

# First Order Taylor Approximation

back to [Fan's Intro Math for Econ](#), [Matlab Examples](#), or [Dynamic Asset Repositories](#)

## Demand and Supply for Credit and $a, b, h, k$

We derived the demand and supply for credit here: [Credit Demand and Supply](#).

The actual demand and supply equations as we derived were:

- Supply:  $Q_s = \frac{z \cdot \beta \cdot (1+r) - (\frac{Z}{2})}{((1+r) \cdot (1+\beta))}$
- Demand:  $Q_d = \left( \frac{r}{p \cdot A \cdot \alpha \cdot L^{0.5}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha-1}}$

We used these equations to represent supply and demand here: [First Order Approximate Demand and Supply](#)

- Supply( $R$ ) =  $Q_s = a - \frac{b}{(1+r)}$
- Demand( $r$ ) =  $Q_d = \frac{h}{r^k}$

## What are $a, b, h, k$ ?

So a general trick we use is to first simplify the equations so that we isolate what are the parameters of the model and what are the equilibrium variables we are solving for. In this problem, we are solving for  $Q^{equi}$  and  $r^{equi}$ , all other values are parameters. In fact these two equations are exactly in the form specified here, why?

Supply simplifies to:

- $Q_s = \frac{z\beta}{1+\beta} - \frac{Z}{2 \cdot (1+\beta)} \cdot \frac{1}{1+r}$

which means:  $a = \frac{z\beta}{1+\beta}$ , and,  $b = \frac{Z}{2 \cdot (1+\beta)}$

Demand can be written as:

- $Q_d = (p \cdot A \cdot \alpha \cdot L^{0.5})^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}} \cdot \left( \frac{1}{r} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}}$

which means:  $h = (p \cdot A \cdot \alpha \cdot L^{0.5})^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}}$ , and  $k = \frac{1}{1-\alpha}$

## Exact Equilibrium Interest Rate

I copy below the parameters from [Credit Demand and Supply](#)

```
clear all
Z=10;% from household problem
beta=0.80; % from household problem
p=1.15; %From the question.
L=2; %From the question.
A=3; %You can pick a random number.
alpha=0.45; %You can pick a random number.
```

Here are our actual demand supply equations typed up, we can use fzero to find their intersection

```
syms r
% Demand Curve
Demand = (r/(p*A*alpha*(L^0.5))).^(1/(alpha-1));
Supply = (Z*beta*(1+r)-(Z/2))./((1+r)*(1+beta));
% fzero to find exact intersection
% nonlinear method, this works here and is fast, but when
% we have more nonlinear equations, could be very time consuming
% to solve, but linear approximation instantaneous to solve
DemandMinusSupply = Demand - Supply;
exactREqui = fzero(matlabFunction(DemandMinusSupply), 1)
```

```
exactREqui = 1.1657
```

## Approximating Demand and Supply for Credit

Typing in what  $k, a, b$  are in terms of model parameters:

```
h = (p * A * alpha * L^(0.5))^(1/(1-alpha));
k = 1/(1-alpha);
a = (Z*beta)/(1+beta);
b = Z/(2*(1+beta));
```

And now type in the matrix we derived from [First Order Approximate Demand and Supply](#), approximating demand and supply around  $r_0 = 1$ :

$$\bullet \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\frac{b}{4} \\ 1 & k \cdot h \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} Q \\ r \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a - \frac{3}{4}b \\ h + k \cdot h \end{bmatrix}$$

```
COEFMAT = [1, -b/4; 1, k*h];
OUTVEC = [a-(3*b)/4; h + k*h];
approximateSolution = linsolve(COEFMAT, OUTVEC);
QEquiApproximate = approximateSolution(1)
```

```
QEquiApproximate = 3.1496
```

```
REquiApproximate = approximateSolution(2)
```

```
REquiApproximate = 1.1354
```

Given the parameters here, our linear approximation to demand and supply gave us approximate interest rate: 1.13, and the actual equilibrium interest rate is 1.16, fairly close.

## Graphical Illustration

Let's see what is happening graphically.

First parameters:

```
% from household problem
Z=10;
beta=0.80;
% from the firm problem
p=1.15;
L=2;
A=3;
alpha=0.45;
```

Now I type in the Taylor approximation structure again:

```
syms r
% the r0 around which we approximate
r0 = 1;
% Our equation from before for demand
D = h/r^k;
D_at_ris1 = subs(D, r, r0);
D_diff_r_ris1 = subs(diff(D, r), r, r0);
Demand_Approximate = D_at_ris1 + D_diff_r_ris1*(r-r0);
% Our equation from before for supply
S = a - b/(1+r);
S_at_ris1 = subs(S, r, r0);
S_diff_r_ris1 = subs(diff(S, r), r, r0);
Supply_Approximate = S_at_ris1 + S_diff_r_ris1*(r-r0);
```

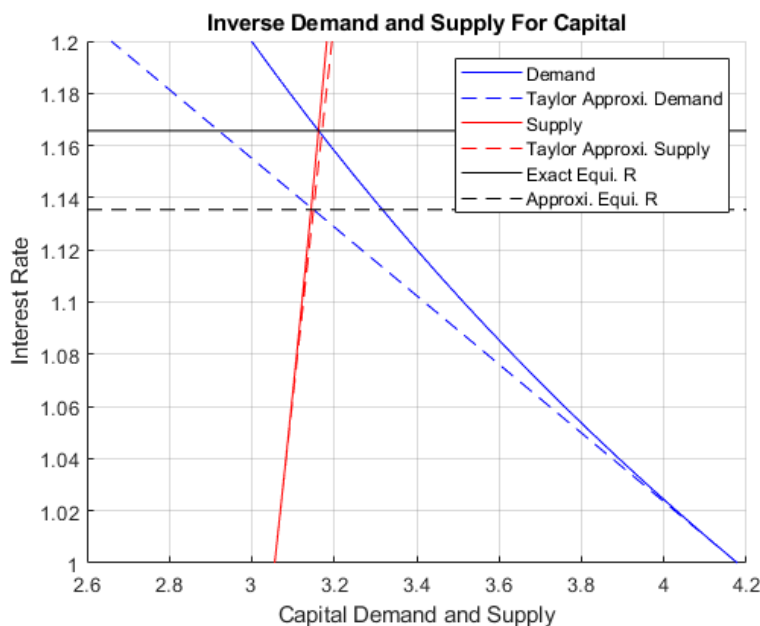
Now let's create a vector of interest rates, and just plot our actual demand and supply and the approximate demand and supply together

```
grid_points = 21;
% Vector of interest rates
rvec = linspace(1.0,1.2,grid_points);
% Create Figure
figure();
hold on
% Plot Demand and Supplies
plot(double(subs(Demand, r, rvec)), rvec, '-b')
plot(double(subs(Demand_Approximate, r, rvec)), rvec, '--b');
plot(double(subs(Supply, r, rvec)), rvec, '-r')
plot(double(subs(Supply_Approximate, r, rvec)), rvec, '--r');
% Add in equilibrium lines
hline = reffline([0 exactREqui]);
```

```

hline.Color = 'k';
hline.LineStyle = '-';
hline = reline([0 REquiApproximate]);
hline.Color = 'k';
hline.LineStyle = '--';
% Legends
xlabel('Capital Demand and Supply');
ylabel('Interest Rate');
title({'Inverse Demand and Supply For Capital'});
legend({'Demand', 'Taylor Approx. Demand', ...
        'Supply', 'Taylor Approx. Supply', ...
        'Exact Equi. R', 'Approx. Equi. R'});
grid on

```



## Approximate Equilibrium in terms of Parameters

One nice features of the first order taylor linear approximation is that the solution for approximate equilibrium is analytical, so we can take derivatives of the approximate equilibrium with respect to parameters to analyze the effects of parameter changes on equilibrium approximately. We have to be careful though, we should not try ranges of parameter values too different from what we used in the example above, because then the approximating equation derived around  $r_0 = 1$  might be very bad approximations.

Remember we had these numerical values:

```

% Numerical values (do not deviate too far away from these, approximate would be bad if you do)
Z_num=10;
beta_num=0.80;
A_num=3;
alpha_num=0.45;

```

First, let solve for the approximate equilibrium with  $A$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $Z$  as symbols:

```

% We keep all else as numbers, but make A alpha beta Z as symbols

```

```

syms A alpha beta Z
% Type in our h, k, a, b again
h = (p * A * alpha * L^(0.5))^(1/(1-alpha));
k = 1/(1-alpha);
a = (Z*beta)/(1+beta);
b = Z/(2*(1+beta));
% Coefficient Matrix
COEFMAT = [1, -b/4; 1, k*h];
OUTVEC = [a-(3*b)/4; h + k*h];
% Analytical solutions
approximateSolution = linsolve(COEFMAT, OUTVEC);
QEquiApproximate = approximateSolution(1)

```

QEquiApproximate =

$$-\frac{Z(\alpha - 8\beta + 1)}{8\beta + Z\left(\frac{23\sqrt{2}A\alpha}{20}\right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha-1}} - Z\alpha\left(\frac{23\sqrt{2}A\alpha}{20}\right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha-1}} + 8}$$

```
REquiApproximate = approximateSolution(2)
```

REquiApproximate =

$$-\frac{8\alpha - 16\beta + 8\alpha\beta - 3Z\sigma_1 + 3Z\alpha\sigma_1 + 8Z\beta\sigma_1 - 8Z\alpha\beta\sigma_1 - 16}{8\beta + Z\sigma_1 - Z\alpha\sigma_1 + 8}$$

where

$$\sigma_1 = \left(\frac{23\sqrt{2}A\alpha}{20}\right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha-1}}$$

So we get these complicated looking equations from matlab in terms of A, alpha, beta and Z, we can analyze them graphically, each time fixing three of the four syms at numerical values.

## Parameter Impacts on Equilibrium--Effects of changing A

How does A impact equilibrium? If A is larger, firms should demand more capital. This holds the supply curve constant, and shifts just the **demand curve outwards**. Interest rate in equilibrium should increase along with equilibrium quantity:

```

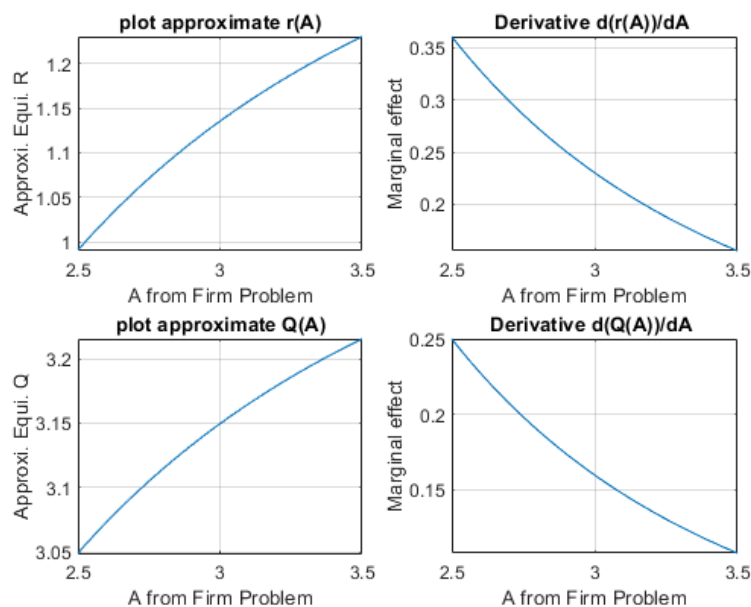
% We can simply use fplot to plot the results out,
% around a range of A values close to what we used earlier: A=3
% we will plot below R as a function of A and also
REquiApproximate_A = subs(REquiApproximate, {Z, beta, alpha}, {Z_num, beta_num, alpha_num});
QEquiApproximate_A = subs(QEquiApproximate, {Z, beta, alpha}, {Z_num, beta_num, alpha_num});
figure();
subplot(2,2,1);
fplot(REquiApproximate_A, [2.5, 3.5])
xlabel('A from Firm Problem');
ylabel('Approx. Equi. R');
title('plot approximate r(A)')
grid on

```

```

subplot(2,2,2);
fplot(diff(REquiApproximate_A, A), [2.5, 3.5])
xlabel('A from Firm Problem');
ylabel('Marginal effect');
title('Derivative d(r(A))/dA ')
grid on
subplot(2,2,3);
fplot(QEuiApproximate_A, [2.5, 3.5])
xlabel('A from Firm Problem');
ylabel('Approx. Equi. Q');
title('plot approximate Q(A)')
grid on
subplot(2,2,4);
fplot(diff(QEuiApproximate_A, A), [2.5, 3.5])
xlabel('A from Firm Problem');
ylabel('Marginal effect');
title('Derivative d(Q(A))/dA ')
grid on

```



## Parameter Impacts on Equilibrium--Effects of changing $Z$

How does  $Z$  impact equilibrium? If  $Z$  is larger, households' resource difference between today and tomorrow increases (the ratio is the same  $1/2$ , but difference is increasing), they should want to save more. This holds demand constant, and **shifts supply out**. So there should be higher equilibrium quantity, and lower equilibrium  $r$ .

```

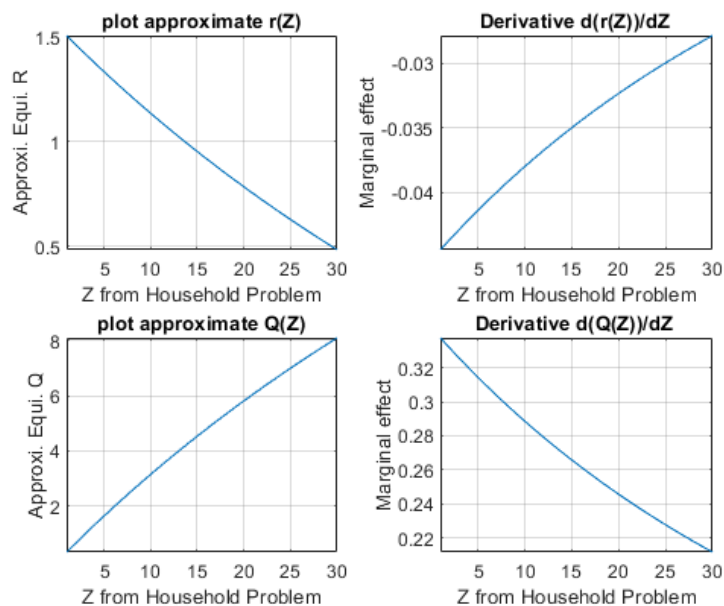
% We can simply use fplot to plot the results out,
REquiApproximate_Z = subs(REquiApproximate, {A, beta, alpha}, {A_num, beta_num, alpha_num});
QEuiApproximate_Z = subs(QEuiApproximate, {A, beta, alpha}, {A_num, beta_num, alpha_num});
figure();
subplot(2,2,1);
fplot(REquiApproximate_Z, [1 30])
xlabel('Z from Household Problem');

```

```

ylabel('Approx. Equi. R');
title('plot approximate r(Z)')
grid on
subplot(2,2,2);
fplot(diff(REquiApproximate_Z, Z), [1 30])
xlabel('Z from Household Problem');
ylabel('Marginal effect');
title('Derivative d(r(Z))/dZ ')
grid on
subplot(2,2,3);
fplot(QEuiApproximate_Z, [1 30])
xlabel('Z from Household Problem');
ylabel('Approx. Equi. Q');
title('plot approximate Q(Z)')
grid on
subplot(2,2,4);
fplot(diff(QEuiApproximate_Z, Z), [1 30])
xlabel('Z from Household Problem');
ylabel('Marginal effect');
title('Derivative d(Q(Z))/dZ ')
grid on

```



## Parameter Impacts on Equilibrium--Effects of changing $\beta$

How does  $\beta$  impact equilibrium? If  $\beta$  is larger, households like the future more, and should want to save more as well. This holds demand constant, and shifts supply out. So there should be higher equilibrium quantity, and lower equilibrium  $r$ .

```

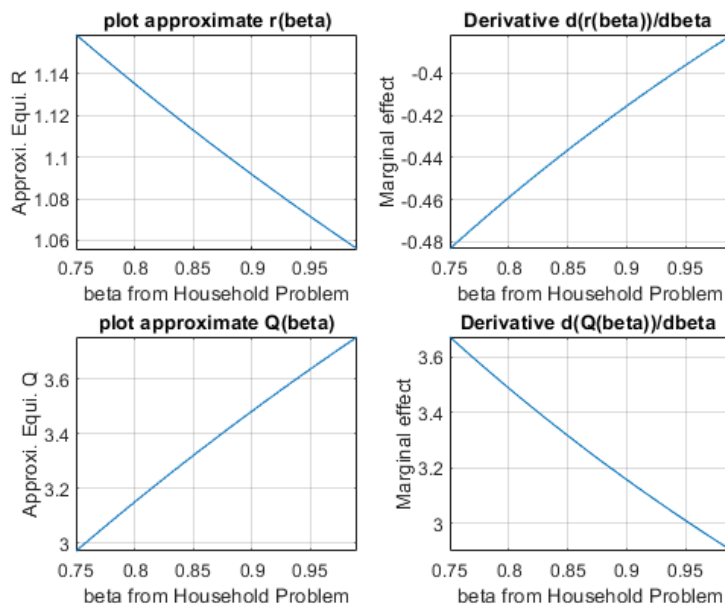
% We can simply use fplot to plot the results out,
REquiApproximate_beta = subs(REquiApproximate, {A, Z, alpha}, {A_num, Z_num, alpha_num});
QEuiApproximate_beta = subs(QEuiApproximate, {A, Z, alpha}, {A_num, Z_num, alpha_num});
figure();
subplot(2,2,1);

```

```

fplot(REquiApproximate_beta, [0.75, 0.99])
xlabel('beta from Household Problem');
ylabel('Approx. Equi. R');
title('plot approximate r(beta)')
grid on
subplot(2,2,2);
fplot(diff(REquiApproximate_beta, beta), [0.75, 0.99])
xlabel('beta from Household Problem');
ylabel('Marginal effect');
title('Derivative d(r(beta))/dbeta ')
grid on
subplot(2,2,3);
fplot(QEuiApproximate_beta, [0.75, 0.99])
xlabel('beta from Household Problem');
ylabel('Approx. Equi. Q');
title('plot approximate Q(beta)')
grid on
subplot(2,2,4);
fplot(diff(QEuiApproximate_beta, beta), [0.75, 0.99])
xlabel('beta from Household Problem');
ylabel('Marginal effect');
title('Derivative d(Q(beta))/dbeta ')
grid on

```



## Parameter Impacts on Equilibrium--Effects of changing $\alpha$

How does  $\alpha$  impact equilibrium? If  $\alpha$  is larger, the elasticity of output with respect to capital is greater, holding price fixed, do firms increase demand or decrease? For these range of approximating values below, they increase demand

```

% We can simply use fplot to plot the results out,
REquiApproximate_alpha = subs(REquiApproximate, {A, Z, beta}, {A_num, Z_num, beta_num});
QEuiApproximate_alpha = subs(QEuiApproximate, {A, Z, beta}, {A_num, Z_num, beta_num});

```



```

figure();
subplot(2,2,1);
fplot(REquiApproximate_alpha, [0.30, 0.60])
xlabel('alpha from Household Problem');
ylabel('Approx. Equi. R');
title('plot approximate r(alpha)')
grid on
subplot(2,2,2);
fplot(diff(REquiApproximate_alpha, alpha), [0.30, 0.60])
xlabel('alpha from Household Problem');
ylabel('Marginal effect');
title('Derivative d(r(beta))/dalpha ')
grid on
subplot(2,2,3);
fplot(QEuiApproximate_alpha, [0.30, 0.60])
xlabel('alpha from Household Problem');
ylabel('Approx. Equi. Q');
title('plot approximate Q(alpha)')
grid on
subplot(2,2,4);
fplot(diff(QEuiApproximate_alpha, alpha), [0.30, 0.60])
xlabel('alpha from Household Problem');
ylabel('Marginal effect');
title('Derivative d(Q(alpha))/dalpha ')
grid on

```

