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Is 24/7 Trading Better?

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# Is 24/7 Trading Better?

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## ABSTRACT

In a dynamic model of large traders who manage inventory risk, we show that a daily market closure coordinates liquidity. Some length of closure is welfare-improving relative to 24/7 trade since the coordination of liquidity improves allocative efficiency, which can fully offset the costs of the closure. A long closure is optimal in small markets, while large markets would benefit from extending trading hours to near 24/7. Our results are robust to allowing for information asymmetry. Our findings support recent proposals to extend trading hours of large equity exchanges and suggest that exchanges yet to consider extensions should do so.

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# I. Introduction

Trading hours have historically aligned with the conventional workday due to the necessity of human involvement in both the submission and execution of trades. However, technological advancements have significantly reduced the need for human involvement, enabling many markets—such as futures, foreign exchange, and cryptocurrencies—to operate nearly continuously, often closing for only brief maintenance windows. Furthermore, the increased globalization of firms and the financial sector has generated new demand from market participants to respond to firm-relevant news as it emerges around the clock, often outside the firm’s domestic trading hours.<sup>1</sup> In response, *some* major equity exchanges will soon extend their trading hours beyond the traditional 6.5-hour window, moving towards 23-hour trading days.<sup>2</sup> We analyze how changes in trading hours affect market liquidity and trader welfare.

We study a dynamic model of large traders managing risky inventory positions of a traded asset who rationally anticipate how their orders affect prices. Gains from trade are a result of both inventory cost sharing and reallocation across agents with stochastic private values. Traders optimally balance the benefits of eliminating undesired inventory against the costs of incurring price impact. We quantify the allocative efficiency of the market in equilibria of two market designs: one with a daily closure for a fixed fraction of the day and another without any—24/7 trading. A daily closure is costly because it eliminates traders’ ability to manage their inventory when the market is closed, leading traders to arrive at the start of the next day in positions that may be far from desirable.

Is there any benefit to daily market closures? If there is a closure, traders rationally anticipate being unable to directly manage their inventory positions during the closure, which incentivizes them to trade more aggressively towards a desirable position at the end of the trading day. In turn, this aggressive trade increases liquidity at the end of the day, which lowers the cost of trade and further incentivizes aggressive trade at the market closure. Therefore, liquidity is coordinated, and “liquidity begets liquidity,” resulting in very low price impact and very efficient trade at the close.

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<sup>1</sup>Alternative trading systems (ATSs) have emerged to meet this demand, facilitating trading for certain exchange-traded products from 8:00 PM to 4:00 AM Eastern Standard Time. Eaton et al. (2025) document that 80% of the volume during these hours originates from the Asia-Pacific region.

<sup>2</sup>For example, 24X received SEC approval in November 2024 to launch the first registered 23/7 U.S. equity exchange. The New York Stock Exchange polled market participants about 24/7 trading in April 2024 and is moving their Arca exchange’s trading hours to 22/5. The Nasdaq and CBOE EDGX equities exchanges are similarly extending their trading sessions to 24/5. Robinhood and Interactive Brokers already offer 24/5 access to selected equities and ETFs through ATSs such as Blue Ocean and EOS, respectively. However, the other ten U.S. registered equity exchanges and popular international exchanges, such as the London and Tokyo Stock Exchanges, currently do not have public plans to extend trading hours.

Aware that liquidity will be coordinated in the final trading session of the day, traders have a strategic incentive to delay trade until price impact is low in the last session of the day. This incentive to postpone trade within the day can be sufficiently large that there is an endogenous halt in trade in the sessions just preceding the final trading session, consistent with empirical evidence that trade at closing auctions is highly concentrated, potentially at the expense of preceding sessions (e.g., AMF (2019)). The incentive to postpone trade is largest in markets with few traders, where liquidity is spread relatively thin, and in markets in which the payment of the asset’s liquidating dividend is unlikely to occur before the next trading opportunity, which makes the cost of postponing trade relatively small. To summarize, although a daily closure has a natural cost by restricting traders’ ability to respond to shocks, it has the benefit of coordinating trade at the closure. That benefit is also partially offset by the socially costly strategic delay of trade within the day.

The mechanisms of the model with closure are summarized through the behavior of intraday trade volume. We decompose trade into two components varying over time: a component that determines the gap a trader faces between their current and desired inventory and a component that determines how aggressively a trader trades to eliminate the gap. Within the trading day, trade aggressiveness increases in liquidity. At the start of the day, traders face large gaps between their current and desired inventory since shocks to their desired inventory position arrive during the closure that traders are not able to respond to. This generates a large volume at the start of the day despite relatively low trade aggressiveness. At the end of the day, traders trade very aggressively to close any gap that remains. So, even though trade earlier in the day shrinks the gap between current and desired inventory, this aggressive trade at the liquid closing session results in large volume. In the middle of the day, traders’ gaps between desired and current inventories are not very large, and trade is not particularly aggressive, resulting in low volume relative to other parts of the day. Thus, as in the data (e.g., Chan et al. (1996), Jain and Joh (1988)), intraday volume is U-shaped.

When trade is 24/7, there is no equilibrium in which traders coordinate trade. Since traders rationally anticipate how their demand affects prices and future inventory positions, they break up their orders over time to minimize execution costs, leading to socially inefficient excess inventory costs (Du and Zhu, 2017, Rostek and Weretka, 2015, Vayanos, 1999). Liquidity is spread out, and price impact further increases, further incentivizing traders to break up their orders. With 24/7 trade, liquidity is spread thinly throughout the trading day. A market closure can potentially benefit traders by coordinating liquidity.

We quantify trader welfare in various market designs. There is always a length of closure that is better than having trade 24/7. The optimal closure may be short. We find the optimal length of closure is longer in smaller markets, that is, markets where the number of

traders and the rate of shocks to private values are small. In markets with a large number of traders, liquidity is already substantial, minimizing the relative benefits of coordinating trade. In markets in which shocks to private valuations are frequent, the costs of restricting traders’ ability to respond to these shocks are high, implying a short closure is optimal.

We calibrate our model to four different equity exchanges—NYSE, Nasdaq, CBOE EDGX, and NYSE Arca—to assess the policy implications of likely changes to the current U.S. equity market structure.<sup>3</sup> We chose these four exchanges because the NYSE is the largest registered U.S. equity exchange, and the Nasdaq, CBOE EDGX, and NYSE Arca have announced plans to extend to 24/5, 24/5, and 22/5 trading days, respectively. We calibrate the model to match the model-implied intraday volume to the empirical intraday volume. The calibration implies that, for the exchanges we consider, the proposed changes in trading hours will be good for traders, and a very short closure on the order of 2 to 7 minutes is optimal. Our results imply the NYSE should follow suit and extend their trading hours, as should other large equity exchanges, such as the London or Tokyo stock exchanges, which currently have no plans to extend trading hours. In the presence of unmodeled benefits of closure, such as exchange maintenance and closing price setting to compute daily asset values of funds, a closure of an hour or two may be preferable to 24/7 trade or the optimal closure length since calibrated welfare gains relative to the current market structure are similar across counterfactuals with 23/7 trade, 24/7 trade, and the optimal closure.

Our main results are robust to allowing traders to observe heterogeneous signals about fundamental asset values through noisy private signals. Heterogeneity tends to reduce the aggressiveness of trade overall, as it introduces a price impact resulting from information asymmetry. Yet, closure still coordinates liquidity, allowing traders to trade very aggressively at the end of the day with minimal price impact and improving welfare, especially in small markets or markets with infrequent shocks to private and fundamental values.

There is extensive literature empirically documenting intraday and overnight patterns in financial markets.<sup>4</sup> A substantial literature theoretically explains these facts (Hong and Wang, 2000, Subrahmanyam, 1994, Foster and Viswanathan, 1993, Brock and Kleidon, 1992, Foster and Viswanathan, 1990, Admati and Pfleiderer, 1989, 1988). However, all of these studies take the existence and length of a daily closure as fixed. This paper considers variations in the existence and length of daily closures.

This paper also contributes to the literature on how common financial market structures

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<sup>3</sup>Although we focus on equity markets, the theoretical framework is applicable to other asset classes.

<sup>4</sup>For example, Bogousslavsky (2021), Hendershott et al. (2020), Lou et al. (2019), Branch and Ma (2012), Kelly and Clark (2011), Cliff et al. (2008), Branch and Ma (2006), Andersen and Bollerslev (1997), Chan et al. (1996), Amihud and Mendelson (1991), Stoll and Whaley (1990), Barclay et al. (1990), Harris (1989, 1988), Amihud and Mendelson (1987), Harris (1986), Fama (1965).

interact with strategic trading and the implications for the allocative efficiency of the market (Rostek and Yoon, 2025). Chen and Duffie (2021), Malamud and Rostek (2017), and Kawakami (2017) study market fragmentation. Fuchs and Skrzypacz (2019), Du and Zhu (2017) and Vayanos (1999) study trading frequency. Antill and Duffie (2020), Duffie and Zhu (2017), and Blonien (2024) examine the addition of a trading session at a fixed price. Chen et al. (2024), Kodres and O’Brien (1994), Subrahmanyam (1994), and Greenwald and Stein (1991) study circuit breakers. Apart from being the endogenous outcome of adverse price movements, circuit breakers have conceptual similarities to daily closures, although none of these papers study their implications for both allocative efficiency and liquidity in a dynamic model. Fuchs and Skrzypacz (2015) study government market freezes in a dynamic adverse selection model. None of these papers theoretically study daily market closures. Our paper also contributes by extending the study of stationary costly strategic delay (Vayanos (1999), Du and Zhu (2017), Chen and Duffie (2021)) to a setting in which the characteristics of trade vary throughout a trading day, generating non-stationary trade aggressiveness and liquidity.<sup>5</sup> deHaan and Glover (2024) is a recent paper whose focus is on the empirical portfolio performance of retail traders as a function of trading hours.

The presence of market closures is closely linked to the existence of closing auctions, whose characteristics have been of recent interest. Bogousslavsky and Muravyev (2023), Jegadeesh and Wu (2022), and Hu and Murphy (2025) empirically study liquidity and price efficiency around the NYSE and Nasdaq closing auctions. The percentage of daily volume transacted in these special sessions has reached an all-time high in recent years (Bogousslavsky and Muravyev, 2023), consistent with our model, which generates substantial volume near the opening and closing. Our model predicts that if trading hours are extended, trading volume will be less concentrated at the open and close. The Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF, 2019) has warned that concentration at the close could harm prices and liquidity beforehand. We find that although liquidity does deteriorate as traders delay for the closing auction, the resulting social costs can be outweighed by the coordination benefits of closure.

The paper proceeds as follows. Section II defines the model. Section III defines and solves for the equilibrium and builds intuition for how the traders optimally trade with and without a market closure. Section IV quantifies welfare. Section V calibrates the model to several equity exchanges. Section VI extends the model to allow for heterogeneous information. Section VII concludes. The Appendices provide technical details and proofs.

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<sup>5</sup>Rostek and Weretka (2015) also have non-stationary market characteristics in a slightly different equilibrium concept. In their setting, price impact is non-stationary and depends on the timing of information about the dividend throughout the session, although equilibrium allocations are stationary functions of state variables. In our setting, the end of the trading day coordinates and improves liquidity and increases the trade aggressiveness embedded in demand schedules.

## II. The Model

This section introduces a model of strategic trading under imperfect competition with periodic market closures. Time is continuous and goes from 0 to  $\infty$ . We set a unit of clock time to be 24 hours. Each 24 hour period is divided into  $K$  evenly spaced subperiods of length  $h := \frac{1}{K}$ . Trade occurs the first  $T + 1$  periods, and no trade is permitted in the last  $\Delta$  periods. We refer to the fraction of the 24 hours when trade can occur as “day,” and the remaining fraction is referred to as “night.”

Let us illustrate this setup in the first day, where clock time  $t$  is in  $[0, 1]$ . Trade occurs at times  $0, h, \dots, Th$ , and the night spans times  $(Th, 1)$ , which includes times  $(T + 1)h, (T + 2)h, \dots, (T + \Delta)h$ . Note  $(T + \Delta)h = 1 - h$ . At time 1, the next day starts, and the timing repeats.

There are  $N \geq 3$  risk-neutral traders who trade a divisible asset. Traders want to hold the asset because it pays a liquidating dividend of  $v$  per unit of inventory held. The time to liquidation is exponentially distributed, denoted  $\mathcal{T} \sim \text{Exp}(r)$  so that the expected time until liquidation is  $\frac{1}{r}$ . Each trader is endowed with some portion of the asset, referred to as the trader’s initial inventory. In addition to differing endowments, traders may also have heterogeneous beliefs or private values that motivate trade (Harris and Raviv, 1993). We assume a private value of  $w_{\mathcal{T}}^i$  per unit of the asset is realized upon liquidation. Thus, the total value of the asset at liquidation is  $v + w_{\mathcal{T}}^i$ . The private value,  $w_t^i$ , is a jump process which has  $N(0, \sigma^2)$  distributed jumps that arrive at constant rate  $\lambda$ . These shocks are independent across time and traders and independent of all other shocks in the model. Shocks to private values induce continued gains from trade over time and can be motivated by risk management considerations or shocks to preferences.

Each trading session is modeled as a uniform-price double auction. Each trader  $i$  submits a demand schedule  $D^i : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  that is a mapping of price to demand,  $p \mapsto D^i(p)$ . The market clearing price,  $p_t^*$ , is the price that sets net demand to be zero,

$$\sum_{i=1}^N D^i(p_t^*) = 0. \quad (1)$$

Each trader pays the equilibrium price,  $p_t^*$ , times the amount of the asset they were allocated,  $D^i(p_t^*)$ . If  $D^i(p_t^*) < 0$ , then trader  $i$  receives the equilibrium price times the amount of the asset they sell. The modeling of trade as an auction, as opposed to a limit-order book, provides tractability while maintaining the important economic mechanism of price impact from trade.

Traders in the model dynamically manage inventory positions. Define trader  $i$ ’s inventory of the asset at time  $t$  to be  $z_t^i$ , and the average aggregate inventory,  $\bar{Z} := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N z_t^i$ , is a

constant. After trade at time  $t$ , trader  $i$ 's inventory moves to  $z_t^i + D^i(p_t^*)$ . In addition to trading due to heterogeneous private values of the asset, discussed above, traders also trade to manage inventory costs. In particular, we assume traders incur a holding cost per unit of time of  $\gamma \times (z_t^i)^2$ . Chen and Duffie (2021), Antill and Duffie (2020), Duffie and Zhu (2017), Du and Zhu (2017), Sannikov and Skrzypacz (2016), Rostek and Weretka (2012), Vives (2011), Blonien (2024) and Chen (2022) all use a similar quadratic holding cost. This cost can be interpreted as representing inventory costs or collateral requirements. More generally, including these exogenous inventory costs is a reduced-form way of modeling incentives to risk share.<sup>6</sup>

Since traders can only manage inventory through trade during the day, and private values can be shocked during the day or overnight, the restrictions that market closures impose have obvious costs. If a shock to private values arrives overnight, traders will arrive at the start of the next day at positions that are suboptimal. In the model, traders trade off maintaining suboptimal inventory positions with price impact costs. Therefore, they trade slowly toward their desired inventory position, potentially heightening the costs of a temporary closure. This paper's goal is to study the costs and benefits of daily market closures through the organization of trade they induce.

Now, let us define the traders' optimization problem. In the following sections, we will study equilibria that are periodic, with a period equal to one day. Therefore, to ease the exposition, we simply focus on time  $t \in [0, 1]$  and note that results at any other time are analogous. Recall trade during the first day occurs at times  $0, h, \dots, Th$ . For  $t = kh$  in any of these periods apart from the last, denote any trader's value function  $V_k$ . The value function is a function of current inventory position  $z^i$ , current private value  $w^i$ , and average aggregate private value  $\bar{W} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N w^i$ , and satisfies the following Bellman equation:

$$V_k(z^i, w^i, \bar{W}) = \max_{D^i} \left\{ \underbrace{-D^i p_{kh}^*}_{\text{cost of trade}} + \underbrace{(1 - e^{-rh})}_{\text{prob. of liquidation}} \underbrace{(z^i + D^i)(v + w^i)}_{\text{liquidation value}} \right. \\ \left. - \underbrace{\frac{(1 - e^{-rh})}{r}}_{\text{expected length of flow cost}} \underbrace{\frac{\gamma}{2}(z^i + D^i)^2}_{\text{inventory flow cost}} + \underbrace{e^{-rh}}_{\text{prob. of no liquidation}} \underbrace{E_{kh} V_{k+1}(z^i + D^i, w_{(k+1)h}^i, \bar{W}_{(k+1)h})}_{\text{expected future value}} \right\}. \quad (2)$$

The maximum is over demand schedules, not simply realized demands. The first term corresponds to the cost (allocated quantity times market clearing price) of trade incurred in

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<sup>6</sup>Having described the model, it is worth noting slightly different assumptions—continuously paid liquidating dividends, repeatedly paid dividends, private value shocks at pre-determined arrival times, correlated private value shocks, private signals about a risky common value  $v$  (see Section VI), and time-varying deterministic inventory costs or private value shocks—do not substantively change the mechanisms of the model.



the double auction at time  $kh$ . The next term corresponds to the expected payoff if the asset liquidates before the next session times the probability it liquidates before the next session. The third term is the expected holding cost before the next session, which incorporates the probability that the asset might liquidate, after which there is no more holding cost. The last term is the next period's continuation value, assuming the asset does not liquidate before then, times the probability the asset does not liquidate before the next period. As we will show, prices reveal the average private value  $\bar{W}$  in equilibrium. Therefore, the value function is a function of  $\bar{W}$  insofar as it affects future prices and realized demands and, thus, utility. In the last trading period of the day, that is the  $(T + 1)^{th}$  trading session at clock-time  $Th$ , the Bellman equation is modified to the following:

$$V_T(z^i, w^i, \bar{W}) = \max_{D^i} \left\{ \underbrace{-D^i p_{Th}^*}_{\text{cost of trade}} + \underbrace{(1 - e^{-rh(1+\Delta)})}_{\text{prob. of liquidation}} \underbrace{(z^i + D^i)(v + w^i)}_{\text{liquidation value}} \right. \\ \left. - \underbrace{\frac{(1 - e^{-rh(1+\Delta)})}{r}}_{\text{expected length of flow cost}} \underbrace{\frac{\gamma}{2}(z^i + D^i)^2}_{\text{inventory flow cost}} + \underbrace{e^{-rh(1+\Delta)}}_{\text{prob. of no liquidation}} \underbrace{E_{Th} V_0(z^i + D^i, w_1^i, \bar{W}_1)}_{\text{expected future value}} \right\}. \quad (3)$$

The terms are modified to reflect the increased likelihood that the asset liquidates before the next trading session, as there are  $h(1 + \Delta)$  units of clock time between trade instead of  $h$ .

### III. Equilibrium

Section IIIA studies the equilibrium of the model of strategic trading under imperfect competition with periodic market closures. Section IIIB studies a version of the model without market closure that is a special case of the model studied in Du and Zhu (2017). Sections IIIC through IIIE study results that describe the solution of the model.

#### A. Equilibrium with a Daily Closure

Prior literature (e.g., Antill and Duffie (2020), Du and Zhu (2017), Vayanos (1999)) frequently studies symmetric, linear, and stationary equilibria. That is, the equilibrium demand schedules of each trader are the same linear combination of price and other relevant state variables and inputs across time. In our model with daily market closures, such an equilibrium will generally not exist. The trading problem that every trader faces will not be ex-ante identical at each trading session, as the opportunity set changes throughout the day, precluding the existence of stationary equilibria. For instance, as the closure approaches, traders will behave differently as the inability to manage inventory overnight presents a

substantial change in their opportunity set.

Therefore, we focus on symmetric, linear, and *daily*-periodic demand schedules. For example, in equilibrium, all demand schedules submitted at 9:30 AM will be the same function every day, but all traders may use a different demand schedule at 10:00 AM than they did at 9:30 AM. Thus, the equilibria we consider are stationary across days but not within the same day. Concretely, we conjecture that the equilibrium demand schedule at trading session  $k \in \{0, \dots, T\}$  is of the following form:

$$D_k^i(z^i, w^i, p) = a_k + b_k p + c_k z^i + f_k w^i, \quad (4)$$

and  $b_k < 0$ . By market clearing, in equilibrium, trader  $i$  will face the residual supply curve of the other  $N - 1$  traders and effectively choose a price and quantity pair. If trader  $i$  chooses demand quantity  $d^i$ , then by market clearing, the price must solve  $d^i + \sum_{j \neq i} (a_k + b_k p + c_k z^j + f_k w^j) = 0$ . Therefore, the market clearing price is

$$\Phi_k(d^i, z^i, W^{-i}) := p = -\frac{1}{b_k(N-1)}(d^i + (N-1)a_k + c_k(N\bar{Z} - z^i) + f_k W^{-i}), \quad (5)$$

where  $W^{-i} = \sum_{j \neq i} w^j$ . Traders are strategic, and thus, they rationally anticipate and internalize how their demand affects prices due to imperfect competition. As price impact itself is only a wealth transfer between traders, it is the strategic effects of avoiding price impact that can be socially costly by reducing allocative efficiency.

A symmetric (Markov perfect) equilibrium of the above stochastic game is defined by the sequences  $(a_k)_{k=0}^T$ ,  $(b_k)_{k=0}^T$ ,  $(c_k)_{k=0}^T$  and  $(f_k)_{k=0}^T$ . Equilibrium requires that if trader  $i$  conjectures the other  $N - 1$  traders use the demand schedule (4), trader  $i$ 's best response is to use the same demand schedule, and the market clears. It is important to note that we do not assume that trader  $i$  must play the conjectured demand schedule, but it is their best response to do so. We show in the Appendix that this equilibrium exists and is characterized by Proposition 1.

**PROPOSITION 1:** *If  $(N - 1)(1 - e^{-rh}) > 1$ , there exists a unique symmetric, linear, and periodic equilibrium with trade in periods  $0, \dots, T$ , which satisfies the following properties:*

1. *The equilibrium quantity traded takes the form*

$$D_k^i(p_{kh}^*) = c_k \left( z_{kh}^i - \left( \frac{r}{\gamma} (w_{kh}^i - \bar{W}_{kh}) + \bar{Z} \right) \right), \quad (6)$$

*where  $k \in \{0, \dots, T\}$ , for  $c_k \in [-1, 0]$  characterized in Appendix A.*

2. *The equilibrium market clearing price is*

$$p_{kh}^* = v + \bar{W}_{kh} - \frac{\gamma}{r} \bar{Z}. \quad (7)$$

3. *Let  $\bar{c}$  denote the equilibrium value of  $c_k$  if there is no market closure, as given in Proposition 2. In two consecutive periods in the day, if  $c_k > \bar{c}$ , then  $c_{k+1} < \bar{c}$ . Similarly,*

if  $c_k < \bar{c}$ , then  $c_{k+1} > \bar{c}$ . An analogous pattern applies to  $1/b_k$ , which determines price impact.

Let us discuss these results. First, let us look at the functional form of the allocation,  $c_k(z^i - (\frac{r}{\gamma}(w^i - \bar{W}) + \bar{Z}))$ . The allocation is the current inventory net of a measure of desired inventory, which we define as  $\tilde{z}^i := \frac{r}{\gamma}(w^i - \bar{W}) + \bar{Z}$ , scaled by  $c_k$ .  $\tilde{z}^i$  is the inventory position a trader would reach each period after trade if the market was competitive. We refer to  $\frac{r}{\gamma}(w^i - \bar{W}) + \bar{Z}$  as desired inventory because if  $z^i = \frac{r}{\gamma}(w^i - \bar{W}) + \bar{Z}$  for every trader, then there is no more trade in equilibrium. Consider the post-trade inventory position,

$$z_{k+1}^i = z_k^i + D_k^i(p_k^*) = (1 + c_k)z_k^i - c_k\tilde{z}_k^i. \quad (8)$$

Recalling that  $c_k$  lies in  $[-1, 0]$ ,  $c_k$  is a measure of trade aggressiveness as it tells us what fraction of our new inventory position is made up of the old inventory position, and the remaining fraction is the desired inventory position. Subtracting  $\tilde{z}_k^i$  from both sides of Equation 8, the gap between the next period's inventory and the desired inventory is

$$z_{k+1}^i - \tilde{z}_k^i = (1 + c_k)(z_k^i - \tilde{z}_k^i). \quad (9)$$

As  $c_k$  approaches  $-1$ , which is its value under perfect competition, this gap approaches zero, and the allocation of the asset becomes more efficient.

The coefficient  $c_k$  in the equilibrium allocation is negative and largest in absolute value at the end of the trading day. As the end of the day approaches, traders are aware that they will soon lose the opportunity to manage random shocks in the desired inventory through trade. They all, therefore, have the incentive to enter the closure in a desirable inventory position. As a result, traders are more willing to incur price impact and temporary trading costs toward the end of the trading day. The old adage of “liquidity begets liquidity” comes into effect; liquidity improves due to the fear of suboptimal inventory positions being exacerbated overnight, so it becomes even cheaper to trade more aggressively now, further encouraging aggressive trade.

This incentive to enter overnight in a good position is strongest in the final period of trade. In fact, by backward induction, traders know that trade will be cheap in the final period. So, traders have an incentive to postpone trade until then, reducing liquidity in the penultimate period. This explains property 3 of the equilibrium, which formalizes the strategic incentives in the model. Essentially, if trade is aggressive in the next period, trade is less aggressive in this period, as traders postpone to the next period when the price impact is lower. Similarly, if trade is less aggressive in the next period, the trade will be more aggressive in this period. Thus, trade has some oscillatory properties. In our numerical examples, this oscillation is strongest in the last two periods and decays quickly as traders move backward in time from the final trading sessions.

If the incentives to postpone trade are sufficiently strong, the equilibrium with trade every period breaks down, and there is at least one period of no trade leading up to the closing session. These incentives are strongest when the market is small, i.e.,  $N$  is small, or the liquidation risk before the next trading session is large, i.e.,  $rh$  is small. Formally,  $(N - 1)(1 - e^{-rh}) > 1$  is a sufficient condition for trade to occur every period. If  $N$  is small, price impact is generally large, implying the benefits of a liquid final period of trade are substantial. If  $rh$  is small, the costs of delaying trade are low as the asset is unlikely to liquidate in the meantime. Empirically, an analog of these results is the fact that in markets with closing auctions, liquidity prior to the closing auction is relatively thin, as trade is delayed due to the coordination in the closing auction.

Below, we provide a result that describes the equilibrium that arises if the parameters are such that traders are not willing to trade in the period immediately preceding the liquid close. In order to obtain this modified equilibrium, we relax the assumption that submitted demand schedules must be strictly downward sloping ( $b_k < 0$ ) by allowing traders to not trade for a period. That is, we allow for a halt in trade for a single period. This proposition can be generalized to allow for halts in multiple periods.

**PROPOSITION 2:** *Assume that an equilibrium with trade in every period does not exist. Then, if  $(N - 1)(1 - e^{-2rh}) > 1$ , there is an equilibrium in which demand schedules are permitted to be uniformly zero for a single period during the trading day. This equilibrium has no trade in period  $T - 1$  and satisfies properties 1, 2, and 3 of Proposition 1 in the other periods.*

There are multiple equilibria when traders can submit zero demand schedules in any period. If all other traders submit zero demands, it is equilibrium behavior for any trader to do the same, as their implied price impact is effectively infinite. Thus, in principle, traders can abstain from trade in any combination of periods during the trading day.

However, the arguments used to prove Proposition 2 imply its equilibrium is unique in the following sense. Among equilibria with trade in all periods except for at  $T - 1$  and overnight, it is unique. In addition, if there were another equilibrium, then at least one of the periods without trade would be a period that could alternatively sustain a trade equilibrium with downward-sloping demand curves but does not. In this sense, the equilibrium of Proposition 2 is the least restrictive equilibrium without trade in a single period, in that traders engage in trade in every period in which they are able to achieve an equilibrium with non-zero trade.

The condition  $(N - 1)(1 - e^{-2rh}) > 1$  is weaker than the condition in Proposition 1 for trade to occur in every period. Moreover, given this condition and the condition in Proposition 1 are only sufficient conditions, it is worth being certain that the set of parameters for which

there is no equilibrium with trade in every period and  $(N - 1)(1 - e^{-2rh}) > 1$  is non-empty. We verify this numerically in unreported results.

Before moving on to analyzing the model in more detail, we note there is a continuous trade version of the model, which we will make use of when analyzing welfare. In this model, trade occurs in a continuous sequence of uniform-price double auctions for the first  $1 - \Delta - \epsilon$  units of the day, there is a halt in trade for the next endogenous length  $\epsilon$  units of time, and a closing auction occurs at time  $1 - \Delta$ . The derivation of this continuous trade equilibrium is in Internet Appendix IA.3, where we also show the convergence of the discrete trade model. In this version of the model, the length of the halt can be determined analytically, with no parameter restrictions apart from  $N > 2$ . Moreover, prior to the halt, demand schedules are stationary and thus do not depend on time and so do not oscillate. In addition, trade in the final period is more aggressive than trade in the opening sequence of sessions.

It is worth highlighting some of the expressions in the continuous trade version of the model, as quantities such as  $c_k$  and  $b_k$  for the discrete trade model are provided in the Appendix but are not readily interpretable. In the continuous trade model, the length of the halt  $\epsilon$  is

$$\epsilon = \min \left\{ 1 - \Delta, \frac{1}{r} \log \left( \frac{e^{-\Delta r} + (1 - e^{-\Delta r})N}{e^{-\Delta r} + (1 - e^{-\Delta r})(N - 1)} \right) \right\}. \quad (10)$$

For  $\epsilon < 1 - \Delta$ , the coefficient  $c_T$  in the demand function at the close,  $1 - \Delta$ , is

$$c_T = -\frac{(N - 2)(1 - e^{-\Delta r})}{e^{-\Delta r} + (1 - e^{-\Delta r})(N - 1)}, \quad (11)$$

and  $c_T = \frac{r}{r} b_T$ . It's straightforward to see that  $\epsilon$  is increasing in  $\Delta$  (as long as the minimum above does not bind) and decreasing in  $N$ , while both  $c_T$  and  $b_T$  become more negative as  $N$  and  $\Delta$  increase. These comparative statics are analyzed in further detail in the discussion surrounding Figure 2 below.

## B. Equilibrium Without a Daily Closure – 24/7 Trading

Let us briefly review the solution without market closure and then compare the two models. We make no other modifications to the model from the previous section other than setting  $\Delta = 0$ . Once again, we differ from most prior literature by conjecturing linear, symmetric, and periodic equilibria of the same form as Equation 4. Periodicity again requires the demand functions to be periodic functions of time with period 1.

We characterize the equilibrium in Proposition 3.

**PROPOSITION 3:** *When  $\Delta = 0$  and  $N > 2$ , there exists a unique symmetric, linear, and periodic equilibrium with the following properties:*

1. The equilibrium quantity traded takes the form

$$D_k^i(p_{kh}^*) = \bar{c} \left( z_{kh}^i - \left( \frac{r}{\gamma} (w_{kh}^i - \bar{W}_{kh}) + \bar{Z} \right) \right), \quad (12)$$

where  $k \in \{0, \dots, T\}$ , and  $\bar{c} \in [-1, 0]$  and is equal to

$$\bar{c} = \frac{-(N-1)(1-e^{-rh}) + \sqrt{(N-1)^2(1-e^{-rh})^2 + 4e^{-rh}}}{2e^{-rh}} - 1.$$

2. The equilibrium market clearing price is

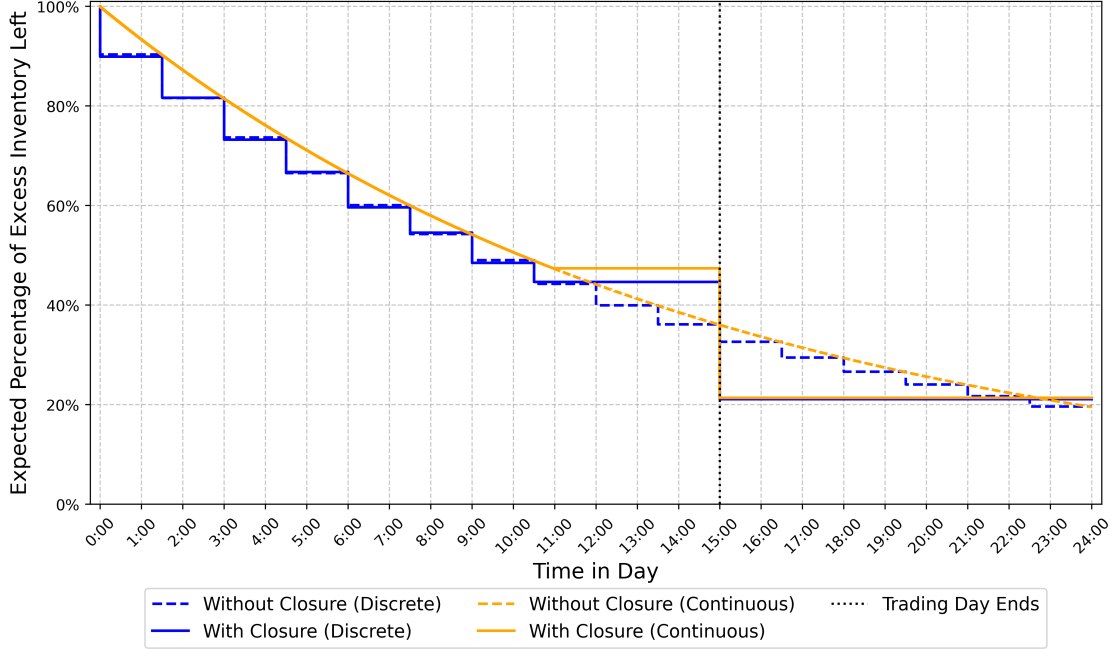
$$p_{kh}^* = v + \bar{W}_{kh} - \frac{\gamma}{r} \bar{Z}. \quad (13)$$

The equilibrium strategy played is time-invariant. Despite allowing the demand schedules submitted to be periodic across days, the unique equilibrium is constant across time, as in Du and Zhu (2017). Thus, this model is a special case of Du and Zhu (2017) in which there is no information asymmetry. In the model with closure, trade is non-stationary throughout the day. Importantly, this non-stationarity leads to a coordination of liquidity towards the end of the day. It is worth noting that prices are the same when trade is 24/7. In equilibrium, the first-order condition for optimal demand implies that the price has to equal the average marginal value of the asset. That is,  $p_{kh}^* = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\partial V_k}{\partial z^i}$ . This average marginal value does not depend on price impact since price impact is a transfer across traders. It is only a function of the marginal benefit of holding the asset, which depends on the common and private values, and the marginal cost of holding the asset, which depends on  $\gamma$ .

### C. Equilibrium Intuition

In this section, we compare the equilibrium in Propositions 1 and 2, where there is a market closure, with the equilibrium in Proposition 3, where trading occurs 24/7. The introduction of a long pause in trading, lasting  $h(1 + \Delta)$  units of clock time, creates non-stationarity in the equilibrium demand functions. Instead of there being a constant fraction of excess inventory closed at each trading period, as in the 24/7 model, the intensity with which agents trade in the model with a closure,  $c_k$ , typically has three distinct periods of behavior. Let us discuss this through the example displayed in Figure 1.

Figure 1 quantifies the magnitude of the coordination of liquidity when there is a market closure for various trading frequencies throughout a day. The  $y$ -axis is the percentage of excess inventory left for a given trader relative to the start of the day, assuming neither shocks to private values nor asset liquidation occurs. Mathematically, the  $y$ -axis is  $\prod_{j=0}^k (1 + c_j)$ , where  $k$  is the  $(k+1)^{th}$  trading session of the day, which occurs at clock time  $kh$ . Recall excess inventory is simply the difference between current inventory,  $z_t^i$ , and desired inventory,  $\tilde{z}_t^i$ , which is closed by  $1 + c_k$  in trading session  $k$ .



**Figure 1. Trading Intensity Throughout the Day**

This figure plots trading intensity for various regimes throughout the day. The  $y$ -axis is the expected percentage of the time 0 excess inventory left at time  $t$  in the day. The solid lines are market designs with a closure of 31.25% of the day from Proposition 1, and the dashed lines are market designs without a closure from Proposition 3. The colors map to the trading frequency of the market, with blue being  $K = 16$  periods a day and orange being continuous trading. The vertical dotted line is when the market closes for trading for structures with closure. We use  $N = 100$  and  $r = 1/30$ .

When trade is  $24/7$ ,  $c$  is constant and between  $-1$  and  $0$ , and traders close  $|c|$  percent of the excess inventory per period. Comparing the orange and blue dashed lines, when trading frequency is higher, the strategic effects are amplified as liquidity per trading session is lower, which increases price impact, which further reduces a trader's willingness to trade. Du and Zhu (2017) studies the tradeoff between this strategic cost and the ability to react to shocks more quickly by quantifying the optimal trading frequency in financial markets.

When we add a closure, the strategic behavior of traders changes the equilibrium trading patterns dramatically. This is reflected in the solid blue lines for a slower market and solid orange lines for a faster market. It is easiest to work backward. Starting at the close, traders rationally anticipate that they will be stuck in an inventory position overnight, which will incur flow costs overnight irrespective of the shocks to their private values, and there is some chance the asset will liquidate. Moreover, traders will not be able to react to shocks to private values that occur overnight, making excess inventory at the end of the day even

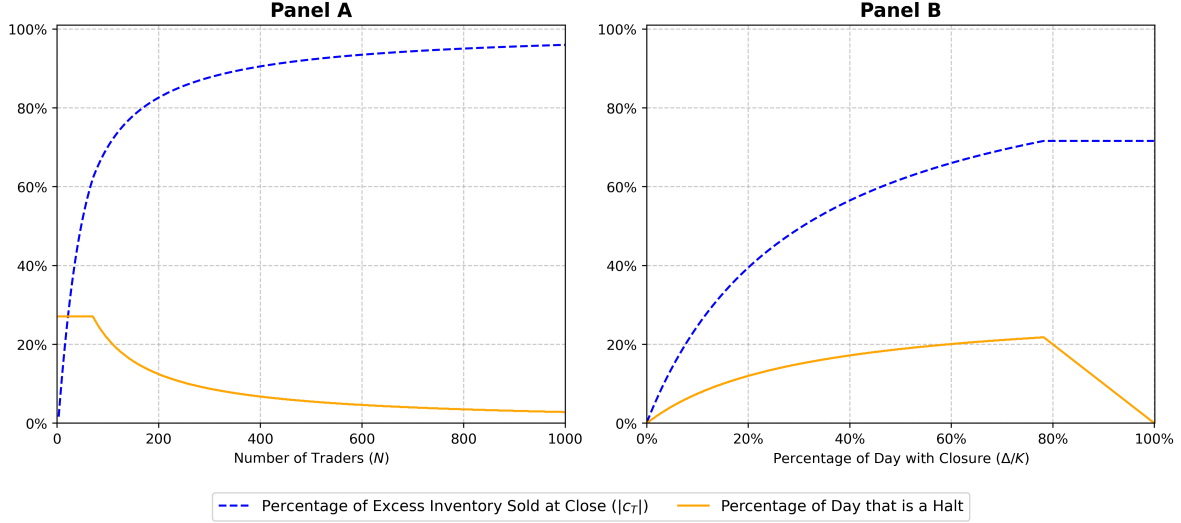
less desirable. These risks increase traders' marginal willingness to incur additional price impact at the end of the day to avoid a worse inventory position overnight. This incentive is present among all traders. So, as they all become more aggressive, liquidity increases, which decreases price impact. They, therefore, can become even more aggressive, and this logic repeats. The closure helps traders coordinate their trade that is otherwise very spread out when trade is 24/7. This can be seen in the plot by the large downward jump in the amount of excess inventory held right after the last trading session of the day. It takes almost the entire night for traders to offload as much of their initial excess inventory when trade is 24/7.

Yet, because trade is very efficient at the close and traders are rational and strategic, in periods leading up to the closure, traders know that if they delay trade, they will be able to trade very cheaply at the close. This incentive to delay trade is so strong that, in the plotted example, there is no trade in the periods just preceding the close.

When traders are far enough away from the close, the undesired flow costs and liquidation risk throughout the day are sufficiently large that it is worth incurring some price impact to optimize positions, and there is non-zero trade. When trade is continuous, trade is the same during this time whether there is a closure or not, which can be seen by the solid and dotted orange lines being indistinguishable. When trade is slower, you can see some oscillation in aggressiveness around the level of aggressiveness in the 24/7 trade model (see Property 3 of Proposition 1). If liquidity is better next period, agents are less willing to trade now, which lowers aggressiveness and liquidity this period. If liquidity is poor next period, agents are more willing to trade now and incur price impact. So, the non-stationarity of the trader's problem generates an oscillation that increases in magnitude as the closure approaches. This oscillation is relatively small in magnitude and can be seen by the dashed blue line alternately being below and above the solid blue line.

In Figure 2, we study how aggressive trade is at the close and the length of the endogenous halt in trade as functions of the number of traders or the length of overnight closure. The lines in the plot are the discrete-trade versions of equations 10 and 11. Panel A studies how these endogenous quantities change as the market grows in size. First, the closer the dotted blue line is to 100%, the closer the model is to perfect competition, and the more efficiently the asset is traded as the close. The  $y$ -axis is the fraction of excess inventory that is sold at the close. As the market becomes larger, price impact decreases as demand is dispersed across more traders, and very quickly, the majority of the excess inventories is reallocated in any given period, including the close. The orange line plots the length of the halt prior to the closure. For the parameters considered, and when there are few traders, there is no trade apart from at the closing auction until there are about 75 traders. Then, as the number of traders increases, the fraction of the day with endogenously no trade decreases



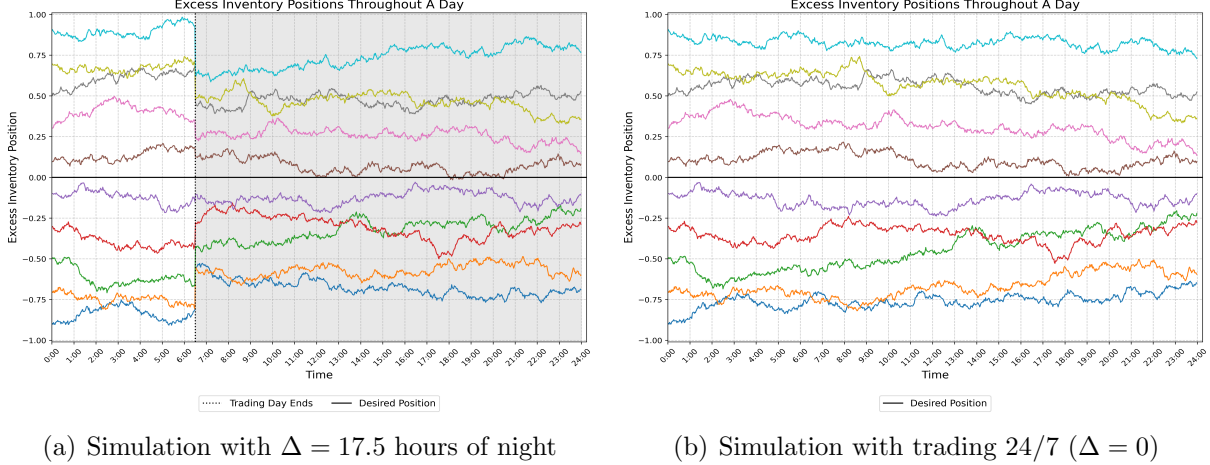


**Figure 2. Trading Around the Close**

We plot the aggressiveness of traders at the close,  $|c_T|$ , where closer to 100% is closer to perfect competition, with a blue dotted line, and the percentage of the trading day where no trade endogenously happens leading up to the close with an orange solid line. In Panel A, we plot these two quantities as a function of the size of the market,  $N$ . In Panel B, we plot these two quantities as a function of the percentage of the day where the market is closed,  $\Delta/K$ . The continuous trade version of the blue-dotted line is equation 11, and the continuous trade version of the solid-orange line is equation 10. We use  $r = 1/30$  and  $K = 1,000$  for both plots. In Panel A, we set  $\Delta/K = 73\%$ , and in Panel B, we set  $N = 100$ .

towards zero. As the market grows, price impact decreases, making it less costly to trade in any period before close and minimizing the relative benefits of coordinated liquidity at the close. For sufficiently many traders, the length of the halt is zero by Proposition 1, although this number is not reached in Panel A.

In Panel B, we show that as the length of closure increases, so does the efficiency of trade at the close. As the costs of closure increase, so does traders' willingness to incur price impact at the close. Eventually, the closure is so long that there is only trade at the close, and the line flattens. By similar logic, the length of the halt increases as the efficiency of the closing session increases, as there is more incentive to postpone trade. Eventually, there is only trade at the close, which is mechanically moved towards the open for  $\Delta$  large enough, which results in the line having a slope of  $-1$ .



**Figure 3. Simulation With and Without Closure**

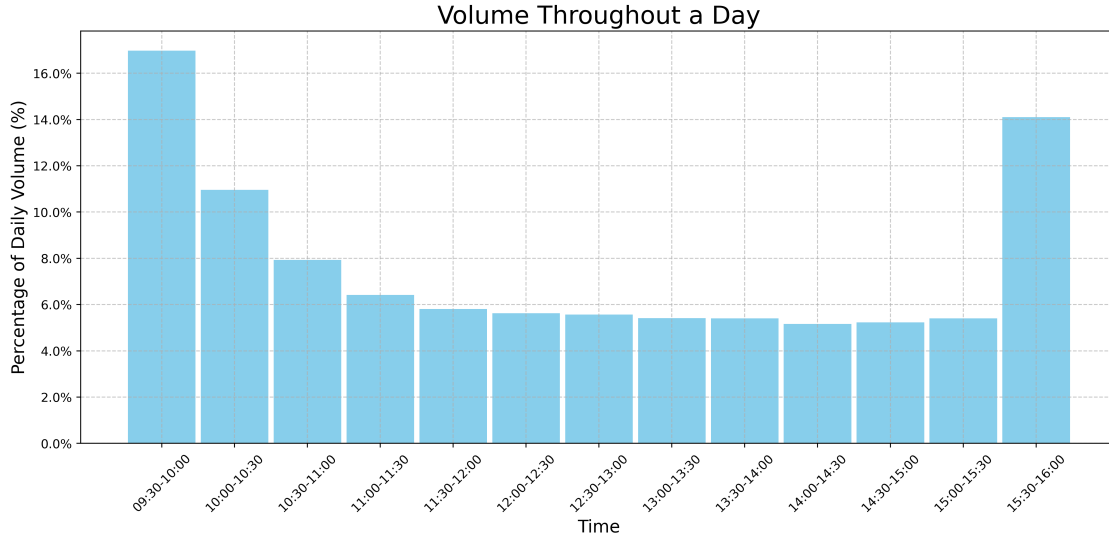
These figures plot excess inventory paths under the same simulated shocks over a single day for ten traders,  $N = 10$ , but the left plot has a closure of 17.5 hours, and the right plot allows trade 24/7. The desired excess inventory position (the solid black line) is zero, and the shocks to traders' private values are the same across plots and occur every period right after trade. The parameters used are  $\sigma = 1$ ,  $r = 10\%$ ,  $K = 1,000$ , and  $\gamma = .4$ .

#### D. *Simulating the Models*

To examine the inventory paths different market structures induce for traders, we simulate a trading day for a market with ten traders. We run a single simulation for two scenarios: first, when trade only occurs for the first 6.5 hours of the day, followed by a closure without trade for 17.5 hours, and second, when trade can occur 24/7. Each trader receives the same shocks to their inventory position in the two scenarios. The only difference is how their strategies endogenously change when there is a closure. For the  $N = 10$  traders, we set the initial excess inventory positions to be equally spaced between  $-.9$  to  $.9$ .

The results of these simulations are plotted in Figure 3. Let us start with Figure 3(a). While there is noise in the traders' inventory positions during the trading day due to shocks to their desired position, at the close there is a large drop in the amount of excess inventory held across traders. This drop results from the coordinated trade and liquidity a closure induces.

Using the same shocks, we plot how the trader's excess inventory position would have endogenously evolved in a model with 24/7 trade in Figure 3(b). Without market closure, traders strategically break up their orders over time, spreading out liquidity and trading slowly toward their desired inventory positions. Without the coordination of liquidity, traders never substantially close the gap. They do appear to be in better positions by the end of



**Figure 4. Volume Throughout the Day**

This figure is the percentage of the expected daily trading volume in each 30-minute bin when trading occurs for 6.5 hours a day. We simulate 1,000 trading days and plot the average fraction of daily volume in each bin. This example uses  $N = 500$ ,  $r = 10\%$ ,  $\sigma = 1$ ,  $K = 1,000$ , and  $\Delta/K = \frac{17.5}{24}$ .

the day, though. From this simulation alone, it is not clear which scenario the traders would prefer ex-ante. In Section IV, we will formally study trader welfare as a function of the market structure.

### *E. Volume*

One way to see the implications of the model for intraday trade is by studying volume. A robust empirical pattern is the U-shaped (smirk) pattern of trading volume throughout the day (e.g., Chan et al. (1996), Jain and Joh (1988)).

Due to the inability to trade overnight, the absolute gap between any trader's current and desired inventory position grows overnight in expectation. Therefore, although trade is not very aggressive in the morning in the sense that traders exchange a small percentage of the gap (small  $|c_k|$ ), due to the large average gap, they still trade a large quantity of the asset. In the middle of the day, traders are neither very aggressive nor have a large excess inventory position. Finally, at the close, traders become very aggressive and close the gap significantly, resulting in a large increase in trading volume.

Figure 4 demonstrates the above reasoning. Figure 4 plots the expected fraction of the total daily volume in each 30-minute trading bucket by computing the average volume in simulations of the model. To match the NYSE, we assume the trading day is 6.5 hours. If

trade volume was uniformly distributed throughout the day, you would expect about 7.7% of the daily volume in each bin. Yet, we see significantly more near the open and close. About 17% of the daily volume happens in the first 30 minutes, and about 14% happens in the last 30 minutes.

Some markets, such as foreign exchange (FX) markets or cryptocurrencies, already trade 24/7. Yet, volume patterns in these markets are not flat throughout the day, as the equilibrium of Proposition 3 would imply. Empirically, we see spikes in volume in FX and cryptocurrency markets when either the London or New York stock exchanges first open or close and overall during their overlapping trading hours. Allowing for the volatility or frequency of shocks to be a deterministic function of time would help the model match these patterns by increasing volume when shock volatility and frequency are high. The daily entry and departure of groups of traders could also potentially coordinate trade sufficiently to generate the empirical patterns we observe in markets that do trade 24/7. More generally, modeling the interdependence between exchanges and their hours is well beyond the scope of this paper; to be fully understood, it would require the study of traders' dynamic strategic trade between correlated assets trading on different exchanges, each with potentially different trading hours.

## IV. Welfare

We now formally study whether traders are ex-ante better off in a market structure with a daily closure of some length or in a market structure that allows for 24/7 trade. We do this by studying the aggregate ex-ante welfare of traders. Specifically, we define welfare as the sum of traders' ex-ante expected value of their value functions across all traders in the market. As each trader's value function aggregates their expected profits net of inventory costs, the higher its value, the more efficient the market is. In this section, for simplicity, we assume that the initial inventory position for each trader is zero,  $z_0^i = 0$ , which implies that  $\bar{Z} = 0$ , and each initial private value is i.i.d.  $N(0, \sigma^2)$  distributed. We will also focus on the continuous trade version of the model for simplicity. The discrete trade version of the model has qualitatively similar welfare results.

As a first benchmark, we define the first-best (efficient) welfare as that which continuously and perfectly reallocates each trader's inventory position to the competitive benchmark. This benchmark is what a benevolent social planner would achieve if both frictions in the model were eliminated by making trade perfectly competitive and letting trade occur continuously

and 24/7. Efficient welfare is

$$W^e := \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E} [V^e(z^i = 0, w^i, \bar{W})] = \frac{\sigma^2(N-1)(r+\lambda)}{2\gamma}. \quad (14)$$

Next, we quantify welfare under the market structure with 24/7 trade. The 24/7 welfare is

$$W^{24/7} := \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E} [V(z^i = 0, w^i, \bar{W})] = N\alpha_0 + \sigma^2 \left( N\alpha_5 + \alpha_6 + \alpha_9 \right), \quad (15)$$

where the  $\alpha_i$ 's determine the equilibrium value function, given in Internet Appendix IA.3 when  $\Delta$  is set to 0. Finally, we quantify the welfare achieved from an equilibrium market structure with a market closure of a fraction  $\Delta$  of the day. Welfare under a market closure of length  $\Delta$  is

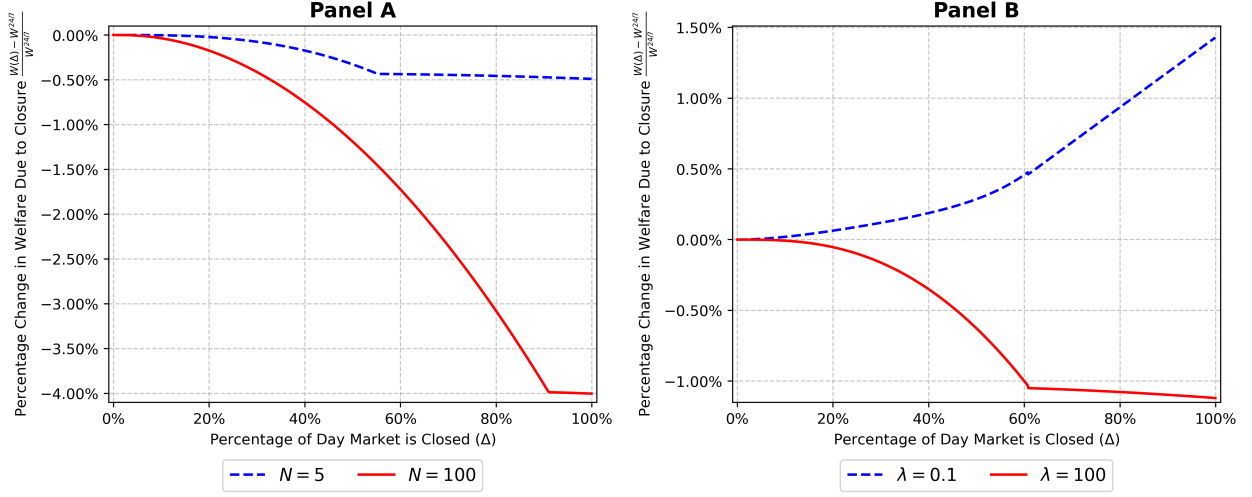
$$\begin{aligned} W(\Delta) &:= \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{1}{1-\Delta} \int_0^{1-\Delta} V_t(z^i = 0, w^i, \bar{W}) dt \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{1-\Delta} \int_0^{1-\Delta} N\alpha_0(t) + \sigma^2 \left( N\alpha_5(t) + \alpha_6(t) + \alpha_9(t) \right) dt, \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

where the  $\alpha_i$ 's determine the equilibrium value function, given in Internet Appendix IA.3. Since welfare with a closure is a non-stationary function of time, we compute welfare by averaging across time periods in the trading day. In effect, time is an additional state variable, and, in addition to randomizing across initial values of  $w^i$  and  $\bar{W}$ , we also randomize across the initial time at which the trader begins trading.

### A. Welfare Comparative Statics

In Figure 5, we plot the percentage change in welfare from a market structure with 24/7 trade to welfare from a market structure with a closure. We display the percentage change as a function of the length of the closure. Panel A plots the relationship for two different market sizes, and Panel B plots the relationship for two different private value shock arrival rates.

In Panel A, we show that welfare changes are more negative for the larger market, particularly for long closures. In larger markets, the cost of strategic trade is lower. There isn't a substantial price impact at any period throughout the day, and, therefore, closure is relatively more costly. In small markets, the benefit of the closing session offsets more of the cost through the coordination of liquidity that is otherwise spread out thinly throughout the day, and in fact, there is an interior optimal length of closure near 5% of the day. There is also an interior optimal length of closure in the larger market, although it is very small. We will discuss the interior optima further in the following section.



**Figure 5. Welfare Comparative Statics**

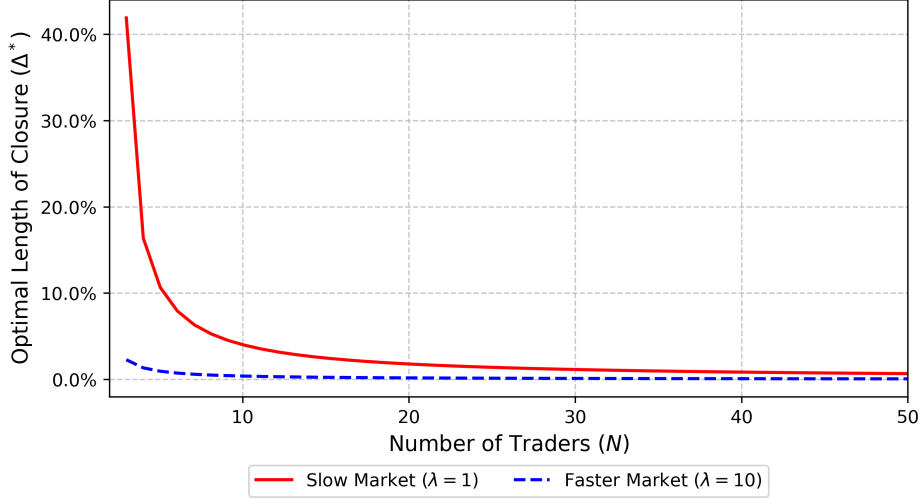
Above is the percent change between welfare under a market closure and welfare under 24/7 trade as we vary the length of the closure in the equilibrium of the continuous trade model. Panel A plots this relationship for two different numbers of traders. Panel B plots this relationship for two different rates of shocks. Both plots use  $r = 10\%$ . In Panel A,  $\lambda = 10$ . In Panel B,  $N = 10$ .

In Panel B, welfare differences are displayed for different rates of shocks to private values. If the shocks are infrequent, closure benefits traders. The higher the frequency of shocks, the lower the relative welfare with a closure. This is due to the fact that the average gap generated overnight between current and desired inventory widens as the length of closure increases and as the rate of shocks increases. If there are not any shocks overnight, then the probability that your inventory position, which tends to be good at the close, is near the desired position at the following open is high. But if there are many shocks at night, then the position you start at the beginning of the next day will be suboptimal, which will be costly to slowly correct in the subsequent trading days. Again, even the case with  $\lambda = 100$  has an interior optimal length of closure, although it is small.

We have assumed parameters governing the rate of shocks or holding costs are the same overnight as during the trading day, while there may be reason to believe they differ. In the Internet Appendix, we relax this assumption, and we show welfare moves intuitively as these parameters change across time.

### B. Is 24/7 Trading Better?

While there is some length of closure that is better than 24/7 trading in Figure 5, it is not obvious whether that is always the case. Proposition 4 shows that there is always a



**Figure 6. Optimal Length of Closure**

We plot the ex-ante welfare maximizing length of closure,  $\Delta^*$ , that maximizes Equation 16. We assume that  $\sigma$  and  $\gamma$  are constant across day and night and use  $r = 10\%$ .

market design with a daily market closure of some length that is strictly better than having trade occur 24/7.

**PROPOSITION 4:** *There always exists a closure length,  $\Delta \in (0, 1)$ , such that the ex-ante welfare of a market design with a market closure is greater than that of a market design of 24/7 trading, where welfare is measured by Equation 16.*

The proof is found in Internet Appendix IA.3.3. Within the confines of our model and assumptions, Proposition 4 shows that 24/7 is never optimal, and there is always a benefit of at least a short closure.

How long should the closure be? Proposition 4 gives no guidance on that dimension. While we do not provide closed-form expressions for the optimal length of the closure,  $\Delta^*$ , we investigate its value numerically in Figure 6. In Figure 6, we plot the optimal length of closure as a function of the size of the market,  $N$ . We plot separate lines as a function of the information arrival frequency,  $\lambda$ . The plot shows that in smaller markets, those with fewer traders or slower informational arrival markets, the optimal length of night can be fairly long at over 40%. However, as the number of traders or the information arrival frequency increases, the optimal length of closure approaches zero quickly. It is worth noting that it never actually reaches zero but becomes economically equivalent to 24/7 trade in larger markets with a fast rate of information arrival.

Overall, the results of this section and Figure 5 suggest 24/7 trading is near optimal in large markets. A daily closure is useful in small markets where shocks are infrequent.

Asset classes such as corporate bonds or index CDSs fit this description well. On the other hand, traders in larger markets with frequent shocks to desired positions, such as equities, cryptocurrencies, futures, and foreign exchange markets, are better off in the model with near 24/7 trade. However, we caveat that there are other benefits of closure that are not modeled in our paper. Closing prices are frequently used as reference prices, and it is not obvious what price to use if there is never a closure. Further, most companies prefer to announce news outside of market hours. Exchanges also need time outside of market hours for updates and maintenance. Finally, managing, collecting, and settling contracts, margin accounts, and collateral need time and a reference close price. These benefits may more than compensate for any small welfare loss in our model from a short closure of an hour, which is not perfectly optimal, as all the curves in Figure 5 flatten as  $\Delta$  nears 0. We will see this point quantitatively in the next section when we calibrate the model to some large equity exchanges.

## V. Calibration

To apply our model to the data, we calibrate key model parameters for several exchanges to quantify the welfare gains or losses from changes in trading hours. More specifically, we calibrate the number of traders per exchange,  $N$ , and the relative volatility of shocks to private values between the day and night,  $\sigma_d/\sigma_n$ , allowing this value to differ from 1, as in Internet Appendix IA.1. To estimate these parameters, we match some moments of our model to data. Specifically, we match intraday volume. Given a closure length, the number of traders, and the relative volatility from day to night, the model implies an expected volume in a given time period as a fraction of the total expected volume in a day, as described in Appendix IA.3.1.<sup>7</sup> We match these moments to moments from four different exchanges: NYSE, Arca, Nasdaq, and CBOE EDGX. We select these four exchanges as the NYSE is the largest registered U.S. equity exchange, and the Nasdaq, CBOE EDGX, and NYSE Arca have announced plans to extend to 24/5, 24/5, and 22/5 trading days, respectively.

We need two linearly independent moments to identify our two parameters. We use the average fraction of daily volume per exchange in the first 3 hours and last 3 hours, which we estimate from TAQ data.<sup>8</sup> Once we have the calibrated parameters, we study counterfactual

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<sup>7</sup>The moments we have chosen only identify the relative magnitude and not the level of volatility from day to night. Percentage changes in welfare also only depend on the relative magnitude and not the level. To make the computation of volume more tractable, we use the continuous trade model and assume shocks to private values occur continuously as a Brownian motion. Assuming shocks are Brownian is a limiting case of the jump process for private values as its arrival rate goes to infinity.

<sup>8</sup>The middle section is a linear combination of the other two moments, which provides no new information.



**Table I**  
**Calibration**

This table compares the welfare of the current market closure to that of 24/7 trading, 23/7 trading, or the optimal length of closure by using the calibrated volatility and number of traders per exchange.  $\hat{N}$  denotes the estimated size of the market, and  $\frac{\hat{\sigma}_d}{\sigma_n}$  is the relative instantaneous volatilities during the day and night. We assume that total volatility is constant across closure lengths so that  $\sigma_d$  solves  $\sigma_T^2 = (1 - \Delta)\sigma_d^2 + \Delta\sigma_n^2$ . The optimal length of closure,  $\Delta^*$ , is that which maximizes welfare defined by Equation 16 given the calibrated parameters and subject to the total volatility constraint. We assume  $r = 10\%$ ,  $v = 0$ , and  $z_0^i = 0$  for all calibrations.

Exchange	Current Length of Night ( $\Delta$ )	$\hat{N}$	$\frac{\hat{\sigma}_d}{\sigma_n}$	Optimal Length of Night ( $\Delta^*$ )	% Welfare Change from $\Delta$ to 23/7	% Welfare Change from $\Delta$ to 24/7	% Welfare Change from $\Delta$ to $\Delta^*$
NYSE	72.9%	208	1.28	0.469%	2.053%	2.057%	2.057%
Nasdaq	72.9%	325	1.32	0.480%	1.997%	2.002%	2.002%
Arca	72.9%	303	1.23	0.123%	2.128%	2.133%	2.133%
CBOE EDGX	72.9%	191	0.87	0.137%	2.606%	2.612%	2.612%

daily closure lengths and fix the total daily private value volatility per exchange to be constant. Specifically, we assume  $\sigma_d$  solves  $\sigma_T^2 = (1 - \Delta)\sigma_d^2 + \Delta\sigma_n^2$  so that total volatility is constant as a function of closure lengths.

We estimate what the welfare change would be if trading went to 23/7, as proposed by 24X. This value is also close to the proposed trading hours for NYSE Arca, CBOE EDGX, and Nasdaq. Then, we compare this counterfactual welfare to the estimate of welfare under the current 17.5-hour closure. We also compare the welfare change from the current market structure to 24/7 trade and, finally, from the current to an optimal closure length. The optimal length of closure,  $\Delta^*$ , is that which maximizes welfare defined by Equation 16 given the calibrated parameters and subject to the total volatility constraint. The results are in Table I.

Table I suggests that, in the model, extending trading hours results in an increase in the welfare (allocative efficiency) of the market. Intuitively, as we have calibrated to large exchanges, the liquidity coordination channel is not as important as the ability to trade for a relatively large fraction of the day since the market is already fairly liquid. Our calibration implies that the NYSE and other large equity exchanges, such as the London or Tokyo stock exchange, should consider extending trading hours. In thinner markets, such as microcap equities, smaller international exchanges, or electronic corporate bond trading, we would expect a calibration to imply a larger decrease in allocative efficiency when moving to 24/7 trade. Interestingly, the welfare gain comes mostly from extending to 23/7, with only a very small additional gain from going all the way to 24/7 or the optimal length of closure. It is

worth noting that the optimal length of closure is an interior length of 2 to 7 minutes a day, which is very short.

## VI. Heterogeneous Information

In this section, we summarize an extension that allows for heterogeneous fundamental information regarding the dividend. The main results are analogous to those of previous sections, suggesting our results regarding the effect of a market closure on liquidity and allocative efficiency are robust to the consideration of informational frictions. The introduction of an information problem is done by adding two components to the model: a stochastic liquidating dividend and private signals regarding its payoff. These components generate a learning problem, discussed below, on top of the inventory management problem discussed in detail in previous sections.

The liquidating dividend is now assumed to evolve according to a jump process. Jumps in the dividend  $v_t$  are assumed to coincide with jumps in the private value shocks and are  $N(0, \sigma_D^2)$  distributed. Each trader receives private signals about these jumps. If a jump in the dividend level occurs at time  $t$ , the signal is given by  $\hat{S}_t^i = v_t - v_{t-} + \epsilon^i$ , where  $\epsilon^i \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, \sigma_\epsilon^2)$ . If jumps occurred at dates  $t_1 < t_2 < \dots < t_k < t$ , trader  $i$  forms a signal  $S^i \equiv \sum_{j=1}^k \hat{S}_{t_j}^i$  at date  $t$ . Assume these normally distributed shocks are all independent of each other and of all other shocks in the model. All other aspects of the model are the same as before.

We focus on daily-periodic, linear, and symmetric strategies and conjecture equilibrium demand schedules at time  $t = kh + n$  for any integer  $n$  take the following form:

$$D_k^i(z^i, w^i, S^i, p) = a_k + b_k p + c_k z^i + f_k(w^i + AS^i).$$

Based on these demand schedules, in equilibrium, any investor will be able to observe  $\bar{W} + A\bar{S}$  directly from the price. Note that there is no time dependence in  $A$ . This is a technical point, but an important one. If there were time dependence, investors' conditional expectations of the dividend would no longer be a simple function of a few state variables, namely  $w^i, S^i$  and  $\bar{W} + A\bar{S}$ . In particular, time dependence in  $A$  would effectively force beliefs to be a state variable of the problem. Any investor  $i$ 's beliefs would depend on other investors' beliefs, which in turn depend on investor  $i$ 's beliefs. This loop iterates, leading to an infinite regress of beliefs problem, which the literature has yet to understand how to resolve.

Given the above demand schedules, each investor solves a learning problem. Traders observe  $w^i, S^i$  and  $\bar{W} + A\bar{S}$ , from which they infer the level of the dividend. In particular,

conditional beliefs at time  $t = kh$  of the value of the dividend are

$$E_t[w_t^i + v_t] = w_t^i + B_1 S_t^i + B_2(\bar{W}_t + A\bar{S}_t),$$

for some constants,  $B_1, B_2$ .  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  unsurprisingly depend on  $A$ , as the relative weight of the signal from the price on  $\bar{W}$  and  $\bar{S}$  affects the learning problem. Conversely,  $A$  depends on  $B_1$  and  $B_2$ , as optimal demand schedules depend on beliefs. This fixed point problem leads to a straightforward non-linear equation for  $A$ .

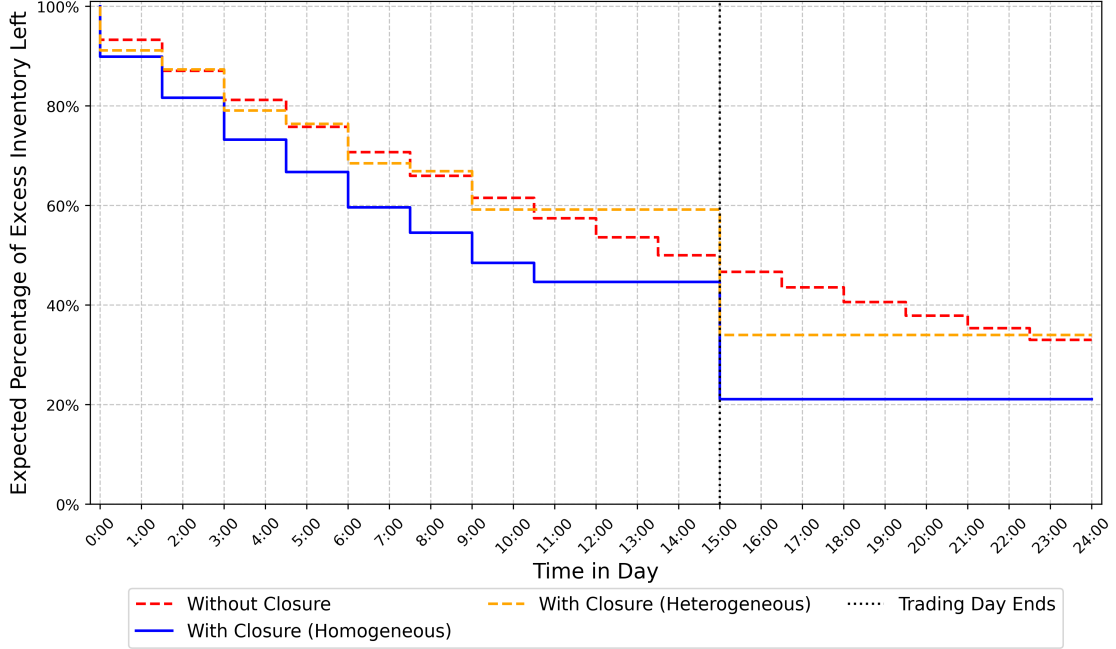
We provide the solution of this model in the Appendix B. It is fairly straightforward to show that if the learning problem goes away, in the sense that  $B_1 = B_2 = 0$ , the equilibrium reduces to that described in Proposition 1. Defining  $s^i = \frac{1}{\alpha}(w^i + AS^i)$  for a constant  $\alpha$ , with a slight relabelling of the demand function, equilibrium demand is given by

$$D_k^i = c_k \left( z_{kh}^i - \left( \frac{r(N\alpha - 1)}{\gamma(N - 1)} (s_{kh}^i - \bar{s}_{kh}) + \bar{Z} \right) \right).$$

$s_k^i$  is simply a weighted sum of trader  $i$ 's private value and their signal.  $\alpha$  is an endogenous measure of the amount of information asymmetry in the market. When  $\alpha = 1$ , there is no information asymmetry, and traders learn no new information about the asset's payoff from the price. As  $\alpha$  decreases, they put more weight on the signal inferred from the market and less on their own information. We will show that the main result of this paper still holds when learning is introduced. As the trading day comes to an end, traders trade aggressively towards their desired allocations. As they do so, price impact decreases, further improving liquidity and the incentives to trade aggressively in the final period.

We plot trading intensity and welfare in Figures 7 and 8. We consider the model of this section alongside a model in which  $\sigma_\epsilon$  is set to 0 so that information asymmetry is eliminated and alongside a model with information asymmetry but without market closure. In Figure 7, we consider trading intensity by plotting  $\prod_{j=0}^k (1 + c_j)$  as a function of  $k$ . This quantity measures how much of the gap between a trader's initial inventory and initial desired inventory has closed between the start of the trading day and time  $t$ , assuming no shocks have arrived in the interim. For both models with closures, trade is most aggressive in the final period. Perhaps unsurprisingly, trading intensity with information asymmetry is slightly slower than without. Traders avoid price impact as purchasing the asset increases other's beliefs about the liquidation value, making them even less willing to sell the asset. It is worth noting that this slower trading is due primarily to heterogeneity, not simply uncertainty. If one plots the trading intensity corresponding to a model in which signals are public, it is indistinguishable from the plot in which there is no uncertainty about the dividend.

In Figure 8, we see that market closure continues to have consequences for welfare. Welfare is better with a long closure if the rate of information arrival is sufficiently slow.

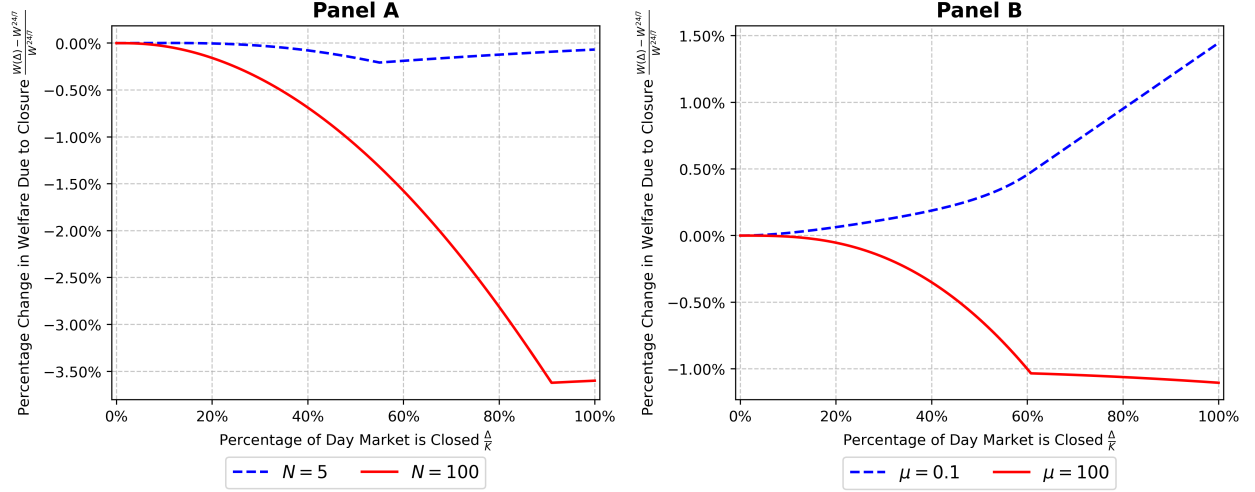


**Figure 7. Trading Intensity with Heterogeneous Information**

This figure plots trading intensity for various regimes throughout the day. The  $y$ -axis is the expected percentage of time 0 excess inventory left at time  $t$  in the day. If there is a closure, its length is 31.25% of the day. The parameters are  $K = 16$ ,  $N = 100$ , and  $r = 1/30$ . Moreover,  $\sigma_D = \sigma = 1$ ,  $\sigma_\epsilon = 0.1$ , and  $\lambda = 1$ . If information is homogeneous,  $\sigma_\epsilon$  is set to 0.

Moreover, if the number of traders is sufficiently small, the results of the left panel suggest a closure of roughly 10% of the day is optimal. Relative to Figure 5, welfare with a market closure is slightly better relative to welfare under 24/7 trade when agents have heterogeneous information. This is not particularly surprising since the coordination a closure provides near the end of the trading day is relatively more important when liquidity is already spread thin due to heterogeneous information. Overall, the primary mechanisms of this paper are present when there is heterogeneous information regarding asset values.

Although not the focus of this paper, it is worth discussing any implications the model might have for price efficiency. One can think of price efficiency as the magnitude of a trader's conditional variance of the dividend given their signals and the price, relative to the unconditional variance of the dividend, that is,  $\frac{\text{Var}_t(v_t)}{\text{Var}(v_t)}$ . This value jumps down whenever trading opens, as traders infer information from the price, and increases on average whenever the market closes. Thus, market closure hinders price efficiency simply because prices are not observed overnight, although price efficiency returns to its level with 24/7 trade as soon as the market is reopened and prices are observed. Although worth pointing out, this is not a particularly surprising finding, as the information structure we consider is



**Figure 8. Welfare Comparative Statics with Heterogeneous Information**

Above is the percent change between welfare under a market closure and welfare under 24/7 trade as we vary the length of the closure, in the equilibrium of the continuous trade model with heterogeneous information. Panel A plots this relationship for two different numbers of traders. Panel B plots this relationship for two different rates of shocks. Both plots assume  $\sigma_D = \sigma = 1$ ,  $\sigma_\epsilon = 0.1$ , and  $r = 10\%$ . In Panel A,  $\lambda = 10$ . In Panel B,  $N = 10$ .

simple enough to make the model tractable. Extensions in which some traders had higher quality signals than others might yield interesting results. Implementing extensions with more interesting information structures is not a trivial problem. The infinite regress of beliefs problem mentioned above that arises even with relatively simple complications of the information structure makes tractable extensions challenging to formulate. In the absence of these difficulties, the impact of market closure on the dynamic interaction between allocative efficiency, liquidity, and price efficiency with heterogeneously informed investors promises to yield very interesting research, which we leave to future study.

## VII. Conclusion

This paper studies the effect of daily market closures on liquidity and allocative efficiency. Market closures coordinate trade at the end of the trading day, and this coordination generates social benefits that can outweigh the costs of the restrictions closure imposes on trade. Although in our model there is a non-zero length of closure that always improves welfare relative to a market structure with 24/7 trade, for large markets with many traders and frequent shocks to private values, this optimal length of closure is very short. Our calibration suggests that a short closure of a couple of hours or less would improve welfare relative to

current market structures in large equity exchanges.

While our model focuses on the effect of a market's hours on allocative efficiency, market closures may play an important role for many other reasons. Even in securities that trade 24/7, such as Forex, we empirically observe volume spikes coinciding with the opening and closing of other exchanges, such as the NYSE. These volume spikes suggest market closures are even important across asset exchanges. Closing auction prices are used in the settlement of many derivative contracts, for margin requirements, to measure the performance of institutional investors, to price mutual fund shares, and to compute the asset value for ETFs and stock indices. Further, market closures have been used to make announcements without inducing excess short-run volatility in a share price. Cross-exchange effects of market closures, the effect of closures on the efficiency of closing prices, and their interaction with endogenous disclosure decisions are important for policymakers and future research to consider.

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# Appendix

## A. Proofs of Propositions 1-3

This appendix proceeds as follows. First, we set up the problem, which describes equilibrium. Then, in Appendix A.1, we construct a solution and describe some of its properties, proving Proposition 1. Appendix A.2 solves the model with a halt in trade to prove Proposition 2, and Appendix A.3 specializes to the case in which  $\Delta = 0$ , so that there is no overnight period, to prove Proposition 3.

Under the assumption of linear demand schedules, and based on the form of the payoffs, the value function will be linear-quadratic:<sup>9</sup>

$$V_k(z^j, w^j, \bar{W}) = a_0^k + a_1^k z^j + a_2^k w^j + a_3^k \bar{W} + a_4^k (z^j)^2 + a_5^k (w^j)^2 + a_6^k (\bar{W})^2 + a_7^k z^j w^j + a_8^k z^j \bar{W} + a_9^k w^j \bar{W}.$$

First, we characterize its solution. The Bellman equation for every time  $t = kh$ , where  $t < T$ , is

$$\begin{aligned} V_k(z^j, w^j, \bar{W}) = \max_{D^j} \Bigg\{ & -D^j p_t^* + (1 - e^{-rh})(z^j + D^j)(v + w^j) - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{2r}(z^j + D^j)^2 \\ & + e^{-rh} [a_0^{t+1} + a_1^{k+1}(z^j + D^j) + a_2^{k+1}w^j + a_3^{k+1}\bar{W} \\ & a_4^{k+1}(z^j + D^j)^2 + a_5^{k+1}((w^j)^2 + \lambda\sigma^2) + a_6^{k+1}(\bar{W}^2 + \frac{\lambda\sigma^2}{N}) \\ & + a_7^{k+1}(z^j + D^j)w^j + a_8^{k+1}(z^j + D^j)\bar{W} + a_9^{k+1}(w^j\bar{W} + \frac{\lambda\sigma^2}{N})] \Bigg\}, \end{aligned}$$

and for the last period, by periodicity, it is

$$\begin{aligned} V_T(z^j, w^j, \bar{W}) = \max_{D^j} \Bigg\{ & -D^j p_T^* + (1 - e^{-rh(1+\Delta)})(z^j + D^j)(v + w^j) \\ & - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh(1+\Delta)})\gamma_n}{2r}(z^j + D^j)^2 + e^{-rh(1+\Delta)} [a_0^0 + a_1^0(z^j + D^j) + a_2^0 w^j + a_3^0 \bar{W} \\ & a_4^0(z^j + D^j)^2 + a_5^0((w^j)^2 + \lambda(1 + \Delta)\sigma^2) + a_6^0(\bar{W}^2 + \frac{\lambda(1 + \Delta)\sigma^2}{N}) \\ & + a_7^0(z^j + D^j)w^j + a_8^0(z^j + D^j)\bar{W} + a_9^0(w^j\bar{W} + \frac{\lambda(1 + \Delta)\sigma^2}{N})] \Bigg\}. \end{aligned}$$

The FOC for optimal demand in the first  $T - 1$  periods is then

$$0 = -p_t^* - \lambda_k D^j + (1 - e^{-rh})(v + w^j) - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{r}(z^j + D^j)$$

---

<sup>9</sup>One can apply a contraction mapping theorem to show the uniqueness of the solution to the trader's decision problem given the other trader's demand functions. First, one can restrict the decision space to a compact subset of the set of linear demand functions. Value iteration will map the set of bounded continuous functions into itself, assuming a Feller-type condition regarding the continuity of the conditional expectation of the continuation value and assuming boundedness is defined using a weighted norm of the form  $\|f\| = \sup |f(t, z, w, \bar{W})e^{-\|(z, w, \bar{W})\|_2^2}|$ . Then, using Blackwell's conditions along with the Contraction Mapping Theorem, one gets uniqueness on any compact subset of linear demand functions.

$$+ e^{-rh}[a_1^{k+1} + 2a_4^{k+1}(z^j + D^j) + a_7^{k+1}w^j + a_8^{k+1}\bar{W}],$$

and in the last trading session of the day

$$0 = -p_T^* - \lambda_T D^j + (1 - e^{-rh(1+\Delta)})(v + w^j) - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh(1+\Delta)})\gamma_n}{r}(z^j + D^j) \\ + e^{-rh(1+\Delta)}[a_1^0 + 2a_4^0(z^j + D^j) + a_7^0w^j + a_8^0\bar{W}].$$

where  $\lambda_k := \frac{\partial \Phi_t}{\partial d^j} = -\frac{1}{b_k(N-1)}$ . Assume

$$D_k^j = a_k + b_k p_t + c_k z^j + f_k w^j.$$

Market clearing implies the equilibrium price is

$$p_t = -\frac{a_k + c_k \bar{Z} + f_k \bar{W}_t}{b_k},$$

and equilibrium demand is

$$D_k^j = c_k(z_t^j - \bar{Z}) + f_k(w_t^j - \bar{W}_t).$$

Substituting these expressions into the FOC,

$$\frac{a_k + c_k \bar{Z} + f_k \bar{W}}{b_k} + \frac{1}{b_k(N-1)}(c_k(z^j - \bar{Z}) + f_k(w^j - \bar{W})) \\ + (1 - e^{-rh})(v + w^j) - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{r}((1 + c_k)z^j - c_k \bar{Z} + f_k(w^j - \bar{W})) \\ + e^{-rh}[a_1^{k+1} + 2a_4^{k+1}((1 + c_k)z^j - c_k \bar{Z} + f_k(w^j - \bar{W})) + a_7^{k+1}w^j + a_8^{k+1}\bar{W}] = 0,$$

and

$$\frac{a_T + c_T \bar{Z} + f_T \bar{W}}{b_T} + \frac{1}{b_T(N-1)}(c_T(z^j - \bar{Z}) + f_T(w^j - \bar{W})) \\ + (1 - e^{-rh(1+\Delta)})(v + w^j) - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh(1+\Delta)})\gamma_n}{r}((1 + c_T)z^j - c_T \bar{Z} + f_T(w^j - \bar{W})) \\ + e^{-rh(1+\Delta)}[a_1^0 + 2a_4^0((1 + c_T)z^j - c_T \bar{Z} + f_T(w^j - \bar{W})) + a_7^0w^j + a_8^0\bar{W}] = 0.$$

Grouping common terms,

$$\frac{a_k + c_k \bar{Z}}{b_k} - \frac{c_k \bar{Z}}{b_k(N-1)} + (1 - e^{-rh})v + \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d c_k \bar{Z}}{r} + e^{-rh}a_1^{k+1} - 2e^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}c_k \bar{Z} = 0,$$

$$\frac{c_k}{b_k(N-1)} - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d(1 + c_k)}{r} + 2e^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}(1 + c_k) = 0,$$

$$\frac{f_k}{b_k(N-1)} + (1 - e^{-rh}) - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d f_k}{r} + 2e^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}f_k + e^{-rh}a_7^{k+1} = 0,$$

$$\frac{f_k}{b_k} - \frac{f_k}{b_k(N-1)} + \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d f_k}{r} - 2e^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}f_k + e^{-rh}a_8^{k+1} = 0,$$

and similarly at period  $T$ . We show in the Internet Appendix IA.4 that  $\alpha_7^k + \alpha_8^k = 1$  and

hence  $f_k = -b_k$  by the 3rd and 4th FOCs. This leads to the following expressions for the parameters describing demand functions:

$$b_k = \frac{r(N-2-(N-1)e^{-rh}(1-a_7^{k+1}))}{(N-1)(\gamma_d(e^{-rh}-1)+2re^{-rh}a_4^{k+1})},$$

$$c_k = \frac{2+(a_7^{k+1}-1)e^{-rh}-N(1+e^{-rh}(a_7^{k+1}-1))}{(N-1)(1+e^{-rh}(a_7^{k+1}-1))},$$

$$f_k = \frac{r(1+e^{-rh}(a_7^{k+1}-1))c_k}{\gamma_d(e^{-rh}-1)+2re^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}},$$

$$a_k = -\frac{c_k(N-2)\bar{Z}}{N-1} + b_k \left( v(e^{-rh}-1) - e^{-rh}a_1^{k+1} + \frac{c_k\gamma_d(e^{-rh}-1)\bar{Z}}{r} + 2e^{-rh}c_k\bar{Z}a_4^{k+1} \right).$$

The expression for  $c_k$  simplifies to

$$c_k = \frac{1}{(N-1)(1+e^{-rh}(a_7^{k+1}-1))} - 1.$$

Thus, given the coefficients describing the value function, the demand functions are known.

Let us now characterize the value function. Returning to the Bellman equation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} V_k = & (c_k(z^j - \bar{Z}) + f_k(w^j - \bar{W})) \left( \frac{a_k}{b_k} + \frac{c_k}{b_k}\bar{Z} + \frac{f_k}{b_k}\bar{W} \right) \\ & + (1 - e^{-rh})((1 + c_k)z^j - c_k\bar{Z} + f_k(w^j - \bar{W}))(v + w^j) \\ & - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{2r}(((1 + c_k)z^j - c_k\bar{Z} + f_k(w^j - \bar{W})))^2 \\ & + e^{-rh} [a_0^{t+1} + a_1^{k+1}((1 + c_k)z^j - c_k\bar{Z} + f_k(w^j - \bar{W})) + a_2^{k+1}w^j + a_3^{k+1}\bar{W} \\ & a_4^{k+1}((1 + c_k)z^j - c_k\bar{Z} + f_k(w^j - \bar{W}))^2 + a_5^{k+1}((w^j)^2 + \lambda\sigma^2) + a_6^{k+1}(\bar{W}^2 + \frac{\lambda\sigma^2}{N}) \\ & + a_7^{k+1}((1 + c_k)z^j - c_k\bar{Z} + f_k(w^j - \bar{W}))w^j \\ & + a_8^{k+1}((1 + c_k)z^j - c_k\bar{Z} + f_k(w^j - \bar{W}))\bar{W} + a_9^{k+1}(w^j\bar{W} + \frac{\lambda\sigma^2}{N})] \end{aligned}$$

Matching coefficients in the Bellman equation,

$$\begin{aligned} a_0^k = & -\bar{Z}\frac{c_k a_k + c_k^2 \bar{Z}}{b_k} - c_k(1 - e^{-rh})v\bar{Z} - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{2r}c_k^2 \bar{Z}^2 \\ & + e^{-rh}a_0^{t+1} - e^{-rh}a_1^{k+1}c_k\bar{Z} + e^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}c_k^2 \bar{Z}^2 + e^{-rh}a_5^{k+1}\lambda\sigma^2 + e^{-rh}a_6^{k+1}\frac{\lambda\sigma^2}{N} + e^{-rh}a_9^{k+1}\frac{\lambda\sigma^2}{N} \\ a_1^k = & \frac{c_k a_k + c_k^2 \bar{Z}}{b_k} + (1 - e^{-rh})(1 + c_k)v + \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{r}(1 + c_k)c_k\bar{Z} \\ & + e^{-rh}(1 + c_k)a_1^{k+1} - 2e^{-rh}(1 + c_k)c_k\bar{Z}a_4^{k+1} \\ a_2^k = & \frac{f_k a_k}{b_k} + \frac{f_k c_k}{b_k}\bar{Z} + (1 - e^{-rh})(f_k v - c_k\bar{Z}) + \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{r}c_k f_k \bar{Z} + e^{-rh}f_k a_1^{k+1} + e^{-rh}a_2^{k+1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& -e^{-rh}2a_4^{k+1}c_k f_k \bar{Z} - e^{-rh}a_7^{k+1}c_k \bar{Z} \\
a_3^k &= -\frac{f_k a_k}{b_k} - 2\frac{f_k c_k}{b_k} \bar{Z} - (1 - e^{-rh})f_k v - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{r} c_k f_k \bar{Z} - e^{-rh}f_k a_1^{k+1} + e^{-rh}a_3^{k+1} \\
& + e^{-rh}2a_4^{k+1}c_k f_k \bar{Z} - e^{-rh}a_8^{k+1}c_k \bar{Z} \\
a_4^k &= -\frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{2r}(1 + c_k)^2 + e^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}(1 + c_k)^2 \\
a_5^k &= (1 - e^{-rh})f_k - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{2r}f_k^2 + e^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}f_k^2 + e^{-rh}a_5^{k+1} + e^{-rh}a_7^{k+1}f_k \\
a_6^k &= -\frac{f_k^2}{b_k} - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{2r}f_k^2 + e^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}f_k^2 + e^{-rh}a_6^{k+1} - e^{-rh}a_8^{k+1}f_k \\
a_7^k &= (1 - e^{-rh})(1 + c_k) - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{r}(1 + c_k)f_k + 2e^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}(1 + c_k)f_k + e^{-rh}a_7^{k+1}(1 + c_k) \\
a_8^t &= \frac{c_k f_k}{b_k} + \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{r}(1 + c_k)f_k - 2e^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}(1 + c_k)f_k + e^{-rh}a_8^{k+1}(1 + c_k) \\
a_9^t &= f_k \left( \frac{f_k}{b_k} - (1 - e^{-rh}) + \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{r}f_k - 2e^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}f_k - e^{-rh}a_7^{k+1} + e^{-rh}a_8^{k+1} \right) + e^{-rh}a_9^{k+1}
\end{aligned}$$

The joint solution of these recursions, along with the expressions for  $a_k, b_k, c_k, f_k$ , characterizes the equilibrium. We give simplifications of these recursions in Internet Appendix IA.4.

### A.1. Construction, Existence and Properties of solution

In this subsection, we describe the solution for  $a_7$ . If we have a solution for  $a_7$ , that yields solutions for  $c$ . This then allows for a solution for  $a_4$ , since the recursion is linear. Solutions of  $a_7, c, a_4$  yield solutions for  $b$  and  $f$ . Moreover, we show below that  $a_k/b_k = v$ , implying solutions for  $b$  that yields solutions for  $a$ . The remaining recursions for the value function are linear and have simple solutions. To sum up, solving the model reduces to solving for  $a_7$ .

#### Explicit Solution for $(a_7^k)_{k=0}^T$ :

We have

$$a_7^k = \frac{1}{(N-1)^2(1 + e^{-rh}(a_7^{k+1} - 1))},$$

for  $k = 0, \dots, T-1$ . Then, at time  $T$ ,

$$a_7^T = \frac{1}{(N-1)^2(1 + e^{-r(1+\Delta)h}(a_7^0 - 1))}.$$

Set  $a_7^0 = d$  for some constant  $d$  which solves a quadratic equation. Write  $\delta = e^{-rh}$ . The constant term in the quadratic equation is

$$-2 \left( (-1 + \delta)(N-1)^2 - \sqrt{(N-1)^2(4\delta + (-1 + \delta)^2(N-1)^2)} \right)^{T+1}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + 2 \left( (-1 + \delta)(N - 1)^2 + \sqrt{(N - 1)^2 (4\delta + (-1 + \delta)^2 (N - 1)^2)} \right)^{T+1} \\
& + \delta^{T+1+\Delta} \left[ \left( (-1 + \delta)\delta^{-(T+1)} - (-1 + \delta)\delta^{-(T+1+\Delta)} \right) (N - 1)^2 \right. \\
& \quad \times \left( \left( (-1 + \delta)(N - 1)^2 - \sqrt{(N - 1)^2 (4\delta + (-1 + \delta)^2 (N - 1)^2)} \right)^{T+1} \right. \\
& \quad \left. \left. - \left( (-1 + \delta)(N - 1)^2 + \sqrt{(N - 1)^2 (4\delta + (-1 + \delta)^2 (N - 1)^2)} \right)^{T+1} \right) \right. \\
& \quad + \left( \delta^{-(T+1)} - \delta^{-(T+1+\Delta)} \right) \sqrt{(N - 1)^2 (4\delta + (-1 + \delta)^2 (N - 1)^2)} \\
& \quad \times \left( \left( (-1 + \delta)(N - 1)^2 - \sqrt{(N - 1)^2 (4\delta + (-1 + \delta)^2 (N - 1)^2)} \right)^{T+1} \right. \\
& \quad \left. \left. + \left( (-1 + \delta)(N - 1)^2 + \sqrt{(N - 1)^2 (4\delta + (-1 + \delta)^2 (N - 1)^2)} \right)^{T+1} \right) \right].
\end{aligned}$$

The coefficient on the first-order term is

$$\begin{aligned}
& \delta^{T+1+\Delta} \left[ \left( -2\delta^{-T} + (1 - \delta)\delta^{-(T+1)} + \delta^{-(T+1+\Delta)}(1 + \delta) \right) (N - 1)^2 \right. \\
& \quad \times \left( \left( (-1 + \delta)(N - 1)^2 - \sqrt{(N - 1)^2 (4\delta + (-1 + \delta)^2 (N - 1)^2)} \right)^{T+1} \right. \\
& \quad \left. \left. - \left( (-1 + \delta)(N - 1)^2 + \sqrt{(N - 1)^2 (4\delta + (-1 + \delta)^2 (N - 1)^2)} \right)^{T+1} \right) \right. \\
& \quad \left. - \left( \delta^{-(T+1)} - \delta^{-(T+1+\Delta)} \right) \sqrt{(N - 1)^2 (4\delta + (-1 + \delta)^2 (N - 1)^2)} \right. \\
& \quad \times \left( \left( (-1 + \delta)(N - 1)^2 - \sqrt{(N - 1)^2 (4\delta + (-1 + \delta)^2 (N - 1)^2)} \right)^{T+1} \right. \\
& \quad \left. \left. + \left( (-1 + \delta)(N - 1)^2 + \sqrt{(N - 1)^2 (4\delta + (-1 + \delta)^2 (N - 1)^2)} \right)^{T+1} \right) \right],
\end{aligned}$$

and the coefficient on the second-order term is

$$\begin{aligned}
& 2\delta^{1+\Delta}(N - 1)^2 \left( \left( (-1 + \delta)(N - 1)^2 - \sqrt{(N - 1)^2 (4\delta + (-1 + \delta)^2 (N - 1)^2)} \right)^{T+1} \right. \\
& \quad \left. - \left( (-1 + \delta)(N - 1)^2 + \sqrt{(N - 1)^2 (4\delta + (-1 + \delta)^2 (N - 1)^2)} \right)^{T+1} \right).
\end{aligned}$$

One can show the discriminant of the quadratic equation for  $d$  is positive, implying one root is positive, and one is negative. Note if  $a_7^k > 0$  for some  $k$ , the recursion for  $a_7^7$  given in the Internet Appendix, along with the expression for  $c_k$ , implies all other  $a_7^{k'}$  are also positive. Similarly, if one of the  $a_7^k < 0$  for some  $k$ , all the other  $a_7^{k'}$  must be negative too. This results from the fact that if one were positive, all the subsequent  $a_7^{k'}$  would be positive, prohibiting a solution by periodicity. Thus, the  $a_7^k$  are either all positive or all negative. We show next that only the positive solution can occur in equilibrium.

### Characterizing the equilibrium solution and its existence:

This section first shows the equilibrium  $c$ ,  $f$  and  $a_7, a_4$  must satisfy certain restrictions, then discusses the existence of the solution.

The SOC for demand optimization is given by

$$\frac{1}{b(N-1)} - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{r} + 2e^{-rh}a_4^{k+1} < 0$$

First, note since  $f/b = -1$ , we must have  $f > 0$  in equilibrium. By the third FOC above, this fact combined with the SOC implies

$$(1 - e^{-rh}) + e^{-rh}a_7^{k+1} > 0.$$

Then, by the expression for  $f$ , both  $c$  and  $\gamma_d(e^{-rh} - 1) + 2re^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}$  must have the same sign. Now, the second FOC implies

$$\frac{c_k}{b_k(N-1)} = \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d(1 + c_k)}{r} - 2e^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}(1 + c_k).$$

If  $c \leq -1$ , the LHS is positive while the RHS is negative. So  $c \geq -1$ . This fact implies, as hinted at in discussions above, that  $a_7 > 0$  in equilibrium.

Now since  $c$  and  $\gamma_d(e^{-rh} - 1) + 2re^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}$  have the same sign, we can analyze  $\gamma_d(e^{-rh} - 1) + 2re^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}$  to determine the sign of  $c$ . Let's consider the case  $k = 0$ . Other cases are similar.

$$\begin{aligned} a_4^0 &= -\frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{2r}(1 + c_0)^2 + e^{-rh}a_4^1(1 + c_0)^2 \\ &= -\frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{2r}(1 + c_0)^2 - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{2r}e^{-rh}(1 + c_0)^2(1 + c_1)^2 + e^{-2rh}a_4^2(1 + c_0)^2(1 + c_1)^2 \\ &= \dots \\ &= -\frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{2r} \sum_{t=0}^k e^{-trh} \prod_{i=0}^t (1 + c_i)^2 + e^{-(k+1)rh}a_4^{k+1} \prod_{i=0}^{k+1} (1 + c_i)^2 \end{aligned}$$

for  $k \leq T - 1$ . Iterating to  $k = T$  and beyond is similar. In order for positions to be non-explosive functions of past positions, based on the expression for equilibrium demand, we only consider equilibria that imply  $\prod_{i=0}^k (1 + c_i) \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . Note that this also implies, taking the limit in the expansion above, that  $a_4^0 < 0$ . One can show  $a_4^k < 0$  similarly.

This, in turn, implies  $c < 0$ . It's worth noting that  $c < 0$  will imply  $\prod_{i=0}^k (1 + c_i) \rightarrow 0$ , where one imposes periodicity in the limit in the obvious way.

Thus, we've shown that in equilibrium,  $a_7$  must be positive, and  $c$  must be between  $-1$  and  $0$ . Let us show  $(N - 1)(1 - e^{-rh}) > 1$  is a sufficient condition for an equilibrium with trade every period to exist. The positive solution for  $a_7$  constructed above is the only

candidate. Since we must have

$$c_k = \frac{1}{(N-1)(1 + e^{-rh}(a_7^{k+1} - 1))} - 1,$$

the candidate  $a_7$  will imply  $c_k \geq -1$ . And,  $c_k < 0$  for all  $k$  if  $(N-1)(1 - e^{-rh}) > 1$ . Note if this condition did not hold,  $c_k$  would only be negative if  $a_7^{k+1}$  were sufficiently large. Hence, since  $-1 \leq c < 0$ , by the expressions for  $a_4$  given above the solution for  $a_4$  will be negative. So,  $f$  will be positive, and  $b$  will be negative, given by the solutions to the first-order conditions above. Therefore, there is an equilibrium.

### Properties of the solution:

We show four properties of the solution. The first two describe the oscillating properties of the solution, while the last two are useful for simplifying equilibrium demand and price expressions.

(1) The first is that if one  $a_7^k$  is larger than the long-run solution (i.e., the solution in which the market is always open), the “next” one,  $a_7^{k-1}$ , must be smaller. To see this, define

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{(N-1)^2(1 - e^{-rh} + e^{-rh}x)}.$$

The long-run solution solves the quadratic equation given by  $f(x_0) = x_0$ . Since for  $x > 0$ ,  $f$  is decreasing in  $x$ , if  $x > x_0$ ,  $y \equiv f(x) < f(x_0) = x_0$ . So the next iteration  $y$  is less than  $x_0$ . The opposite happens if  $x < x_0$ . So solutions oscillate around the long-run solution when the market is open.

(2) Second, we show the size of the oscillations decrease as one gets further away from the end of trade. To do this, note if  $a_7^k = x$ , where  $k \neq 0, 1$ ,

$$a_7^{k-2} = f(f(x)).$$

Note the long run solution  $x_0$  solves the quadratic equation  $x_0 = f(f(x_0))$ . After simplifying, we can write this equation as

$$0 = 1 - (1 - e^{-rh})(N-1)^2x_0 - e^{-rh}(N-1)^2x_0^2.$$

Note the long-run solution  $x_0$  that we care about is the positive root - it's straightforward to show, like our solution for  $a_7$  above, one root is positive, and one is negative, and the quadratic function defined by the right-hand side above is decreasing in positive reals. In particular, if  $0 < x < x_0$ ,

$$1 - (1 - e^{-rh})(N-1)^2x - e^{-rh}(N-1)^2x^2 > 0,$$

which by reversing the same operations that led us from  $f(f(x_0)) = x_0$  to the quadratic equation, implies  $f(f(x)) > x$ , so that  $a_7^{k-2} > a_7^k$ . Similarly, if  $x > x_0$ , then  $a_7^{k-2} < a_7^k$ . So the oscillations decrease in magnitude as one moves further from the end of trade.



We illustrated these first two properties for  $a_7$ . The correspondence between  $a_7$  and  $c$  implies analogous results for  $c$ .

(3) The third property is that  $c_k/f_k = -\gamma/r$ . First, recall

$$a_7^k = (1 - e^{-rh})(1 + c_k) - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{r}(1 + c_k)f_k + 2e^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}(1 + c_k)f_k + e^{-rh}a_7^{k+1}(1 + c_k).$$

Plugging in the expression for  $f_k$  derived above, this implies

$$a_7^k = (1 - e^{-rh})(1 + c_k)^2 + e^{-rh}a_7^{k+1}(1 + c_k)^2.$$

Thus, defining  $\kappa_k = \frac{2r}{\gamma_d}a_4^k + a_7^k$ , we have  $\kappa_k = e^{-rh}\kappa_{k+1}(1 + c_k)^2$  for  $t < T$ , and similarly when  $t = T$ . This periodic recursion has unique solution  $\kappa_k = 0$ . Then, the expression for  $f_k$  implies  $f_k = -\frac{r}{\gamma}c_k$ .

(4) The last property is that  $a_k/b_k = -v$ . Recall the first FOC for optimal demand is

$$\frac{a_k + c_k\bar{Z}}{b_k} - \frac{c_k\bar{Z}}{b_k(N-1)} + (1 - e^{-rh})v + \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d c_k \bar{Z}}{r} + e^{-rh}a_1^{k+1} - 2e^{-rh}a_4^{k+1}c_k\bar{Z} = 0,$$

By the third FOC above, this can be rewritten as

$$0 = \frac{a_k}{b_k} + \frac{c_k}{b_k}\bar{Z} + \frac{c_k\bar{Z}}{f_k}e^{-hr}a_7^{k+1} + (1 - e^{-rh})(v + \frac{c_k\bar{Z}}{f_k}) + e^{-rh}a_1^{k+1}.$$

Then, the recursions for  $a_1, a_7$  imply

$$-\frac{r}{\gamma\bar{Z}}a_1^k + a_7^k = \frac{r}{\gamma\bar{Z}}\left(\frac{a_k}{b_k} + \frac{c_k\bar{Z}}{b_k}\right).$$

Combined, these last two expressions imply

$$-\frac{r}{\gamma\bar{Z}}a_1^k + a_7^k = -\frac{r}{\gamma\bar{Z}}(1 - e^{-rh})\left(v - \frac{\gamma}{r}\bar{Z}\right) + e^{-rh}(a_7^{k+1} - \frac{r}{\gamma\bar{Z}}a_1^{k+1}).$$

It's straightforward to show this relation also holds when there is no trade, implying  $-\frac{r}{\gamma\bar{Z}}a_1^k + a_7^k = -\frac{r}{\gamma\bar{Z}}(v - \frac{\gamma}{r}\bar{Z})$ . Plugging this back into the simplified FOC above, we arrive at  $\frac{a_k}{b_k} = -v$ .

## A.2. Solution when there's a halt in trade for a period

In this subsection, we illustrate how the solution is constructed when there is a halt in trade for a period. After characterizing an equation the equilibrium must satisfy, we then study the existence of the equilibrium with a halt in trade for at least a period.

### Construction of the solution:

If there's a halt in trade for one period before the penultimate period, then we have

$$a_7^k = \frac{1}{(N-1)^2(1 + e^{-rh}(a_7^{k+1} - 1))}$$

for  $k = 0, \dots, T-2$ . In period  $T$ ,

$$a_7^T = \frac{1}{(N-1)^2(1 + e^{-r(1+\Delta)h}(a_7^0 - 1))},$$

and  $a_7^{T-1} = (1 - e^{-rh}) + e^{-rh}a_7^T$ . Setting  $a_7^0 = d$  for some constant  $d$ , we can write the solution in terms of a quadratic equation in  $d$  when there wasn't a halt. It is straightforward to show that there is one positive and one negative root, just as before. For the same reasons as before, the positive root will characterize the solution. Moreover, all  $a_7^k$  must be positive by the recursions for  $a_7$ .

### Existence of the equilibrium:

We still need to verify the solution of the quadratic equation we have just given generates an equilibrium under the conditions of Proposition 2, in that in all periods of trade, the implied values of  $b$  are negative. Before discussing the existence of the equilibrium with a halt in trade only at  $T - 1$ , let us more generally study when an equilibrium with a halt exists.

Let us adjust the recursions for  $a_7$  above to allow for no trade in certain periods. Once the equilibrium value of  $a_7$  is determined, the rest of the parameters determining equilibrium can be pinned down as before. In particular, we will frequently make use of the fact that the expression for  $c_k$  in periods with trade must be the same function of  $a_7^{k+1}$  as before.

Note if  $\frac{1}{(N-1)(1-e^{-rh}+e^{-rh}a_7^{k+1})} > 1$ , the arguments in Appendix A.1 imply there is no solution for trade at  $k$  in downward sloping demand curves, because the solution for  $c_k$  and hence  $b_k$  would be positive. This condition reduces to

$$a_7^{k+1} < 1 - \frac{N-2}{e^{-rh}(N-1)},$$

so that we can redefine the recursion for  $a_7^{k+1}$  when we don't require trade every period to

$$a_7^k = \begin{cases} 1 - e^{-rh} + e^{-rh}a_7^{k+1} & \text{if } a_7^{k+1} \leq 1 - \frac{N-2}{e^{-rh}(N-1)} \\ \frac{1}{(N-1)^2(1-e^{-rh}+e^{-rh}a_7^{k+1})} & \text{if } a_7^{k+1} > 1 - \frac{N-2}{e^{-rh}(N-1)} \end{cases}$$

$$= \min\left\{1 - e^{-rh} + e^{-rh}a_7^{k+1}, \frac{1}{(N-1)^2(1-e^{-rh}+e^{-rh}a_7^{k+1})}\right\}.$$

Define  $f$  to be the right-hand side of this expression as a continuous, piecewise-defined function  $a_7^{k+1}$ . This recursion corresponds to the model in which, if there is no trade equilibrium at  $k$  in downward-sloping demand curves, there is no trade at  $k$ . If there is a trade equilibrium, the corresponding value of  $a_7^k$  is selected.

Moreover,  $f$  is a contraction from  $[0, \infty)$  to itself. One can argue this as follows.  $f$  is increasing if  $a_7^{k+1} \leq 1 - \frac{N-2}{e^{-rh}(N-1)}$  and decreasing otherwise. Moreover, on the first region, its slope is  $e^{-rh}$  and on the second region its slope is decreasing and maximized when  $a_7^{k+1} = \max\{1 - \frac{N-2}{e^{-rh}(N-1)}, 0\}$ . Its slope at this point is also strictly less than 1. So, it's then straightforward to see that  $f$  is a contraction.

Then, we can iterate the recursions for  $a_7$   $T$  times to write  $a_7^t$  as the solution of a fixed

point problem, by periodicity. Note the recursion at period  $T$  must be appropriately adjusted to account for the overnight period. This fixed point function is the composition of functions that are contractions, and hence  $a_7^t$  is the fixed point of a contraction mapping. Thus, by the Contraction Mapping Theorem, there's a unique solution to  $a_7^t$  and, therefore, the sequence of  $a_7$ 's.

Hence, there is a unique solution to the problem for which trade at any period is only abandoned if there is no equilibrium in downward-sloping demand curves in that period.

Now, let us specifically discuss the equilibrium with a single halt. Recall Proposition 2 assumes  $(N-1)(1-e^{-2rh}) > 1$ , and there is no equilibrium with trade in every period. It is straightforward to show via numerical examples that this condition is not meaningless, i.e., there are parameters for which  $1-e^{-2rh} > \frac{1}{N-1} > 1-e^{-rh}$  and only a halt for exactly one period exists.

Note since  $\Delta \geq 1$ , the condition  $(N-1)(1-e^{-2rh}) > 1$  alone implies there is a trade equilibrium at  $T$  since the implied  $c_T$  is negative. If there were also trade at  $T-1$ , the oscillation properties (1) and (2) shown above would imply there is trade in all previous periods, a contradiction. Hence, there is no trade at  $T-1$ .

Now let us show that  $a_7^{T-1}$  and  $a_7^{T-2}$  are large enough for a trade equilibrium to occur in periods  $T-2$  and  $T-3$ . Or equivalently, we show that the value of  $c_k$  necessary for trade to occur is negative. Since there's no trade in period  $T-1$ ,

$$a_7^{T-1} = (1-e^{-rh}) + e^{-rh}a_7^T > 1-e^{-rh}$$

For a trade equilibrium to exist in period  $T-2$ , we need the necessary value of  $c_{T-2}$  to be negative. It is sufficient that

$$1 < (N-1)(1-e^{-rh} + e^{-rh}(1-e^{-rh})) = (N-1)(1-e^{-2rh}),$$

which holds.

Confirming  $a_7^{T-2}$  is sufficiently large is slightly less straightforward. First note that since there is no trade at period  $T-1$ , the implied  $c_{T-1}$  must be positive. This results from the definition of the modified recursion. This is true if

$$(N-1)(1 + e^{-rh}(a_7^T - 1)) < 1,$$

which simplifies to

$$a_7^T < \frac{1 - (N-1)(1-e^{-rh})}{e^{-rh}(N-1)}.$$

Then,

$$a_7^{T-1} = (1-e^{-rh}) + e^{-rh}a_7^T < \frac{1}{N-1}.$$

Using this, for  $c_{T-3}$  to be negative it suffices to have

$$\begin{aligned}
1 &< (N-1) \left( 1 - e^{-rh} + e^{-rh} \left( \frac{1}{(N-1)^2(1 - e^{-rh} + \frac{e^{-rh}}{N-1})} \right) \right) \\
&= (N-1)(1 - e^{-rh}) + e^{-rh} \frac{1}{(N-1)(1 - e^{-rh}) + e^{-rh}} \\
&= \frac{(N-1)^2(1 - e^{-rh})^2 + e^{-rh}(N-1)(1 - e^{-rh}) + e^{-rh}}{(N-1)(1 - e^{-rh}) + e^{-rh}}.
\end{aligned}$$

This rearranges to  $(N-1)(N-2)(1 - e^{-rh})^2 > 0$ , which holds.

Now, the oscillation properties discussed above imply  $c_k < 0$  for all periods earlier in the day, and a repetition of the arguments in the previous section implies the equilibrium exists.

Note, there can't be an equilibrium with a single halt in an earlier period (period  $T-2$  or earlier), unless such an equilibrium involved forgoing trade in periods in which there is a trade equilibrium. This results from the uniqueness of the solution  $a_7$  of the modified recursion. One can also see this fact using the oscillation properties of the solution. In such equilibrium,  $a_7^0, a_7^T$  would be sufficiently large for trade to occur in periods  $T, T-1$ . The oscillation properties would imply they would be sufficiently large in any prior period, up to and including the period in which no trade occurred. Thus, this equilibrium would necessarily enforce no trade in at least one period in which a trade equilibrium is attainable.

### A.3. Proposition 3: 24/7 Trade

It is straightforward to see that when  $\Delta = 0$ , solutions to the recursions must be constant. The recursions describing the value function reduce to

$$\begin{aligned}
a_0 &= -\bar{Z}^2 c^2 \left( \frac{1}{b(N-1)} + e^{-rh} a_4 \right) + e^{-rh} a_0 + e^{-rh} a_5 \lambda \sigma^2 + e^{-rh} a_6 \frac{\lambda \sigma^2}{N} + e^{-rh} a_9 \frac{\lambda \sigma^2}{N} \\
a_1 &= \frac{c(c+1)\bar{Z}}{b(N-1)} - \frac{a + c\bar{Z}}{b} \\
a_2 &= -\frac{c\bar{Z}}{N-1} - (1 - e^{-rh})c\bar{Z} + e^{-rh} a_2 - e^{-rh} a_7 c\bar{Z} \\
a_3 &= \frac{cN\bar{Z}}{N-1} + e^{-rh} a_3 - e^{-rh} a_8 c\bar{Z} \\
a_4 &= -\frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{2r} (1 + c)^2 + e^{-rh} a_4 (1 + c)^2 \\
a_5 &= (1 - e^{-rh}) \frac{f}{2} + \frac{f}{2(N-1)} + e^{-rh} \frac{f(1+c)}{2(N-1)} + e^{-rh} a_5 \\
a_6 &= -\frac{fN}{2(N-1)} - e^{-rh} \frac{f}{2} \left( \frac{N-2}{N-1} - \frac{c}{N-1} \right) + e^{-rh} a_6 \\
a_7 &= \frac{1+c}{N-1}
\end{aligned}$$

$$a_8 = -c + \frac{N-2}{N-1}(1+c)$$

$$a_9 = \frac{cf}{(1+c)(N-1)} + e^{-rh}a_9$$

and the equations describing the trade equilibrium reduce to.

$$b = \frac{r(N-2 - (N-1)e^{-rh}(1-a_7))}{(N-1)(\gamma_d(e^{-rh}-1) + 2re^{-rh}a_4)},$$

$$c = \frac{1}{(N-1)(1 + e^{-rh}(a_7-1))} - 1,$$

$$f = \frac{r(1 + e^{-rh}(a_7-1))c}{\gamma_d(e^{-rh}-1) + 2re^{-rh}a_4},$$

$$a = -\frac{c(N-2)\bar{Z}}{N-1} + b\left(v(e^{-rh}-1) - e^{-rh}a_1 + \frac{c\gamma_d(e^{-rh}-1)\bar{Z}}{r} + 2e^{-rh}c\bar{Z}a_4\right).$$

Therefore,

$$c = \frac{-(N-1)(1 - e^{-rh}) + \sqrt{(1 - e^{-rh})^2(N-1)^2 + 4e^{-rh}}}{2e^{-rh}} - 1.$$

Given  $c$ , we can solve for  $a_7$  and  $a_4$ . This yields solutions for  $b, f, a$ , and the remaining recursions.

## B. Information Problem

This appendix characterizes the solution of the model when agents have heterogeneous asset values. Recall  $S^j$  is each trader's total signal (sum of past signals).  $s^j$  is each trader's modified signal. Write their expectation of the dividend as

$$w^j + B_1 S^j + B_2 \sum_{i \neq j} (w^i + A S^i),$$

for some constants  $B_1, B_2, A$ . Consistency of the learning problem requires  $B_1 = A$ . See Du and Zhu (2017) for details. Recall the variance of private value shocks is  $\sigma^2$ , of dividend shocks is  $\sigma_D^2$ , and of signal shocks is  $\sigma_\epsilon^2$ . Then, Du and Zhu (2017) Lemma 1 gives the conditional expectation of  $v$  given  $w^j, S^j$ , and  $\sum_{i \neq j} (w^i + A S^i)$  is

$$w^j + \frac{1/(A^2\sigma_\epsilon^2)}{1/(A^2\sigma_D^2) + 1/(A^2\sigma_\epsilon^2) + (n-1)/(A^2\sigma_\epsilon^2 + \sigma^2)} S^j + \frac{1/(A^2\sigma_\epsilon^2 + \sigma^2)}{1/(A^2\sigma_D^2) + 1/(A^2\sigma_\epsilon^2) + (n-1)/(A^2\sigma_\epsilon^2 + \sigma^2)} \frac{1}{A} \sum_{i \neq j} (w^i + A S^i).$$

$B_1$  is defined in terms of  $A$  by the above.  $A$  solves the equation  $A = B_1$ , and  $B_2$  is then given as a function of  $A$ .

Define

$$s^j = \frac{1}{\alpha}(w^j + B_1 S^j),$$

where

$$\alpha = \frac{A^2 \sigma_\epsilon^2 + \sigma^2}{N A^2 \sigma_\epsilon^2 + \sigma^2}.$$

Then, the conditional expectation of  $v$  is given by

$$\alpha s^j + \frac{1-\alpha}{N-1} s^{-j} = \frac{N\alpha-1}{N-1} s^j + \frac{N(1-\alpha)}{N-1} \bar{s}.$$

Guess that the value function is linear-quadratic:

$$V_k(z^j, \bar{Z}, s^j, \bar{s}) = a_0^k + a_1^k z^j + a_2^k s^j + a_3^k \bar{s} + a_4^k (z^j)^2 + a_5^k (s^j)^2 + a_6^k (\bar{s})^2 + a_7^k z^j s^j + a_8^k z^j \bar{s} + a_9^k s^j \bar{s}.$$

$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{\alpha^2}(\sigma^2 + A^2(\sigma_D^2 + \sigma_\epsilon^2))$  is variance of the shock to  $s^j$ , and  $\sigma_N^2 = \frac{1}{\alpha^2}(\sigma^2/N + A^2(\sigma_D^2 + \sigma_\epsilon^2)/N)$  is the variance of the shocks to  $\bar{s}$ . The Bellman equation for every period, except the last, is

$$\begin{aligned} V_k(z^j, s^j, \bar{s}) = \max_{D^j} & \left\{ -D^j p_t^* + (1 - e^{-rh})(z^j + D^j) \left( \frac{N\alpha-1}{N-1} s^j + \frac{N(1-\alpha)}{N-1} \bar{s} \right) \right. \\ & - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{2r} (z^j + D^j)^2 + e^{-rh} [a_0^{k+1} + a_1^{k+1}(z^j + D^j) + a_2^{k+1} s^j + a_3^{k+1} \bar{s} \\ & a_4^{k+1} (z^j + D^j)^2 + a_5^{k+1} ((s^j)^2 + \lambda \sigma^2) + a_6^{k+1} (\bar{s}^2 + \lambda \sigma_N^2) \\ & \left. + a_7^{k+1} (z^j + D^j) s^j + a_8^{k+1} (z^j + D^j) \bar{s} + a_9^{k+1} (s^j \bar{s}_t + \lambda \sigma_N^2) \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

and it is similar in the last period. The FOC for optimal demand in the first  $T$  periods is then

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = -p_t^* - \lambda_k D^j + (1 - e^{-rh}) & \left( \frac{N\alpha-1}{N-1} s^j + \frac{N(1-\alpha)}{N-1} \bar{s} \right) \\ & - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{r} (z^j + D^j) + e^{-rh} [a_1^{k+1} + 2a_4^{k+1} (z^j + D^j) + a_7^{k+1} s^j + a_8^{k+1} \bar{s}], \end{aligned}$$

where  $\lambda_k := \frac{\partial p_t}{\partial D_k^j}$ . Assume

$$D_k^j = a_k + b_k p_t + c_k z^j + f_k s^j.$$

The equilibrium price is

$$p_t = -\frac{a_k + c_k \bar{Z} + f_k \bar{s}_t}{b_k}.$$

The FOC implies

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{a_k + c_k \bar{Z} + f_k \bar{s}}{b_k} + \frac{1}{b_k(N-1)} (c_k(z^j - \bar{Z}) + f_k(s^j - \bar{s})) \\ & + (1 - e^{-rh}) \left( \frac{N\alpha-1}{N-1} s^j + \frac{N(1-\alpha)}{N-1} \bar{s} \right) - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma_d}{r} ((1 + c_k)z^j - c_k \bar{Z} + f_k(s^j - \bar{s})) \\ & + e^{-rh} [a_1^{k+1} + 2a_4^{k+1} ((1 + c_k)z^j - c_k \bar{Z} + f_k(s^j - \bar{s})) + a_7^{k+1} s^j + a_8^{k+1} \bar{s}] = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$b = -\frac{e^{hr}(-a_8 + a_7(-2 + N) + (-1 + e^{hr})(-2 + \alpha N))r}{((-1 + a_7 + a_8 + e^{hr})(-1 + N)((-1 + e^{hr})\gamma - 2a_4r))}$$

$$c = \frac{a_8 - a_7(-2 + N) - (-1 + e^{hr})(-2 + \alpha N)}{a_7(-1 + N) + (-1 + e^{hr})(-1 + \alpha N)}$$

$$f = -\frac{(-a_8 + a_7(-2 + N) + (-1 + e^{hr})(-2 + \alpha N))r}{(-1 + N)(\gamma - e^{hr}\gamma + 2a_4r)}$$

Returning to the Bellman equation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} V_k = & (c_k(z^j - \bar{Z}) + f_k(s^j - \bar{s}))\left(\frac{a_k}{b_k} + \frac{c_k}{b_k}\bar{Z} + \frac{f_k}{b_k}\bar{s}\right) \\ & + (1 - e^{-rh})((1 + c_k)z^j - c_k\bar{Z} + f_k(s^j - \bar{s}))\left(\frac{N\alpha - 1}{N - 1}s^j + \frac{N(1 - \alpha)}{N - 1}\bar{s}\right) \\ & - \frac{(1 - e^{-rh})\gamma^d}{2r}(((1 + c_k)z^j - c_k\bar{Z} + f_k(s^j - \bar{s})))^2 \\ & + e^{-rh}\left[a_0^{t+1} + a_1^{k+1}((1 + c_k)z^j - c_k\bar{Z} + f_k(s^j - \bar{s})) + a_2^{k+1}s^j + a_3^{k+1}\bar{s}\right. \\ & a_4^{k+1}((1 + c_k)z^j - c_k\bar{Z} + f_k(s^j - \bar{s}))^2 + a_5^{k+1}((s^j)^2 + \lambda\sigma^2) + a_6^{k+1}(\bar{s}^2 + \lambda\sigma_N^2) \\ & + a_7^{k+1}((1 + c_k)z^j - c_k\bar{Z} + f_k(s^j - \bar{s}))s^j \\ & \left. + a_8^{k+1}((1 + c_k)z^j - c_k\bar{Z} + f_k(s^j - \bar{s}))\bar{s} + a_9^{k+1}(s^j\bar{s} + \lambda\sigma_N^2)\right], \end{aligned}$$

which yields recursions as before.