E: Risk aversion, part 2

Renter's insurance example from part 1

Initial cash:	\$1000
States:	R = robbed
	S = safe
Risk of R:	10%
Insurance premium:	\$120
Ex post utility:	$u = c_i^{0.5}$



EV with and without insurance: $EV_{INS} = 1000 - 120 = 880$ $EV_{No} = 0.9 * 1000 + 0.1 * 0 = 900$

• Risk neutral agent would not buy

Expected utility (EU) with and without insurance: $EU_{INS} = 29.7$ No $EU_{No} = 28.5$

• Risk averse agent **would** buy

Extending the analysis:

Certainty equivalent (CE) of risk without insurance:

 $1 * (CE)^{0.5} = EU_{No}$ $CE^{0.5} = 28.5$ CE = 810

- EV of risk is \$900
- Renter would be equally happy with \$810 and no risk
- Loss of \$900 \$810 = \$90 due to risk bearing

Graphing relationship between EV and EU:



Gap between EV and CE depends on curvature:

- Larger: when *u* is more curved
- Smaller: when *u* is less curved and closer to linear
- Larger curvature: Larger cost of risk bearing

Difference between EV and CE:

Potential gains from risk-sharing between agents

- Risk averse agents give up some of the EV
- Risk neutral agents take on some of the risk