

Markets Reveal Information

- Markets can aggregate information about buyers (valuations) and sellers (costs)
 - High valuation (> market price) buyers buy
 - Low cost (< market price) sellers sell
- Outcome of Trade is "Efficient"
 - Those who need it most would receive it

Markets Reveal Information

This is also true for items with uncertainty
Stocks, antiques, iPods on eBay, permits, etc.

• The Efficient Market Hypothesis

- All information (about a stock/item) is already contained in the market price
- Revealing information does not change prices

Markets Reveal Information

• Why? Because of "Non-Arbitrage":

- If I really think the stock price is too low based on my information, I should buy like crazy
- If I really think the stock price is too high, I should sell (or "short") like crazy
- But these "crazy" trading will affect prices
 - Buying like crazy would drive the price up
 - Selling like crazy would drive the price down

Markets Reveal Information

- The price change reveals your private information
- In equilibrium, the final price reveals everyone's private information
- As if the market knows all information

Prediction Markets Markets can aggregate information about buyers (valuations) and sellers (costs) Efficient Market Hypothesis Can markets gather other information? EX: Tradable permit markets gather private information about pollution reduction costs Yes, by creating markets of "new items" What are these items?

Futures about an event!

Prediction Markets



- Winner-take-all: (~看好度)
 - H stock: Pay \$100 if Frank Hsieh wins the Taiwan presidential election, \$0 otherwise.
 - M stock: Pay \$100 if Ying-Jeou Ma wins the Taiwan presidential election, \$0 otherwise.
- Vote share markets: (~支持度)
 - HVS: Pay \$y if Frank Hsieh earns y% of the votes in the Taiwan presidential election
 - MVS: Pay \$z if Ying-Jeou Ma earns z% of the votes in the Taiwan presidential election

What Do These Predict?

- Winner-take-all: (Probability of winning)
 - If H stock has price \$10, but you believe the chances of Hsieh winning is 70%, you should buy a lot of H stock (since they are a bargain)
- Vote share:
 - If MVS has a price of \$40, but you believe Ma would win 60% of the votes, you should buy a lot of MVS (since they are a bargain)

Better Than the Polls?

- · Polls do not sample the population evenly
- Some people are not reachable by phone
- Some people decline to answer
- Polls weight all valid samples equally
 Some know more information than others
- "Good" polls try to correct for these biases
 Most Taiwan polls don't, and are way off
- But these corrections are ad hoc

Better Than the Polls?

- Prediction markets do not sample the population either, but
- Prediction markets encourage those who have more information to participate
 - You will earn more if you are "right" and buy more M stocks and HVS
- Prices aggregate information, and put more weight on "better information"

Prediction Markets in the World



- Iowa Electronic Market: (academic, real money with a limit of US\$500)
- http://www.biz.uiowa.edu/iem/
- TradeSports-InTrade: (in Ireland; real money)
- <u>http://www.tradesports.com/</u>
- Hollywood Stock Exchange:
- (movie box office; play money)
- http://www.hsx.com/



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Prediction Markets in Taiwan

- Taiwan Political Exchange:
- http://socioecono.phys.sinica.edu.tw/
- NCCU Prediction Market Center:
- <u>http://nccupm.wordpress.com/</u>
- 未來事件交易所 (Swarchy)
- http://nccu.swarchy.org/
- http://www.xfuture.org
- Note: Unfortunately, all use play money.







Are These Prediction Accurate?



- Possible...
- What about "319"?
- Unfortunately, Iowa Electronic Market did not host Taiwan's 2004 election
- But, Taiwan Political Exchange did!
 Reminder: This is a play money market...



What Does the Market Tell Us?

- Chen-Lu were leading even BEFORE 319.
- 319 boosted turn-out from both camps
- Overall effect on winning is indetermined
 Markets show Chen-Lu would win anyway
- NOTE: This is a play marketWhat are possible problems with play money?
- How about other events? 2004 Legislation:



What Does the Market Tell Us?

- "Pan-Green will pass a Half (泛綠過半)" was just a myth
- DPP + TSU was never significantly > 50%
- More recently, you can watch Taipei and Kaohsiung's mayoral elections in 2006:















2010年2月 表一、2010年2月	立委補選(26 日四席立委補	长來事件交 選各候選人的當:	易所 選機率預測
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			吳餘東(4.8)
新竹縣	彭紹瑾(43.7)	鄭永堂(57.4)*	
嘉義縣第二選區	陳明文(97.0)*	林德瑞(2.4)	-
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未來	事件交易所
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各位會員與關心未來事件交易所的大眾,大	家好:
「未來事件交易所」是國立政治大學 預 謝各位會員過去四年來參與本交易所的預測 過去四年,「未來事件交易所的問測過 也成為國內外媒體關注的焦點。所有會員都	测市場研究中心所創立的一個學術研究平台,非常感 J,讓我們共同發揮集體智慧、掌握未來趨勢與風險。 22億4千萬口的交易量,創造出許多輝煌的預測成果, 5是創造這項奇蹟的幕後英雄。
然而,學術研究的資源畢竟相當有限, 所」即將公司化。未來將由政治大學預測市 作開發新平台,擴大各類合約議題與交易功 增進人類福祉。	為了讓交易所永續發展與擴大運用,「未來事件交易 場研究中心與「未來事件交易股份有限公司」共同合 1能,屆時歡迎各位會員再度參與,發揮眾人的智慧、
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Are Prediction Markets Accurate?

- Markets only "aggregate" information of all participating traders
 - Participation barriers matters
 - Credit constraints
 - Short-selling restrictions
- Reaction speed also affects the extent prices reflect information
 - Liquidity matters

