

SOLVING DSGE MODELS WITHOUT A LAW OF MOTION: AN ERGODICITY-BASED METHOD AND AN APPLICATION

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For an infinite dimensional object Φ_t and the aggregate exogenous state S_t ,

$$\Phi_{t+1} = G(\Phi_t, S_t)$$

is approximated by

$$\log X_{t+1} = \alpha(S_t) + \beta(S_t) \log X_t$$

where X_t is the sufficient statistics of Φ_t or equilibrium objects (price).

What if G is highly **nonlinear**?

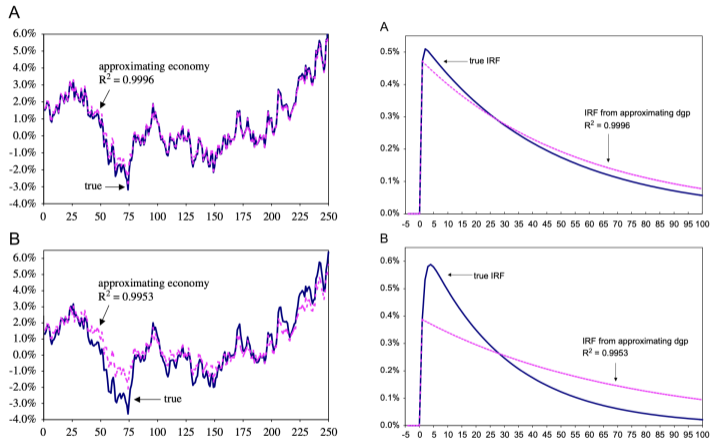


Figure: The figure is from Den Hann (2010)

WHY DOES NONLINEARITY MATTER?

“What drives a recession?”

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Let's denote the response of the aggregate allocation as $g(x_t; \Gamma_t, \Delta A_t)$, where

- ▶ $\Gamma_t = \{A_t, \Phi_t\}$ is the aggregate states.
- ▶ ΔA_t is the magnitude of the impulse.

Suppose we observe a drop of the allocation Δx_t^{Obs} , and we want to explain this.

$$\Delta x_t^{Obs} = g(x_t; \Gamma_t, \Delta A_t)$$

Traditionally,

$$\Delta x_t^{Obs} = g(x_t; \Gamma_{ss}, \Delta A_t)$$

In this paper,

$$\Delta x_t^{Obs} = g(x_t; \Gamma_t, \Delta A)$$

Depending on the aggregate state, the post shock responses of the allocation vary for the same exogenous shock: The focus is on the role of Γ_t - *State dependence* (Hysteresis).

Research question

How can we accurately solve the nonlinear business cycle models (with heterogeneous agents)?

What this paper does

Develops a novel algorithm called "*the repeated transition method*."

Tests and compares the repeated transition method with the existing methods.

Studies the *business cycle implication of corporate cash holdings* through a lens of a heterogeneous-firm business cycle model.

OVERVIEW OF THE REPEATED TRANSITION METHOD

- ▶ Solves **nonlinear** (HA) business cycle models **accurately**.
- ▶ Does not specify the law of motion.
- ▶ Global method.
- ▶ No perfect foresight.
- ▶ Sequence space based.
- ▶ Speed gain from the absence of an external loop
 - Krusell and Smith (1997); Khan and Thomas (2008)
- ▶ Builds upon Boppart et al. (2018).

- ▶ **Solution method for the heterogeneous agent models under the aggregate uncertainty**
 - Global method: den Haan (1996); Krusell and Smith (1998); Rios-Rull (1997); den Haan and Rendahl (2010)
 - Perfect foresight: Boppart et al. (2018)
 - Local linearization (Fast): Reiter (2009); Auclert et al. (2021)
 - Machine learning: Fernandez-Villaverde, Hurtado, and Nuno (2021); Kahou et al. (2021)
- ▶ **Linear/nonlinear aggregate dynamics (with heterogeneous agents):**
 - Krusell and Smith (1998); Khan and Thomas (2008); Petrosky-Nadeau and Zhang (2021); Den Haan, Freund, and Rendahl (2021)
 - Fernandez-Villaverde, Hurtado, and Nuno (2021); Lee (2022)
- ▶ **Heterogeneous agent models with incomplete market:**
 - Bewely (1977); Huggett (1993); Aiyagari (1994);
- ▶ **Corporate saving glut:**
 - Riddick and Whited (2009); Jermann and Quadrini (2012); Khan and Thomas (2013)

I introduce a generalized model framework that can nest a broad class of general equilibrium models.

$$V(x; X) = \max_{y, a'} f(y, a', x; X) + \mathbb{E}m(X, X')V(a', s'; X')$$

$$\text{s.t. } (y, x') \in \mathcal{B}(x; X, X', q), \quad \Phi' = F(X)$$

where

$$[\text{Individual state}] : x = \{a, s\}$$

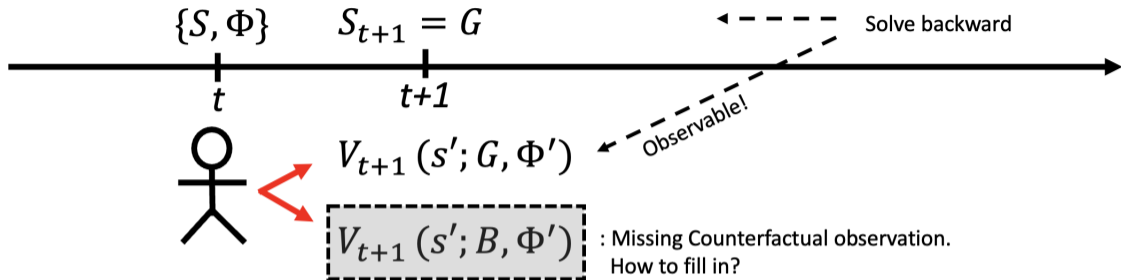
$$[\text{Aggregate state}] : X = \{\Phi, S\},$$

and in the equilibrium,

$$[\text{Market clearing}] : p(X, X') = \arg_{\tilde{p}} \{Q(\tilde{p}, X, X') = 0\}$$

CONCEPTUAL HURDLE: A COUNTER-FACTUAL REALIZATION

- ▶ Suppose the aggregate state variables at period t are $\{\Phi, \mathbf{S}\}$.
- ▶ A rational agent should rationally expect the future period $t + 1$:
 - The future realization with the state \mathbf{G}
 - The future realization with the state \mathbf{B}
- ▶ If we simulate an aggregate shock, only a single state is realized at $t + 1$.
(Say $\mathbf{S}_{t+1} = \mathbf{G}$)
- ▶ **No one can observe the counterfactual observation:** the world with $\mathbf{S}_{t+1} = \mathbf{B}$.
- ▶ Then, how can we specify the mysterious counter-factual world as a possible future outcome?
(Specifically, the value function)
- ▶ It is like Marvel's multiverse, where the world is diverging into the different universe with different outcomes at each second:
 - In one counterfactual world, due to a Thanos' mistake, a world still has Iron man alive. But this is not observable to an econometrician (only to Dr. Strange).



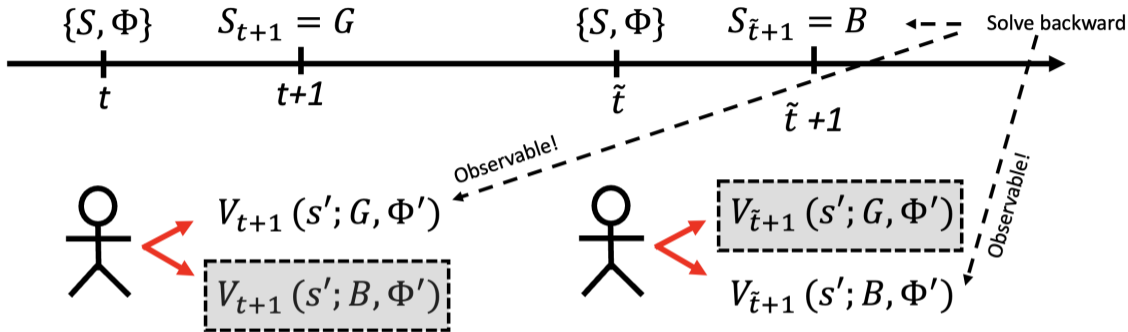
State-space modelling:

1. Remove time index in the value function.
2. Assume $M(K) = K'$. (the law of motion)
3. Solve for $V = V(\mathbf{s}; \mathbf{S}, K)$, assuming K is the sufficient statistics.
4. Obtain $V_{t+1}^B = V(\mathbf{s}_{t+1}; \mathbf{S}_{t+1} = B, K')$, using $M(K)$ and interpolation.

Unresolved issue: 1) the sufficient statistics K and 2) M 's parametric form.

REPEATED TRANSITION METHOD

- ▶ It relies on the *ergodic theorem*:
 - If a simulation path is long enough, the simulation path captures all possible aggregate state realizations.
- ▶ If the simulation path is long enough, there exists a period $\tilde{t} + 1$ such that
 1. the endogenous aggregate allocations are the same as period $t + 1$: $\Phi_{t+1} = \Phi_{\tilde{t}+1}$.
 2. the counter-factual shock of period $t + 1$ is realized at $\tilde{t} + 1$: $S_{\tilde{t}+1} = B$.
- ▶ We can use $V_{\tilde{t}+1}(s'; B, \Phi')$ to fill up the missing counter-factual value function at period t .



Repeated transition method:

1. For each t , find the period \tilde{t} .
2. Obtain $V_{t+1}^G = V(s; G, K')$ and $V_{t+1}^B = V_{\tilde{t}+1}(s; B, K')$. Then, discount them to form RE.
 - No law of motion is needed.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Simulate a long enough aggregate shock path $\mathcal{S} = \{\mathbf{S}_t\}_{t=1}^T$.
2. Given n th guess $\{\rho_t^{(n)}, V_t^{(n)}, \Phi_t^{(n)}\}_{t=0}^T$, solve $\{\widehat{V}_t^*\}_{t=0}^T$ from backward by properly forming the rational expectation using *the technique* based on $\{V_t^{(n)}, \Phi_t^{(n)}\}_{t=0}^T$. (Detail: next slide)
3. Given the value functions $\{V_t^*\}_{t=0}^T$, (and the inter-temporal policy functions), compute $\{\Phi_t^*\}_{t=0}^T$ by a forward simulation.
4. Given $\{V_t^*, \Phi_t^*\}_{t=0}^T$, compute the implied price levels $\{\rho_t^*\}_{t=0}^T$.
5. Evaluate the following Cauchy criterion.

$$\sup_{\text{BurnIn} \leq t \leq T - \text{BurnIn}} \|\rho_t^{(n)} - \rho_t^*\|_\infty < \text{tol}$$

If the criterion is not satisfied, update the guess $\{\rho_t^{(n+1)}, V_t^{(n+1)}, \Phi_t^{(n+1)}\}_{t=0}^T$ using convex combination. (Go back to step 2)

- ▶ Once converged, $R^2 = 1$, and $MSE < \text{tol}$: **High accuracy!**
- ▶ No market clearing step (internal loop) is needed: **Speed boost!**
- ▶ The convergence of this method hinges on the *stability* of recursive competitive equilibrium. If the simulated path is not stable, the convergence may break down.

NON-TRIVIAL STEP: FILLING IN THE MISSING VALUES

► How can we find the period $\tilde{t} + 1$ that corresponds to $t + 1$ with a different aggregate shock?

► In theory,

– Consider a time partition $\mathcal{T}_B = \{t | \mathbf{S}_t = B\}$. Then,

$$\tilde{t} + 1 = \arg \inf_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_B} \|\Phi_{\tau}^{(n)} - \Phi_{t+1}^{(n)}\|_{\infty}.$$

► In practice,

– Consider a time partition $\mathcal{T}_B = \{t | \mathbf{S}_t = B\}$. Then, for a sufficient statistics K (possibly a vector),

$$\tilde{t} + 1 = \arg \inf_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}_B} \|K_{\tau}^{(n)} - K_{t+1}^{(n)}\|_{\infty},$$

– Or find the closest one from above $\tilde{t}^{up} + 1$ and the closest one from below $\tilde{t}^{dn} + 1$ (w.r.t K)

$$V_{t+1}^B = w_{up} V_{\tilde{t}^{up}+1}^B + (1 - w_{up}) V_{\tilde{t}^{dn}+1}^B$$

where w_{up} is determined by the distances in K .

IMPLEMENTATION (CONT'D)

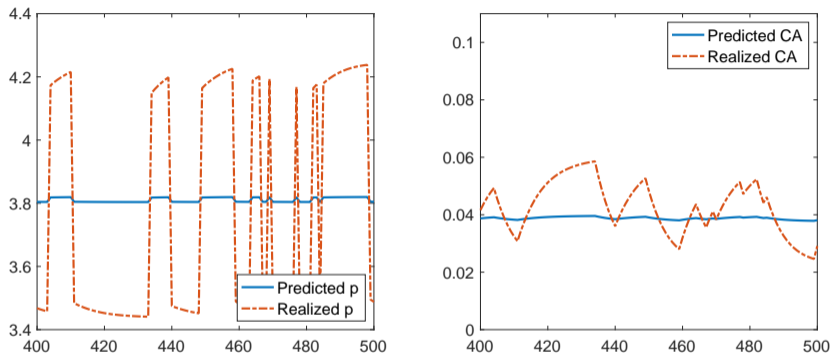


Figure: The video clip of RTM implementation

- ▶ The video is from the baseline model to be introduced later.
- ▶ *Predicted* time series is n th guess, and *realized* time series is the *optimal* allocation given the guess.

- Free from the parametric form of the law of motion.
- Global method.
- No perfect foresight.
- Sequence space based.
- Speed gain from the absence of an external loop
- Accuracy validation.
 - Krusell and Smith (1997); Khan and Thomas (2008)
- A sufficient condition.

ACCURACY: KRUSELL AND SMITH (1998) MODEL

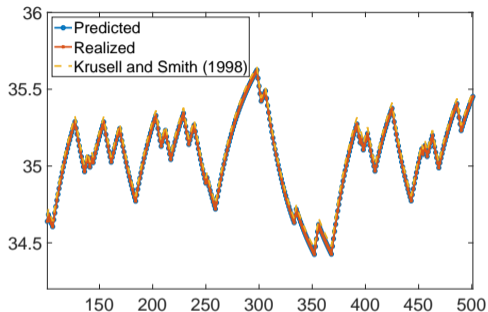


Figure: Computed dynamics in aggregate wealth (Krusell and Smith, 1998)

- ▶ In the models where general equilibrium effect is strong, the dynamics of aggregate allocations is flattened to be log-linear (Krusell and Smith, 1998).
- ▶ In those models, Krusell and Smith (1998) algorithm is as fast as the repeated transition method.
- ▶ Accuracy is also almost identical between the two methodologies.

Non-trivial market clearing condition

Consider a labor demand decision problem of a firm with k , where $\alpha + \gamma < 1$.

$$\max_{n_d} k^\alpha n_d^\gamma - w n_d$$

The *static* optimality condition leads to

$$n_d^*(k) = \left(\frac{\gamma k^\alpha}{w} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma}}$$

Then, in the market clearing condition,

$$\begin{aligned} L^S &= \int n_d^*(k) d\Phi = \int \left(\frac{\gamma k^\alpha}{w} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma}} d\Phi = \left(\frac{\gamma}{w} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma}} \int k^{\frac{\alpha}{1-\gamma}} d\Phi \\ &\neq \left(\frac{\gamma}{w} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma}} \left(\int k d\Phi \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{1-\gamma}} = \left(\frac{\gamma}{w} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma}} K^{\frac{\alpha}{1-\gamma}} \end{aligned}$$

Tracking K is not enough to clear the market. Φ is needed.

$$L^S = \int n_d^*(k) d\Phi \neq n_d^* \left(\int k d\Phi \right) = n_d^*(K)$$

Non-trivial market clearing condition (cont'd)

In the repeated transition method, the implied price \mathbf{w}^* is obtained by simply equating the market clearing condition:

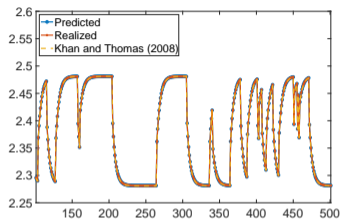
$$L^S(\mathbf{w}^{(n)}) = \left(\frac{\gamma}{\mathbf{w}^*}\right)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma}} \int k^{\frac{\alpha}{1-\gamma}} d\Phi,$$

where $L^S(\mathbf{w}^{(n)})$ is the labor supply when the price is at the n th iteration.

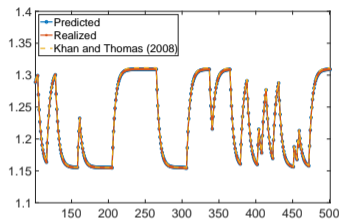
$$\mathbf{w}^* = \gamma \left(\frac{\int k^{\frac{\alpha}{1-\gamma}} d\Phi}{L^S(\mathbf{w}^{(n)})} \right)^{1-\gamma}$$

This implied price does not clear the market. But as $\|\mathbf{w}^{(n)} - \mathbf{w}^*\|_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{0}$, it clears the market in the limit.

ACCURACY: KHAN AND THOMAS (2008) MODEL



(a) Price $p_t (= 1/C_t)$



(b) Aggregate capital stocks K_t

Figure: Computed dynamics in aggregate capital stocks (Khan and Thomas, 2008)

- ▶ Khan and Thomas (2008) model also features log-linear dynamics but it includes non-trivial market clearing condition in the computation: necessity of external loop for market clearing price.
- ▶ The repeated transition method does not need the external loop: the prices and the allocations are computed directly at each point on the simulation.
- ▶ The repeated transition method is faster by a factor of 10.

A SUFFICIENT CONDITION

Proposition 1 (A sufficient condition for the sufficient statistic approach)

For a sufficiently large T , if there exists a time series of an aggregate allocation $\{\mathbf{e}_t\}_{t=0}^T$ such that for each time partition $\mathcal{T}_S = \{t | \mathbf{S}_t = \mathbf{S}\}$, $\forall \mathbf{S} \in \{\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{G}\}$ and for $\forall (\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{z})$,

$$(i) \quad \mathbf{e}_{\tau_0} < \mathbf{e}_{\tau_1} \iff V_{\tau_0}^{(n)}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{z}) < V_{\tau_1}^{(n)}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{z}) \text{ for any } \tau_0, \tau_1 \in \mathcal{T}_S$$

or

$$(ii) \quad \mathbf{e}_{\tau_0} < \mathbf{e}_{\tau_1} \iff V_{\tau_0}^{(n)}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{z}) > V_{\tau_1}^{(n)}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{z}) \text{ for any } \tau_0, \tau_1 \in \mathcal{T}_S$$

then \mathbf{x}_t is the sufficient statistics of the endogenous aggregate state Φ_t for $\forall t$.

► **Intuition:**

1. The *rankings* of the values in a period with \mathbf{e}^0 and a period with \mathbf{e}^1 are the same if $\mathbf{e}^0 = \mathbf{e}^1$.
2. Among all the possible allocations (ergodic theorem), if the *ranking* is known, the *level* is determined.

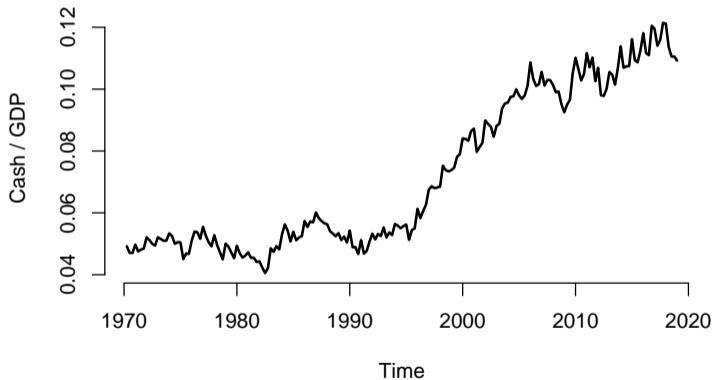
► **This is a theoretical sufficient condition but not a constructive statement.**

- A sufficient condition can be checked only after the convergence of the algorithm. (Later in the baseline model)
- However, it helps understand *why the sufficient statistics works*.

A HETEROGENEOUS-FIRM BUSINESS CYCLE MODEL WITH CASH

- ▶ What are the economically meaningful nonlinear dynamics?
 - Many of firm-side decisions are highly nonlinear.
 - Firm-level lumpy investments; *Cash dynamics*
 - ▶ A corporate cash holding model is an immediate firm-side counterpart of the heterogeneous-household models (Krusell and Smith, 1998)
- ▶ The repeated transition method can accurately solve the equilibrium dynamics:
 - Detailed analysis on the macroeconomic role of the nonlinear dynamics.
- ▶ A representative-agent model framework is also in the future research agenda:
 - Nonlinear dynamics of the SaM models in NK framework.
 - NK framework with a zero lower bound without approximation.

RISING CORPORATE CASH HOLDINGS



- ▶ Cash is from the Flow of Funds; GDP is from NIPA.

Firms

Heterogeneous firms holding cash operate using only labor

Costly external financing

Household

A representative household consumes, works, and saves (claim for all firms).

Competitive market

- ▶ Why does a corporate save?
 - Precautionary motivation (future financial constraint)
 - Dividend smoothing motivation
 - Frictional external financing
 - Agency cost

- ▶ Why does a corporate save?
 - Precautionary motivation (future financial constraint)
 - Dividend smoothing motivation
 - Frictional external financing
 - Agency cost
- ▶ An **external financing cost** is one way of capturing the corporate saving glut (Riddick and Whited, 2009)

$$C(d) := \frac{\mu}{2} \mathbb{I}\{d < 0\} d^2$$

Note: The net dividend is $d_{it} - \frac{\mu}{2} \mathbb{I}\{d_{it} < 0\} d_{it}^2$: A temporal component of the objective function belongs to \mathcal{C}^1 .

- ▶ Internal financing is cheaper than external financing:

$$R^{ss} = 1/\beta - 1 > R^{ca}$$

- ▶ Cash is an internal asset of a firm and **NOT PRICED** in the market.

- ▶ Heterogeneous firms operate using only labor; pay out dividends; and save cash.

$$\text{[Firm]} \quad J(ca, z; X) = \max_{ca', d} \quad d - C(d) + \mathbb{E}(q(X, X')J(ca', z'; X'))$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad d + \frac{ca'}{1 + r^{ca}} = \pi(z; A, \Phi) + ca$$

$$ca' \geq 0, \quad \Phi' = G(\Phi, A)$$

$$\text{[Operating profit]} \quad \pi(z; A, \Phi) := \max_n zAn^\gamma - w(A, \Phi)n - \xi$$

$$\text{[Idiosyncratic productivity]} \quad z' = G_z(z) \text{ (AR(1) process)}$$

$$\text{[External financing cost]} \quad C(d) := \frac{\mu}{2} \mathbb{I}(d < 0) d^2$$

$$\text{[Aggregate state]} \quad X := \{A, \Phi\}$$

A stand-in household holds the dividend claim of all the firms.

Proposition 2 (THE EXISTENCE OF TARGET CASH STOCK)

Suppose policy functions are non-trivial: $ca'(\mathbf{ca}, z) > 0$ and $d(\mathbf{ca}, z) > 0$ for some $\mathbf{ca} > 0$, given z . Then, there exists $\bar{ca}(z) > 0$ such that $ca'(\mathbf{ca}, z) \leq \bar{ca}(z)$ for $\forall \mathbf{ca} \geq 0$.

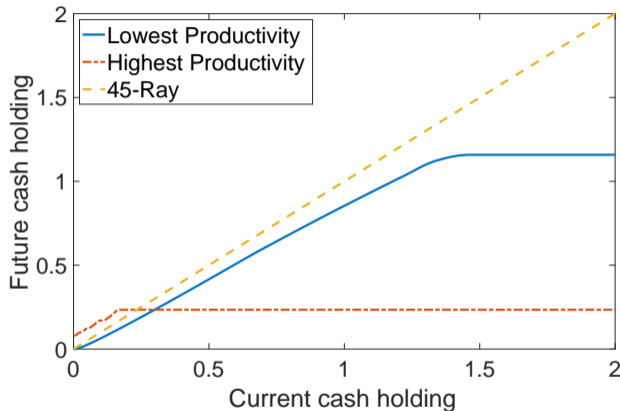
Suppose a firm has abundant cash stocks where there is no concern about tomorrow's dividend being negative:

$$d + q^{ca} ca' = \underbrace{\pi(z; S)}_{\text{Liquidity on hands}} + ca$$

The marginal gain out of saving ($\Delta ca'$) is $\frac{q^{ss}}{q^{ca}} < 1$, while the marginal gain of dividend (Δd) is 1.

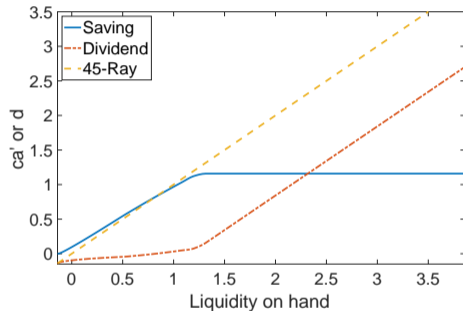
- Therefore, there exists a hand-to-dividend region: any extra liquidity immediately goes to households.

High vs. Low current productivity

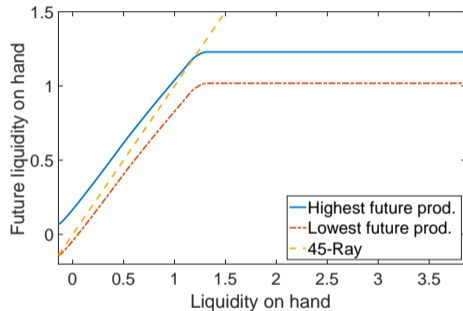


- ▶ The lowest-productivity firms gradually reduce the cash holdings.
- ▶ The highest-productivity firms gradually increase the cash holdings until the target level.

$$\text{Liquidity on hands} := \pi(z; \mathcal{S}) + ca$$



(a) Allocation of liquidity on hands



(b) Evolution of liquidity on hands

Figure: Cash-holding policies in the stationary equilibrium (when $z = \min \mathcal{Z}$)

λ is the slackness coefficient for the borrowing limit $ca' \geq 0$.

$$1 - \mu \mathbb{I}\{\hat{d} < 0\} \hat{d} = \frac{q^{ss}}{q^{ca}} \mathbb{E} J_1(ca', z') + \frac{\lambda(ca, z)}{q^{ca}}$$

INCOMPLETE MARKET AND PRECAUTIONARY MOTIVATION

λ is the slackness coefficient for the borrowing limit $ca' \geq 0$.

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - \mu \mathbb{I}\{\hat{d} < 0\} \hat{d} &= \frac{q^{ss}}{q^{ca}} \mathbb{E} J_1(ca', z') + \frac{\lambda(ca, z)}{q^{ca}} \\ &= \frac{q^{ss}}{q^{ca}} \mathbb{E} \left(\frac{q^{ss}}{q^{ca}} \mathbb{E} J_1(ca'', z'') + \frac{\lambda(ca', z')}{q^{ca}} \right) + \frac{\lambda(ca, z)}{q^{ca}} \\ &= \frac{q^{ss}}{q^{ca}} \mathbb{E} \left(\frac{q^{ss}}{q^{ca}} \mathbb{E} \left(\frac{q^{ss}}{q^{ca}} \mathbb{E} J_1(ca''', z''') + \frac{\lambda(ca'', z'')}{q^{ca}} \right) + \frac{\lambda(ca', z')}{q^{ca}} \right) + \frac{\lambda(ca, z)}{q^{ca}} \\ &= \dots \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ The slackness condition increases the marginal benefit of cash holding. (*LHS*)
 - The current coefficient $\lambda(ca, z)$ shifts down the dividend. (increase in cash holding)
 - Despite $\lambda(ca, z) = 0$, the *future possibility of binding constraint* shifts down the dividend. (increase in cash holding)
- ▶ If all firms are with enough cash, the economy converges to the canonical RBC world.

DYNAMIC STOCHASTIC GENERAL EQUILIBRIUM

The aggregate uncertainty

- ▶ As in Krusell and Smith (1998),

$$\Gamma_A = \begin{bmatrix} 0.8750 & 0.1250 \\ 0.1250 & 0.8750 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$A \in \{0.99, 1.01\}.$$

where the unit period is a quarter.

- ▶ The aggregate shock is simulated for 1,000 periods.
- ▶ I use the histogram method (Young, 2010) for the forward evolution of the firm distribution.
- ▶ Solve the dynamic stochastic general equilibrium using the *repeated transition method*
 - Aggregate cash holding is the sufficient statistics to be used.
- ▶ Then I do: 1) Solution; 2) Recovering the true law of motions; 3) Out-of-sample fitting; 4) Monotonicity check

Nonlinear business cycle

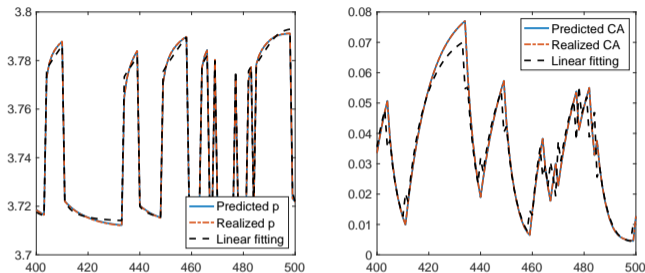


Figure: Aggregate fluctuations in the economy

When fitted into the log-linear law of motions:

$$\log(CA_{t+1}) = -0.5742 + 0.9061 * \log(CA_t),$$

$$\log(CA_{t+1}) = -0.8949 + 0.6829 * \log(CA_t),$$

$$\log(p_t) = 1.3232 - 0.0018 * \log(CA_t),$$

$$\log(p_t) = 1.3093 - 0.0011 * \log(CA_t),$$

$$\text{if } S_t = B, \text{ and } R^2 = 0.9971, \text{ MSE} = 0.0017$$

$$\text{if } S_t = G, \text{ and } R^2 = 0.9823, \text{ MSE} = 0.0039$$

$$\text{if } S_t = B, \text{ and } R^2 = 0.8828, \text{ MSE} = 0.0000$$

$$\text{if } S_t = G, \text{ and } R^2 = 0.8928, \text{ MSE} = 0.0000$$

	# of lagged	order	Goodness of fitness: R^2			
			$CA_{t+1} : Good$	$CA_{t+1} : Bad$	$p_t : Good$	$p_t : Bad$
Contemp.	0	1	0.8956	0.9452	0.9922	0.9966
	0	2	0.9839	0.9952	0.9927	0.9976
	0	3	0.9973	0.9995	0.9930	0.9976
	0	4	0.9993	0.9999	0.9932	0.9976
	0	5	0.9996	1.0000	0.9933	0.9976
Add. history	1	3	0.9999	1.0000	0.9987	0.9979
	2	3	0.9999	1.0000	0.9997	0.9984
	3	3	0.9999	1.0000	0.9998	0.9987
	4	3	0.9999	1.0000	0.9998	0.9991
	5	3	0.9999	1.0000	0.9998	0.9994
	6	3	0.9999	1.0000	0.9998	0.9996
	7	3	0.9999	1.0000	0.9998	0.9997

Table: The fitness of law of motion across different specifications

- ▶ I test the validity of the law of motions that utilizes historical allocations using the out-of-sample simulation.

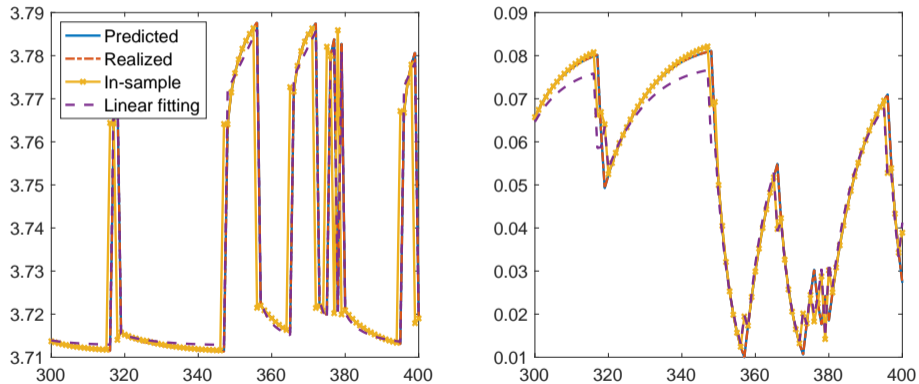
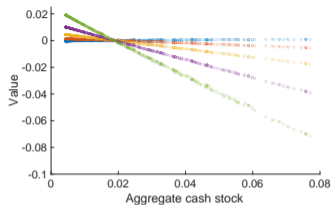
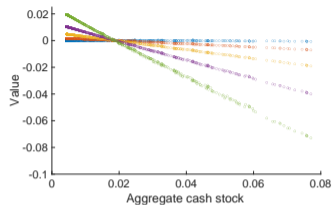


Figure: Fitting into the out-of-sample path

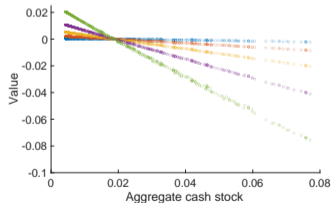
MONOTONICITY OF VALUE FUNCTION IN THE AGGREGATE STATE



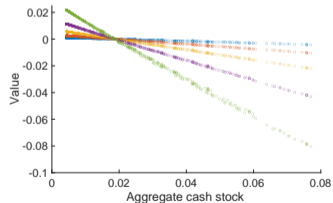
(a) Individual cash = $1e-8$



(b) Individual cash = 0.09



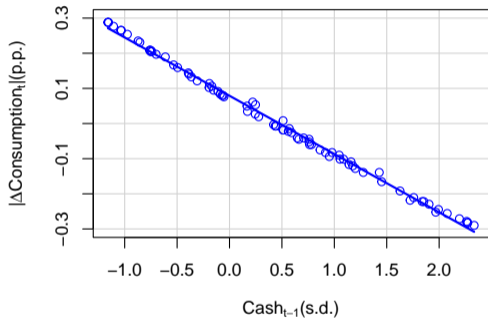
(c) Individual cash = 0.23



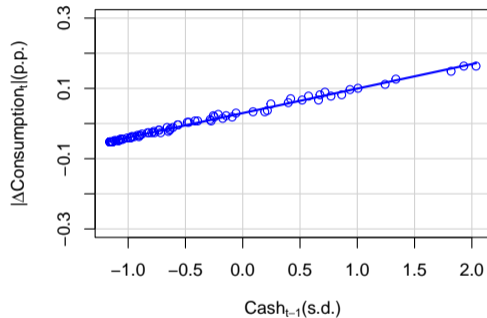
(d) Individual cash = 0.47

MACROECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

STATE-DEPENDENT RESPONSIVENESS: MODEL



(a) Negative shock



(b) Positive shock

Figure: State-dependent shock responses of consumption

	Dep. Var.: $ \log(c_t) $ (p.p.)	
	Neg. (1)	Pos. (2)
$Cash_{t-1}$ (s.d.)	-0.166 (0.001)	0.07 (0.001)
Constant	Yes	Yes
Observations	83	84
R^2	0.996	0.994

Table: State-dependence consumption responses to negative and positive shocks

- ▶ State-dependent asymmetric responsiveness (hysteresis):
 - Past cash holding decreases the responsiveness of consumption to the identical negative TFP shock.
 - Past cash holding increases the responsiveness of consumption to the identical positive TFP shock.
 - The insurance effect is asymmetric: a stronger insurance effect on the negative shock.
- ▶ Model prediction is well-supported by the data.

	Dependent variables:			
	$ \log(c_t) $ (p.p.) before 1980		$ \log(c_t) $ (p.p.) after 1980	
	Neg. (1)	Pos. (2)	Neg. (3)	Pos. (4)
$Cash_{t-1}$ (s.d.)	-0.108 (0.09)	0.036 (0.072)	-0.226 (0.085)	0.164 (0.09)
Constant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	63	49	77	79
R^2	0.023	0.005	0.086	0.041

Table: State-dependence consumption responses to negative and positive shocks: Before vs. After 1980

- ▶ State-dependent asymmetric responsiveness:
 - The magnitude is similar to the model counterpart.

Concluding remarks

- ▶ The repeated transition method solves nonlinear heterogeneous-agent models with aggregate uncertainty **accurately**,
 - globally,
 - without a parametric law of motion,
 - without perfect foresight,
 - with a speed gain under the presence of non-trivial market clearing conditions.
- ▶ A corporate cash holding behavior leads to highly nonlinear aggregate dynamics, providing a **consumption insurance** to households through the dividend channel.
 - This is a relatively recent phenomenon in the data.
 - $Cash_{t-1} \uparrow$ by 1 *s.d.* $\rightarrow |\Delta c_t| \downarrow$ by 0.17 (p.p.) (negative shock)
 - $Cash_{t-1} \uparrow$ by 1 *s.d.* $\rightarrow |\Delta c_t| \uparrow$ by 0.12 (p.p.) (positive shock)

APPENDIX

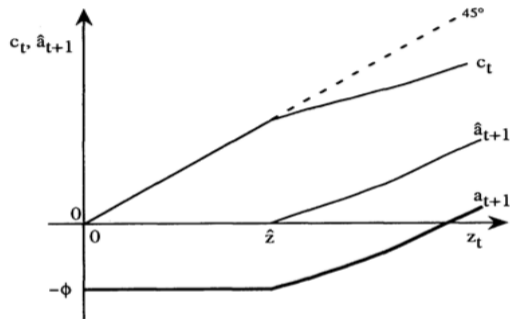


FIGURE Ia
Consumption and Assets as Functions
of Total Resources

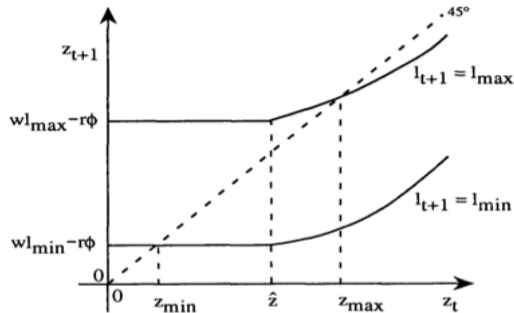


FIGURE Ib
Evolution of Total Resources

Notes: The figure is from Aiyagari (1994).

- ▶ Three parameters are calibrated.

Parameters	Target Moments	Data	Model	Level
μ	Corporate cash holding/Output (%)	10.00	9.28	0.40
ξ	Consumption/Output (%)	66.00	64.02	0.15
η	Labor supply hours	0.33	0.34	3.90

Table: Calibration target and parameters