

Optimal (Un)Conventional Monetary Policy

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18. June 2026

- Central Banking with many policy instruments:

- Interest rates

- on excess reserves i
 - on required reserves $\underline{i}$
 - reserve requirements $\underline{\theta}$

- Balance sheet management

- purchases/sales of long-term gov. bonds for reserves

- Generalized policy rule:

state variables $\mapsto \{i, \underline{i}, \underline{\theta}, CB \text{ balance sheet (maturity)}\}$

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- What role does each instrument play? How do they **interact**?
- What is the welfare-maximizing **policy mix**?
- What are the implications for the **yield curve** and duration dynamics?

Overview of Main Results

- Macro model with financial sector, aggregate & idiosyncratic risk, sticky prices
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- Adding **distributional efficiency** requires dynamic balance sheet management
- **Yield curve** implications

Related Literature (incomplete)

- Macro model with financial sector, aggregate & idiosyncratic risk, sticky prices
Brunnermeier & Sannikov (2016), Li & Merkel (2025), Merkel (2020), Sims (2011)
He & Krishnamurthy, Elenev et al. (2021)
- Roles of balance sheet management (QE/QT) in existing literature:
 1. Relaxes intermediaries' constraints
Gertler & Karadi (2011), Karadi & Nakov (2021), Eren, Jackson & Lombardo (2024), Nisticó & Seccareccia (2025), ...
 2. Moves asset prices and term premia
Vayanos & Vila (2021), Kekre & Lenel (2025), Kamdar & Ray (2025), ...
 3. Signals future interest rates
Eggertsson & Woodford (2003), Bhattarai, Eggertsson, & Gafarov (2023), ...
- Convenience yield on bank deposits
Transaction cost models, Begenu (2020), ...

NK Framework with Financial Sector — Risk Focus

■ Households/Entrepreneurs: HH

- Hold capital, utilize it in production ($y_t = a v_t k_t$) and invest (ι_t)
- Capital accumulation is subject to uninsurable idiosyncratic risk:

$$dk_t = (1/\phi \log(1 + \phi \iota_t) - \delta) k_t dt + \tilde{\sigma}_t k_t d\tilde{Z}_t$$

$$\text{e.g. } d\tilde{\sigma}_t^2 = -b_s(\tilde{\sigma}_t^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_{ss}^2)dt + \sigma \tilde{\sigma}_t^2 dZ_t$$

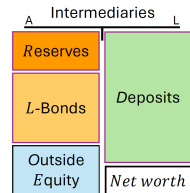
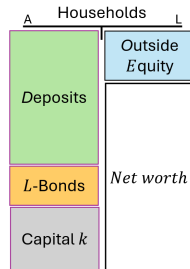
- Hold long-term bonds and deposits
 - More deposits $\Rightarrow$ lower velocity v_t and transaction cost $t(v_t)$
- Issue risky claims to intermediaries, passing on fraction χ_t of risk

■ Intermediaries: II

- Hold HHs' risky claims, reserves, long-term bonds; issue deposits
- Diversify idiosyncratic risk to fraction $\varphi \in (0, 1)$

■ Sticky prices (Rotemberg) Firms

- NK-monopolistic competition for good-differentiators



Optimal Policy: Roadmap

1. Study a *relaxed* Ramsey problem (with dt and dZ_t taxes) allowing for **analytical** characterization of efficient **allocations**
2. Compare efficient outcomes to laissez-faire
3. Consider a *realistic* government and study:
 - Under which conditions efficient allocations are achievable
 - The corresponding **optimal policy mix** (interest rate + balance sheet management)

Efficiency (Relaxed Problem)

- Suppose the government raises taxes over time (flow/ dt taxes) and in response to aggregate shocks (loading on dZ_t), but not to idios. shocks (not on $d\tilde{Z}_t$)

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- Behaves as a utilitarian planner that can directly set:

Aggregate efficiency (static/dynamic output gap)

- Capital utilization rate v_t
- Capital investment rate ι_t

Distributional efficiency

- Distribution of idiosyncratic risk exposure χ_t
- Distribution of wealth/consumption across sectors $\eta_t = N_t^I / N_t$,
- Distribution of wealth across assets $\vartheta_t = \mathcal{B}_t / (\mathcal{P}_t N_t) = (\mathcal{R}_t + P_t^L L_t) / (\mathcal{P}_t N_t)$

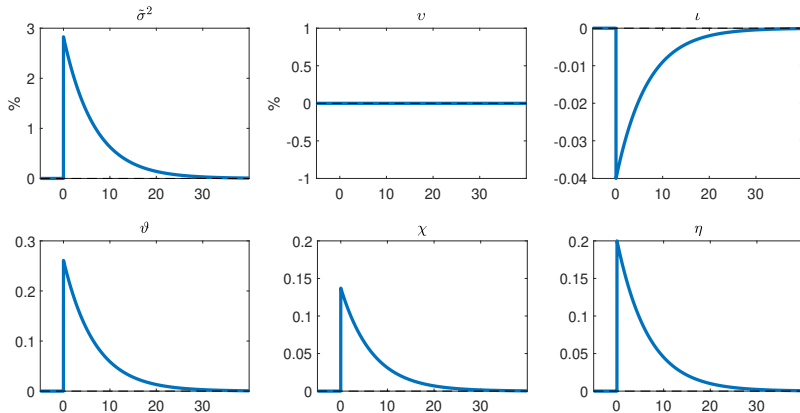
App 1

App 2

App 3

IRF Planner's Solution after $\tilde{\sigma}_t$ -Shock

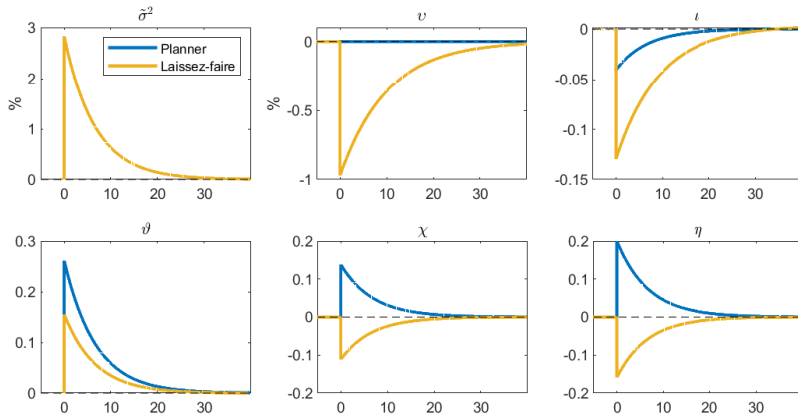
Aggregate Eff: Constant utilization ($v_t =$) but capital disinvestment ($\iota_t \downarrow$)



Distributional Eff: Flight-to-safety ($\vartheta_t \uparrow$) + redistribution of risk, wealth to bankers ($\chi_t, \eta_t \uparrow$)

Laissez-faire vs Planner's IRF

Aggregate Eff: Output gap $\log \hat{Y}_t \equiv \log \frac{av_t K_t}{av_t^* K_t^*} = \overbrace{(\log v_t - \log v_t^*)}^{\text{instantaneous}} + \overbrace{(\log K_t - \log K_t^*)}^{\text{dynamic}}$



Distributional Eff: Flight-to-safety lowers bankers' wealth, risk share: $\underbrace{\eta_t \sigma_t^\eta}_{<0} = \underbrace{(\eta_t - \chi_t)}_{<0} \underbrace{\sigma_t^\theta}_{>0}$

- Sticky prices $\Rightarrow$ instantaneous output gap (inefficient utilization v_t)
- ‘Aggregate’ pecuniary externality:
 - Agents’ demand for capital affects capital price q_t^K , which in turn drives investment decision ι_t (Tobin’s q)
- ‘Distributional’ pecuniary externality:
 - Aggregate wealth/consumption distribution η_t affects intermediaries’ risk-bearing capacity, driving idiosyncratic risk distribution χ_t

■ Central bank:

- Sets interest rates $\underline{i}_t$ and i_t , reserve requirements $\underline{\theta}_t^R$
- Issues reserves $\frac{d\mathcal{R}_t}{\mathcal{R}_t} = \mu_t^{\mathcal{R}} dt + \sigma_t^{\mathcal{R}} dZ_t$
- Holds bonds $\frac{dL_t^{CB}}{L_t^{CB}} = \mu_t^{L,CB} dt + \sigma_t^{L,CB} dZ_t$

■ Fiscal authority:

- Issues long-term bonds $dL_t^F = \mu_t^{L,F} L_t^F dt$ paying interest i^L , nominal price P_t^L
 - Levies a range of ‘flow’ taxes (intermediation, wealth, capital)
- Motivation: bonds are issued at auctions, CB bond purchases/sales are OMO

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- Long-term bond holdings of private agents are $L_t^I + L_t^H = L_t = L_t^F - L_t^{CB}$
- Distribution across sectors $\eta_t^L = L_t^I / L_t$ is endogenous

- Focus on **interest rate** and **balance sheet policy**
- Fiscal policy operates in the background
- Interest rate controls sensitivity of bond price to aggregate shocks, (Sims 2011):

$$\sigma_t^{PL} = \frac{\partial \log P_t^L}{\partial \log \tilde{\sigma}_t^2} \sigma, \quad \frac{\mathbb{E} [dP_t^L / dt]}{P_t^L} = i_t - \frac{i^L}{P_t^L} + \varsigma_t^I \sigma_t^{PL}$$

- Balance sheet policy controls the **share** of long-term bonds in nominal wealth = total **duration** exposure in private hands:

$$\vartheta_t^L = \frac{P_t^L L_t}{\mathcal{R}_t + P_t^L L_t} = \frac{P_t^L L_t}{\mathcal{B}_t}$$

- Total duration risk: $\sigma_t^{\mathcal{B}} = \vartheta_t^L \sigma_t^{PL}$

- Suppose CB targets aggregate efficiency with fixed duration exposure: $\vartheta_t^L = \vartheta^L$

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Proposition 2. Fiscal+interest rate policy can implement **aggregate efficiency**

$$av_t^* = (1 + \rho\phi)\iota_t^* + \rho + \rho \frac{\mathcal{B}_t}{\mathcal{P}_t K_t}$$

$$\underbrace{\sigma_t^{\mathcal{B}}}_{\text{total duration risk}} = \vartheta^L \sigma_t^{PL} = \underbrace{\frac{P_t^L L_t}{\mathcal{R}_t + P_t^L L_t}}_{\text{exposure } \vartheta^L} \underbrace{\frac{\partial \log P_t^L}{\partial \log \tilde{\sigma}_t^2}}_{\text{driven by } i_t} \sigma$$

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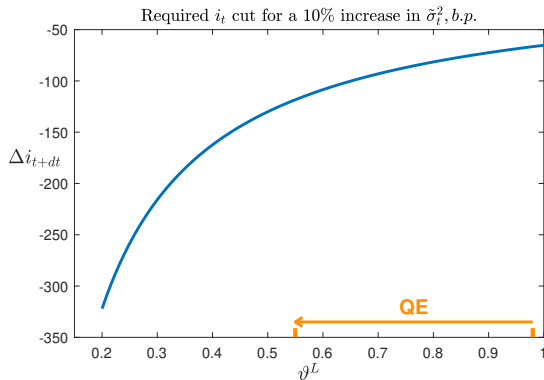
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- Optimal interest rate policy *depends* on the balance sheet:
 - CB balance sheet **expansion** (smaller ϑ^L) $\implies$ **more aggressive** interest rate policy

Passive Balance Sheet Management



- 120bp cut after QE $\sim$ 65bp cut before QE
- Near ZLB, balance sheet expansion shrinks ‘effective’ policy space

Active Balance Sheet Management - “preparatory”

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- From intermediaries' balance sheet:

$$\eta_t^* \sigma_t^{\eta,*} = \underbrace{-(\chi_t^* - \eta_t^*) \sigma_t^{\vartheta,*}}_{\text{Flight to safety}} + \underbrace{(\eta_t^L - \eta_t^*) \vartheta_t^* \vartheta_t^L \sigma_t^{PL}}_{\text{Direct effect}} + \underbrace{(\chi_t^* - \eta_t^*) (1 - \vartheta_t^*) \vartheta_t^L \sigma_t^{PL}}_{\text{Indirect effect}}$$

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- Challenge: endogenous bond distribution η_t^L
- Intermediaries scale down on bonds if they get more volatile ($\uparrow \sigma_t^{PL} \Rightarrow \eta_t^L \downarrow$)
- By optimizing ϑ^L , CB can ensure efficient duration risk distribution
 $\Rightarrow$ requires **dynamic** balance sheet management

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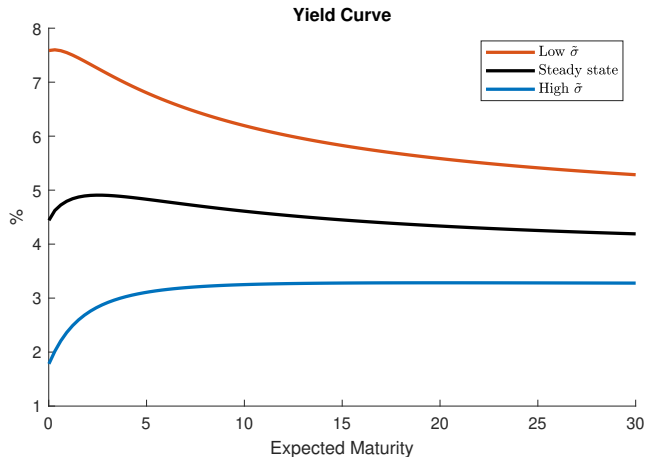
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 - ⇒ CB can affect wealth distribution

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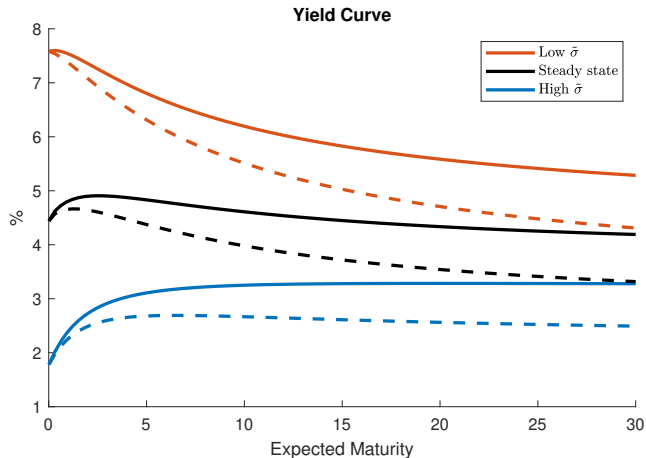
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2. With full segmentation or short sell constraints on gov. bonds:
 - ⇒ CB is constrained in manipulating wealth distribution
 - ⇒ Competitive equilibrium is generically inefficient with full segmentation

Yield Curve Implications



- $y_t^\lambda = \frac{i_t^L}{P_t^L} + \lambda \left(\frac{1 - P_t^L}{P_t^L} \right)$
- **term spread:**
 - positive in recession
 - negative in boom
- **hump** shape is optimal $\Rightarrow$ policy should not undo hump

Yield Curve Implications

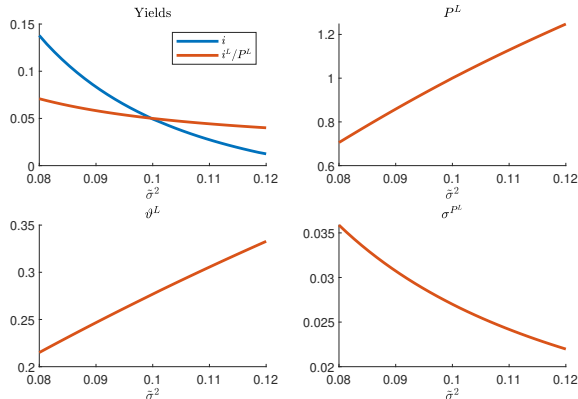


- **hump** shape also if price of risk for intermediaries is zero $\varsigma_t^I = 0$
- expectations hypothesis

Optimal Policy Over the Cycle

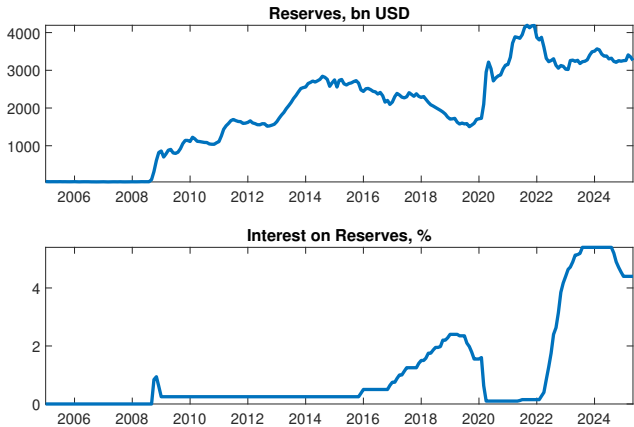
■ **Proposition 5.** Let $\tilde{\sigma}_t^2$ be small. Then, an increase in $\tilde{\sigma}_t^2$ leads to:

- a cut in the interest rate i_t
- a milder interest rate policy going forward (lower $\sigma_t^{P^L}$)
- a rebalancing towards long-term bonds (higher ϑ_t^L)



- Macro model with financial sector to study optimal policy mix
 - Role for aggregate and distributional efficiencies
- Larger CB balance sheet requires more aggressive interest rate policy subsequently
- Joint aggregate and distributional efficiency requires active balance sheet management over the cycle
- Optimal usage of balance sheet management is preparatory:
 - Efficient exposure to future interest rate moves
- Yield curve can be optimally humped shaped

Motivation



Back

Household's Problem

$$\max_{c_t^H, v_t, \iota_t, \nu_t, \theta_t^{D,H}, \theta_t^{L,H}, \theta_t^K, \chi_t} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \left(\log(c_t^H) - b(v_t) \right) dt \right] \quad \text{s.t.}$$

$$\frac{dn_t^H}{n_t^H} = -\frac{c_t^H}{n_t^H} dt + \theta_t^{D,H} dr_t^D + \theta_t^{L,H} dr_t^L + \theta_t^K \left(dr_t^K(v_t, \iota_t, \nu_t) - \chi_t dr_t^{x,H} \right) + \tau_t^H dt$$

$$1 = \theta_t^{D,H} + \theta_t^{L,H} + \theta_t^K(1 - \chi_t) \quad \nu_t \theta_t^{D,H} = \theta_t^K$$

- $dr_t^K = \left[\frac{p_t a v_t - \iota_t - \tau_t^K + \mathfrak{d}_t}{q_t^K} - \mathfrak{t}_t(\nu_t) + \mu_t^{q^K} + g(\iota_t) \right] dt + \sigma_t^{q^K} dZ_t + \tilde{\sigma}_t d\tilde{Z}_t$
- $dr_t^{x,H} = r_t^x dt + \sigma_t^{q^K} dZ_t + \tilde{\sigma}_t d\tilde{Z}_t$
- $dr_t^D = i_t^D dt + \frac{d(1/\mathcal{P}_t)}{1/\mathcal{P}_t} = \left[i_t^D - \pi_t \right] dt$
- $dr_t^L = \frac{i_t^L}{P_t^L} dt + \frac{d(P_t^L/\mathcal{P}_t)}{P_t^L/\mathcal{P}_t} = \left[\frac{i_t^L}{P_t^L} + \mu_t^{P^L} - \pi_t \right] dt + \sigma_t^{P^L} dZ_t$

Intermediary's Problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{c_t^I, \theta_t^{\mathcal{R}}, \theta_t^{L,I}, \theta_t^{D,I}, \theta_t^{x,I}} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \log(c_t^I) dt \right] \quad \text{s.t.} \\ & \frac{dn_t^I}{n_t^I} = -\frac{c_t^I}{n_t^I} dt + \theta_t^{\mathcal{R}} dr_t^{\mathcal{R}}(\theta_t^{\mathcal{R}}) + \theta_t^{D,I} dr_t^D + \theta_t^{L,I} dr_t^L + \theta_t^{x,I} dr_t^{x,I} + \tau_t^I dt \\ & 1 = \theta_t^{\mathcal{R}} + \theta_t^{D,I} + \theta_t^{L,I} + \theta_t^{x,I} \quad \theta_t^{\mathcal{R}} \geq \underline{\theta}_t^{\mathcal{R}} \end{aligned}$$

- $dr_t^{\mathcal{R}}(\theta_t^{\mathcal{R}}) = i(\theta_t^{\mathcal{R}})dt + \frac{d(1/\mathcal{P}_t)}{1/\mathcal{P}_t} = \left[\frac{\frac{\theta_t^{\mathcal{R}} \underline{i}_t + (\theta_t^{\mathcal{R}} - \underline{\theta}_t^{\mathcal{R}}) i_t}{\theta_t^{\mathcal{R}}} - \pi_t \right] dt$
- $dr_t^{x,I} = (r_t^x + \tau_t^x) dt + \sigma_t^{q^K} dZ_t + \varphi \tilde{\sigma}_t d\tilde{Z}_t$
- $dr_t^D = i_t^D dt + \frac{d(1/\mathcal{P}_t)}{1/\mathcal{P}_t} = \left[i_t^D - \pi_t \right] dt$
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Monopolistic Firms

- Monopolistic producers add variety to a common good produced by HH:
 - Linear technology: $Y_t^j = y_t^j$, set prices P_t^j s.t. Rotemberg frictions:

$$\int_0^\infty \Xi_t^H \left[\left(\frac{P_t^j}{P_t} \right)^{1-\varepsilon} - p_t(1-\tau^F) \left(\frac{P_t^j}{P_t} \right)^{-\varepsilon} - \frac{\kappa}{2} (\pi_t^j)^2 - T_t^F \right] Y_t dt$$

- Perfectly competitive final good producers
 - Bundle varieties into consumption good using CES aggregator
- NKPC:

$$\frac{\mathbb{E}[d\pi_t]}{dt} = \left(r_t^{f,H} - \frac{\mathbb{E}[dY_t]}{Y_t dt} + \varsigma_t^{C,H} \sigma_t^Y \right) \pi_t - \frac{\varepsilon}{\kappa} \left(p_t(1-\tau) - \frac{\varepsilon-1}{\varepsilon} \right)$$
$$\pi_t = \frac{\varepsilon}{\kappa Y_t} \mathbb{E}_t \int_t^\infty e^{-\int_t^s r_\tau^f d\tau} Y_s \left(p_s(1-\tau) - \frac{\varepsilon-1}{\varepsilon} \right) ds$$

- Key variables: $\tilde{\sigma}_t, \eta_t, v_t, \vartheta_t, P_t^L, \pi_t$
- Markovian equilibrium with state variables $S \equiv \{\tilde{\sigma}, \eta, v\}$:
 - Laws of motion for S :

$$d\tilde{\sigma}_t^2 = -b_s(\tilde{\sigma}_t^2 - \tilde{\sigma}_{ss}^2)dt + \sigma\tilde{\sigma}_t^2 dZ_t$$

$$\frac{d\eta_t}{\eta_t} = \mu_t^\eta dt + \sigma_t^\eta dZ_t$$

$$\frac{dv_t}{v_t} = \mu_t^v dt + \sigma_t^v dZ_t$$

- Policy variables $\underline{i}(S), i(S), \vartheta^L(S), \underline{\theta}^R(S), \tau^I(S), \tau^x(S), \tau^K(S)$
 - Mappings $\vartheta(S), P^L(S), \pi(S)$
- satisfying agents' optimality and market clearing

Forward-Looking Equations

- Nominal long-term bond price

$$\frac{\mathbb{E}[dP_t^L]}{P_t^L} = \mu_t^{PL} = i_t^m - \frac{i_t^L}{P_t^L} + \sigma_t^{NI} \sigma_t^{PL}$$

- Money valuation equation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mathbb{E}[d\vartheta_t]}{\vartheta_t} = \mu_t^\vartheta = & \rho - s_t - (1 - \vartheta_t) \left((1 - \vartheta_t^L) \left(i_t^m - i_t^a + \nu_t^2 \mathfrak{t}'(\nu_t) \right) + \tilde{\sigma}_t^{n^H} \tilde{\sigma}_t \right) \\ & - (1 - \eta_t) \theta_t^{D,H} \nu_t^2 \mathfrak{t}'(\nu_t) + \sigma_t^{1-\eta} \sigma_t^\vartheta \end{aligned}$$

- NKPC:

$$\frac{\mathbb{E}[d\pi_t]}{dt} = \left(r_t^{f,H} - \frac{\mathbb{E}[dY_t]}{Y_t dt} + \varsigma_t^{C,H} \sigma_t^Y \right) \pi_t - \frac{\varepsilon}{\kappa} \left(p_t(1 - \tau_t) - \frac{\varepsilon - 1}{\varepsilon} \right)$$

$$\eta_t^* \sigma_t^{\eta,*} = (\eta_t^* - \chi_t^*) \sigma_t^{\vartheta,*} + (\chi_t^* - \eta_t^* + \vartheta_t^* (\eta_t^L - \chi_t^*)) \vartheta_t^L \sigma_t^{PL}$$

$$\frac{\sigma_t^{\eta,*}}{1 - \eta_t^*} \sigma_t^{PL} = \nu_t^2 \mathfrak{t}'(\nu_t)$$

$$\nu_t \left[\chi_t^* - \eta_t^* + \vartheta_t^* (1 - \chi_t^*) - (1 - \eta_t^L) \vartheta_t^L \vartheta_t^* \right] = 1 - \vartheta_t^*$$

Efficiency (Relaxed Problem)

- Planner's objective:

$$\max_{\{v_t, \iota_t, \eta_t, \chi_t, \vartheta_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}} \lambda \mathbb{E} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\rho t} \log(\tilde{\eta}_t^I \eta_t c_t K_t) dt + (1-\lambda) \mathbb{E} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\rho t} \left(\log(\tilde{\eta}_t^H (1-\eta_t) c_t K_t) - b(v_t) \right) dt$$

$$\text{s.t. } c_t K_t = a v_t K_t - \iota_t K_t = \rho \frac{q_t^K}{1 - \vartheta_t} K_t, \quad q_t^K = (1 + \phi \iota_t) \quad \text{Tobin's } q$$

$$\frac{d\tilde{\eta}_t^I}{\tilde{\eta}_t^I} = \chi_t \frac{1 - \vartheta_t}{\eta_t} \varphi \tilde{\sigma}_t d\tilde{Z}_t, \quad \frac{d\tilde{\eta}_t^H}{\tilde{\eta}_t^H} = (1 - \chi_t) \frac{1 - \vartheta_t}{1 - \eta_t} \tilde{\sigma}_t d\tilde{Z}_t$$

Efficiency (Relaxed Problem)

- Planner's objective can be simplified to a static one

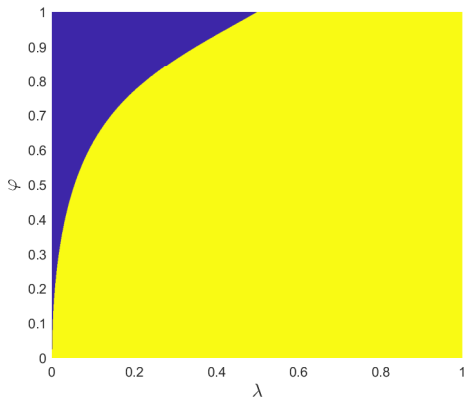
$$\begin{aligned} \max_{v_t, \iota_t, \eta_t, \chi_t, \vartheta_t} W_t = & \overbrace{\log(av_t - \iota_t) - (1 - \lambda)b(v_t) + \frac{1}{\rho} \left(\frac{1}{\phi} \log(1 + \phi\iota_t) - \delta \right)}^{\text{aggregate efficiency}_t(v_t, \iota_t)} \\ & + \underbrace{\lambda \log(\eta_t) + (1 - \lambda) \log(1 - \eta_t) - \frac{\tilde{\sigma}_t^2}{2\rho} \left[\lambda \frac{\chi_t^2}{\eta_t^2} \varphi^2 + (1 - \lambda) \frac{(1 - \chi_t)^2}{(1 - \eta_t)^2} \right] (1 - \vartheta_t)^2}_{\text{distributional efficiency}_t(\chi_t, \eta_t, \vartheta_t)} \end{aligned}$$

- Constrained efficient allocation $v^*(\tilde{\sigma})$, $\iota^*(\tilde{\sigma})$, $\chi^*(\tilde{\sigma})$, $\eta^*(\tilde{\sigma})$, $\vartheta^*(\tilde{\sigma})$,
- Optimal allocation: $1 > \chi^*(\tilde{\sigma}) > \eta^*(\tilde{\sigma}) > \lambda$

- **Proposition 1.** Under some assumption on $\{\lambda, \varphi\}$, there exists a unique solution to the planner's problem for $\eta^*(\tilde{\sigma}_t) > \lambda$ and the constrained efficient allocation has the following properties:
 - **Aggregate Efficiency** (Output gap)
 - Capital utilization $v^*(\tilde{\sigma}_t)$ is constant ($\mu_t^{v,*} = \sigma_t^{v,*} = 0$)
 - Investment rate $\iota^*(\tilde{\sigma}_t)$ is decreasing in $\tilde{\sigma}_t$
 - **Distributional Efficiency**
 - Intermediaries' wealth and risk shares $\eta^*(\tilde{\sigma}_t)$ and $\chi^*(\tilde{\sigma}_t)$ are increasing in $\tilde{\sigma}_t$
 - Nominal wealth share $\vartheta^*(\tilde{\sigma}_t)$ is increasing in $\tilde{\sigma}_t$

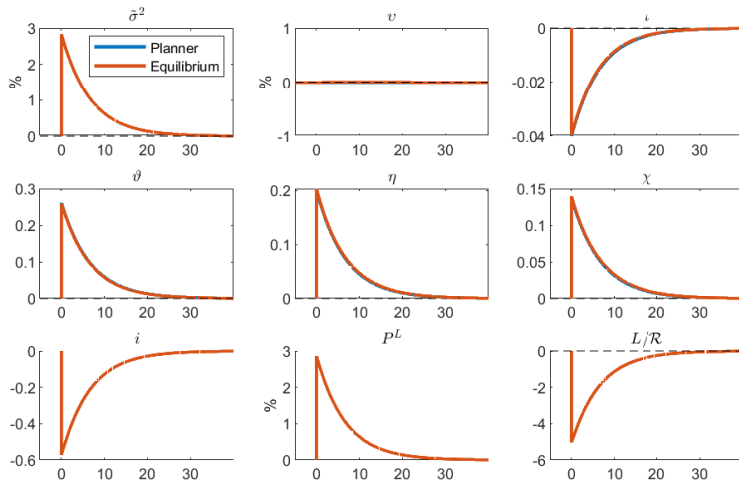
Constrained Efficiency: Properties

$$6\lambda(1-\lambda)(1-\varphi^2)(1-\lambda+\lambda\varphi^2) - (1-2\lambda)\varphi^2 \geq 0$$



$$\begin{aligned}\mu_t^{\mathcal{R}} \mathcal{R}_t + P_t^L \mu_t^L L_t + \mathcal{P}_t \tau_t^K K_t &= \underline{i}_t \underline{\mathcal{R}}_t + i_t (\mathcal{R}_t - \underline{\mathcal{R}}_t) + i^L L_t - \sigma_t^{P^L} \sigma_t^L P_t^L L_t \\ \sigma_t^{\mathcal{R}} \mathcal{R}_t + P_t^L \sigma_t^L L_t &= 0\end{aligned}$$

IRF under Full Efficiency

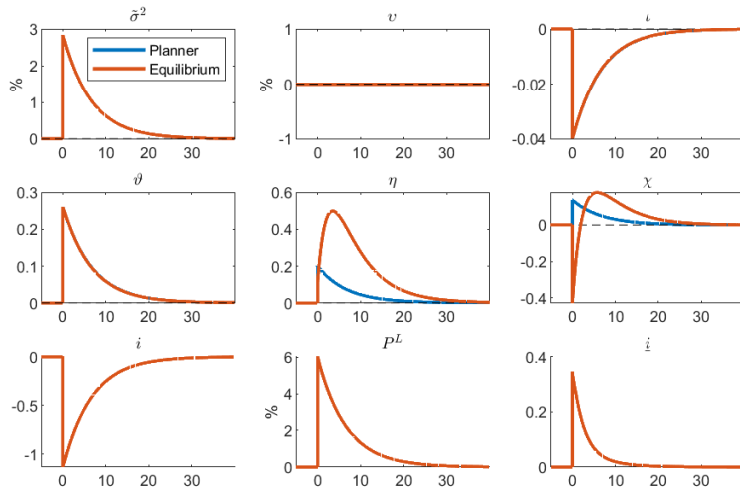


Production Efficiency Only: Implementation

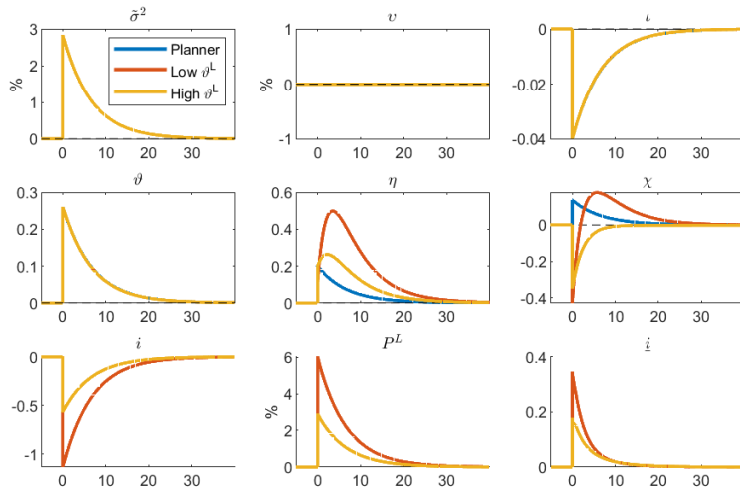
- ϑ_t is an equilibrium ‘mapping’
 $\Rightarrow$ implement ϑ_t^* by appropriate capital taxes τ_t^K along the equilibrium path
- v_t is a state variable $\Rightarrow$ need to ensure $\mu_t^v = \sigma_t^v = 0 \ \forall t$
 - Drift is targeted by i_t
 - Volatility loading is targeted by i_t and ϑ_t^L
- From goods market clearing:

$$av_t = \rho \frac{q_t^{\mathcal{B}}}{\vartheta_t} + \iota_t = \rho \frac{q_t^{\mathcal{B}}}{\vartheta_t} + \frac{q_t^K - 1}{\phi} = \rho \frac{q_t^{\mathcal{B}}}{\vartheta_t} + \frac{q_t^{\mathcal{B}}(1 - \vartheta_t)}{\phi \vartheta_t} - \frac{1}{\phi}$$
$$q_t^{\mathcal{B}} = \frac{\mathcal{B}_t}{\mathcal{P}_t K_t} \quad \mathcal{B}_t = \mathcal{R}_t + P_t^L L_t$$

IRF under Production Efficiency



IRF under Production Efficiency: Equivalence



IRF under Allocative Efficiency: Multiplicity

