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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Health Insurance Choice and Risk Preferences under Cumulative Prospect Theory - An Experiment

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Highlights

- Analysis of how consumers choose insurance contracts when using a measure of decision quality based on individual risk preferences.
- We allow for different latent decision making theories, i.e. Cumulative Prospect Theory and Expected Utility Theory, and find that the vast majority are Cumulative Prospect Theory types.
- Only about 14% of all participants show low decision quality.
- One explanation for low decision quality might be the application of heuristics.

Abstract:

We investigate how consumers choose insurance contracts when using a measure of decision quality based on individual risk preferences. For this, we use a laboratory experiment with a sequential design. First, subjects face insurance choices. Then, we elicit risk preferences. Allowing for different latent decision making theories, i.e. Cumulative Prospect Theory and Expected Utility Theory, we find that the vast majority are Cumulative Prospect Theory types.

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