# 1 HLW's (2023) post COVID19 State-Space Model (SSM) Form

HLW23 (post COVID19) use the same standard State-Space Form (SSF) as in HLW17:

Measurement : 
$$\mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{\xi}_t + R_t^{1/2} \varepsilon_t^{\mathbf{y}}$$
  
State :  $\boldsymbol{\xi}_t = \mathbf{F}\boldsymbol{\xi}_{t-1} + \mathbf{O}^{1/2} \varepsilon_t^{\boldsymbol{\xi}}$ 

but where the states and exogenous variables have been modified:

$$\mathbf{y}_{t} = \begin{bmatrix} y_{t} & \pi_{t} \end{bmatrix}',$$

$$\mathbf{x}_{t} = \begin{bmatrix} y_{t-1} & y_{t-2} & r_{t-1} & r_{t-2} & \pi_{t-1} & \pi_{t-2,4} & d_{t} & d_{t-1} & d_{t-2} \end{bmatrix}',$$

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}_{t} = \begin{bmatrix} y_{t}^{*} & y_{t-1}^{*} & y_{t-2}^{*} & g_{t} & g_{t-1} & g_{t-2} & z_{t} & z_{t-1} & z_{t-2} \end{bmatrix}',$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{y,1} & a_{y,2} & \frac{a_{r}}{2} & \frac{a_{r}}{2} & 0 & 0 & \phi & -\phi a_{y,1} & -\phi a_{y,2} \\ b_{y} & 0 & 0 & 0 & b_{\pi} & 1 - b_{\pi} & 0 & -\phi & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -a_{y,1} & -a_{y,2} & 0 & -4c\frac{a_{r}}{2} & -4c\frac{a_{r}}{2} & 0 & -\frac{a_{r}}{2} & -\frac{a_{r}}{2} \\ 0 & -b_{y} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

to incorporate dummy variables in the measurement equation and a time-varying  $R_t$  covariance matrix, and some correction I pointed out in the formulation of the state equation (see pages 7-8 in 'HLW\_Replication\_Code\_Guide.pdf' and pages 43-44 in 'Measuring the Natural Rate of Interest after COVID-19'.

**Note:** This follows the notation used in the documentation file: 'HLW\_Replication\_Code\_Guide.pdf' included in the zip file: 'HLW\_2023\_Replication\_Code.zip' that contains the replication code of HLW23 and which is available from the NYFED website at: https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/media/research/economists/williams/data/HLW\_Code.zip.

Compared to HLW17, the constant c is estimated again and dummies are added to account for the COVID19 years.

In the construction of  $r_t^*$ , trend growth  $g_t$  is again annualized, but not in the state equations for  $g_t$ . That is, in the matrices above, the entries in  $\mathbf{H}(1,4:5)$  corresponding to trend growth are multiplied by 4 (as well as c) in the code that performs the estimation (see unpack.parameters.stage3.R in HLW\_replication.zip files, line 30, which reads):

H[1, 5:6] <- -parameters[param.num["c"]]\*parameters[param.num["a\_r"]]\*2. The standard deviations of the shocks are denoted by  $\begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{\tilde{y}} & \sigma_{\pi} & \sigma_{y^*} & \sigma_{g} & \sigma_{z} \end{bmatrix}'$  in the documentation in 'HLW\_Code\_Guide.pdf'.

## 1.1 SSM of HLW23

obs0 The measurement equation is:

$$\mathbf{y}_t = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{\xi}_t + R_t^{1/2}\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_t^{\mathbf{y}}$$

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} y_{t} \\ \tau_{t} \end{bmatrix}}_{y_{t}} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} a_{y,1} & a_{y,2} & \frac{a_{r}}{2} & a_{r} & 0 & 0 & \phi & -\phi a_{y,1} & -\phi a_{y,2} \\ b_{y} & 0 & 0 & 0 & b_{\pi} & 1 - b_{\pi} & 0 & -\phi b_{y} & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{A}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} y_{t-1} \\ y_{t-2} \\ \tau_{t-1} \\ \tau_{t-2} \\ \pi_{t-1} \\ \pi_{t-2,4} \\ d_{t} \\ d_{t-1} \\ d_{t-2} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{x}_{t}} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -a_{y,1} & -a_{y,2} & 0 & -4c\frac{a_{r}}{2} & -4c\frac{a_{r}}{2} & 0 & -\frac{a_{r}}{2} & -\frac{a_{r}}{2} \\ 0 & -b_{y} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{H}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} y_{t} \\ y_{t}^{*} \\ y_{t-1}^{*} \\ y_{t-2}^{*} \\ z_{t} \\ z_{t-1} \\ z_{t-2} \end{bmatrix}}_{\boldsymbol{\xi}_{t}} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \kappa_{t}\sigma_{\bar{y}} & 0 \\ 0 & \kappa_{t}\sigma_{\pi} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{R}_{t}^{1/2}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_{t}^{\bar{y}} \\ \varepsilon_{t}^{\pi} \\ \varepsilon_{t}^{*} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{K}_{t}^{*}}. \tag{1b}$$

The state equation is:

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}_t = \mathbf{F}\boldsymbol{\xi}_{t-1} + \mathbf{Q}^{1/2}\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_t^{\boldsymbol{\xi}}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
y_{t}^{*} \\
y_{t-1}^{*} \\
y_{t-2}^{*} \\
g_{t} \\
g_{t-1} \\
z_{t-1} \\
z_{t-2}
\end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix}
1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
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0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{bmatrix} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix}
\varepsilon_{t}^{y^{*}} \\
\varepsilon_{t}^{g} \\
\varepsilon_{t}^{g} \end{bmatrix}}_{\varepsilon_{t}^{g}}$$

$$(2) \text{ state1}$$

Expanding the relations in (1) and (2) and re-arranging yields:

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_{t} \\ \eta_{t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_{t+1,COVID} & y_{t-2,COVID} \\ y_{t}^{*} + \phi d_{t} + a_{y,1} (y_{t-1} - y_{t-1}^{*} - \phi d_{t-1}) + a_{y,2} (y_{t-2} - y_{t-2}^{*} - \phi d_{t-2}) \\ + \frac{1}{2} a_{r} ([r_{t-1} - 4cg_{t-1} - z_{t-1}] + [r_{t-2} - 4cg_{t-2} - z_{t-2}]) + \kappa_{t} \sigma_{\tilde{y}} \varepsilon_{t}^{\tilde{y}} \\ b_{y} (y_{t-1} - y_{t-1}^{*} - \phi d_{t-1}) + b_{\pi} \pi_{t-1} + (1 - b_{\pi} 1) \pi_{t-2,4} + \kappa_{t} \sigma_{\pi} \kappa_{t} \varepsilon_{t}^{\pi} \end{bmatrix}$$
(3) lwa

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_{t}^{*} \\ y_{t-1}^{*} \\ y_{t-2}^{*} \\ g_{t} \\ g_{t-1} \\ g_{t-2} \\ z_{t} \\ z_{t-1} \\ z_{t-2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_{t-1}^{*} + g_{t-1} + \sigma_{y^{*}} \varepsilon_{t}^{y^{*}} \\ y_{t-1}^{*} \\ y_{t-2}^{*} \\ g_{t-1} \\ g_{t-2} \\ g_{t-1} \\ g_{t-2} \\ z_{t-1} \\ z_{t-2} \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{t}^{*} \\ \Delta g_{t} \\ \Delta g_{t} \\ \Delta z_{t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} g_{t-1} + \sigma_{y^{*}} \varepsilon_{t}^{y^{*}} \\ \sigma_{g} \varepsilon_{t}^{g} \\ \sigma_{z} \varepsilon_{t}^{z} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{t}^{*} \\ \Delta g_{t} \\ \Delta z_{t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} g_{t-1} + \sigma_{y^{*}} \varepsilon_{t}^{y^{*}} \\ \sigma_{g} \varepsilon_{t}^{g} \\ \sigma_{z} \varepsilon_{t}^{z} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{t}^{*} \\ \Delta g_{t} \\ \Delta z_{t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} g_{t-1} + \sigma_{y^{*}} \varepsilon_{t}^{y^{*}} \\ \sigma_{g} \varepsilon_{t}^{g} \\ \sigma_{z} \varepsilon_{t}^{z} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= 4cg_{t} + z_{t}, \text{ we get:}$$

$$(4) \text{ lwb}$$

and with  $r_t^* = 4cg_t + z_t$ , we get:

$$\Delta r_t^* = 4 \overbrace{c\Delta g_t}^{\sigma_g \varepsilon_t^g} + \overbrace{\Delta z_t}^{\sigma_z \varepsilon_t^z}$$

$$= 4 c \sigma_g \varepsilon_t^g + \sigma_z \varepsilon_t^z. \tag{5}$$

Note here that the timing mismatch has been resolved now so that the equations read as expected, that is, without any lagged values in  $\varepsilon_t^{\xi}$  in (2).

The COVID-adjusted natural rate of output is defined in equation 16 of their paper:

$$\tilde{y}_{t,COVID} = 100(y_t - y_{t,COVID}^*) = 100(y_t - y_t^*) - \phi d_t.$$

#### 2 **Shock recovery SSM**

#### SSM with lagged states 2.1

SSM

Kurz's (2018) SSM has the following general from:

Measurement: 
$$Z_t = D_1 X_t + D_2 X_{t-1} + R \varepsilon_t$$
 (6a) ssm1

State: 
$$X_t = AX_{t-1} + C\varepsilon_t$$
, (6b) ssm2

where  $\varepsilon_t \sim MN(0, I_m)$ ,  $D_1$ ,  $D_2$ , A, R are C are conformable system matrices,  $Z_t$  the observed variable and  $X_t$  the latent state variable.

## 2.2 HLW23 equations

Following the same format as before, HLW23's SSM equations in (3) and (4) gives the following SSM equations:

 $y_{t} = y_{t}^{*} + \phi d_{t} + \sum_{i=1}^{2} a_{y,i} \left( y_{t-i} - y_{t-i}^{*} - \phi d_{t-i} \right) + \frac{1}{2} a_{r} \sum_{i=1}^{2} \left( r_{t-i} - r_{t-i}^{*} \right) + \kappa_{t} \sigma_{\tilde{y}} \varepsilon_{t}^{\tilde{y}}$  (7a) LWO3a

$$\pi_t = b_y(y_{t-1} - y_{t-1}^* - \phi d_{t-1}) + b_\pi \pi_{t-1} + (1 - b_\pi) \pi_{t-2,4} + \kappa_t \sigma_\pi \varepsilon_t^\pi$$
(7b)

$$\Delta z_t = \sigma_z \varepsilon_t^z$$
 (7c) LW03c

$$\Delta y_t^* = g_{t-1} + \sigma_{y^*} \varepsilon_t^{y^*}$$
 (7d) LWO3d

$$\Delta g_t = \sigma_g \varepsilon_t^g$$
 (7e) LW03e

with

LW03

ssm0

ssm0

$$\Delta r_t^* = 4c\sigma_g \varepsilon_t^g + \sigma_z \varepsilon_t^z. \tag{7f} \quad \text{LWO3f}$$

where the numbered shock to named shock mapping is:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_{1t} \\ \varepsilon_{2t} \\ \varepsilon_{3t} \\ \varepsilon_{4t} \\ \varepsilon_{5t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_t^{\tilde{y}} \\ \varepsilon_t^{\pi} \\ \varepsilon_t^{z} \\ \varepsilon_t^{y^*} \\ \varepsilon_t^{g} \end{bmatrix}. \tag{8}$$

# 2.3 HLW23 SSM for shock recovery

To assess recovery, re-write the model in 'shock recovery' form. That is, collect all observables in  $Z_t$ , and all shocks (and other state variables) in state vector  $X_t$ . The relevant equations from (7) (incorporating (7f)) for the 'shock recovery' SSM are (note the inclusion of c in (9e)):

Measurement:  $Z_{1t} = y_t^* - a_{y,1}y_{t-1}^* - a_{y,2}y_{t-2}^* - \frac{1}{2}a_r(r_{t-1}^* + r_{t-2}^*) + \kappa_t \sigma_{\tilde{y}} \varepsilon_t^{\tilde{y}}$  (9a)

$$Z_{2t} = -b_y y_{t-1}^* + \kappa_t \sigma_\pi \varepsilon_t^\pi \tag{9b}$$

State:  $\Delta y_t^* = g_{t-1} + \sigma_{y^*} \varepsilon_t^{y^*}$  (9c)

$$\Delta g_t = \sigma_g \varepsilon_t^g \tag{9d}$$

$$\Delta r_t^* = 4c\sigma_g \varepsilon_t^g + \sigma_z \varepsilon_t^z, \tag{9e}$$

with the observables  $Z_t$  in the measurement equations defined as:

$$Z_{1t} = y_t - \sum_{i=1}^{2} (a_{y,i} y_{t-i} - \phi d_{t-i}) - \frac{1}{2} a_r \sum_{i=1}^{2} r_{t-i}$$
(10a)

$$Z_{2t} = \pi_t - b_{\pi} \pi_{t-1} - (1 - b_{\pi}) \pi_{t-2,4} - (b_y y_{t-1} - \phi d_{t-1}). \tag{10b}$$

So these are the same as before for the HLW17 model, with the dummy variables only impacting the observable part of the  $Z_t$  measurement in (10) and the only change being the inclusion of the 3 different possibilities for  $\kappa_t$ :  $\kappa_{20220Q2-Q4}$ ,  $\kappa_{2021}$ ,  $\kappa_{2022}$  and 1 for the baseline,

but with the 2023 estimates of all other parameters.

KOSSM

The 'shock recovery' SSF corresponding to (9) is then:

(11a)

(11b)

State:  $X_t = AX_{t-1} + C\varepsilon_t$ ,

$$\begin{bmatrix}
y_{t}^{*} \\ y_{t-1}^{*} \\ g_{t} \\ r_{t}^{*} \\ r_{t-1}^{*} \\ \varepsilon_{t}^{*} \\ \varepsilon$$

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### Correlation between true change in natural rate and estimate

The correlation between the true and estimated  $\Delta r_t^*$  from the SSM can be constructed from the relation:

$$\rho = 0.5 \frac{\text{Var}(\Delta r_t^*) + \text{Var}(E_T \Delta r_t^*) - \phi}{\sigma(\Delta r_t^*)\sigma(E_T \Delta r_t^*)},$$
(12)

where  $Var(\Delta r_t^*) = 4^2c^2\sigma_5^2 + \sigma_3^2$ ,  $\sigma(\Delta r_t^*) = \sqrt{Var(\Delta r_t^*)}$ , and  $Var(E_T\Delta r_t^*)$  can be computed from simulating from the true model, applying the Kalman Filter and Smoother to get  $E_T \Delta r_t^*$ and then computing the sample variance of  $E_T \Delta r_t^*$  as an estimate of  $Var(E_T \Delta r_t^*)$ .

To obtain  $\phi$ , add  $\Delta r_t^*$  to the state-vector  $X_t$  and augment the remaining matrices to be conformable. The required  $\phi$  term is then the entry of diag $(P_{t|T}^*)$  that corresponds to  $\Delta r_t^*$ , which will be the very last element.

The augmented SSF of (11) is then:

 $X_t = AX_{t-1} + C\varepsilon_t$ State:

(14)

