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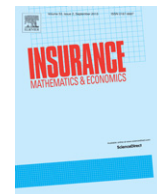
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Efficient risk allocation within a non-life insurance group under Solvency II Regime



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ABSTRACT

Intra-group transfers are risk management tools that are usually widely used to optimise the risk position of an insurance group. In this paper, it is shown that premium and liability transfers could be optimally made in such a way as to reduce the amount of Technical Provisions and Minimum Capital Requirement for the entire insurance conglomerate. These levels of required capital represent the minimal amount that needs to be held by the insurance group without regulator intervention, according to the Solvency II regulation. We assume that only proportional risk transfers are feasible, since such transfers are not difficult to administer for a large scaled insurance group, as is always the case. In addition, any risk shifting should be made for commercial purposes in order to be considered acceptable by the local regulators that impose restrictions on how much the assets within an insurance group are fungible. Our numerical examples illustrate the efficiency of the optimal proportional risk transfers which can easily be implemented, in terms of computation, in any well-known solver even for an insurance conglomerate with many subsidiaries. We found that our proposed optimal proportional allocations are more beneficial for large insurance group, since the relative reduction in capital requirement tends to be small, whereas the gain in absolute terms is quite significant for large scaled insurance group.

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1. Introduction

An *insurance group (IG)* is composed of multiple legal entities, also known as *insurance undertakings (IU's)*, that may operate under different regulation regimes. Diversification across an IG represents a risk management tool, often used to reduce the risk exposures, and consequently the required level of capital within the organisation. The risk exposures of different entities will in general not be perfectly positively correlated, and thus some *group level diversification* is observed (see Keller, 2007). On the other hand, assets and liabilities are not pooled across entities, since there are limits to the cross-subsidy (especially when conceptually different regulatory requirements are in place for various IU's), as well as the capital fungibility, within the group. Nonetheless, the

risk and capital requirements of individual entities can be reduced, through a web of capital and risk transfer arrangements across entities. This capital efficiency can be understood as a result of *down-streaming of diversification* (see Keller, 2007).

The complexity of group legal structures and intra-group risk transfers, with entities being potentially subject to different regulatory regimes, poses a major challenge for regulators, since it requires producing equivalence assessments between these regimes. For example, the EU and Swiss regulatory requirements are equivalent (see EIOPA, 2011), but no agreement has been achieved between these two regulatory bodies and the North American regulators. Therefore, it is not surprising that studying this problem has become a keen interest for practitioners and academics. The work of Filipović and Kupper (2008) investigates optimal risk transfers in a framework where a finite set of risk transfer instruments is available and the capital requirements of individual entities are calculated via convex risk measures. The paper of Gatzert and Schmeiser (2011) studies the impact of group diversification on shareholder value, considering a variety of group structures and capital and risk transfer instruments, while also offering a thorough literature review of diversification in financial

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conglomerates. Schlütter and Gründl (2012) assess the impact of group building on policyholder welfare. In their analysis, it is assumed that a particular type of rational risk transfer arrangement is enforced, while the group sets premium and equity targets in order to maximise shareholder value, allowing for the impact of entities' default risk on insurance demand. A recent paper of Asimit et al. (2013) investigates the optimal intra-group transfer in an IG consisting of two IU's, where liabilities are assumed to be perfect positively associated.

An ambitious project, started more than a decade ago, has been initiated in order to harmonise the regulatory environment within the European Union (EU) insurance industry, which is known as *Solvency II*. This unified methodology applies to all insurance players that operate in the EU insurance market and its legal framework is specified in European Commission (2009). The actual implementation of Solvency II is expected to be put in practice in several years, and in the meantime, various *Quantitative Impact Studies* (QIS) have been performed. These QIS's were meant to collect feedback from various insurance and reinsurance companies related to the constantly augmented Solvency II specifications. The most recent one, also known as *QIS 5* (see European Commission, 2010), summarises the most probable recommendations that will later lead to the implementation of Solvency II.

In this paper, the optimal risk transfer within an EU non-life IG is considered. That is, all entities are located within EU or an equivalence assessment has been approved for the IU's outside this economic region. In other words, the regulatory regime designed within the Solvency II equally applies to the entire IG. Since there are significant regulatory differences between life and non-life businesses, it is assumed that the IG is purely a non-life insurance one. Note that some non-life businesses, such as health insurance or workers' compensation, are similar in nature to life insurance activities from the regulatory point of view, and therefore the capital requirements follow the life insurance evaluation. These hybrid businesses are excluded from our analysis, so that we could better understand the risk transfer effects within a pure non-life IG.

Optimising the risk intra-group transfers represents a practical problem that has not been discussed much in the framework of Solvency II, but there exists a rich literature on similar problems that exhibit a reduced level of complexity. One research stream is the optimal reinsurance contract problem that was first discussed by Borch (1960) and Arrow (1963) who consider the objectives of minimising the variance of the insurer's retained risk and maximising the expected utility of the insurer's final wealth, respectively. Alternative decision criteria have been investigated by many researchers (see for example, Van Heerwaarden et al., 1989, Young, 1999, Verlaak and Beirlant, 2003, Kaluszka and Okolewski, 2008, Guerra and Centeno, 2008 etc.). Decisions based on *Value-at-risk* (*VaR*) and *Conditional Value-at-risk* (*CVaR*) are considered by Cai et al. (2008), Cheung (2010) and Chi and Tan (2011). A recent paper of Asimit et al. (2015) identifies the optimal reinsurance contract by taking into account the Solvency II capital requirements. Note that the optimal reinsurance approach finds the ideal reinsurance contract between two insurance players, namely, insurer and reinsurer, where the risk shifting is usually initiated by the insurer in order to meet the solvency targets. A more cooperative approach is the so-called optimal risk allocation problem that has a long history. Under this setting, the players have their own targets and try to efficiently share their risks in a way that is mutual beneficiary to all risk holders, i.e. finding the Pareto optimal risk transfers. The vast literature on this topic includes Landsberger and Meilijson (1994), Ludkovski and Young (2009), Kiesel and Rüschemdorf (2009, 2010), Carlier et al. (2012) etc. An excellent review on this topic has appeared in Rüschemdorf (2013).

In summary, the main aim of this paper is to identify the optimal risk allocation within a non-life IG such that the total IG minimum level of capital is reduced as much as possible. The paper is organised as follows: Section 2 provides the necessary background on Solvency II and describes our setting, while Section 3 contains a case study that numerically illustrates our previous findings; the main conclusions of the paper are summarised in Section 4.

2. Capital requirements model

The main purpose of the paper is to explain how an IG may efficiently share their various risk portfolios in order to reduce the capital requirements. The chosen regulatory environment is the Solvency II Regime that applies to a large economic area and therefore, it is likely to consider the problem of capital efficiency of an insurance conglomerate. In Section 3, we will consider the economic value captured by the IG when implementing such risk management tools. In order to define the ultimate objective function that we need to optimise, we need to describe the capital requirements model used in this paper, which is a replication of the current Solvency II recommendations, as defined in previous QIS's such as QIS4 (see European Commission, 2008) and QIS5 (for example, see European Commission, 2010). Recall that QIS5 provides a significant augmentation to QIS4, not only on the parameter values of the considered proxy models, but there are conceptual differences in implementing the Solvency II recommendations.

We assume that we have an IG consisting of n IU's that operates under the Solvency II Regime and each IU holds m lines of business (*LOB's*). There are twelve *LOB's* recognised within Solvency II, which are non-life insurance, while three other *LOB's* are non-life insurance, but the corresponding capital requirements follow the life insurance evaluation. The capital requirements are set up for a finite time horizon, which is one year for Solvency II. The EU regulatory regime requires capital to be put aside in order to cover the *technical provisions* (*TP*) and additional capital. The *TP's* are evaluated per *LOB*, and each of them consists of *best estimate* (*BE*) of the liabilities and its *risk margin* (*RM*) (see for example, CEIOPS, 2010). The additional capital is defined as *Minimum Capital Requirement* (*MCR*) and *Solvency Capital Requirement* (*SCR*). *MCR* is viewed as the lower bound of the *SCR*, and immediate regulatory intervention is in force once an IU holds capital at levels lower than its *MCR*. The *SCR* calculations within an IG are very complex, and lead to individual calculations for stand-alone IU's and IG calculations by taking into account the consolidated balance sheet (where the risk transfers cannot be used as a risk management tool), but each IU should calculate their very own *SCR*, called the individual *SCR*. The *MCR* calculations are much simpler, and at a group level, the total *MCR* equals to the sum of all *MCR's*. Besides the fact that *MCR* and *SCR* are calculated in a different manner, the required own funds to cover these levels of capital should satisfy certain requirements. As expected, the requirements are more stringent for the assets that are allowed to reach the *MCR* level than the *SCR* level.

As explained above, the IG's objective is to reduce as much as possible the total amount of *TP* and *MCR* by keeping the current global business volume intact. This may be achieved by considering risk transfers among the IU's, which should be acceptable to the local regulators. One major impediment is that assets are not fully fungible and not surprisingly, a risk transfer is considered acceptable to a local regulator as long as it has a commercial purpose. There are many ways of transferring the future premiums and liabilities within different IU's, but it is obvious that proportional allocations would be the easiest to implement from the administrative point of view and at the same time to become acceptable for various local regulators. Therefore, the set of feasible transfers assumed in this paper consists of transferring premiums

and future liabilities in the same proportion. That is, let x_{ijk} be the proportion of business volume, pertaining to the k th LOB, received by the i th IU from the j th IU. The case in which $i = j$ should be understood as the remaining business held by the j th IU. Clearly,

$$\sum_{i=1}^n x_{ijk} = 1, \quad x_{ijk} \geq 0, \quad \text{for all } 1 \leq i \leq n, \quad 1 \leq k \leq m.$$

In addition, it is assumed that all transfers are made at the same time.

We now explain the Solvency II terminology for calculating the three major capital requirements components: BE, RM and MCR. The first component is relatively simple, and each IU should report the BE's gross and net of "reinsurance". Since the BE represents the expected value of future liabilities, the IG's total amount of BE's remains the same on both calculation methods and more importantly, it is not sensitive to any kind of risk shifting. Consequently, our model may discard the BE contributions to the TP.

The most granular methodology is related to the RM calculation. Note that the RM's are evaluated without allowing any diversification between different LOB's of any particular IU, and therefore calculations are extremely simplified. In addition, RM calculations take into account only four sources of risk: *underwriting (UwR)*, *unavoidable market (UMR)*, *counterparty default (CDR)* and *operational (OpR)*. The calculations for the UwR risk include the *premium (PR)* and *reserve (RR)* risks.

Let RM_{ik} be the corresponding RM for the k th LOB of the i th IU. Recall that RM's are calculated per LOB, and the total RM for a given IU is given by summing the individual RM's (see CEIOPS, 2009, 2010). Therefore, the IG's total RM capital requirements becomes:

$$RM_{IG} := \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^m RM_{ik}. \tag{2.1}$$

Note that the calculations of OpR for a non-life IG is simplified to

$$SCR_{ik}^{OpR} := 0.03P_{-1,ik}^{gross} + \max \{0.03P_{-1,ik}^{gross} - 1.1P_{-2,ik}^{gross}, 0\},$$

where $P_{-1,ik}^{gross}$ and $P_{-2,ik}^{gross}$ are gross (of reinsurance and intra-group transfer) earned premium received by the i th IU for the k th LOB during the last year and year before last year, respectively. Note that the earned premiums are calculated in this paper via the accounting method due to its simplicity, especially when defining the net earned premiums needed for the PR calculations. Clearly, the OpR contribution to the capital requirements is evaluated gross of any risk transfer, and therefore, our optimisation problem may neglect this capital requirement component, which is not the case for the remaining four risks. Thus, after removing the OpR, the mathematical formulation for each RM_{ik} follows the *Cost-of-Capital* approach and is given by:

$$\lambda \left(SCR_{ik}^{UwR} + \frac{1+r}{2} (Dur_{ik}^{mod} - n_{ik}) (Dur_{ik}^{mod} - n_{ik} + 1) \Delta r_{n_{ik}} BE_{ik}^{net} + SCR_{ik}^{CDR} \right), \tag{2.2}$$

where

- (i) $\lambda = CoC/(1+r)$ is the adjustment coefficient with CoC and r being the Cost-of-Capital rate and annual risk-free rate, respectively;
- (ii) SCR_{ik}^{UwR} represents the current SCR for the k th LOB of the i th IU, excluding market risk and default for financial derivatives;
- (iii) Dur_{ik}^{mod} defines the modified duration of BE_{ik}^{net} ;
- (iv) n_{ik} is the longest duration of available risk-free financial instruments to cover the liabilities corresponding to the k th LOB of the i th IU;

- (v) $\Delta r_{n_{ik}}$ represents the absolute decrease of the risk-free interest for maturity n_{ik} under a downward stress scenario of the interest rate risk sub-module;
- (vi) BE_{ik}^{net} defines the net BE provisions for the claims outstanding in the k th LOB of the i th IU;
- (vii) SCR_{ik}^{CDR} is the current capital charge for the default risk within the k th LOB of all transfers made by the i th IU.

It is common sense to have that $Dur_{ik}^{mod} = Dur_k^{mod}$ for all $1 \leq k \leq n$, i.e. the modified duration depends only on the nature of the business rather than being geographically specific for similar insurance risks. Now, several recommendations have been made for calculating the previously-mentioned quantities. The first simplification is for computing SCR_{ik}^{UwR} , where only the PR and RR risks are taken into account. These risks are assumed to be LogNormal distributed with means P_{ik}^{net} and BE_{ik}^{net} , and coefficients of variation σ_{ik}^{PR} and σ_{ik}^{RR} , where

- (i) σ_{ik}^{PR} and σ_{ik}^{RR} represent the standard deviation for PR and RR, respectively, corresponding to the k th LOB of the i th IU, as defined by the Solvency II Standard Formula;
- (ii) P_{ik}^{net} is the net (of reinsurance and intra-group transfer) earned premium in the k th LOB of the i th IU during the forthcoming year.

Note that for a LogNormal random variable, Z , with mean μ and coefficient of variation σ , we have

$$VaR_p(Z) - E(Z) = \mu \left(\frac{\exp\{\Phi^{-1}(p)\sqrt{1+\sigma^2}\}}{\sqrt{1+\sigma^2}} - 1 \right),$$

where $VaR_p(Z)$ and $\Phi^{-1}(p)$ are the $p\%$ percentile of the distribution function of Z and standard normal, respectively. Denote

$$g(t) := \frac{\exp\{\Phi^{-1}(p)\sqrt{\log(1+t^2)}\}}{\sqrt{1+t^2}} - 1. \tag{2.3}$$

According to QIS5, $p = 99.5\%$ and

$$SCR_{ik}^{UwR} := \sqrt{\left(g(\sigma_{ik}^{PR})P_{ik}^{net}\right)^2 + \left(g(\sigma_{ik}^{RR})BE_{ik}^{net}\right)^2 + 2\alpha g(\sigma_{ik}^{PR})g(\sigma_{ik}^{RR})P_{ik}^{net}BE_{ik}^{net}}, \tag{2.4}$$

where α (usually is 0.5) represents the correlation coefficient between PR and RR, as defined by the Standard Formula. Market wide estimates for σ are shown to be between 5% and 22%, and therefore, a reasonable approximation, $g(\sigma) \approx 3\sigma$, has been proposed in QIS4 and QIS5, but we prefer to work with the formulation displayed in Eq. (2.4) in order to achieve a more accurate evaluation of the capital requirements. The general rule in Solvency II for the proportional evaluation of the risk leads to

$$P_{ik}^{net} := \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} P_{jk}^{gross} \quad \text{and} \quad BE_{ik}^{net} := \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} BE_{jk}^{gross}, \tag{2.5}$$

where P_{jk}^{gross} is the gross earned premium in the k th LOB of the j th IU during the forthcoming year before making any transfer. Note that diversification among LOB's or IU's is not allowed in the calculation of the RM's. In addition, $\sigma_{ik}^{PR} = \sigma_k^{PR}$ and $\sigma_{ik}^{RR} = \sigma_k^{RR}$ are assumed to be constant among all IU, and their tentative values are tabulated in Section 2 of European Commission (2010), but one should keep in mind that the calibration process is still under development, which is one of the scopes of each QIS.

The second term from relation (2.2) represents the contribution of the UMR, which is a simplification recommended in Section 2 of European Commission (2010). The same reference provides

guidance to calculating the regulatory CDR capital, which is defined for two classes of exposures. According to the Solvency II terminology, the intra-group transfers belong to the *class of type 1 exposures*. In addition, common practice suggests the same *probability of default (PD)* for all IU's, which is usually estimated from external ratings or based on the IG *solvency ratio (SR)* (i.e. the ratio between IG total own funds and capital requirements). Moreover, for regulation purposes, the IG needs to evaluate the *Loss Given Default (LGD)* for each subsidiary, where the LGD represents the loss of basic own funds which a subsidiary would incur if the another subsidiary or subsidiaries default. The LGD is amended by $1 - RecR$, where *RecR* represents the *recovery rate* of the IU, and the European Commission recommendations include that the *RecR*'s should be estimated based on the specific risk profile of each subsidiary. Thus, without loss of generality, it is further assumed that all LOB's of a single IU have the same *RecR*, but different values may arise among distinct IU's. Whenever robust estimation of the *RecR* is not possible, the recommendation is to use the 50% benchmark value. The capital requirements for type 1 exposures is recommended to be

$$SCR_{ik}^{CDR} := \begin{cases} 3\sqrt{V_{ik}}, & \sqrt{V_{ik}} \leq 5\% \sum_{j \neq i} LGD_{jk} \\ \min \left\{ \sum_{j \neq i} LGD_{jk}, 5\sqrt{V_{ik}} \right\}, & \sqrt{V_{ik}} > 5\% \sum_{j \neq i} LGD_{jk} \end{cases}$$

where V_{ik} and LGD_{jk} represent the variance of the loss distribution of the type 1 exposures and LGD in the i th LOB of the i th IU. This formulation may lead to arbitrage opportunities, which can be removed by considering the following reformulation:

$$SCR_{ik}^{CDR} := \min \left\{ \sum_{j \neq i} LGD_{jk}, l\sqrt{V_{ik}} \right\}, \tag{2.6}$$

where l is a constant.

The LGD_{jk} results from the potential loss in own funds due to PR and RR risks, and one needs to take advantage of the LogNormal assumption. It is not difficult to find that a LogNormal random variable, Z , with mean μ and coefficient of variation σ , satisfies

$$E\left(Z - VaR_p(Z) \mid Z > VaR_p(Z)\right) = \frac{\mu}{1-p} \Phi\left(\sqrt{\log(1+\sigma^2)} - \Phi^{-1}(p)\right) - VaR_p(Z),$$

where Φ is the distribution function of a standard normal random variable. Denote

$$h(t) := \frac{\Phi\left(\sqrt{\log(1+t^2)} - \Phi^{-1}(p)\right)}{1-p} - g(t) - 1, \tag{2.7}$$

where function g is defined in Eq. (2.3). Since the capital requirements are set at $VaR_{99.5\%}$ level, then we have

$$LGD_{ik} := (1 - RecR_i) \times \sqrt{\left(h(\sigma_{ik}^{PR})P_{ik}^{net}\right)^2 + \left(h(\sigma_{ik}^{RR})BE_{ik}^{net}\right)^2 + 2\alpha h(\sigma_{ik}^{PR})h(\sigma_{ik}^{RR})P_{ik}^{net} BE_{ik}^{net}}, \tag{2.8}$$

where once again $\alpha = 0.5$ and $p = 99.5\%$. As anticipated, $RecR_i$ represent the recovery rate corresponding to the i th IU.

The V_{ik} takes into account the default within the k th LOB of all other IU's, except for the i th IU. Due to the dependence between these default events, the evaluation of the variance V_{ik} should include the concomitant default events, which makes the calculations quite laborious if all concomitant default events are included. Since the PD for multiple IU at the same time decreases

significantly once the number of insolvent IU's increases, it is further assumed that no more than two concomitant default events may occur at the same time. Note that in these situations, we may aggregate the defaulted amounts if the assets are non-fungible, which is normally the case, unless a legally binded contract is in force (for further details, see Keller, 2007). Therefore, L_{ik} , the random loss in own funds for the k th LOB of the i th IU, is given by

$$L_{ik} := \begin{cases} LGD_{jk}, & \text{if only the } j\text{th IU defaults, } j \neq i \\ LGD_{j_1k} + LGD_{j_2k}, & \text{if only the } j_1\text{th} \\ & \text{and } j_2\text{th IU's default, } j_1 < j_2, j_1, j_2 \neq i. \end{cases}$$

The PD's do not vary among different IU's, and for this reason, we may denote p_1 and p_2 to be the PD of a single default only and concomitant default, respectively. Within QIS5, there are recommended values for the PD (single or concomitant) of an IU and are equal to $p_1 + p_2(n - 1)$. It is expected that the concomitant events are stochastically positively dependent, which implies that $PD^2 \leq p_2$. Thus, one may require to have $PD^2 \leq p_2 \leq PD/(n - 1)$. Simple calculations show that

$$E(L_{ik}) = p_1 \sum_{j \neq i} LGD_{jk} + p_2 \sum_{j_1 < j_2, j_1, j_2 \neq i} (LGD_{j_1k} + LGD_{j_2k}) = PD \sum_{j \neq i} LGD_{jk}$$

and

$$E(L_{ik}^2) = p_1 \sum_{j \neq i} LGD_{jk}^2 + p_2 \sum_{j_1 < j_2, j_1, j_2 \neq i} (LGD_{j_1k} + LGD_{j_2k})^2 = PD \sum_{j \neq i} LGD_{jk}^2 + 2p_2 \sum_{j_1 < j_2, j_1, j_2 \neq i} LGD_{j_1k} LGD_{j_2k} = p_2 \left(\sum_{j \neq i} LGD_{jk} \right)^2 + (PD - p_2) \sum_{j \neq i} LGD_{jk}^2.$$

Thus, the latter equations and (2.6) yield that

$$SCR_{ik}^{CDR} := \min \left\{ \sum_{j \neq i} LGD_{jk}, l \sqrt{(p_2 - PD^2) \left(\sum_{j \neq i} LGD_{jk} \right)^2 + (PD - p_2) \sum_{j \neq i} LGD_{jk}^2} \right\}.$$

It is worth mentioning that an IG that is financially stable may simplify the CDR calculations as follows:

$$SCR_{ik}^{CDR} = l \sqrt{(p_2 - PD^2) \left(\sum_{j \neq i} LGD_{jk} \right)^2 + (PD - p_2) \sum_{j \neq i} LGD_{jk}^2}. \tag{2.9}$$

Note that the positiveness of $PD - p_2$ implies that the above is true as long as $l^2 PD^2 - l^2 PD + 1 \geq 0$ or equivalently if $PD(1 - PD) \leq 1/l^2$. If $l = 3$ then the latter is satisfied whenever $PD \leq 12.73\%$, which is true, according to the QIS 5 recommendations (see European Commission, 2010), for an IG with a B rating or higher or any unrated IG (i.e. any possible SR satisfies our sufficient condition whenever the IG is unrated). Similarly, if $l = 5$ then we should have $PD \leq 4.17\%$, which is true for an IG with a BB rating or higher or a SR larger than 80% for an unrated IG. Consequently, the simplified formula from (2.9) can be utilised for an IG with a reasonable financial stability.

Finally, we need to define the MCR contribution to our objective function, i.e. the IG's total MCR, MCR_{IG} . As anticipated, the latter quantity is obtained by aggregating all MCR's:

$$MCR_{IG} := \sum_{i=1}^n MCR_i, \tag{2.10}$$

where MCR_i represents the individual MCR corresponding to the i th IU. Each MCR includes the linear MCR for pure non-life business and for non-life business similar to life business. Since we deal with a pure non-life IG, the second component is not present in this model. Therefore,

$$MCR_i := \sum_{k=1}^m \max\{\alpha_k BE_{ik}^{net}, \beta_k P_{-1,ik}^{net}\}, \tag{2.11}$$

where α_k and β_k are some constants, while $P_{-1,ik}^{net}$ represents the net (of reinsurance and intra-group transfer) written premiums within the k th LOB of the i th IU (for details, see Section 4 of European Commission, 2010). It is worth mentioning that each MCR is assumed to lie between 20% and 50% of the corresponding individual SCR, which has been confirmed by empirical evidence accumulated in the results of the QIS5 among the EU IG's, when the Standard formula of Solvency II was implemented. Finally, by putting together relations (2.5), (2.10) and (2.11), one may find that the total RM is given by:

$$MCR_{IG} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^m \max\left\{\alpha_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} BE_{jk}^{gross}, \beta_k P_{-1,ik}^{net}\right\}. \tag{2.12}$$

3. Numerical examples

In this section, we discuss the implementation of our optimisation problem and provide a numerical example to illustrate the effect of the proposed risk transfer methodology. First, we need to rewrite the optimisation problem such that the new formulation is implementable in any well-known optimisation software. For the sake of simplicity, the following notations are made for all $1 \leq i \leq n$ and $1 \leq k \leq m$:

$$\begin{aligned} a_{ik} &= P_{ik}^{gross}, & b_{ik} &= BE_{ik}^{gross}, \\ c_{ik} &= \lambda \left(\frac{1+r}{2} (d_k - n_{ik})(d_k - n_{ik} + 1) \Delta r_{n_{ik}} \right), & d_k &= Dur_k^{mod}, \\ e_1 &= l^2 (p_2 - PD^2), & e_2 &= l^2 (PD - p_2), & P_{ik} &= \beta_k P_{-1,ik}^{net}, \\ s_k &= \lambda g(\sigma_k^{PR}), & t_k &= \lambda g(\sigma_k^{RR}), \\ u_k &= \lambda h(\sigma_k^{PR}), & v_k &= \lambda h(\sigma_k^{RR}), \end{aligned}$$

where the function g and h are defined in (2.3) and (2.7). In addition, define $f(x, y) := \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + xy}$ and

$$F_{ik}(\mathbf{x}) := (1 - RecR_i) f\left(u_k \sum_{l=1}^n x_{ilk} a_{lk}, v_k \sum_{l=1}^n x_{ilk} b_{lk}\right).$$

Clearly, a combination of (2.1), (2.2), (2.4), (2.5), (2.8), (2.9) and (2.12) yield that our optimisation problem is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n \times m}} & \sum_{k=1}^m \sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ f\left(s_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} a_{jk}, t_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} b_{jk}\right) \right. \\ & + c_{ik} \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} b_{jk} + \max\left\{\alpha_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} b_{jk}, P_{ik}\right\} \\ & \left. + \min\left\{\sqrt{e_1 \left(\sum_{j \neq i} F_{jk}(\mathbf{x})\right)^2 + e_2 \sum_{j \neq i} F_{jk}^2(\mathbf{x}), \sum_{j \neq i} F_{jk}(\mathbf{x})}\right\} \right\} \\ \text{s.t. } & \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} = 1, x_{ijk} \geq 0 \text{ for all } 1 \leq i, j \leq n \text{ and } 1 \leq k \leq m. \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

The above unconstrained optimisation problem is economically sound if each IU has sufficient assets to cover its TP and MCR after

Table 3.1

The values of $\alpha_k, \beta_k, \sigma_k^{PR}, \sigma_k^{RR}$ and d_k , where the first four quantities are chosen as defined in QIS5.

k	LOB_k	α_k	β_k	σ_k^{PR}	σ_k^{RR}	d_k
1	Motor, third-party liability	12%	13%	10%	9.5%	2.3
2	Motor, other classes	13%	9%	7%	10%	1.86
3	Marine, aviation, transport	18%	22%	17%	14%	2.03
4	Fire and other property damage	14%	13%	10%	11%	1.56
5	Third-party liability	14%	20%	15%	11%	3.79
6	Credit and suretyship	25%	28%	21.5%	19%	2.72
7	Legal expenses	12%	9%	6.5%	9%	1.45
8	Assistance	14%	7%	5%	11%	1.75
9	Miscellaneous	20%	17%	13%	15%	3.03

the transfers have been made. Recall that for the sake of exposition, our model excludes the BE's and OpR contribution to the RM, since both are gross of any risk transfers. Therefore, let us denote by A_i the available assets held (before the risk transfers take place) by the i th IU, where the BE's and OpR contribution to the RM calculations are removed. A set of transfers is feasible if each IU holds sufficient own funds to cover the new portfolio of liabilities. Therefore, the optimisation problem from (3.1) should be augmented by adding the following set of inequality constraints:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=1}^m \left\{ f\left(s_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} a_{jk}, t_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} b_{jk}\right) \right. \\ & \quad + c_{ik} \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} b_{jk} + \max\left\{\alpha_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} b_{jk}, P_{ik}\right\} \\ & \quad \left. + \min\left\{\sqrt{e_1 \left(\sum_{j \neq i} F_{jk}(\mathbf{x})\right)^2 + e_2 \sum_{j \neq i} F_{jk}^2(\mathbf{x}), \sum_{j \neq i} F_{jk}(\mathbf{x})}\right\} \right\} \\ & \leq A_i + \sum_{j \neq i} \sum_{k=1}^m (x_{ijk} a_{jk} - x_{jik} a_{ik}), \quad \text{for all } 1 \leq i \leq n. \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

A detailed discussion on the convexity of the above objective function and constraints is presented in the Appendix, where we propose a reformulation of our optimisation problem as a Mixed Integer Nonlinear Programming (MINLP) problem. For numerical purposes, the optimal problem displayed in Eq. (A.2) from Appendix is implemented using the General Algebraic Modeling System (GAMS), a high performing solver which accommodates our setting very well. Table 3.1 provides the values for α 's, β 's and σ 's parameters as suggested in QIS5 (for details, see Sections 2 and 4 of European Commission, 2010). In addition, realistic values for d_k are also provided in Table 3.1, which have been chosen after consulting many UK based non-life insurance companies. Among the twelve pure non-life LOB's, we chose only nine, i.e. $m = 9$, since the other three refer to reinsurance, which without loss of generality are excluded from our model since our aim is to allocate efficiently the IG's assets and liabilities without reducing its overall business volume.

It is also assumed that the gross earned premiums for the forthcoming year and net written premiums in the previous year are the same for all LOB's and IU's, i.e. $P_{-1,ik}^{net} = a_{ik}$. In addition, the annual risk-free interest is 4%. As it can be seen in Table 3.1, the possible maximal maturity for the risk-free interest is three years. The values for Δr_n are suggested in Section 2 of European Commission (2010), where the downward stress scenarios are defined to a reduction in the annual risk-free interest of 75%, 65% and 56% for a maturity of one, two and three years, respectively. Thus, Δr_n equals to 3%, 2.6% and 2.24% for a maturity of one, two and three years, respectively. It is widely accepted that a value of 6% for CoC is the most appropriate choice, and thus, $\lambda = 6\%/1.04$.

Table 3.2
Sensible values of P^{gross} 's and BE^{gross} 's for all three IU's (figures are in millions).

k	LOB_k	P_{1k}^{gross}	P_{2k}^{gross}	P_{3k}^{gross}	BE_{1k}^{gross}	BE_{2k}^{gross}	BE_{3k}^{gross}
1	Motor, third-party liability	1015	1218	812	700	840	560
2	Motor, other classes	672	806.4	537.6	480	576	384
3	Marine, aviation, transport	29.4	35.28	23.52	21	25.2	16.8
4	Fire and other property damage	490	588	392	280	336	224
5	Third-party liability	558	669.6	446.4	360	432	288
6	Credit and suretyship	86.4	103.68	69.12	48	57.6	38.4
7	Legal expenses	28	33.6	22.4	20	24	16
8	Assistance	42	50.4	33.6	30	36	24
9	Miscellaneous	72.5	87	58	50	60	40

Our numerical examples assume an IG with three IU's, i.e. $n = 3$, and we report in Table 3.2 the best estimate of liabilities and earned premiums for each IU and LOB. The values for the first IU are chosen to be similar to those of Aviva Insurance Limited which can be found on their publicly available statement of solvency. For the second IU, the best estimates of liabilities are taken to be 20% higher, while for the third IU they are 20% lower; the corresponding security loadings necessary for premium calculations are kept constant for all LOB's. Note that the values for c_{ik} are computed via the formula from the beginning of this section by using $n_{ik} = \lfloor d_{ik} \rfloor$, for all $1 \leq i \leq n$ and $1 \leq k \leq m$. We consider a default probability of 0.05% and let $e_1 = 0.000624375$ and $e_2 = 0.009371875$. The total assets held by each IU is our last input and these values are: 1406.020, 1687.224 and 1124.816 (figures are in millions).

The optimisation problem (A.2) is run under two different scenarios depending on the values of the recovery rates. In the first case, we assume that all IU's have the same recovery rate of 0.5, while in the second case we assume that $RecR_1 = 0.5$, $RecR_2 = 0.6$ and $RecR_3 = 0.4$. The optimal solutions are displayed in Tables 3.3 and 3.4. It has been implicitly assumed that all IU's are already operating, so that the costs of opening a new business unit are not included in this analysis. Otherwise, obtaining geographic diversification by expanding the IG would need to take into account the emerging friction costs.

We notice that the optimal risk transfer solutions are very sensitive to the recovery rates of each IU. Although some of

the weights remain the same (see for example the risk transfer performed by the first IU for the first five LOB and for the last one), most of them change. More importantly, we can analyse the effect of these recovery rates by computing the gain from transferring the risk versus the no-transfer case. We can define this gain as the relative difference between the objective function evaluated based on the optimal solutions and the trivial solution (i.e. $x_{ijk} = 1$, for any $i = j$, and $x_{ijk} = 0$ for any $i \neq j$). Under the same recovery rate scenario, we notice that this difference is negligible, of around $5 \cdot 10^{-6}\%$. However, this is no longer the case for the second scenario where the relative difference is around 0.01%. Thus, we have constructed a numerical example in which we showed that the recovery rate is an important factor in choosing the optimal risk transfer between insurance undertakings, and the gain by taking such a strategy can be quite significant.

4. Conclusions

In this paper, we have translated the capital requirements for a non-life insurance company operating under Solvency II into mathematical form and then considered the problem of determining the efficient allocation of risk across LOB's by following the most recent Solvency II recommendations summarised in QIS5. The proportional allocation represented the set of feasible risk transfers, since the administration costs within the IG are very low and more importantly, due to the fact that proportional allocations are acceptable to local regulators. One may consider non-proportional allocations that have a commercial purpose in order to be feasible from the local regulators' point of view, but sharing the premiums in a "fair" manner is quite problematic and moreover, the administration costs may escalate. Therefore, non-proportional allocations may not be profitable to the IG and future investigations may clarify how beneficial it would be to an IG to allocate the risks in this fashion.

The model contains a large number of parameters representing the features of each IU and LOB. We have not shown the sensitivity of the results to changes in all of the parameters since the optimal allocation is not sensitive to many of the underlying parameters. However, our work to date suggests that a key parameter is the recovery rate assumed for each IU. For numerical purposes, we

Table 3.3
Optimal intra-group transferring proportions for the problem defined in (A.2) with three IU with the same recovery rates.

k	LOB_k	x_{11k}^*	x_{21k}^*	x_{31k}^*	x_{12k}^*	x_{22k}^*	x_{32k}^*	x_{13k}^*	x_{23k}^*	x_{33k}^*
1	Motor, third-party liability	0.10	0.90	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.33	0.33
2	Motor, other classes	0.00	0.46	0.54	0.81	0.00	0.19	0.00	1.00	0.00
3	Marine, aviation, transport	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.59	0.00	0.41	0.00	1.00	0.00
4	Fire and other property damage	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.00	0.48	0.00	1.00	0.00
5	Third-party liability	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.66	0.00	0.34	0.54	0.46	0.00
6	Credit and suretyship	0.94	0.00	0.06	0.03	0.00	0.97	0.00	0.52	0.48
7	Legal expenses	0.16	0.68	0.16	0.34	0.38	0.28	0.57	0.00	0.43
8	Assistance	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.72	0.00	1.00	0.00
9	Miscellaneous	0.59	0.41	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.82	0.81	0.19	0.00

Table 3.4
Optimal intra-group transferring proportions for the problem defined in (A.2) with three IU with different recovery rates.

k	LOB_k	x_{11k}^*	x_{21k}^*	x_{31k}^*	x_{12k}^*	x_{22k}^*	x_{32k}^*	x_{13k}^*	x_{23k}^*	x_{33k}^*
1	Motor, third-party liability	0.64	0.17	0.19	0.77	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.00	1.00
2	Motor, other classes	0.00	0.36	0.64	0.81	0.00	0.19	0.00	1.00	0.00
3	Marine, aviation, transport	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.81	0.50	0.00	0.50
4	Fire and other property damage	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.78	0.45	0.09	0.45
5	Third-party liability	0.43	0.00	0.57	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
6	Credit and suretyship	0.94	0.00	0.06	0.37	0.00	0.63	0.00	0.00	1.00
7	Legal expenses	0.00	0.74	0.26	0.35	0.30	0.35	0.79	0.00	0.21
8	Assistance	0.70	0.04	0.26	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
9	Miscellaneous	0.59	0.41	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.82	0.81	0.19	0.00

have illustrated the model with a simple, but realistic case study. This demonstrates that the optimisation routine does not lead to a trivial solution, so weights x_{ijk} are not equal to one. In the case study, we found that the optimal (total) capital requirements (included in our objective function) does not change much in relative terms (around 0.01%), but in absolute terms, the reduction in the level of required capital could be significant for a large IG.

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Appendix

First, we note that the function $f(\cdot)$ from (3.1) is a convex function on \mathfrak{H}^2 , and thus, any composition with an affine mapping for $f(\cdot)$ is a convex function as well, and in turn, the first term of the objective function from Eq. (3.1) is a convex function. In addition, the third term of the objective function from Eq. (3.1) is a convex function as well. Therefore, we deal with a convex optimisation problem as long as the simplified formulae from (2.9) holds. In other words, for an IG with a “good” credit risk, we can rewrite the optimisation problem as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) \in \mathfrak{H}^{n \times n \times m} \times \mathfrak{H}^{n \times m}} & \sum_{k=1}^m \sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ f \left(s_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} a_{jk}, t_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} b_{jk} \right) \right. \\ & \left. + c_{ik} \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} b_{jk} + u_{ik} + \sqrt{e_1 \left(\sum_{j \neq i} F_{jk}(\mathbf{x}) \right)^2 + e_2 \sum_{j \neq i} F_{jk}^2(\mathbf{x})} \right\} \\ \text{s.t. } & \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} = 1, x_{ijk} \geq 0 \\ & \text{for all } 1 \leq i, j \leq n \text{ and } 1 \leq k \leq m, \\ & \alpha_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} b_{jk} \leq u_{ik}, \quad P_{ik} \leq u_{ik} \\ & \text{for all } 1 \leq i \leq n \text{ and } 1 \leq k \leq m, \\ & \sum_{k=1}^m \left\{ f \left(s_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} a_{jk}, t_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} b_{jk} \right) + c_{ik} \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} b_{jk} + u_{ik} \right. \\ & \left. + \sqrt{e_1 \left(\sum_{j \neq i} F_{jk}(\mathbf{x}) \right)^2 + e_2 \sum_{j \neq i} F_{jk}^2(\mathbf{x})} \right\} \\ & \leq A_i + \sum_{j \neq i} \sum_{k=1}^m (x_{ijk} a_{jk} - x_{jik} a_{ik}), \quad \text{for all } 1 \leq i \leq n. \end{aligned} \tag{A.1}$$

Here, the slack variables u_{ik} are introduced in order to produce an implementable (differentiable and convex) optimisation problem. Note that if relation (2.9) does not hold, there is an alternative solution to our optimisation problem, namely a Mixed Integer Nonlinear Programming (MINLP) formulation for (3.1) with the restriction from (3.2). Therefore, (A.1) is now replaced by a MINLP reformulation due to the min’s terms in both the objective function and constraint. In order to remove this term we need to add the binary variables $y_{ik} \in A = \{0, 1\}$ and the slack variables v_{ik} . Let M

be a sufficiently large number. Then, the MINLP reformulation can be argued as in Asimit et al. (2015) and is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \in \mathfrak{H}^{n \times n \times m} \times \mathfrak{A}^{n \times m} \times \mathfrak{H}^{n \times m} \times \mathfrak{H}^{n \times m}} & \sum_{k=1}^m \sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ f \left(s_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} a_{jk}, \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. t_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} b_{jk} \right) + c_{ik} \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} b_{jk} + u_{ik} + v_{ik} \right\} \\ \text{s.t. } & \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} = 1, x_{ijk} \geq 0 \text{ for all } 1 \leq i, j \leq n \text{ and } 1 \leq k \leq m, \\ & \alpha_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} b_{jk} \leq u_{ik}, \quad P_{ik} \leq u_{ik}, \\ & \sum_{j \neq i} F_{jk}(\mathbf{x}) + M(y_{ik} - 1) \leq v_{ik}, \\ & v_{ik} \leq \sum_{j \neq i} F_{jk}(\mathbf{x}), \\ & v_{ik} \leq \sqrt{e_1 \left(\sum_{j \neq i} F_{jk}(\mathbf{x}) \right)^2 + e_2 \sum_{j \neq i} F_{jk}^2(\mathbf{x})} \text{ and} \\ & \sqrt{e_1 \left(\sum_{j \neq i} F_{jk}(\mathbf{x}) \right)^2 + e_2 \sum_{j \neq i} F_{jk}^2(\mathbf{x})} - My_{ik} \leq v_{ik}, \\ & \text{for all } 1 \leq i \leq n \text{ and } 1 \leq k \leq m, \\ & \sum_{k=1}^m \left\{ f \left(s_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} a_{jk}, t_k \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} b_{jk} \right) + c_{ik} \sum_{j=1}^n x_{ijk} b_{jk} + u_{ik} + v_{ik} \right\} \\ & \leq A_i + \sum_{j \neq i} \sum_{k=1}^m (x_{ijk} a_{jk} - x_{jik} a_{ik}), \quad \text{for all } 1 \leq i \leq n. \end{aligned} \tag{A.2}$$

Note that there are nonlinearities in both the objective function and constraints in the (A.2), and thus, it is possible to not be able to find an optimal solution in a reasonable time for large dimensional problem. This is not the case for practical problems, where it is not expected to have more than let say 10 IU’s, i.e. $n \leq 10$. Since we know that $k \leq 13$, then even for large IG with 10 subsidiaries, the dimension of our problem would be $10^2 \times 13 + 3 \times 10 \times 13 = 1690$, which can be efficiently accommodated by a commercial solver such as GAMS. For example, in our case the optimal solution is found in less than a second using an Intel Core i7-2600, 3.40 GHz processor and 8 GB RAM.

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