \in (\theta Y, \hat{L}^{pm}_0)$,
- $RA_S \succ RA_J \succ OS$ if $Z^{pm} \geq \hat{Z}$ and thus $L^{pm}_0 \geq \hat{L}^{pm}_0$.

Case c: $B \geq \widehat{\widehat{B}}$

Suppose that $B \geq \widehat{\widehat{B}}$. Then (15) and (26) implies $Z^*_{RA} > Z^*_{OS} > \theta Y$.

1. For $Z^{pm} \leq Z^*_{OS}$ the transfer payment under the OS-scheme satisfies $\max\{Z^*_{OS}, Z^{pm}\} = Z^*_{OS}$ and the transfer payment under the RA-schemes satisfies $\max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}, Z^{pm}\} = \max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\}$. Therefore, like in Proposition 3, we obtain $RA_S \succ RA_J \succeq OS$.

2. For $Z^{pm} > Z^*_{OS}$, it follows from (49) and (51) in conjunction with (28) that

$$E[C^{min}_{OS}] = E[C_{OS}(Z^{pm})] > E[C_{OS}(Z^*_{OS})] > 0 \tag{58}$$

$$E[C^{min}_{RA_J}] = \begin{cases} E[C_{RA_J}(\max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\})] & \text{if} \quad Z^{pm} \leq \max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\} \\ E[C_{RA_J}(Z^{pm})] & \text{if} \quad Z^{pm} > \max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\} \end{cases}. \tag{59}$$

   Note that (50) and (58) directly lead to $E[C^{min}_{OS}] > E[C^{min}_{RA_S}]$ and thus $RA_S \succ OS$. To derive the preference order with respect to the OS-scheme and the RA_J-scheme for the case $Z^{pm} > Z^*_{OS}$, it is useful to distinguish between different levels of Z^{pm}.

   (a) Suppose that $Z^{pm} \leq \max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\}$. Then, we have

   $$E[C^{min}_{OS}] > E[C_{OS}(Z^*_{OS})] \geq E[C_{RA_J}(\max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\})] = E[C^{min}_{RA_J}].$$

   The first (in)equality follows from (58), the second follows from Proposition 3 and the third follows from (59). Accordingly, we obtain $RA_J \succeq OS$ in this case.

   (b) Suppose that $Z^{pm} > \max\{\overline{Z}, Z^*_{RA}\}$. Then, we have

   $$E[C^{min}_{OS}] = E[C_{OS}(Z^{pm})] \geq E[C_{RA_J}(Z^{pm})] = E[C^{min}_{RA_J}].$$

   Again, the first (in)equality follows from (58), the second follows from Proposition 3 and the third follows from (59). Accordingly, we obtain $RA_J \succeq OS$ in this case.

   Consequently, we can conclude that $RA_S \succ RA_J \succeq OS$.

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