

Chapter 2.1
Negotiation costs



Outline

- Problem and model assumptions
- Direct lending only
- Bank lending only
- Direct and bank lending
- Market structure
- Summary

■ Problem and model assumptions

■ Direct lending only

■ Bank lending only

■ Direct and bank lending

■ Market structure

■ Summary

Cost advantage of banks

- ▶ Direct negotiations between borrowers and lenders on loan conditions are costly
- ▶ Banks have experience and standardised contracts, reducing these negotiation costs
- ▶ This affects loans and deposits, which are loans to banks

Nash bargaining

- ▶ Negotiating between borrowers and lenders directly imposes costs C , even if not successful
- ▶ Negotiation between banks and borrowers/depositors are free
- ▶ All participants engage in Nash bargaining, limited to the interest rates for simplicity
- ▶ If a bank and direct lending are both available, the other lending channel can be used if a negotiation fails

- Problem and model assumptions
- Direct lending only
- Bank lending only
- Direct and bank lending
- Market structure
- Summary

Profit functions

- ▶ Company and 'depositor' face negotiation costs of C each
- ▶ Investment of company succeeds with probability π , yields a return R if successful and pays a loan rate r_C
- ▶ Company profits: $\hat{\Pi}_C = \pi ((1 + R) L - (1 + r_C) L) - C$
- ▶ Depositors obtain the loan with interest if the investment is successful and have an outlay of the initial loan
- ▶ Depositor profits: $\hat{\Pi}_D = \pi(1 + r_C) L - L - C$

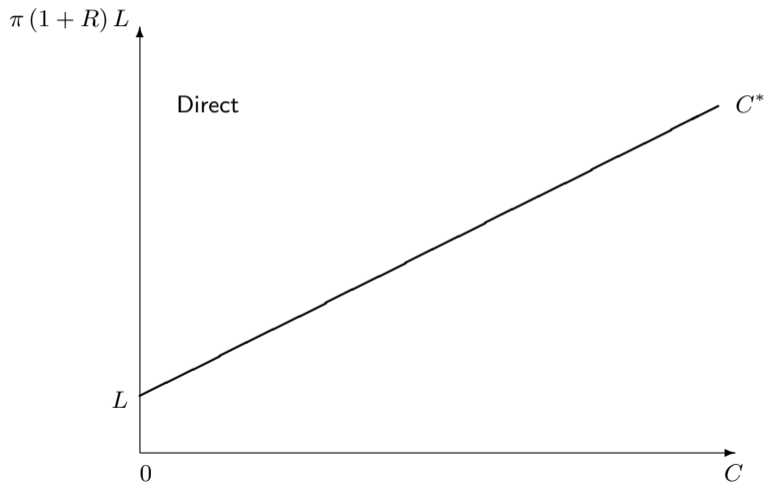
Optimal loan rate

- ▶ The outside option of companies and depositors is to not enter an agreement, just incurring costs C
- ▶ Nash bargaining maximizes $\mathcal{L} = (\hat{\Pi}_C + C) (\hat{\Pi}_D + C)$
- ▶ This gives $\hat{\Pi}_D = \hat{\Pi}_C$
- ▶ Loan rate fulfilling this: $\pi (1 + r_C) L = \frac{1}{2} (\pi (1 + R) + 1) L$

Profits of company and depositor

- ▶ The profits are then given by $\hat{\Pi}_C = \hat{\Pi}_D = \frac{1}{2} (\pi (1 + R) - 1) L - C$
 - ▶ To demand a loan and be willing to lend, we need $\hat{\Pi}_C = \hat{\Pi}_D \geq 0$
- $\Rightarrow C \leq C^* = \frac{1}{2} (\pi (1 + R) - 1) L$
- ▶ A direct loan is feasible if the negotiation costs are not too high

Feasibility of direct lending



- Problem and model assumptions
- Direct lending only
- Bank lending only**
- Direct and bank lending
- Market structure
- Summary

Profit functions

- ▶ Bank lending does not involve any negotiation costs
- ▶ Company and depositor profits are as before, without negotiation costs and (different) lending rate r_L
- ▶ Company profits: $\Pi_C = \pi ((1 + R) L - (1 + r_L) L)$
- ▶ Depositor profits: $\Pi_D = \pi (1 + r_D) L - L$
- ▶ Banks can only repay deposits if the loan is repaid:
 $\Pi_B = \pi ((1 + r_L) L - (1 + r_D) L)$

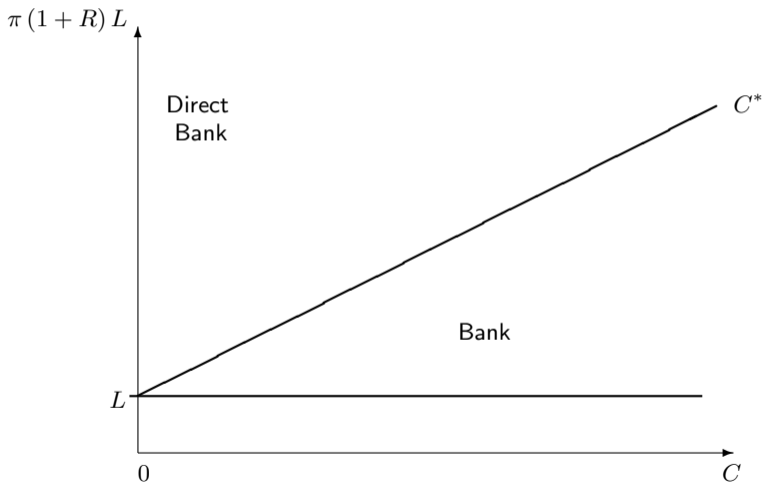
Nash bargaining

- ▶ Bargaining happens between the bank/company and bank/depositor
- ▶ If the parties do not agree, they do not face any costs
- ▶ Bank/company bargaining: $\mathcal{L} = \Pi_B \Pi_D$
- ▶ Bank/depositor bargaining: $\mathcal{L} = \Pi_B \Pi_C$

Optimal loan and deposit rates

- ▶ The profits are $\Pi_B = \Pi_C = \Pi_D$
- ⇒ Loan rate: $\pi (1 + r_L) L = \frac{2}{3}\pi (1 + R) + \frac{1}{3}$
Deposit rate: $\pi (1 + r_D) L = \frac{1}{3}\pi (1 + R) + \frac{2}{3}$
- ⇒ Profits: $\Pi_B = \Pi_C = \Pi_D = \frac{1}{3} (\pi (1 + R) - 1) L$
- ▶ Bank lending is only feasible if $\Pi_B = \Pi_C = \Pi_D \geq 0$
- ⇒ $\pi (1 + R) L \geq L$

Feasibility of bank lending



- Problem and model assumptions
- Direct lending only
- Bank lending only
- Direct and bank lending**
- Market structure
- Summary

Outside options

- ▶ If direct and bank lending is available, a breakdown in negotiations can still lead to a loan agreement
- ▶ If depositors and lenders do not agree a contract with the bank, they can negotiate directly
- ▶ In this case banks have no outside option

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L} = \Pi_B \left(\Pi_D - \hat{\Pi}_D \right)$$

- ▶ If negotiating directly, the outside option is to negotiate with a bank

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L} = \Pi_B \left(\Pi_C - \hat{\Pi}_C \right)$$

Optimal loan, deposit and direct lending rates

- ▶ Optimization yields $\Pi_C - \hat{\Pi}_C = \Pi_D - \hat{\Pi}_D = \Pi_B$
- ⇒ Loan rate: $\pi (1 + r_L) L = \pi (1 + r_D) L + \frac{2}{3}C$
- Direct lending rate: $\pi (1 + r_C) L = \pi (1 + r_D) L + \frac{1}{3}C$
- ⇒ The deposit rate can be freely chosen

Profits of market participants

- ▶ $\Pi_B = \frac{2}{3}C > 0$: banks are always willing to lend
- ▶ $\Pi_D = \pi(1 + r_D)L - L$
- ▶ $\Pi_C = \pi(1 + R)L - \pi(1 + r_D)L - \frac{2}{3}C$
- ▶ $\hat{\Pi}_D = \Pi_D - \frac{2}{3}C < \Pi_D$: depositors prefer banks
- ▶ $\hat{\Pi}_C = \Pi_C - \frac{2}{3}C < \Pi_C$: companies prefer banks
- ▶ The cost advantage of banks is $2C$, which is distributed between banks and their customers

Participating in the market

▶ Depositor prefer bank lending if $\Pi_D \geq 0$

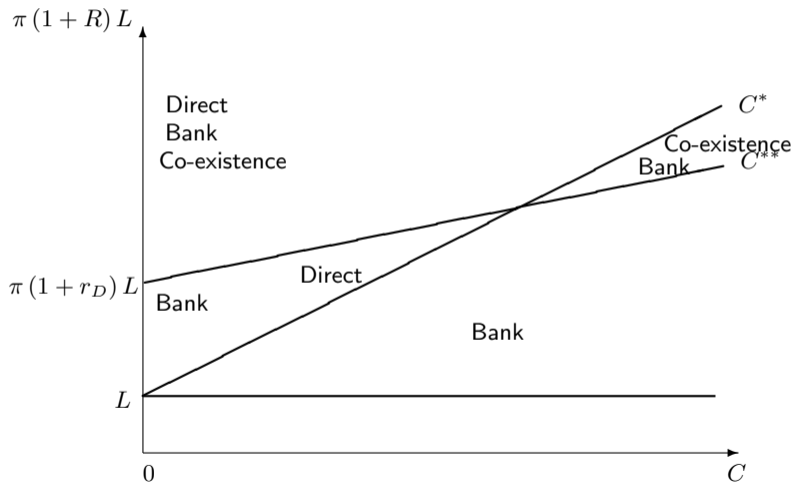
$$\Rightarrow \pi (1 + r_D) L \geq L$$

▶ Companies prefer bank lending if $\Pi_C \geq 0$

$$\Rightarrow C \leq C^{**} = \frac{3}{2} (\pi (1 + R) L - \pi (1 + r_D) L)$$

▶ Bank lending is feasible if the costs are not too high

Feasibility of co-existence of direct and bank loans

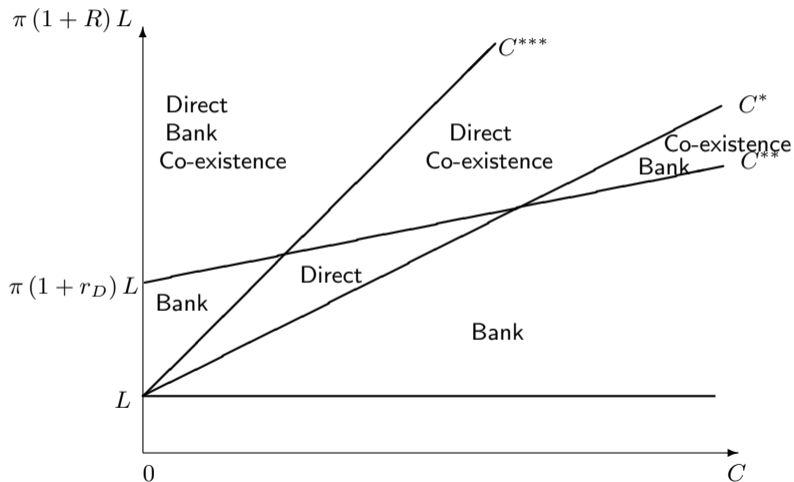


- Problem and model assumptions
- Direct lending only
- Bank lending only
- Direct and bank lending
- Market structure**
- Summary

Comparing direct and bank lending

- ▶ Bank lending only is preferred over direct lending only if $\Pi_C = \Pi_D \geq \hat{\Pi}_C = \hat{\Pi}_D$
- ⇒ $C \leq C^{***} = \frac{1}{6} (\pi (1 + R) - 1) L$
- ▶ Bank lending is preferred if negotiation costs are not too high

Preferred market structure



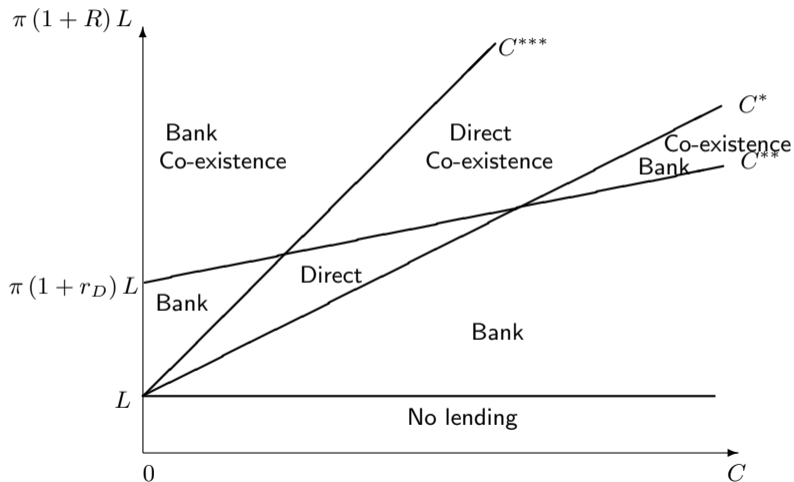
Preferred direct lending

- ▶ Direct lending is preferred to the co-existence of bank and direct lending if the profits to depositors and companies are higher
- ▶ Depositors: $\frac{1}{2} (\pi (1 + R) - 1) L - C \geq \pi (1 + r_D) L - L$
 $\Rightarrow \pi (1 + r_D) L \leq \frac{1}{2} (\pi (1 + R) + 1) L - C$
- ▶ Companies: $\frac{1}{2} (\pi (1 + R) - 1) L - C \geq \pi (1 + R) L - \pi (1 + r_D) L - \frac{2}{3} C$
 $\Rightarrow \pi (1 + r_D) L \geq \frac{1}{2} \pi (1 + R) L + \frac{1}{2} L + \frac{1}{3} C$
- ▶ These conditions are incompatible
- ▶ Companies and lenders have a conflict of interest on whether to prefer direct lending or the co-existence of direct and bank lending

Preferred bank lending

- ▶ Bank lending is preferred to the co-existence of bank and direct lending if the profits to depositors and companies are higher
- ▶ Depositors: $\frac{1}{3} (\pi (1 + R) - 1) L \geq \pi (1 + r_D) L - L$
 $\Rightarrow \pi (1 + r_D) L \leq \frac{1}{3} \pi (1 + R) L + \frac{2}{3} L$
- ▶ Companies: $\frac{1}{3} (\pi (1 + R) - 1) L \geq \pi (1 + R) L - \pi (1 + r_D) L - \frac{2}{3} C$
 $\Rightarrow \pi (1 + r_D) L \geq \frac{2}{3} \pi (1 + R) L + \frac{1}{3} L - \frac{2}{3} C$
- ▶ These conditions are compatible if $C \geq C^*$ and bank lending will be preferred
- ▶ If $C < C^*$, a conflict of interest between companies and depositors emerges on the optimal market structure

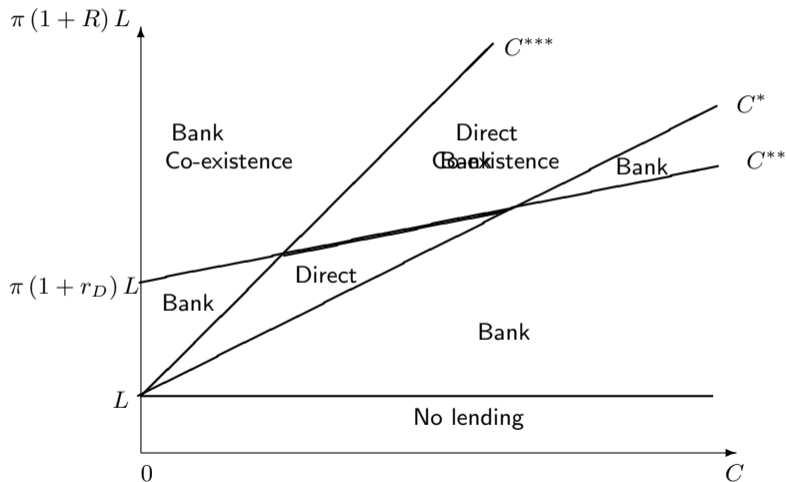
Preferred market structure of depositors and companies



Widespread preference for banks

- ▶ High negotiation costs will favour bank lending over direct lending
- ▶ With lower negotiation costs, direct lending is preferred as in this case banks are not extracting some of the surplus
- ▶ Very low negotiation costs favour bank lending again as banks cannot extract much profits, but reduce negotiation costs
- ▶ High investment returns would allow banks to extract high profits, this is mitigated by the co-existence of bank and direct lending, which increases competition through profitable outside options
- ▶ If direct and bank lending co-exist, bank lending will be chosen, making direct lending less commonly observed than bank lending

Observed lending



- Problem and model assumptions
- Direct lending only
- Bank lending only
- Direct and bank lending
- Market structure
- Summary**

Dominance of bank lending

- ▶ Depositors and companies favour bank lending in most cases
- ▶ The reduction in negotiation costs provides banks with an inherent advantage, even if extracting some of the surplus generated
- ▶ Direct lending is preferred only for companies if negotiation costs are neither high nor low
- ▶ High investment returns make bank lending feasible even for mid-range negotiation costs

Advantage of banks

- ▶ The expertise and economies of scale by banks in negotiating loan agreements makes their existence preferable to direct lending in most cases
- ▶ This advantage of banks make them specialist intermediaries that benefit the economy
- ▶ The advantages are limited by their ability to extract a surplus from depositors and companies, such that in some cases direct lending is preferred



This presentation is based on
Andreas Krause: Theoretical Foundations of Banking, 2025

Copyright © by Andreas Krause

Picture credits:

Cover: Bernard Spragg, NZ from Christchurch, New Zealand, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bank_of_China_Hong_Kong_\(9532283389\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bank_of_China_Hong_Kong_(9532283389).jpg)

Back: Florian Lindner, CC BY 2.5 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5> via Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hong_Kong_Panorama_at_night.jpg

Andreas Krause
Department of Economics
University of Bath
Claverton Down
Bath BA2 7AY
United Kingdom

E-mail: mnsak@bath.ac.uk