

# Existence, uniqueness and computation of solutions to DSGE models with occasionally binding constraints.

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**Abstract:** In this paper we present the first necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of a unique perfect-foresight solution to an otherwise linear model with occasionally binding constraints, where solution paths are constrained to return to the original steady-state. We also derive both necessary conditions and sufficient conditions for the existence of a solution to such a model, and show that there can be no general algorithm for solving such (or richer) models that runs in time polynomial to the number of states, unless  $P=NP$ , providing a proof of the inescapability of the “curse of dimensionality” in such models. We show that widely used models such as those of Fernández-Villaverde et al. (2012) and Smets and Wouters (2003; 2007) possess multiple perfect foresight equilibria paths when augmented with a zero lower bound on nominal interest rates, and that the stochastic versions of both models are globally indeterminate. However, we show that price level targeting is sufficient to restore determinacy in the presence of a bound. We go on to construct the first solution algorithm for models with occasionally binding constraints that is guaranteed to return a solution in finite time, if one exists. Moreover, in the presence of multiple solutions, the solution algorithm is able to always select the one that maximises an intuitive criterion. This solution algorithm is first extended to non-linear models, and then further extended to take into account future uncertainty, both in the short run, and in the longer run via a novel hybrid of local and global approaches. Our solution algorithm is shown to produce accurate simulations on a wide range of DSGE models with occasionally binding constraints.

**Keywords:** *occasionally binding constraints, zero lower bound, DSGE, linear complementarity problem, LCP*

**JEL Classification:** C61, C62, C63, E17, E3, E4, E5

Please make sure you have the latest version of this paper from:

<https://github.com/tholden/dynareOBC/raw/master/paper.pdf>

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# 1. Introduction

Since the financial crisis of 2007-2008, many central banks around the world have chosen to keep their nominal interest rate close to 0%. While in a few countries, rates on some assets have gone slightly negative, central banks are unable to push their target rate to the level a Taylor rule might suggest since agents always have the option of holding cash. In practice then, central banks face a zero lower bound (ZLB) on their policy rate, which limits their ability to provide stimulus in severe recessions. Furthermore, during the crisis, both households, firms and banks have hit their borrowing constraints, which has limited their ability to smooth out its effects. However, traditional approaches to understanding the behaviour of medium-scale DSGE models, such as perturbation, cannot capture occasionally binding constraints (OBCs), meaning that the profession still lacks all of the necessary tools for understanding the behaviour of models with OBCs.

In this paper, we attack the problem of understanding the behaviour of models with occasionally binding constraints from two directions. Much as the seminal paper of Blanchard and Kahn (1980) both provided necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of a unique solution to a linear model, and provided a practical approach for their simulation, we shall do the same for models with OBCs. Firstly, we provide theoretical results on the existence and uniqueness of solutions to such models. Secondly, we provide a computational algorithm for their robust, accurate and scalable simulation, along with an open source toolkit called “DynareOBC” which implements the discussed algorithm.<sup>2</sup>

Our theoretical results are for perfect-foresight solutions to models that are otherwise linear, apart from their occasionally binding constraints. As was observed by Benhabib, Schmitt-Grohé, and Uribe (2001a; 2001b), in the presence of OBCs, there are often multiple steady-states. For example, a model with a zero lower bound on nominal interest rates and Taylor rule monetary policy when away from the bound will have an additional “bad” steady-state in which nominal interest rates are zero and there is deflation. The presence of such multiple steady-states means that there can be sunspot equilibria which jump between the neighbourhoods of the two steady-states. Furthermore, if agents put a positive probability on being in the neighbourhood of the “bad” steady-state in future, then since this “bad” steady-state is indeterminate in the ZLB case, by a backwards induction argument, there is indeterminacy now. The consequences of indeterminacy of these kinds have been explored by Schmitt-Grohé and Uribe (2012), Mertens and Ravn (2014) and Aruoba, Cuba-Borda, and Schorfheide (2014), amongst others. In all cases, the key to generating indeterminacy is that agents’ beliefs about the point to which the economy would converge in the absence of future uncertainty are switching from one steady-state to the other.

One might hope, however, that the presence of announced inflation targets in many countries might anchor long-run expectations at the “good” steady-state. Additionally, one might legitimately wonder about the plausibility of the required coordination in beliefs necessary to sustain these sunspot equilibria. It is an interesting question then whether there are still multiple equilibria even when all agents believe that in the long-run, the economy will return to the “good” steady-state. It is such equilibria that we focus on in the below, providing necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of a unique perfect-foresight path. A restricted class of such equilibria were also examined by Brendon, Paustian, and Yates (2015) who examined multiplicity in specific models when agents believe with probability one that in one period’s time, they will escape the bound and return to the neighbourhood of the “good” steady-state.

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<sup>2</sup> DynareOBC is available from: <https://github.com/tholden/dynareOBC>

We show that many standard New Keynesian models, such as those of Fernández-Villaverde et al. (2012) or Smets and Wouters (2003; 2007) do not possess such a unique perfect-foresight path, meaning that even in this best case scenario in which agents' long-run expectations are pinned down, there is still multiplicity of equilibria. Indeed, we show that in these models, there are some initial states from which the economy has one return path that never hits the ZLB, and another that does hit it, so the fact that the ZLB is not violated in a model in which it is not imposed does not mean that it would not be hit were it to be imposed. However, we show that under a price-targeting regime, there is a unique equilibrium path even when we impose the ZLB.

We also provide both necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of any perfect-foresight solutions which return to the original ("good") steady-state. When no such equilibria exists, agents must switch their beliefs to the other ("bad") steady-state, where they will remain in the absence of any way for agents to coordinate back on the "good" steady-state. We show that for standard New Keynesian models, there is a positive probability of ending up in a state of the world in which there is no perfect foresight path returning to the "good" steady-state, implying that in the stochastic model, agents must always put positive probability on tending to the "bad" steady-state. This in turn implies global indeterminacy in such models, by a backwards induction argument. Once again though, price level targeting is sufficient to restore determinacy.

We also present theoretical results on the computational complexity of finding a solution to models with occasionally binding constraints. We are able to show that were there an algorithm which could solve general non-stochastic models with occasionally binding constraints in an amount of time that is polynomial in the number of states in the model, then such an algorithm could also be used for solving in polynomial time any problem the solution of which could be verified in polynomial time. This would imply, for example, efficient methods of breaking all standard forms of cryptography used to secure internet banking. Of course, neither we nor the computer science profession believe that such a polynomial time algorithm can exist, hence this provides a proof by contradiction of the "curse of dimensionality" for this class of models. It also raises doubts about the realism of assuming rational expectations in these situations. However, we show that under price level targeting, the solution may be computed in polynomial time, meaning it is much easier for agents to form expectations under price level targeting than it is under inflation targeting. This gives an additional argument for price level targeting.

We go on to present an algorithm for solving general models with occasionally binding constraints, as efficiently as is possible given the aforementioned theoretical results. Our algorithm takes the form of three layers of increasing accuracy. The first is just a particularly efficient perfect foresight solver which we are able to apply to stochastic models using the idea of the extended path algorithm of Fair and Taylor (1983). The key idea of the algorithm is that an occasionally binding constraint provides a source of endogenous news about the future. When a shock hits which drives the economy to the bound in some future periods, that is telling us today that in those future periods, the (lower) bounded variable will be higher than it would be otherwise.<sup>3</sup> Conveniently, our model is guaranteed to return a solution in finite time when one exists, and when there is no solution, the algorithm returns a certificate of this in finite time instead. This contrasts with approaches based on a fixed point iteration for which non-existence is not normally detectable in finite time, since one

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<sup>3</sup> The idea of imposing the zero lower bound by adding news shocks is also present in Holden (2010), Hebden et al. (2011), Holden & Paetz (2012) and Bodenstein et al. (2013).

cannot rule out that the algorithm would converge if only it were left for another hour/day/year. Furthermore, where there are multiple solutions, our algorithm always returns one minimising an intuitive criterion, with a free parameter that enables the user to select the desired “type” of equilibrium.

Thanks to the convenient properties of pruned perturbation solutions, and the particular structure of our solution algorithm, we are also able to apply it to high order pruned perturbation approximations to the model without the bound. Although this does not capture the risk of hitting the bound, it does at least help capture the fact that at the bound, the economy is a substantial distance from steady-state, and so the slopes of variables’ responses will have changed.

In the second layer of accuracy, we integrate over future uncertainty following the stochastic extended path algorithm of Adjemian and Juillard (2013). However, thanks to the convenient properties of pruned perturbation solutions, we are able to integrate over  $S$  periods of future uncertainty with only polynomial in  $S$  solutions of the perfect foresight problem, compared to the exponential in  $S$  and the number of shocks solutions that are required by the original Adjemian and Juillard (2013) approach. In practice, this means that we can integrate over enough periods of future uncertainty to capture up to one hundred periods of future uncertainty, even in medium scale models.

Finally, in the third layer of accuracy we adopt a novel hybrid of local and global approaches to capture the very long run risk of hitting the bound. Again, thanks to the convenient properties of pruned perturbation solutions to the model without the bound, we are able to solve for a crude global approximation to the long-run effects of the bound without any numerical integration or simulation of the model, making for an exceptionally fast global solution, even for medium scale models. We then use the algorithm discussed above to capture more accurately the shorter run effects.

Our paper is structured as follows. In the following section, section 2 we present our key theoretical results on otherwise linear perfect foresight models. We then discuss the application of these results to New Keynesian models in section 3. In section 4 we present our solution algorithm for otherwise linear perfect foresight models, and discuss the computational complexity of the problem. We then extend this to non-linear models in section 5 with the three layers of increasing accuracy discussed previously. Finally, in section 6, we examine the numerical accuracy and speed of these algorithms. Section 7 concludes.

TODO Expand and polish introduction

## **2. Theoretical results on occasionally binding constraints in otherwise linear models under perfect foresight**

In this section, we present our main theoretical results on existence and uniqueness of perfect foresight solutions to models which are linear apart from an occasionally binding constraint. We start by defining the problem to be solved, and examining its relationship both to the problem without occasionally binding constraints, and to a related problem with news shocks to the bounded variable. Using the news shock representation, we demonstrate that solving the model with occasionally binding constraints is equivalent to solving a linear complementarity problem. We then discuss some theoretical background on these problems, before presenting the main existence and uniqueness results. We finish this section with a brief discussion of generalisations to richer set-ups.

## 2.1. Problem set-ups

Suppose that for  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , (i.e.  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $t > 0$ ):

$$(\hat{A} + \hat{B} + \hat{C})\hat{\mu} = \hat{A}\hat{x}_{t-1} + \hat{B}\hat{x}_t + \hat{C}\mathbb{E}_t\hat{x}_{t+1} + \hat{D}\varepsilon_t,$$

where  $\mathbb{E}_{t-1}\varepsilon_t = 0$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , and suppose that  $\hat{x}_0$  is given as an initial condition. Furthermore, suppose that  $\varepsilon_t = 0$  for  $t > 1$ , as in an impulse response or perfect foresight simulation exercise. Additionally, we assume the existence of a the terminal condition of the form  $\hat{x}_t \rightarrow \hat{\mu}$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , coming, for example, from the model's transversality constraints.

For  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , define:

$$x_t := \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_t \\ \varepsilon_{t+1} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mu := \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mu} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A := \begin{bmatrix} \hat{A} & \hat{D} \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B := \begin{bmatrix} \hat{B} & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix}, \quad C := \begin{bmatrix} \hat{C} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

then, for  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ :

$$(A + B + C)\mu = Ax_{t-1} + Bx_t + Cx_{t+1},$$

and we have the extended initial condition  $x_0 = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_0 \\ \varepsilon_1 \end{bmatrix}$ , and the extended terminal condition  $x_t \rightarrow \mu$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

Expectations have disappeared since there is no uncertainty after period 0. Thus, the problem of solving the original model has the form as that given in:

### **Problem 1**

Suppose that  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is given. Find  $x_t \in \mathbb{R}^n$  for  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$  such that  $x_t \rightarrow \mu$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , and such that for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ :

$$(A + B + C)\mu = Ax_{t-1} + Bx_t + Cx_{t+1}.$$

We make the following assumption in all of the following:

### **Assumption 1**

For any given  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , Problem 1 has a unique solution, which takes the form  $x_t = (I - F)\mu + Fx_{t-1}$ , for  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , where  $F = -(B + CF)^{-1}A$ , and where all of the eigenvalues of  $F$  are weakly inside the unit circle.

Sims's (2002) generalisation of the standard Blanchard-Kahn (1980) conditions is necessary and sufficient for this. Further, to avoid dealing specially with the knife-edge case of exact unit eigenvalues (even if they are constrained to the part of the model that is solved forward), in the following we rule it out with the subsequent assumption, which is, in any case, a necessary condition for perturbation to produce a consistent approximation to a source non-linear model, and which is also necessary for the linear model to have a unique steady-state:

### **Assumption 2**

$$\det(A + B + C) \neq 0.$$

The combination of Assumption 1 and Assumption 2 imply that all of the eigenvalues of  $F$  are strictly inside the unit circle.

We are interested in models featuring occasionally binding constraints. For now, we will concentrate on models featuring a single zero lower bound type constraint in their first equation, which we treat as defining the first element of  $x_t$ . Generalising from this special case will be straightforward. First, let us define  $I$  as the  $T \times T$  identity matrix, and let us write  $x_{1,t}$ ,  $I_{1,\cdot}$ ,  $A_{1,\cdot}$ ,  $B_{1,\cdot}$ ,  $C_{1,\cdot}$  for the first row of  $x_t$ ,  $I$ ,  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$  (respectively) and

$x_{-1,t}, I_{-1,t}, A_{-1,t}, B_{-1,t}, C_{-1,t}$ , for the remainders. (Similar notation will be adopted for the rest of this paper.) Then we are interested in the solution to:

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**Problem 2**


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Suppose that  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is given. Find  $T \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x_t \in \mathbb{R}^n$  for  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$  such that  $x_t \rightarrow \mu$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , and such that for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ :

$$x_{1,t} = \max\{0, I_{1,t}\mu + A_{1,t}(x_{t-1} - \mu) + (B_{1,t} + I_{1,t})(x_t - \mu) + C_{1,t}(x_{t+1} - \mu)\},$$

$$(A_{-1,t} + B_{-1,t} + C_{-1,t})\mu = A_{-1,t}x_{t-1} + B_{-1,t}x_t + C_{-1,t}x_{t+1},$$

and such that  $x_{1,t} > 0$  for  $t > T$ .

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Note that in this problem we are implicitly ruling out any solutions which get permanently stuck at an alternative steady-state, by assuming that the terminal condition remains as before. Indeed, we are assuming that the bound is only relevant for some finite number of periods  $T$ . We continue to assume that there is no uncertainty after period 0, so, in this non-linear model, the path of the endogenous variables will not necessarily match up with the path of their expectation in a richer model in which there was uncertainty after period 0.

We will analyse this problem with the help of solutions to the following auxiliary problem:

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**Problem 3**


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Suppose that  $T \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $y_0 \in \mathbb{R}^T$  is given. Find  $x_t \in \mathbb{R}^n, y_t \in \mathbb{R}^T$  for  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$  such that  $x_t \rightarrow \mu$ ,  $y_t \rightarrow 0$ , as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , and such that for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ :

$$(A + B + C)\mu = Ax_{t-1} + Bx_t + Cx_{t+1} + I_{1,t}I_{1,t}y_{t-1},$$

$$\forall i \in \{1, \dots, T-1\}, \quad y_{i,t} = y_{i+1,t-1},$$

$$y_{T,t} = 0.$$


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This may be thought of as a version of Problem 1 with news shocks up to horizon  $T$  added to the first equation.<sup>4</sup> The value of  $y_{t,0}$  gives the news shock that hits in period  $t$ , i.e.  $I_{1,t}y_{t-1} = y_{1,t-1} = y_{t,0}$  for  $t \leq T$ , and  $I_{1,t}y_{t-1} = y_{1,t-1} = 0$  for  $t > T$ .

## 2.2. Relationships between the problems

Together with Assumption 1, the fact that  $I_{1,t}y_{t-1} = 0$  for  $t > T$  implies that  $(x_{T+1} - \mu) = F(x_T - \mu)$ , so with  $t = T$ , defining  $s_{T+1} := 0$ ,  $(x_{t+1} - \mu) = s_{t+1} + F(x_t - \mu)$ . Proceeding now by backwards induction on  $t$ , note that:

$$0 = A(x_{t-1} - \mu) + B(x_t - \mu) + CF(x_t - \mu) + Cs_{t+1} + I_{1,t}y_{t,0},$$

so:

$$(x_t - \mu) = -(B + CF)^{-1}[A(x_{t-1} - \mu) + Cs_{t+1} + I_{1,t}y_{t,0}] = F(x_{t-1} - \mu) - (B + CF)^{-1}(Cs_{t+1} + I_{1,t}y_{t,0}),$$

i.e., if we define:  $s_t := -(B + CF)^{-1}(Cs_{t+1} + I_{1,t}y_{t,0})$ , then  $(x_t - \mu) = s_t + F(x_{t-1} - \mu)$ . By induction then, this holds for all  $t \in \{1, \dots, T\}$ .<sup>5</sup> Hence, we have proved the following lemma:

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**Lemma 1**


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There is a unique solution to Problem 3 that is linear in  $x_0$  and  $y_0$ .

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<sup>4</sup> See footnote 3 for some of the other papers that have taken this approach.

<sup>5</sup> This representation of the solution to Problem 3 was inspired by that of Anderson (2015).

For future reference, let  $x_t^{(3,k)}$  be the solution to Problem 3 when  $x_0 = \mu, y_0 = I_{\cdot,k}$  (i.e. a vector which is all zeros apart from a 1 in position  $k$ ). Then, by linearity, for arbitrary  $y_0$  the solution to Problem 3 when  $x_0 = \mu$  is given by:

$$x_t - \mu = \sum_{k=1}^T y_{k,0} (x_t^{(3,k)} - \mu).$$

Let  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$  satisfy:

$$M_{t,k} = x_{1,t}^{(3,k)} - \mu_1, \quad \forall t, k \in \{1, \dots, T\}, \quad (1)$$

i.e.  $M$  horizontally stacks the (column-vector) relative impulse responses to the news shocks. Then this result implies that for arbitrary  $y_0$ , the path of the first variable in the solution to Problem 3 when  $x_0 = \mu$  is given by:  $(x_{1,1:T})' = \mu_1 + My_0$ , where  $x_{1,1:T}$  is the row vector of the first  $T$  values of the first component of  $x_t$ . Furthermore, for both arbitrary  $x_0$  and  $y_0$ , the path of the first variable in the solution to Problem 3 is given by:  $(x_{1,1:T})' = q + My_0$ , where  $q := (x_{1,1:T}^{(1)})'$  and  $x_t^{(1)}$  is the unique solution to Problem 1, for the given  $x_0$ .<sup>6</sup> This ease in solving Problem 3 given  $y_0$  will be crucial to the efficiency of our eventual solution algorithm for Problem 2.

Now let  $x_t^{(2)}$  be a solution to Problem 2 given an arbitrary  $x_0$ . Since  $x_t^{(2)} \rightarrow \mu$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , there exists  $T' \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for all  $t > T'$ ,  $x_{1,t}^{(2)} > 0$ . We assume without loss of generality that  $T' \leq T$ . We seek to relate the solution to Problem 2 with the solution to Problem 3 for an appropriate choice of  $y_0$ .

First, for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , let:

$$e_t := \begin{cases} -[I_{1,\cdot}\mu + A_{1,\cdot}(x_{t-1}^{(2)} - \mu) + (B_{1,\cdot} + I_{1,\cdot})(x_t^{(2)} - \mu) + C_{1,\cdot}(x_{t+1}^{(2)} - \mu)] & \text{if } x_{1,t}^{(2)} = 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } x_{1,t}^{(2)} > 0 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

i.e.  $e_t$  is the shock that would need to hit the first equation for the positivity constraint on  $x_{1,t}^{(2)}$  to be enforced. Note for future reference that by the definition of Problem 2,  $e_t \geq 0$  and  $x_{1,t}^{(2)}e_t = 0$ , for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ . From this definition, we also have that for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ :

$$0 = A(x_{t-1}^{(2)} - \mu) + B(x_t^{(2)} - \mu) + C(x_{t+1}^{(2)} - \mu) + I_{\cdot,1}e_t.$$

Furthermore, if  $t > T$ , then  $t > T'$ , and hence  $e_t = 0$ . Hence, by Assumption 1,  $(x_{T+1}^{(2)} - \mu) = F(x_T^{(2)} - \mu)$ . Thus, much as before, with  $t = T$ , defining  $r_{T+1} := 0$ ,  $(x_{t+1}^{(2)} - \mu) = r_{t+1} + F(x_t^{(2)} - \mu)$ . Consequently:

$$0 = A(x_{t-1}^{(2)} - \mu) + B(x_t^{(2)} - \mu) + CF(x_t^{(2)} - \mu) + Cr_{t+1} + I_{\cdot,1}e_t,$$

so:

$$(x_t^{(2)} - \mu) = F(x_{t-1}^{(2)} - \mu) - (B + CF)^{-1}(Cr_{t+1} + I_{\cdot,1}e_t),$$

i.e., if we define:  $r_t := -(B + CF)^{-1}(Cr_{t+1} + I_{\cdot,1}e_t)$ , then  $(x_t^{(2)} - \mu) = r_t + F(x_{t-1}^{(2)} - \mu)$ . As before, by induction this must hold for all  $t \in \{1, \dots, T\}$ . By comparing the definitions of  $s_t$  and  $r_t$ , and the laws of motion of  $x_t$  under both problems, we then immediately have that if Problem 3 is started with  $x_0 = x_0^{(2)}$  and  $y_0 = e'_{1:T}$ , then  $x_t^{(2)}$  solves Problem 3. Conversely, if  $x_t^{(2)}$  solves Problem 3 for some  $y_0$ , then from the laws of motion of  $x_t$  under both problems it must be the case that  $r_t = s_t$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ , and hence from the definitions of  $s_t$  and  $r_t$ , we have that  $y_0 = e'_{1:T}$ . This has established the following result:

<sup>6</sup> This representation was also exploited by Holden (2010) and Holden & Paetz (2012).

**Lemma 2**

For any solution,  $x_t^{(2)}$  to Problem 2:

- 1) With  $e_{1:T}$  as defined in equation (2),  $e_{1:T} \geq 0$ ,  $x_{1,1:T}^{(2)} \geq 0$  and  $x_{1,1:T}^{(2)} \circ e_{1:T} = 0$ , where  $\circ$  denotes the Hadamard (entry-wise) product.
- 2)  $x_t^{(2)}$  is also the unique solution to Problem 3 when started with  $x_0 = x_0^{(2)}$  and with  $y_0 = e'_{1:T}$ .
- 3) If  $x_t^{(2)}$  solves Problem 3 when started with  $x_0 = x_0^{(2)}$  and with some  $y_0$ , then  $y_0 = e'_{1:T}$ .

However, to use the easy solution to Problem 3 to assist us in solving Problem 2 requires a slightly stronger result. Suppose that  $y_0 \in \mathbb{R}^T$  is such that  $y_0 \geq 0$ ,  $x_{1,1:T}^{(3)} \circ y'_0 = 0$  and  $x_{1,t}^{(3)} \geq 0$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ , where  $x_t^{(3)}$  is the unique solution to Problem 3 when started at  $x_0, y_0$ . We would like to prove that in this case  $x_t^{(3)}$  must also be a solution to Problem 2. I.e., we must prove that for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ :

$$x_{1,t}^{(3)} = \max\{0, I_{1,\cdot}\mu + A_{1,\cdot}(x_{t-1}^{(3)} - \mu) + (B_{1,\cdot} + I_{1,\cdot})(x_t^{(3)} - \mu) + C_{1,\cdot}(x_{t+1}^{(3)} - \mu)\},$$

$$(A_{-1,\cdot} + B_{-1,\cdot} + C_{-1,\cdot})\mu \neq A_{-1,\cdot}x_{t-1}^{(3)} + B_{-1,\cdot}x_t^{(3)} + C_{-1,\cdot}x_{t+1}^{(3)}.$$

By the definition of Problem 3, the latter equation must hold with equality, so there is nothing to prove there.

Hence we just need to prove that for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ :

$$x_{1,t}^{(3)} = \max\{0, I_{1,\cdot}\mu + A_{1,\cdot}(x_{t-1}^{(3)} - \mu) + (B_{1,\cdot} + I_{1,\cdot})(x_t^{(3)} - \mu) + C_{1,\cdot}(x_{t+1}^{(3)} - \mu)\}.$$

Let  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ . Now, if  $x_{1,t}^{(3)} > 0$ , then  $y_{t,0} = 0$ , by the complementary slackness type condition ( $x_{1,1:T}^{(3)} \circ y'_0 = 0$ ).

Thus, from the definition of Problem 3:

$$(A + B + C)\mu = Ax_{t-1} + Bx_t + Cx_{t+1},$$

so:

$$x_{1,t}^{(3)} = I_{1,\cdot}\mu + A_{1,\cdot}(x_{t-1}^{(3)} - \mu) + (B_{1,\cdot} + I_{1,\cdot})(x_t^{(3)} - \mu) + C_{1,\cdot}(x_{t+1}^{(3)} - \mu)$$

$$= \max\{0, I_{1,\cdot}\mu + A_{1,\cdot}(x_{t-1}^{(3)} - \mu) + (B_{1,\cdot} + I_{1,\cdot})(x_t^{(3)} - \mu) + C_{1,\cdot}(x_{t+1}^{(3)} - \mu)\},$$

as required. The only remaining case is that  $x_{1,t}^{(3)} = 0$  (since  $x_{1,t}^{(3)} \geq 0$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ , by assumption), which implies that:

$$x_{1,t}^{(3)} = 0 = A_{1,\cdot}(x_{t-1} - \mu) + B_{1,\cdot}(x_t - \mu) + C_{1,\cdot}(x_{t+1} - \mu) + y_{t,0}$$

$$= I_{1,\cdot}\mu + A_{1,\cdot}(x_{t-1} - \mu) + (B_{1,\cdot} + I_{1,\cdot})(x_t - \mu) + C_{1,\cdot}(x_{t+1} - \mu) + y_{t,0},$$

by the definition of Problem 3. Thus:

$$I_{1,\cdot}\mu + A_{1,\cdot}(x_{t-1} - \mu) + (B_{1,\cdot} + I_{1,\cdot})(x_t - \mu) + C_{1,\cdot}(x_{t+1} - \mu) = -y_{t,0} \leq 0,$$

where the inequality is an immediate consequence of another of our assumptions. Consequently:

$$x_{1,t}^{(3)} = \max\{0, I_{1,\cdot}\mu + A_{1,\cdot}(x_{t-1}^{(3)} - \mu) + (B_{1,\cdot} + I_{1,\cdot})(x_t^{(3)} - \mu) + C_{1,\cdot}(x_{t+1}^{(3)} - \mu)\},$$

as required. Together with Lemma 1, Lemma 2, and our representation of the solution of Problem 3, this completes the proof of the following proposition:

**Proposition 1**

- 1) Let  $x_t^{(3)}$  be the unique solution to Problem 3 when initialized with some  $x_0, y_0$ . Then  $x_t^{(3)}$  is a solution to Problem 2 when initialized with  $x_0$  if and only if  $y_0 \geq 0$ ,  $y_0 \circ (q + My_0) = 0$ ,  $q + My_0 \geq 0$  and  $x_{1,t}^{(3)} \geq 0$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $t > T$ .
- 2) Let  $x_t^{(2)}$  be any solution to Problem 2 when initialized with  $x_0$ . Then there exists a  $y_0 \in \mathbb{R}^T$  such that  $y_0 \geq 0$ ,  $y_0 \circ (q + My_0) = 0$ ,  $q + My_0 \geq 0$ , such that  $x_t^{(2)}$  is the unique solution to Problem 3 when initialized with  $x_0, y_0$ .



### 2.3. The linear complementarity representation

Proposition 1 establishes that providing we initially choose  $T$  sufficiently high, to find a solution to Problem 2, it is sufficient to solve Problem 4 then perform some trivial linear calculations.

---

#### Problem 4

Suppose  $q \in \mathbb{R}^T$  and  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$  are given. Find  $y \in \mathbb{R}^T$  such that  $y \geq 0$ ,  $y \circ (q + My) = 0$  and  $q + My \geq 0$ . We call this the **linear complementarity problem (LCP)**  $(q, M)$ .

---

In the mathematical and optimisation literatures, Problem 4 is called a linear complementarity problem or LCP (Cottle 2009). These problems have been extensively studied, and so we can import results on the properties of LCPs to derive results on the properties of solutions to models with occasionally binding constraints.

All of the results in the mathematical literature rest on properties of the matrix  $M$ , thus we must first establish if the structure of our particular  $M$  implies it has any special properties. Unfortunately it seems that  $M$  has no general properties. We show this by constructing, in section 9.1 in the appendices, a model for each matrix in  $\mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$ , such that the  $M$  matrix the model produces is precisely the matrix we started with. Our results from that appendix are summarised in the following proposition:

---

#### Proposition 2

For any matrix  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$ , there exists a model in the form of Problem 2 with a number of state variables given by a quadratic in  $T$ , such that  $M = \bar{M}$  for that model, where  $\bar{M}$  is defined as in equation (1), and such that for all  $q \in \mathbb{R}^T$ , there exists an initial state for which  $q = \bar{q}$ , where  $\bar{q}$  is the path of the bounded variable when constraints are ignored.

---

We now introduce some definitions of matrix properties that are necessary for the statement of our key existence and uniqueness results. The ultimate properties of the occasionally binding constraint model are determined by which of these matrix properties  $M$  possesses. In each case, we give the definitions in a constructive form which makes clear both how the property might be verified computationally, and the links between definitions. These are not necessarily in the form which is standard in the original literature, however. For both the original definitions, and the proofs of equivalence between the ones below and the originals, see Cottle, Pang, and Stone (2009a) and Xu (1993) (for the characterisation of sufficient matrices).

---

#### Definition 1 (Principal sub-matrix, Principal minor)

For a matrix  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$ , the **principal sub-matrices** of  $M$  are the matrices:

$$\left\{ [M_{i,j}]_{i,j=k_1, \dots, k_S} \mid S, k_1, \dots, k_S \in \{1, \dots, T\}, k_1 < k_2 < \dots < k_S \right\},$$

i.e. the **principal sub-matrices** of  $M$  are formed by deleting the same rows and columns.

The **principal minors** of  $M$  are the collection of values:

$$\left\{ \det \left( [M_{i,j}]_{i,j=k_1, \dots, k_S} \right) \mid S, k_1, \dots, k_S \in \{1, \dots, T\}, k_1 < k_2 < \dots < k_S \right\},$$

i.e. the **principal minors** of  $M$  are the determinants of the principal sub-matrices of  $M$ .

---

#### Definition 2 ((Non-)Degenerate matrix)

A matrix  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$  is called a **non-degenerate matrix** if the principal minors of  $M$  are all non-zero.  $M$  is called a **degenerate matrix** if it is not a non-degenerate matrix.

---

**Definition 3 ( $P_0$ -matrix)**

A matrix  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$  is called a **P-matrix** if the principal minors of  $M$  are all strictly positive.  $M$  is called a  **$P_0$ -matrix** if the principal minors of  $M$  are all non-negative. *Note: for symmetric  $M$ ,  $M$  is a P-matrix if and only if all of its eigenvalues are strictly positive, and  $M$  is a  $P_0$ -matrix if and only if all of its eigenvalues are non-negative.*

**Definition 4 (General positive (semi-)definite)**

A matrix  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$  is called **general positive definite** if  $M + M'$  is a P-matrix. If  $M + M'$  is a  $P_0$ -matrix, then  $M$  is called **general positive semi-definite**. *Note: that we do not require that  $M$  is symmetric in either case, but that if  $M$  is symmetric, then,  $M$  is general positive-definite if and only if it is a P-matrix and  $M$  is a general positive semi-definite if and only if it is a  $P_0$ -matrix, so in this case the definitions coincide with the standard ones.*

**Definition 5 ( $S_0$ -matrix)**

A matrix  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$  is called an **S-matrix** if there exists  $y \in \mathbb{R}^T$  such that  $y > 0$  and  $My \gg 0$ .  $M$  is called an  **$S_0$ -matrix** if there exists  $y \in \mathbb{R}^T$  such that  $y > 0$  and  $My \geq 0$ .<sup>7</sup>

**Definition 6 ((Strictly) Semi-monotone)**

A matrix  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$  is called **strictly semi-monotone** if each of its principal sub-matrices is an **S-matrix**.  $M$  is called **semi-monotone** if each of its principal sub-matrices is an  **$S_0$ -matrix**.

**Definition 7 ((Strictly) Copositive)**

A matrix  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$  is called **strictly copositive** if  $M + M'$  is strictly semi-monotone. If  $M + M'$  is semi-monotone then  $M$  is called **copositive**.<sup>8</sup>

**Definition 8 (Sufficient matrices)**

Let  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$ .  $M$  is called **column sufficient** if  $M$  is a  $P_0$ -matrix, and for each principal sub-matrix  $W := [M_{i,j}]_{i,j=k_1,\dots,k_S}$  of  $M$ , with zero determinant, and for each proper principal sub-matrix  $[W_{i,j}]_{i,j=l_1,\dots,l_R}$  of  $W$  ( $R < S$ ), with zero determinant, the columns of  $[W_{i,j}]_{i=1,\dots,S, j=l_1,\dots,l_R}$  do not form a basis for the column space of  $W$ .<sup>9</sup>

$M$  is called **row sufficient** if  $M'$  is column sufficient.  $M$  is called **sufficient** if it is column sufficient and row sufficient.

Cottle, Pang, and Stone (2009a) note the following relationships between these classes (amongst others):

1. All general positive semi-definite matrices are copositive and sufficient.
2.  $P_0$  includes skew-symmetric matrices, general positive semi-definite matrices, sufficient matrices and P-matrices.
3. All  $P_0$ -matrices, and all copositive matrices are semi-monotone, and all P-matrices, and all strictly copositive matrices are strictly semi-monotone (and hence also S-matrices).

<sup>7</sup> The former condition may be rewritten as  $\sup\{\zeta \in \mathbb{R} \mid \exists y \geq 0 \text{ s.t. } \forall t \in \{1, \dots, T\}, (My)_t \geq \zeta \wedge y_t \leq 1\} > 0$ , and the latter may be rewritten as  $\sup\{\sum_{t=1}^T y_t \mid y \geq 0, My \geq 0 \wedge \forall t \in \{1, \dots, T\}, y_t \leq 1\} > 0$ . As linear-programming problems, these may be verified in time polynomial in the size of the matrix using the methods described in e.g. Roos, Terlaky, and Vial (2006). Alternative linear programming problems may be constructed using Ville's theorem of the alternative (Cottle, Pang, and Stone 2009b), since this implies that  $M$  is not an  $S_0$ -matrix if and only if  $-M'$  is an S-matrix.

<sup>8</sup> Väliäho (1986) contains an alternative characterisation which ought to be faster to check, since it avoids solving any linear programming problems.

<sup>9</sup> Again, this may be checked via the singular value decomposition.

Additionally, from considering the  $1 \times 1$  principal sub-matrices of  $M$ , we have the following restrictions on the diagonal of  $M$ :

4. All general positive semi-definite, semi-monotone, sufficient,  $P_0$  and copositive matrices have non-negative diagonals, and all general positive definite, strictly semi-monotone,  $P$  and strictly copositive matrices have strictly positive diagonals.

For many models encountered in macroeconomics, this simple condition is already sufficient to rule out membership of these matrix classes, as medium-scale DSGE models (including, for example, Smets and Wouters (2003), as we will show in section 3.5) frequently have negative elements on the diagonal of the  $M$  matrix coming from the zero lower bound on nominal interest rates, when  $T$  is large enough. Unfortunately, for all of these matrix classes except the classes of general positive (semi-)definite matrices, and  $S_{(0)}$ -matrices, no algorithm which runs in an amount of time that is polynomial in  $T$  is known, thus verifying class membership may not be feasible with large  $T$ . However, disproving class membership only requires finding one principal sub-matrix which fails to have the required property, and for this, starting with the  $1 \times 1$  principal sub-matrices (e.g. the diagonal), then considering the  $2 \times 2$  ones (etc.) is often a good strategy. The facts that all of the eigenvalues of a  $T \times T$   $P$ -matrix have complex arguments in the interval  $(-\pi + \frac{\pi}{T}, \pi - \frac{\pi}{T})$ , and all of the eigenvalues of a  $T \times T$   $P_0$ -matrix have complex arguments in the interval  $[-\pi + \frac{\pi}{T}, \pi - \frac{\pi}{T}]$  (Fang 1989) may also assist in ruling out these matrix classes.

A common intuition is that in models without state variables,  $M$  must be both a  $P$  matrix, and an  $S$  matrix. In fact, this is not true. Indeed, there are even purely static models for which  $M$  is not in either of these classes. For example, in section 9.2 in the appendices, we construct a purely static model for which  $M_{1:\infty, 1:\infty} = -I_{\infty \times \infty}$ , which is neither a  $P$ -matrix, nor an  $S$ -matrix, for any  $T$ .

## 2.4. Existence results

We start by considering necessary or sufficient conditions for the existence of a solution to a model with occasionally binding constraints. Ideally, we would like the solution to exist for any possible path the bounded variable might have taken in the future were there no occasionally binding constraint, i.e. for any possible  $q$ . To see this, note that under a perfect foresight exercise we are ignoring the fact that shocks might hit the economy in future. More properly, we ought to integrate over future uncertainty, as in the stochastic extended path approach of Adjemian and Juillard (2013). A crude way to do this would just be to draw lots of samples of future shocks for periods  $1, \dots, S$ , and average over these draws. But in a linear model with shocks with unbounded support, providing at least one shock has an impact on a given variable, then the distribution of future paths of that variable has positive support over the entirety of  $\mathbb{R}^S$ . Thus, ideally we would like  $M$  to be such that for any  $q$ , the linear complementarity problem  $(q, M)$  has a solution.

---

### **Definition 9 (Feasible LCP)**

---

Suppose  $q \in \mathbb{R}^T$  and  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$  are given. The LCP corresponding to  $M$  and  $q$  is called **feasible** if there exists  $y \in \mathbb{R}^T$  such that  $y \geq 0$  and  $q + My \geq 0$ .

---

By construction, if an LCP  $(q, M)$  has a solution, then it is feasible, i.e. being feasible is a necessary condition for existence. Checking feasibility is straightforward for any particular  $(q, M)$ , since to find a feasible solution we just need to solve a standard linear programming problem, which is possible in an amount of time that is polynomial in  $T$ .

Note that if the LCP  $(q, M)$  is not feasible, then for any  $\hat{q} \leq q$ , if  $y \geq 0$ , then  $\hat{q} + My \leq q + My < 0$  since  $(q, M)$  is not feasible. Thus the LCP  $(\hat{q}, M)$  is also not feasible. Consequently, if there are any  $q$  for which the LCP is non-feasible, then there are a positive measure of such  $q$ . Thus, in a model with uncertainty, if there are some  $q$  for which the model has no solution satisfying the terminal condition, even in the limit as  $T \rightarrow \infty$ , then the model will have no solution satisfying the terminal condition with positive probability. This in turn means that it is not consistent with rationality for agents to believe that our terminal condition is satisfied with probability one. Hence, in this case they would have to place some positive probability on getting stuck in an alternative steady-state.

---

**Proposition 3**


---

The LCP  $(q, M)$  is feasible for all  $q \in \mathbb{R}^T$  if and only if  $M$  is an S-matrix. (Cottle, Pang, and Stone 2009a)<sup>10</sup>

---

This gives an easily verified necessary condition for the global existence of a solution to the model with occasionally binding constraints, given some fixed horizon  $T$ .

Of course, it may be the case that the  $M$  matrix is only an S-matrix when  $T$  is very large, so we must be careful in using this condition to imply non-existence of a solution. Furthermore, it may be the case that although there exists some  $y \in \mathbb{R}^T$  with  $y \geq 0$  such that  $M_{1:T,1:T}y \gg 0$ , where we are indexing the  $M$  matrix by its size for clarity, for any such  $y$ ,  $\inf_{t \in \mathbb{N}^+} M_{t,1:T}y < 0$ , so for some  $q \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}^+}$ , the infinite LCP  $(q, M_{1:\infty,1:\infty})$  is not feasible under the additional restriction that  $y_t = 0$  for  $t > T$ . Strictly, it is this infinite LCP which we ought to be solving, subject to the additional constraint that  $y$  has only finitely many non-zero elements, which is implied by our terminal condition.

By Proposition 3, this infinite problem is feasible if and only if:

$$\zeta := \sup_{\substack{y \in [0,1]^{\mathbb{N}^+} \\ \exists T \in \mathbb{N} \text{ s.t. } \forall t > T, y_t = 0}} \inf_{t \in \mathbb{N}^+} M_{t,1:\infty}y > 0.$$

Consequently, if  $\zeta > 0$  then for every  $q \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}^+}$ , for sufficiently large  $T$ , the finite problem  $(q_{1:T}, M_{1:T,1:T})$  will be feasible, which is a sufficient condition for solvability. In order to evaluate this limit, we first need to derive constructive bounds on the  $M$  matrix for large  $T$ . We do this in the appendix, section 9.3, but we summarise the key results in the following two lemmas which are of independent interest, since they help in understanding the behaviour of the  $M$  matrix.

---

**Lemma 3**


---

Let  $G := -C(B + CF)^{-1}$ . Then the following hold:

1. All of the eigenvalues of  $G$  are inside the unit circle.
  2. The difference equation  $Ad_{k+1} + Bd_k + Cd_{k-1} = 0$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}^+$  has a unique solution satisfying the terminal condition  $d_k \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , given by  $d_k = Hd_{k-1}$ , for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , for some  $H$  with identical eigenvalues to  $G$ .
- 

---

<sup>10</sup> Most of the results on LCPs in both this and the following section are restatements of (assorted) results contained in Cottle, Pang, and Stone (2009a) and Väliäho (1986) (for the characterisation of “copositive-plus” matrices), and the reader is referred to those works for proofs and further references. Cottle, Pang, and Stone (2009a) also contains many additional necessary or sufficient conditions for the various properties of interest.

**Lemma 4**

Let  $H$  be as defined in Lemma 3. Let  $d_0 := -(AH + B + CF)^{-1}I_{\cdot,1}$ ,  $d_k = Hd_{k-1}$ , for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , and  $d_{-t} = Fd_{-(t-1)}$ , for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ . For any matrix,  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , let  $\rho_M$  be the maximum absolute Eigenvalue of  $M$ . Then, for any matrix,  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  with  $\rho_M < 1$ , and any  $\phi \in (\rho_M, 1)$ , let:<sup>11</sup>

$$C_{M,\phi} := \sup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \|(M\phi^{-1})^k\|_2.$$

Now, fix  $\phi_F \in (\rho_F, 1)$  and  $\phi_G \in (\rho_G, 1)$ , and define:

$$\mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} := C_{F, \phi_F} C_{G, \phi_G} \|(B + CF)^{-1}\|_2.$$

Then, for all  $t, k \in \mathbb{N}^+$ :

$$|M_{t,k}| \leq \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \phi_F^t \phi_G^k \frac{(\phi_F \phi_G)^{-\min\{t,k\}} - 1}{1 - \phi_F \phi_G}.$$

Furthermore, for all  $t, k \in \mathbb{N}^+$ :

$$|M_{t,k} - d_{1,k-t}| \leq \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^k}{1 - \phi_F \phi_G}.$$

Using these bounds on  $M$ , we can construct upper and lower bounds on  $\varsigma$ , which is described in the following propositions, that we also prove in the appendix, section 9.3.

**Proposition 4**

Fix  $\phi_F \in (\rho_F, 1)$  and  $\phi_G \in (\rho_G, 1)$ , then, using the definitions of Lemma 3 and Lemma 4:

$$\varsigma \geq \max_{\substack{y \in [0,1]^T \\ y_\infty \in [0,1]}} \min \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \min_{t=1, \dots, T} \left[ M_{t,1:T} y + ((I - H)^{-1} d_{T+1-t})_1 y_\infty - \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^{T+1}}{(1 - \phi_F \phi_G)(1 - \phi_G)} y_\infty \right], \\ \min_{t=T+1, \dots, 2T} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^T \left( d_{-(t-k),1} - \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^k}{1 - \phi_F \phi_G} \right) y_k + ((I - F)^{-1} (d_{-1} - d_{-(t-T)}))_1 y_\infty \right. \\ \quad \left. + ((I - H)^{-1} d_0)_1 y_\infty - \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^{T+1}}{(1 - \phi_F \phi_G)(1 - \phi_G)} y_\infty \right], \\ \left[ -C_{F, \phi_F} \frac{\phi_F^{2T+1} (\phi_F^{-T} - 1)}{1 - \phi_F} \|d_0\|_2 - C_{F, \phi_F} \phi_F^{T+1} \|(I - F)^{-1}\|_2 \|d_0\|_2 y_\infty + ((I - F)^{-1} d_{-1})_1 y_\infty \right. \\ \quad \left. + ((I - H)^{-1} d_0)_1 y_\infty - \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^{2T+1} \phi_G}{(1 - \phi_F \phi_G)(1 - \phi_G)} \right] \end{array} \right\}.$$

**Proposition 5**

Fix  $\phi_F \in (\rho_F, 1)$ ,  $\phi_G \in (\rho_G, 1)$  and  $\phi_H \in (\rho_H, 1)$ , then, using the definitions of Lemma 3 and Lemma 4:

$$\varsigma \leq \max_{y \in [0,1]^T} \min_{t=1, \dots, T} \left[ M_{t,1:T} y + \frac{C_{H, \phi_H} \|d_0\|_2 \phi_H^{T+1-t}}{1 - \phi_H} + \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^{T+1}}{(1 - \phi_F \phi_G)(1 - \phi_G)} \right].$$

The right hand sides of the lower bound from Proposition 4 and the upper bound from Proposition 5 are finite linear programming problems that may be solved by standard methods in an amount of time that is polynomial in  $T$ . Hence, these conditions give simple tests for feasibility or non-feasibility with sufficiently large  $T$ . It is worth noting that as  $T \rightarrow \infty$ , the final minimand in the expression from Proposition 4 tends to:

$$((I - F)^{-1} d_{-1})_1 y_\infty + ((I - H)^{-1} d_0)_1 y_\infty,$$

<sup>11</sup> A procedure for calculating  $C_{M,\phi}$  exactly in finite time is given in the appendix, section 9.3.

i.e. a positive multiple of the doubly infinite sum of  $d_{1,k}$  over all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . If this expression is negative, then our lower bound on  $\zeta$  will be negative as well, and hence uninformative.

We now turn to sufficient conditions for the existence of a solution for some finite  $T$ .

---

**Proposition 6**


---

The LCP  $(q, M)$  is solvable if it is feasible and, either:

1.  $M$  is row-sufficient, or,
2.  $M$  is copositive and for all non-singular principal sub-matrices  $W := [M_{i,j}]_{i,j=k_1,\dots,k_S}$  of  $M$ , all non-negative columns of  $W^{-1}$  possess a non-zero diagonal element.

(Cottle, Pang, and Stone 2009a; Väliaho 1986)

---

If either condition 1 or condition 2 of Proposition 6 is satisfied, then to check existence for any particular  $q$ , we only need to solve a linear programming problem to see if a solution exists for a particular  $q$ . As this may be substantially faster than solving the LCP, this may be helpful in practice.

---

**Proposition 7**


---

The LCP  $(q, M)$  is solvable for all  $q \in \mathbb{R}^T$ , if at least one of the following conditions holds:

1.  $M$  is an S-matrix, and either condition 1 or condition 2 of Proposition 6 are satisfied.
2.  $M$  is copositive and non-degenerate.
3.  $M$  is a P-matrix, a strictly copositive matrix or a strictly semi-monotone matrix.

(Cottle, Pang, and Stone 2009a)

---

If condition 1, 2 or 3 of Proposition 7 is satisfied, then we know that the LCP will always have a solution. Therefore, for any path of the bounded variable in the absence of the bound, we will be able to solve the model even with the bound. Since it is unclear what happens in a New-Keynesian model when there is no solution that imposes the zero lower bound on nominal interest rates, monetary policy makers should always choose a policy rule that produces a model that satisfies one of these three conditions, if they can.

Ideally, we might have liked conditions for the existence of a solution that are both necessary and sufficient, but unfortunately at present no such conditions exist in full generality. However, in the special case of  $M$  matrices with nonnegative entries, we have the following result:

---

**Proposition 8**


---

If  $M$  is a matrix with nonnegative entries, then the LCP  $(q, M)$  is solvable for all  $q \in \mathbb{R}^T$ , if and only if  $M$  has a strictly positive diagonal. (Cottle, Pang, and Stone 2009a)

---

## 2.5. Uniqueness results

While no fully general necessary and sufficient conditions have been derived for existence, such conditions have been derived for the existence of a unique solution, in particular:

---

### **Proposition 9**

---

The LCP  $(q, M)$  has a unique solution for all  $q \in \mathbb{R}^T$ , if and only if  $M$  is a P-matrix.

If  $M$  is not a P-matrix, then the LCP  $(q, M)$  has multiple solutions for some  $q$ .

(Samelson, Thrall, and Wesler 1958; Cottle, Pang, and Stone 2009a)

---

This proposition is the equivalent for models with occasionally binding constraints of the key proposition of Blanchard and Kahn (1980). By testing whether our matrix  $M$  is a P-matrix we can immediately determine if the model possesses a unique solution in any state of the world, and for any sequence of future shocks, for a fixed  $T$ . In our experience, this condition is satisfied in efficient models, such as models of irreversible investment, as one would expect, but is not generally satisfied in medium-scale New-Keynesian models with a zero lower bound on nominal interest rates. Given that if  $M$  is a P-matrix, so too are all its principal sub-matrices, if we see that  $M$  is not a P-matrix for some  $T$ , then we know that with larger  $T$  it would also not be a P-matrix. Thus, if for some  $T$ ,  $M$  is not a P-matrix, then we know that the model does not have a unique solution, even for arbitrarily large  $T$ . Alternatively, we can prove that with large  $T$  some  $M$  is not a P-matrix by using the analytic formula for the limit of its diagonal given in the previous section, i.e.:

$$d_{0,1} = -I_{1,\cdot}(AH + B + CF)^{-1}I_{\cdot,1}$$

If this value is negative, then we know that with sufficiently large  $T$ ,  $M$  will not be a P-matrix.

Since some classes of models almost never possess a unique solution when at the zero lower bound, we might reasonably require a lesser condition, namely that at least when the solution to the model without a bound is a solution to the model with the bound (i.e. when the solution to Problem 1 is a solution to Problem 2), then it ought to be the unique solution. This is equivalent to requiring that when  $q$  is non-negative, the LCP  $(q, M)$  has a unique solution. Conditions for this are given in the following propositions:

---

### **Proposition 10**

---

The LCP  $(q, M)$  has a unique solution for all  $q \in \mathbb{R}^T$  with  $q \gg 0$  if and only if  $M$  is semi-monotone. (Cottle, Pang, and Stone 2009a)

---



---

### **Proposition 11**

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The LCP  $(q, M)$  has a unique solution for all  $q \in \mathbb{R}^T$  with  $q \geq 0$  if and only if  $M$  is strictly semi-monotone. (Cottle, Pang, and Stone 2009a)

---

Hence, by verifying that  $M$  is (strictly) semi-monotone, we can reassure ourselves that merely introducing the bound will not change the solution away from the bound. When this condition is violated, even when the economy is a long way from the bound, there may be solutions which jump to the bound. Again, since principal sub-matrices of (strictly) semi-monotone are (strictly) semi-monotone, a failure of (strict) semi-monotonicity for some  $T$  implies a failure for all larger  $T$ . Furthermore, if  $d_{0,1} < 0$  then again for sufficiently large  $T$ ,  $M$  cannot be semi-monotone.

## 2.6. Properties of the solution set

Where there are multiple solutions, we might like to be able to select one via some objective function. This is particularly tractable when either the number of solutions is finite, or the solution set is convex. Conditions for this are given in the following propositions:

---

### *Proposition 12*

---

The LCP  $(q, M)$  has a finite (possibly zero) number of solutions for all  $q \in \mathbb{R}^T$  if and only if  $M$  is non-degenerate. (Cottle, Pang, and Stone 2009a)

---

### *Proposition 13*

---

The LCP  $(q, M)$  has a convex (possibly empty) set of solutions for all  $q \in \mathbb{R}^T$  if and only if  $M$  is column sufficient. (Cottle, Pang, and Stone 2009a)

---

## 2.7. Generalisations to richer otherwise linear models

It is straightforward to generalise these results for Problem 2 to less restrictive otherwise linear models with occasionally binding constraints.

Firstly, if the constraint is on a variable other than  $x_{1,t}$ , or in another equation than the first, then it is immediately clear that all of the results must go through as before (just by relabelling and rearranging). Furthermore, if the constraint takes the form of  $z_{1,t} = \max\{z_{2,t}, z_{3,t}\}$ , where  $z_{1,t}$ ,  $z_{2,t}$  and  $z_{3,t}$  are linear expressions in the contemporaneous values, lags and leads of  $x_t$ , then, assuming without loss of generality that  $z_{3,t} > z_{2,t}$  in steady-state, we have that:

$$z_{1,t} - z_{2,t} = \max\{0, z_{3,t} - z_{2,t}\}.$$

Hence, adding a new auxiliary variable  $x_{n+1,t}$ , with the associated equation:

$$x_{n+1,t} = z_{1,t} - z_{2,t},$$

and replacing the constrained equation with:

$$x_{n+1,t} = \max\{0, z_{3,t} - z_{2,t}\},$$

we have a new equation in the form covered by our original results. Moreover, if rather than a max we have a min, we just use the fact that if  $z_{1,t} = \min\{z_{2,t}, z_{3,t}\}$ , then  $-z_{1,t} = \max\{-z_{2,t}, -z_{3,t}\}$ , which is in the form covered by the generalisation just established.

We may also readily deal with multiple occasionally binding constraints, following the representation used in Holden & Paetz (2012). Suppose there are  $c$  constrained variables in the model. For  $a \in \{1, \dots, c\}$ , let  $q^{(a)}$  be the path of the  $a^{\text{th}}$  constrained variable in the absence of all constraints. For  $a, b \in \{1, \dots, c\}$ , let  $M^{(a,b)}$  be the matrix created by horizontally stacking the column vector relative impulse responses of the  $a^{\text{th}}$  constrained variable to magnitude 1 news shocks at horizon  $0, \dots, T-1$  to the equation defining the  $b^{\text{th}}$  constrained variables. For example, if  $c = 1$  so there is a single constraint, then we would have that  $M^{(1,1)} = M$  as defined in equation (1). Finally, let:

$$q := \begin{bmatrix} q^{(1)} \\ \vdots \\ q^{(c)} \end{bmatrix}, \quad M := \begin{bmatrix} M^{(1,1)} & \dots & M^{(1,c)} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ M^{(c,1)} & \dots & M^{(c,c)} \end{bmatrix},$$

and let  $y$  be a solution to the LCP  $(q, M)$ . Then the vertically stacked paths of the constrained variables in a solution which satisfies these constraints is given by  $q + My$ , and again any solution satisfying the constraints



corresponds to a solution to the LCP. Thus, in the multiple constraint case, almost all of our previous results go through immediately, with this redefined  $q$  vector and  $M$  matrix.<sup>12</sup>

### 3. Applications to New Keynesian models

Brendon, Paustian, and Yates (2015) (henceforth: BPY) consider multiple equilibria in a simple New Keynesian (NK) model with an output growth rate term in the Taylor rule. They show that with sufficiently large reaction to the growth rate, there can be multiple equilibria today, even when the policy rule used to form tomorrow's expectations is held fixed. This is equivalent to the existence of multiple equilibria even when  $T = 1$ . In the first subsection here, we give an alternative analytic proof of this using our results, and discuss the generalisation to higher  $T$ . We refer the reader to the original paper for an elegant discussion of the intuition behind these results.

BPY go on to show numerical results from the model with persistence in the shadow nominal interest rate (i.e. the rate which would obtain were it not for the zero lower bound). In the second subsection here we numerically examine this case with larger  $T$ , illustrating how multiple equilibria tend to become easier to support when  $T$  is large.

With an appropriately constructed limit, price level targeting is the result of increasing the persistence in the monetary rule to unity. In new analytic results in the third subsection here, we show that under price level targeting, with  $T = 1$   $M$  is a P-matrix regardless of the coefficients on prices and output. Thus, for example, nominal GDP targeting will be well behaved in this setting. We also show that this continues to hold for large  $T$ , and that the model is always feasible for sufficiently large  $T$ .

However, we do not want to give the impression that multiplicity and non-existence is just caused by responding to the growth rate, or that it is only a problem in carefully constructed theoretical examples. In the subsection 3.4, we show that a standard NK model with positive steady-state inflation and a zero lower bound, possesses multiple equilibria in some states, and no solutions in others, even with an entirely standard Taylor rule without a response to output growth. We also show that here too price level or NGDP level targeting is sufficient to restore determinacy. Finally, in the last sub-section we show that these conclusions also carry through to the posterior-modes of the Smets and Wouters (2003) and Smets and Wouters (2007) models.

#### 3.1. The simple Brendon, Paustian, and Yates (2015) (BPY) model

The equations of the simple Brendon, Paustian, and Yates (2015) model are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} x_{i,t} &= \max\{0, 1 - \beta + \alpha_{\Delta y}(x_{y,t} - x_{y,t-1}) + \alpha_{\pi}x_{\pi,t}\}, \\ x_{y,t} &= \mathbb{E}_t x_{y,t+1} - \frac{1}{\sigma}(x_{i,t} + \beta - 1 - \mathbb{E}_t x_{\pi,t+1}), \\ x_{\pi,t} &= \beta \mathbb{E}_t x_{\pi,t+1} + \gamma x_{y,t}, \end{aligned}$$

---

<sup>12</sup> The one exception to this is the existence results for arbitrarily large  $M$  matrices, which relied on limiting results on  $M$ , and so their generalisation is less trivial. In fact, they may be readily generalized once it is realised that our bounds on the elements of  $M$  are actually bounds on the response of any variable to the given news shock.

where  $x_{i,t}$  is the nominal interest rate,  $x_{y,t}$  is the deviation of output from steady-state,  $x_{\pi,t}$  is the deviation of inflation from steady-state, and  $\beta \in (0,1)$ ,  $\gamma, \sigma, \alpha_{\Delta y} \in (0, \infty)$ ,  $\alpha_{\pi} \in (1, \infty)$  are parameters. In the appendix, section 9.4, we prove the following:

---

**Proposition 14**

---

The BPY model is in the form of Problem 2, and satisfies Assumption 1 and Assumption 2. With  $T = 1$ ,  $M$  is negative if and only if  $\alpha_{\Delta y} > \sigma \alpha_{\pi}$ , and  $M$  is zero if and only if  $\alpha_{\Delta y} = \sigma \alpha_{\pi}$ .

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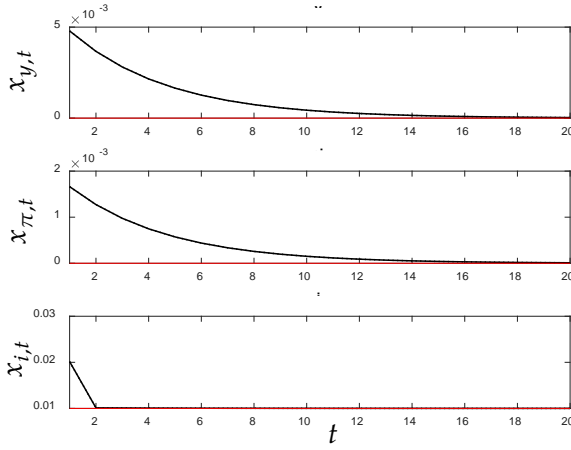
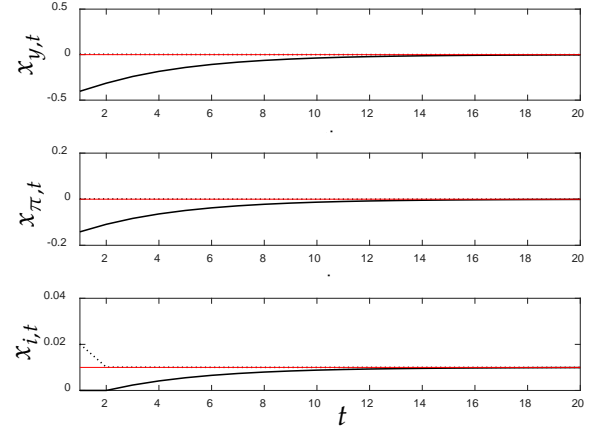
For a  $1 \times 1$  matrix, checking the conditions from section 2.3 is trivial. In particular, we have that if  $\alpha_{\Delta y} < \sigma \alpha_{\pi}$ , then  $M$  is a general positive definite, strictly semi-monotone, strictly co-positive, sufficient, P, S matrix, if  $\alpha_{\Delta y} \leq \sigma \alpha_{\pi}$ , then  $M$  is a general positive semi-definite, semi-monotone, co-positive, sufficient,  $P_0$ ,  $S_0$  matrix, if  $\alpha_{\Delta y} = \sigma \alpha_{\pi}$ , then  $M$  is degenerate, and if  $\alpha_{\Delta y} \neq \sigma \alpha_{\pi}$ , then  $M$  is non-degenerate. Hence, when  $T = 1$ , if  $\alpha_{\Delta y} < \sigma \alpha_{\pi}$  then the model has a unique solution for all  $q$ , if  $\alpha_{\Delta y} \leq \sigma \alpha_{\pi}$  then the model has a convex set of solutions for all  $q$ , a unique solution whenever  $q > 0$ , and at least one solution when  $q = 0$ . When  $\alpha_{\Delta y} > \sigma \alpha_{\pi}$ , then  $M$  is negative, and so for any positive  $q$ , there exists  $y > 0$  such that  $q + My = 0$ , so the model has multiple solutions in this case. I.e. there are solutions which jump to the bound, even when the nominal interest rate would always be positive were there no bound at all.

We illustrate this by adding a shock to the Euler equation, and showing impulse responses for alternative solutions. In particular, we replace the Euler equation with:

$$x_{y,t} = \mathbb{E}_t x_{y,t+1} - \frac{1}{\sigma} (x_{i,t} + \beta - 1 - \mathbb{E}_t x_{\pi,t+1} - (0.01)\varepsilon_t),$$

and take the parameterisation  $\sigma = 1$ ,  $\beta = 0.99$ ,  $\gamma = \frac{(1-0.85)(1-\beta(0.85))}{0.85} (2 + \sigma)$ ,  $\rho = 0.5$ , following BPY, and we additionally set  $\alpha_{\pi} = 1.5$  and  $\alpha_{\Delta y} = 1.6$ , to ensure we are in the region with multiple solutions. In Figure 1, we show two alternative solutions to the impulse response to a magnitude 1 shock to  $\varepsilon_t$ . The solid line in the left plot gives the solution which minimises  $\|y\|_{\infty}$ . This solution never hits the bound, and is moderately expansionary. The solid line in the right plot gives the solution which minimises  $\|q + My\|_{\infty}$ . (The dotted line in the right plot repeats the left plot, for comparison.) This solution stays at the bound for two periods, and is strongly contractionary, with a magnitude around 100 times larger than the other solution.

When  $T > 1$ , the previous results imply that if  $\alpha_{\Delta y} > \sigma \alpha_{\pi}$ , then  $M$  is neither  $P_0$ , general positive semi-definite, semi-monotone, co-positive, nor sufficient, since the top-left  $1 \times 1$  principal sub-matrix of  $M$  is the same as it is when  $T = 1$ . Thus, if anything, when  $T > 1$ , the parameter region in which there are multiple solutions (when away from the bound or at it) is larger. However, numerical experiments suggest that this parameter region in fact remains the same as  $T$  increases, which is unsurprising given the weak persistence of this model. Thus, if we want more interesting results with higher  $T$ , we need to consider a model with a stronger persistence mechanism.

Minimum  $\|y\|_\infty$  solution<sup>13</sup>Minimum  $\|q + My\|_\infty$  solution<sup>14</sup>Figure 1: Alternative solutions following a magnitude 1 impulse to  $\varepsilon_t$ 

### 3.2. The BPY model with shadow interest rate persistence

If we introduce persistence in the shadow interest rate to the previous model, we obtain the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} x_{i,t} &= \max\{0, x_{d,t}\}, \\ x_{d,t} &= (1 - \rho)(1 - \beta + \alpha_{\Delta y}(x_{y,t} - x_{y,t-1}) + \alpha_{\pi}x_{\pi,t}) + \rho x_{d,t-1}, \\ x_{y,t} &= \mathbb{E}_t x_{y,t+1} - \frac{1}{\sigma}(x_{i,t} + \beta - 1 - \mathbb{E}_t x_{\pi,t+1}), \\ x_{\pi,t} &= \beta \mathbb{E}_t x_{\pi,t+1} + \gamma x_{y,t}, \end{aligned}$$

where parameters and variables are as before, with the addition of  $x_{d,t}$ , the shadow nominal interest rate, and  $\rho$ , its persistence. It is easy to verify that this may be put in the form of Problem 2, and that with  $\beta \in (0,1)$ ,  $\gamma, \sigma, \alpha_{\Delta y} \in (0, \infty)$ ,  $\alpha_{\pi} \in (1, \infty)$ ,  $\rho \in (-1,1)$ , Assumption 2 is satisfied. For our numerical exercise, we again set  $\sigma = 1$ ,  $\beta = 0.99$ ,  $\gamma = \frac{(1-0.85)(1-\beta(0.85))}{0.85}(2 + \sigma)$ ,  $\rho = 0.5$ , following BPY. For each considered  $\alpha_{\Delta y}$ ,  $\alpha_{\pi}$ , we verify numerically that Assumption 1 is indeed satisfied.

In Figure 2, we plot the regions in  $(\alpha_{\Delta y}, \alpha_{\pi})$  space in which  $M$  is a P-matrix ( $P_0$ -matrix) when  $T = 2$  or  $T = 4$ . For this model, these correspond to the regions in which  $M$  is strictly semi-monotone (semi-monotone). As may be seen, in the smaller  $T$  case, the P-matrix region is much larger. This relationship appears to continue to hold for both larger and smaller  $T$ , with the equivalent  $T = 1$  plot being almost entirely shaded, and the large  $T$  plot apparently tending to the equivalent plot from the model without monetary policy persistence. Intuitively, the persistence in the shadow nominal interest rate dampens the immediate response of nominal interest rates to inflation and output growth, making it harder to induce a zero lower bound episode over short-horizons.

<sup>13</sup> Calculated by setting  $\omega = 1000$ , in the terminology of section 4.2.

<sup>14</sup> Calculated by setting  $\omega = 0.01$ , in the terminology of section 4.2.

Further evidence that the long-horizon behaviour is the same as in the model without persistence is provided by the fact that with  $\alpha_\pi = 1.5$ :

- If  $\alpha_{\Delta y} = 1.51$ , then with  $T = 200$ ,  $M$  is not an S-matrix,<sup>15</sup> and with  $\phi_F = 0.77627$ ,  $\phi_G = \phi_H = 0.77367$ , from the upper bound of Proposition 5 we have that  $\zeta \leq 0 + \text{numerical error}$ , providing strong numerical evidence that for all sufficiently large  $T$ , the LCP  $(q, M)$  is not feasible for some  $q$ , and hence that the model does not always possess a solution.
- If  $\alpha_{\Delta y} = 1.49$ , then with all  $T$  attempted (including  $T = 20, 100, 200, 1000$ ), we could not establish numerically either that  $M$  is not an S-matrix, or that  $\zeta \leq 0 + \text{numerical error}$ .
- If  $\alpha_{\Delta y} = 1.05$ , then  $M$  is a P-matrix, and with  $\phi_F = 0.68964$ ,  $\phi_G = 0.80729$ , we have that  $\zeta > 6.1319 \times 10^{-8}$ , so  $M$  is an S-matrix for all sufficiently large  $T$ .
- For higher values of  $\alpha_{\Delta y}$ , numerical errors meant that we could not establish a lower bound of  $\zeta$ .

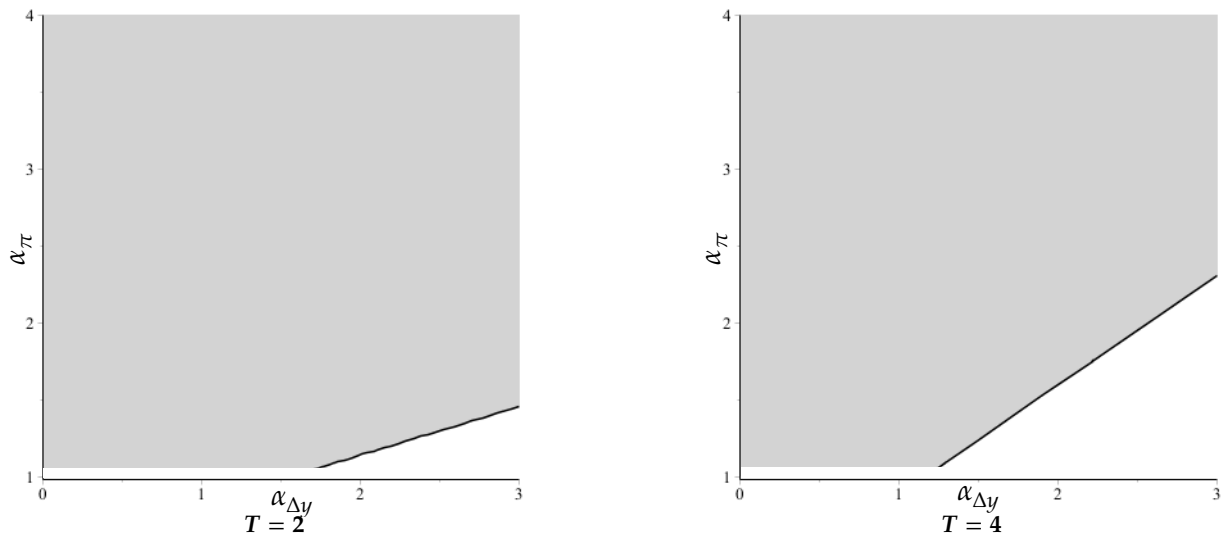


Figure 2: Regions in which  $M$  is a P-matrix (shaded grey) or a P<sub>0</sub>-matrix (shaded grey, plus the black line), when  $T = 2$  (left) or  $T = 4$  (right).

### 3.3. The BPY model with price targeting

An alternative way to introduce persistence to the shadow interest rate is to set:

$$\begin{aligned} x_{d,t} &= (1 - \rho) \left( 1 - \beta + \frac{\alpha_{\Delta y}}{1 - \rho} (x_{y,t} - x_{y,t-1}) + \frac{\alpha_\pi}{1 - \rho} x_{\pi,t} \right) + \rho x_{d,t-1} \\ &= (1 - \rho)(1 - \beta) + (\alpha_{\Delta y}(x_{y,t} - x_{y,t-1}) + \alpha_\pi x_{\pi,t}) + \rho x_{d,t-1}, \end{aligned}$$

which is as before apart from a missing  $(1 - \rho)$  multiplying the second bracketed term. In the limit as  $\rho \rightarrow 1$ , this tends to:

$$x_{d,t} = 1 - \beta + \alpha_{\Delta y} x_{y,t} + \alpha_\pi x_{\pi,t}$$

where  $x_{p,t}$  is the price level, so  $x_{\pi,t} = x_{p,t} - x_{p,t-1}$ . This is a level targeting rule, with nominal GDP targeting as a special case with  $\alpha_{\Delta y} = \alpha_\pi$ . Note that the omission of the  $(1 - \rho)$  coefficient on  $\alpha_{\Delta y}$  and  $\alpha_\pi$  is akin to having a “true” response to output growth of  $\frac{\alpha_{\Delta y}}{1 - \rho}$  and a “true” response to inflation of  $\frac{\alpha_\pi}{1 - \rho}$ , so in the limit as  $\rho \rightarrow 1$ , we effectively have an infinitely strong response to these quantities. It turns out that this is sufficient to produce determinacy for all  $\alpha_{\Delta y}, \alpha_\pi \in (0, \infty)$ .

<sup>15</sup> This was verified a second way by checking that  $-M'$  was an  $S_0$ -matrix, as discussed in footnote 7.

In particular, given the model:

$$\begin{aligned} x_{i,t} &= \max\{0, 1 - \beta + \alpha_{\Delta y} x_{y,t} + \alpha_{\pi} x_{p,t}\}, \\ x_{y,t} &= \mathbb{E}_t x_{y,t+1} - \frac{1}{\sigma} (x_{i,t} + \beta - 1 - \mathbb{E}_t x_{p,t+1} + x_{p,t}), \\ x_{p,t} - x_{p,t-1} &= \beta \mathbb{E}_t x_{p,t+1} - \beta x_{p,t} + \gamma x_{y,t}, \end{aligned}$$

we prove in the appendix, section 9.5, that the following proposition holds:

---

**Proposition 15**

---

The BPY model with price level targeting is in the form of Problem 2, and satisfies Assumption 1 and Assumption 2. With  $T = 1$ ,  $M$  is strictly positive for all  $\alpha_{\Delta y}, \alpha_{\pi} \in (0, \infty)$ .

---

Furthermore, with  $\sigma = 1$ ,  $\beta = 0.99$ ,  $\gamma = \frac{(1-0.85)(1-\beta(0.85))}{0.85} (2 + \sigma)$ , as before, and  $\alpha_{\Delta y} = 1$ ,  $\alpha_{\pi} = 1$ , if we check our lower bound on  $\varsigma$  with  $T = 20$ ,  $\phi_F = 0.77496$ ,  $\phi_G = 0.76812$ , we find that  $\varsigma \geq 0.042659$ . Hence, this model is always feasible for any sufficiently large  $T$ . Given that  $d_0 > 0$  for this model, and that for  $T = 20$ ,  $M$  is a P-matrix, this is strongly suggestive of the existence of a unique solution for any  $q$  and for arbitrarily large  $T$ .

### 3.4. The Fernández-Villaverde et al. (2012) model

The discussion of BPY might lead one to believe that multiplicity and non-existence is solely a consequence of overly aggressive monetary responses to output growth, and overly weak monetary responses to inflation. However, it turns out that in basic New Keynesian models with positive inflation in steady-state, and hence price dispersion, even without any monetary response to output growth, and even with extremely aggressive monetary responses to inflation, there are still multiple equilibria in some states of the world, and no solutions in others. Price level targeting is again sufficient to fix these problems though.

We show these results in the Fernández-Villaverde et al. (2012) model, which is a basic non-linear New Keynesian model without capital or price indexation of non-resetting firms, but featuring (non-valued) government spending and steady-state inflation (and hence price-dispersion). We refer the reader to the original paper for the model's equations. After substitutions, the model has five non-linear equations which are functions of gross nominal interest rates, gross inflation, labour supply, price dispersion and an auxiliary variable introduced from the firms' price-setting first order condition. Of these, only price dispersion enters with a lag. We further transform the model's variables so that the transformed variables may take values on the entire real line.<sup>16</sup> We then linearize the model around the steady-state of the transformed variables, and reintroduce the "max" operator which linearization removed from the Taylor rule.<sup>17</sup> All parameters are set to the values given in Fernández-Villaverde et al. (2012). For reference, the coefficient on inflation in the Taylor rule is 1.5 and the coefficient on output is 0.25. There is no term featuring output growth in the Taylor rule, so any multiplicity or non-existence in this model cannot be a consequence of the mechanism highlighted by BPY.

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<sup>16</sup> I.e. we work with the logarithms of gross nominal interest rates, labour supply, price dispersion and the auxiliary variable. For inflation, we note that it is a property of the model that inflation is always less than  $\theta^{\frac{1}{1-\epsilon}}$  (in the notation of Fernández-Villaverde et al. (2012)). Thus we work with a logit transformation of inflation over  $\theta^{\frac{1}{1-\epsilon}}$ . This is generally more accurate than working with the logarithm of inflation.

<sup>17</sup> This procedure is discussed in more detail in section 5.1.

For this model, numerical calculations reveal that with  $T \leq 14$ ,  $M$  is a P-matrix. However, with  $T = 15$ ,  $M$  is neither a P nor an S matrix, and thus there are certainly some states of the world in which the model has multiple solutions, and others in which it has no solution at all. This also implies that  $M$  is not a P-matrix for all larger  $T$ . Furthermore, with  $T = 1000$ ,  $\phi_F = 0.90909$ ,  $\phi_G = \phi_H = 0.88299$ , from our upper bound on  $\varsigma$  from Proposition 5 implies that  $\varsigma \leq 0 + \text{numerical error}$ , providing strong evidence that  $M$  is not an S-matrix for large  $T$  either.

However, if we replace the monetary rule by the nominal GDP targeting rule:

$$x_{i,t} = \max\{0, 1 - \beta + x_{y,t} + x_{p,t}\},$$

then with  $T = 200$ , we have that  $M$  is an S-matrix, and with  $\phi_F = 0.90909$ ,  $\phi_G = 0.80108$ , the lower bound from Proposition 4 implies that  $\varsigma > 0.0048175$ , and hence that for all sufficiently large  $T$ ,  $M$  is an S-matrix, so there is always a feasible solution.

### 3.5. The Smets and Wouters (2003) and Smets and Wouters (2007) models

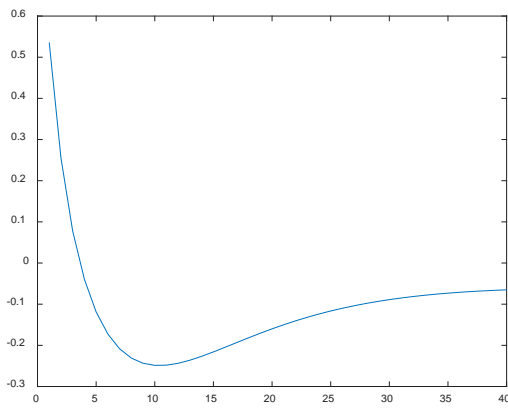
Smets and Wouters (2003) and Smets and Wouters (2007) are the canonical medium-scale linear DSGE models, featuring assorted shocks, habits, price and wage indexation, capital (with adjustment costs), (costly) variable utilisation and quite general monetary policy reaction functions. The former model is estimated on Euro area data, while the latter is estimated on US data. The latter model also contains trend growth (permitting its estimation on non-detrended data), and a slightly more general aggregator across industries. However, overall, they are really quite similar models, and any differences in their behaviour chiefly stems from differences in the estimated parameters. Since both models are incredibly well known in the literature, we omit their equations here, referring the reader to the original papers for further details.

To assess the likelihood of multiple equilibria at or away from the zero lower bound, we augment each model with a zero lower bound on nominal interest rates, and evaluate the properties of each model's  $M$  matrix with large  $T$ , at the estimated posterior-modes from the original papers. Note that we do not introduce an auxiliary for shadow nominal interest rates, so the monetary rules take the form of:

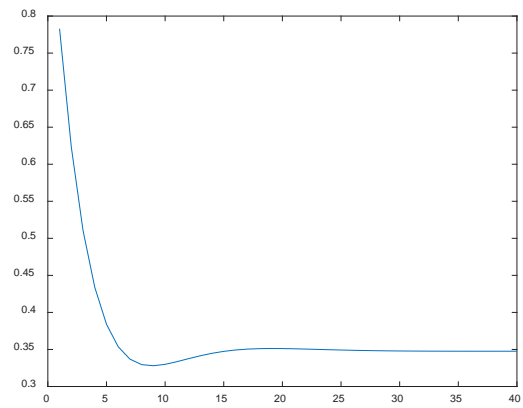
$$r_t = \max\{0, (1 - \rho)(\dots) + \rho r_{t-1} + \dots\}$$

in both cases.

As discussed in section 2.3, if the diagonal of the  $M$  matrix ever goes negative, then the  $M$  matrix cannot be general positive semi-definite, semi-monotone, sufficient,  $P_0$  or copositive, and hence the model will sometimes have multiple solutions even when away from the zero lower bound (i.e. for some strictly positive  $q$ ). In Figure 3, we plot the diagonal of the  $M$  matrix for each model in turn, i.e. the impact on nominal interest rates in period  $t$  of news in period 1 that a positive, magnitude one shock will hit nominal interest rates in period  $t$ . Immediately, we see that while in the US model, these impacts remain positive at all horizons, in the Euro area model, these impacts turn negative after just a few periods, and remain so at least up to period 40. Therefore, in the zero lower bound augmented Smets and Wouters (2003) model, there is not always a unique equilibrium. Furthermore, there are sequences of predicted future shocks (with positive density) for which the model without the zero lower bound would always feature positive interest rates, but for which the model with the zero lower bound could hit zero.



The Smets and Wouters (2003) model



The Smets and Wouters (2007) model

**Figure 3: The diagonals of the  $M$  matrices for the Smets and Wouters (2003) and Smets and Wouters (2007) models**

It remains for us to assess whether  $M$  is a  $P_{(0)}$ -matrix or (strictly) semi-monotone for the Smets and Wouters (2007) model. Numerical calculations reveal that for  $T < 9$ ,  $M$  is a  $P$ -matrix, and hence is strictly semi-monotone. However, with  $T \geq 9$ ,  $M$  contains a  $6 \times 6$  principal sub-matrix (with indices 1,2,4,6,7,9) with negative determinant, which is neither an  $S$  nor an  $S_0$ -matrix. Thus, for  $T \geq 9$ ,  $M$  is not a  $P_{(0)}$ -matrix or (strictly) semi-monotone, and hence this model also has multiple equilibria, even when away from the bound. Given that the US has been at the zero lower bound for over eight years, that  $T$  ought to be greater than eight quarters seems pretty uncontroversial. Hence, in both the Euro area and the US, we ought to take seriously the possibility that the existence of the zero lower bound produces non-uniqueness. Furthermore, it turns out that for neither model is  $M$  an  $S$ -matrix with  $T = 40$ , and thus for both models there are some  $q \in \mathbb{R}^{40}$  for which no solution exists. However, we cannot rule out the possibility that with sufficiently large  $T$  this is no longer true, since the property of being an  $S$ -matrix is not inherited by sub-matrices.

TODO tests with large  $T$  for SW03 and SW07

TODO document that price level targeting is sufficient for determinacy

## 4. Algorithms for the otherwise linear case

### 4.1. On the difficulty of the problem

We start with a note of caution. If no properties of the matrix  $M$  are known a priori, then Problem 4 is provably a computationally difficult problem, more formally, it may be shown to be “strongly-NP complete” (Chung 1989), and this remains true even if  $M$  is restricted to be a  $P_0$  matrix (Kojima et al. 1991). This means that even if the inputs  $q$  and  $M$  have descriptions which are of a polynomial length in  $T$ , then if we could solve Problem 4 in an amount of time that was polynomial in  $T$ , then we could also solve in polynomial time any problem for which the solution could be verified in polynomial time. In the language of computer science, this would mean that “ $P=NP$ ”, something almost all computer scientists believe to be false. The strength of computer scientists conviction that this is not true is best exemplified by the fact that were  $P=NP$ , all commonly used forms of cryptography (such as those used to secure internet banking), would be defeated.

Since there is a bijection between solutions for Problem 4 and solutions for Problem 2, this means that while forming expectations in linear models without occasionally binding constraints is computationally easy (polynomial algorithms exist for it), in models with occasionally binding constraints, forming expectations may be incredibly difficult. It also means that we should be sceptical of claims of computational efficiency

from other algorithms for solving models with occasionally binding constraints. A proof that such algorithms actually ran in time polynomial either in  $T$  or in the number of state variables of the model, on all models, would again function as a proof that “P=NP”, since we showed in Proposition 2 that there is a model corresponding to any  $T \times T$   $M$  matrix, featuring polynomial in  $T$  state variables.

A natural response to this is that in macroeconomics, we are only concerned with approximate solutions, whereas the previous computational complexity results were for exact solutions. In fact, allowing approximation error will not change these results. Intuitively, the difficulty of the LCP comes from the fact that there are  $2^T$  possible combinations of periods in which the constraint might bind, and with a sufficiently accurate approximation to the solution, we will still be able to ascertain which periods the constraint binds in the exact problem.

More formally, we establish the following proposition in the appendix, section 9.6.

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**Proposition 16**

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For any problem in the form of Problem 2, let  $\mathcal{D}^* \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ , and  $p^*: \mathcal{D}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{D}^*$  satisfy:

1. For all  $x \in \mathcal{D}^*$ :

$$x_1 = \max\{0, I_{1,\cdot}\mu + A_{1,\cdot}(x - \mu) + (B_{1,\cdot} + I_{1,\cdot})(p^*(x) - \mu) + C_{1,\cdot}(p^*(p^*(x)) - \mu)\},$$

$$(A_{-1,\cdot} + B_{-1,\cdot} + C_{-1,\cdot})\mu = A_{-1,\cdot}x + B_{-1,\cdot}p^*(x) + C_{-1,\cdot}p^*(p^*(x)).$$

2. For all  $x_0 \in \mathcal{D}^*$ , if  $x_t = p^*(x_{t-1})$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , then  $x_t \rightarrow \mu$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

3. For all  $x_0 \notin \mathcal{D}^*$ , there is no  $x_1, x_2, \dots \in \mathbb{R}^n$  which solve the given instance of Problem 2.

I.e.  $p^*$  is an exact policy function for Problem 2.

Suppose that for all  $\epsilon > 0$ , and for any problem in the form of Problem 2, we can calculate in time polynomial in  $n$  a set  $\mathcal{D}_\epsilon \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  with  $\mathcal{D}^* \subseteq \mathcal{D}_\epsilon$  and an approximate policy function  $p_\epsilon: \mathcal{D}_\epsilon \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ , where membership of  $\mathcal{D}_\epsilon$  may be tested in time polynomial in  $n$ , where  $p_\epsilon$  may be evaluated in time polynomial in  $n$ , and where for all  $x \in \mathcal{D}^*$ :

$$\|p^*(x) - p_\epsilon(x)\|_\infty < \epsilon,$$

then P=NP, i.e. all problems verifiable in polynomial time may be solved in polynomial time.

---

Providing one believes (along with almost all of the computer science profession) that P≠NP, this provides a reductio ad absurdum of our assumption that there was a general procedure capable of providing the policy function  $p_\epsilon$  in polynomial time. Thus, for example, global methods will never escape the curse of dimensionality in general models with occasionally binding constraints, even using methods explicitly designed to do this such as that of Judd, Maliar, and Maliar (2012). In fact, even proving the finiteness of algorithms for solving these problems is non-trivial (see e.g. Csizmadia and Illés 2006), and, for example, there is no reason to believe that the iterations in Guerrieri and Iacoviello (2015) will converge in finite time on all models.

For some special classes though, it has been shown that the problem is solvable in polynomial time in  $T$ . In particular, if  $M$  is general positive semi-definite, then this is possible (Kojima, Mizuno, and Yoshise 1989). However, it appears that  $M$  is general positive semi-definite in only very few macroeconomic models. Furthermore, if either condition 1 or condition 2 of Proposition 6 is known to be satisfied (e.g.  $M$  is row sufficient), then we can find out if a solution exists in polynomial time, by solving the feasibility problem.



Moreover, a polynomial time algorithm exists (Illés, Nagy, and Terlaky 2010) which will give a certificate that one of the following is true, for a given  $q$  and real number  $\bar{\kappa} \geq 0$ :

- For any  $\kappa \leq \bar{\kappa}$ ,  $M$  is not a member of the matrix class  $P^*(\kappa)$ , defined in the paper. (Note that for  $\kappa_1 < \kappa_2$ ,  $P^*(\kappa_1) \subseteq P^*(\kappa_2)$ , and that the class of sufficient matrices is the union of the classes of  $P^*(\kappa)$  matrices for all  $\kappa \geq 0$ .)
- The LCP  $(q, M)$  has no solution.
- The LCP  $(q, M)$  has the solution  $y$ .

Thus for “most” sufficient matrices we can find a solution (or a certificate that there is none), in polynomial time. It has been conjectured that in fact this holds for all sufficient matrices (Fukuda 2015).

Unfortunately, no algorithm is known for finding out if  $M$  is sufficient in polynomial time. Indeed, it has also been shown (Coxson 1994; Tseng 2000) that it is “co-NP complete” to test any of the following:

- $M$  is non-degenerate.
- $M$  is a P-matrix.
- $M$  is a  $P_0$ -matrix.
- $M$  is semi-monotone.
- $M$  is strictly semi-monotone.
- $M$  is column sufficient.
- $M$  is row sufficient.

This means that were a polynomial time (in  $T$ ) algorithm available for these things then we would have a proof that  $P=NP$ . Likewise, were a general polynomial time (in  $T$ ) algorithm available for testing if a particular model, e.g.:

- always had a unique solution,
- always had a unique solution when away from the bound,
- always had a finite number of solutions,
- always had a convex set of solutions,

then that algorithm would also serve as a proof that  $P=NP$ , since we showed in Proposition 2 that a model could be constructed which produces any given  $M$  matrix. Since the model we constructed to match a  $T \times T$   $M$  matrix featured polynomial in  $M$  state variables, this also means that an algorithm which answered these questions which ran in an amount of time polynomial in the number of state variables would also serve as a proof that  $P=NP$ .

## 4.2. The mixed integer linear programming representation

Given that there is no reason to believe that there is a polynomial time algorithm to solve the LCPs we encounter, it is important that we choose an algorithm, which, although it may not complete in polynomial time in the worst case, is nonetheless as computationally efficient as possible, particularly on average. One way to do this is to reduce the problem of finding an LCP to the solution of a problem for which highly efficient algorithms and computational libraries are available. One such problem is mixed integer linear programming (MILP), for which algorithms are included in most major optimisation suites (e.g. CPLEX, Gurobi, XPress MP, MOKEK, etc.). Conveniently, we can reduce the LCP problem to the MILP one in a way that gives not only a solution when one exists, but also a definite answer on whether or not there is a solution. This is an improvement over more naïve approaches, such as those of Holden (2010), Holden & Paetz (2012)

or Guerrieri and Iacoviello (2015), for which a failure of convergence may just mean that the optimiser got stuck at some local minimum.

To motivate the MILP representation, suppose that  $y$  solves the LCP  $(q, M)$ . Then  $y \geq 0$ ,  $0 \leq q + My$  and if  $y_j > 0$  then  $(q + My)_j = 0$ . Now let  $\tilde{\omega} > 0$  be an arbitrary constant, let

$$\alpha := \min\{\|y\|_\infty^{-1}, \tilde{\omega}\|q + My\|_\infty^{-1}\} > 0$$

(where  $\|\cdot\|_\infty$  is the usual sup norm), let  $\hat{y} := \alpha y$ , let  $1_{T \times 1}$  be a  $T \times 1$  vector of ones, and let  $z \in \{0, 1\}^T$  be such that for all  $j \in \{1, \dots, T\}$ ,  $z_j = 1$  if and only if  $y_j > 0$ . Then  $0 \leq \hat{y} \leq 1_{T \times 1}$  and:

$$0 \leq \alpha q + M\hat{y} \leq \alpha\|q + My\|_\infty \leq \tilde{\omega}1_{T \times 1}.$$

Now, if  $z_j = 0$  for some  $j \in \{1, \dots, T\}$ , then  $y_j = 0$ . Hence, in fact,  $0 \leq \hat{y} \leq z$ . Likewise, if  $z_j = 1$ , then  $y_j > 0$ , so since  $y$  solves the LCP,  $0 = \alpha(q + My)_j = (\alpha q + M\hat{y})_j$ . Hence, similarly:

$$0 \leq \alpha q + M\hat{y} \leq \tilde{\omega}(1_{T \times 1} - z).$$

Moreover, for any  $\tilde{\alpha} > \alpha$ , we claim that there is no  $z \in \{0, 1\}^T$  such that  $0 \leq \tilde{\alpha}y \leq z$  and  $0 \leq \tilde{\alpha}q + M(\tilde{\alpha}y) \leq \tilde{\omega}(1_{T \times 1} - z)$ . To see this, suppose for a contradiction that there were. Then  $\tilde{\alpha}\|y\|_\infty \leq 1$ , so  $\alpha < \tilde{\alpha} \leq \|y\|_\infty^{-1}$ . Hence,  $\alpha = \tilde{\omega}\|q + My\|_\infty^{-1}$ . But, by assumption  $\tilde{\alpha}\|q + My\|_\infty \leq \tilde{\omega}$ , hence  $\tilde{\omega}\|q + My\|_\infty^{-1} = \alpha < \tilde{\alpha} \leq \tilde{\omega}\|q + My\|_\infty^{-1}$ , which gives the required contradiction. Therefore,  $\alpha, \hat{y}, z$  are feasible for the following MILP problem (though they may not necessarily be the solution):

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#### Problem 5

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Suppose  $\tilde{\omega} > 0$ ,  $q \in \mathbb{R}^T$  and  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$  are given. Find  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\hat{y} \in \mathbb{R}^T$ ,  $z \in \{0, 1\}^T$  to maximise  $\alpha$  subject to the following constraints:  $\alpha \geq 0$ ,  $0 \leq \hat{y} \leq z$ ,  $0 \leq \alpha q + M\hat{y} \leq \tilde{\omega}(1_{T \times 1} - z)$ . We call this the **mixed integer linear programming (MILP) representation of the LCP**  $(q, M)$ .

---

A version of this representation with  $\tilde{\omega} = 1$  was first given by Pardalos and Rosen (1988), and its properties in that special case were proven by Rosen (1990).

We now establish that solutions of the MILP representation are solutions of the LCP. Suppose that  $\alpha, \hat{y}, z$  solve Problem 5. If  $\alpha = 0$ , then there is no  $\alpha > 0$  such that  $0 \leq \hat{y} \leq z$ ,  $0 \leq \alpha q + M\hat{y} \leq \tilde{\omega}(1_{T \times 1} - z)$ . Now, we showed above that if the LCP  $(q, M)$  had a solution, then there would be an  $\alpha > 0$ ,  $\hat{y}$  and  $z$  which were feasible for Problem 5, hence, this  $\alpha > 0$  provides a lower bound on the solution to Problem 5. Thus, if  $\alpha = 0$ , the LCP cannot have a solution. Alternatively, suppose that  $\alpha > 0$ . Then if for some  $j \in \{1, \dots, T\}$ ,  $z_j = 1$ , then  $0 = (\alpha q + M\hat{y})_j$ , and if for some  $j \in \{1, \dots, T\}$ ,  $z_j = 0$ , then  $\hat{y}_j = 0$ . Thus,  $\hat{y} \circ (\alpha q + M\hat{y}) = 0$ . Finally, define  $y := \frac{\hat{y}}{\alpha} \geq 0$ , hence  $\hat{y} = \alpha y$ ,  $0 \leq q + My$  and  $y \circ (q + My) = 0$ , i.e.  $y$  solves the LCP  $(q, M)$ . This completes the proof of the following result:

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#### Proposition 17

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Suppose  $\tilde{\omega} > 0$ ,  $q \in \mathbb{R}^T$  and  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$  are given. If  $y$  solves Problem 4, then the solution to Problem 5 has  $\alpha \geq \min\{\|y\|_\infty^{-1}, \tilde{\omega}\|q + My\|_\infty^{-1}\}$ . If the solution to Problem 4 is unique, then this last inequality holds with equality, and  $\hat{y} = \alpha y$ ,  $z = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } y_j > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } y_j = 0 \end{cases}$  in the solution to Problem 5. Conversely, if  $\alpha, \hat{y}, z$  solve Problem 5, then if  $\alpha = 0$ , Problem 4 has no solution, and if  $\alpha > 0$ , then  $y := \frac{\hat{y}}{\alpha}$  solves Problem 4.

---

This result establishes that we can use the MILP representation both to find out if the LCP problem has a solution, and to find a solution when one exists. Furthermore, by varying  $\tilde{\omega}$  we can determine which solution

is returned, when there are multiple. In the limit as  $\tilde{\omega} \rightarrow 0$ , the MILP solver will return the solution which minimises  $\|q + My\|_\infty$ , and in the limit as  $\tilde{\omega} \rightarrow \infty$ , the MILP solver will return the solution to the LCP which minimises  $\|y\|_\infty$ . The former objective would ensure that the returned solution does not generate large fluctuations in the path of the constrained variable, and the latter would reduce the fluctuations in other variables. Intermediate values of  $\tilde{\omega}$  result in a solution being returned that features balanced concern for these two extremes. In practice, we suggest choosing  $\tilde{\omega} = \omega\|q\|_\infty$  where  $\omega > 0$  is another constant, to ensure that the solution returned scales appropriately with  $q$ . Unless stated otherwise, we choose  $\omega = 1000$  in the below, which places heavy weight on minimising  $\|y\|_\infty$ , without inducing numerical instabilities.

We can further constrain the solution returned in the presence of multiplicity by solving Problem 5 first with  $T = 0$  (i.e. testing if  $q \geq 0$ ), then with  $T = 1$ , and so on. Doing this ensures that the time to finally escape the bound is minimised.

## 5. Algorithms for non-linear models, without perfect foresight

Up to now, we have solely been concerned with the perfect foresight solution of models which were linear apart from the occasionally binding constraint. In this section, we will apply these insights to the solution of general non-linear models, allowing for future uncertainty, i.e. we attempt to solve the following general problem:

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### Problem 6

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Suppose that  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is given and that  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^c \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $g, h: \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^c \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^c$  are given continuously  $d \in \mathbb{N}^+$  times differentiable functions. Find  $x_t \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $v_t \in \mathbb{R}^c$  for  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$  such that for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ :

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \mathbb{E}_t f(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t), \\ v_t &= \mathbb{E}_t \max\{h(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t), g(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t)\} \end{aligned}$$

where  $\varepsilon_t \sim \text{NIID}(0, \Sigma)$ , where the max operator acts elementwise on vectors, and where the information set is such that for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ ,  $\mathbb{E}_{t-1} \varepsilon_t = 0$  and  $\mathbb{E}_t \varepsilon_t = \varepsilon_t$ .

---

We construct our algorithm in three steps. Firstly, we present an algorithm which accounts for the effects of uncertainty that would be present even without the bound, but which treats hitting the bound as a probability zero event. Secondly, we extend the aforementioned algorithm to capture the risk of hitting the bound in the near future. Finally, we introduce a hybrid global/local algorithm which fully captures the risk of hitting the bound at all horizons. All of the algorithms discussed here are implemented in the author's open source "DynareOBC" toolkit, which is available from <http://github.org/tholden/dynareOBC>, and which extends Dynare (Adjemian et al. 2011) with the ability to deal with occasionally binding constraints.

### 5.1. Dealing with non-linearity other than the bounds

#### 5.1.1. Setup and assumptions

Given a non-linear, but  $d \in \mathbb{N}$  times continuously differentiable model, the standard practice in macroeconomics is to take a perturbation approximation to the model around its deterministic steady-state. Given that high order perturbation approximations are often unstable, the use of a "pruned" approximation (Kim et al. 2008) is usually advisable. We will proceed along similar lines, taking a perturbation approximation to the model ignoring the bound, and then imposing the bound on the approximated model.

The advantage for our purposes of the pruned approximation is that the result is linear in an augmented state space (including e.g. the products of all pairs of state variables), which will assist us transferring results from the linear case to the non-linear one.

We start by making a further assumption that is necessary for us to be able to construct a perturbation approximation to the model without the bound.

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**Assumption 3**

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In the setup of Problem 6, there exists  $\mu_x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\mu_v \in \mathbb{R}^c$  such that:

$$0 = f(\mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_v, 0),$$

$$\mu_v = \max\{h(\mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_v, 0), g(\mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_v, 0)\},$$

and such that for all  $a \in \{1, \dots, c\}$ :

$$(h(\mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_v, 0))_a \neq (g(\mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_v, 0))_a.$$


---

This is necessary because if any of the constraints just bind in steady-state, then the equation defining the corresponding element of  $\mu_v$  is not differentiable at  $(\mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_v, 0)$ , preventing us from taking a perturbation approximation to the model without the bound.

Henceforth, we suppose without loss of generality that  $h(\mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_v, 0) \ll g(\mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_v, 0)$ . We claim that we may further assume without loss of generality that  $h(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t) \equiv 0$ . First, note that, we can rewrite the equation defining  $v_t$  as:

$$v_t = h(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t) + \mathbb{E}_t \max\{0, g(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t) - h(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t)\}.$$

Then if we define:

$$\hat{x}_t := \begin{bmatrix} x_t \\ v_t \end{bmatrix}, \forall t \in \mathbb{N},$$

$$\hat{g}(\hat{x}_{t-1}, \hat{x}_t, \hat{x}_{t+1}, \hat{v}_t, \varepsilon_t) := g(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t) - h(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t),$$

$$\hat{f}(\hat{x}_{t-1}, \hat{x}_t, \hat{x}_{t+1}, \hat{v}_t, \varepsilon_t) := f(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, g_1(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t) + \hat{v}_t, \varepsilon_t),$$

then for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ :

$$0 = \mathbb{E}_t \hat{f}(\hat{x}_{t-1}, \hat{x}_t, \hat{x}_{t+1}, \hat{v}_t, \varepsilon_t),$$

$$\hat{v}_t = \mathbb{E}_t \max\{0, \hat{g}(\hat{x}_{t-1}, \hat{x}_t, \hat{x}_{t+1}, \hat{v}_t, \varepsilon_t)\},$$

which is again in the form of Problem 6. Thus, without loss of generality, we can indeed assume that  $h(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t) \equiv 0$ , meaning that we work with the system:

$$0 = \mathbb{E}_t f(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t),$$

$$v_t = \mathbb{E}_t \max\{0, g(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t)\},$$

where  $g(\mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_v, 0) \gg 0$ .

### 5.1.2. First order approximations

Now, suppose that we believe that a first order approximation gives adequate accuracy away from the bound. This system is locally  $d \geq 1$  times differentiable in a neighbourhood of  $(\mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_v, 0)$ , so we can certainly take a first order approximation around this point. Doing this gives the following approximation for the equation for  $v_t$ :

$$v_t = \mu_v + g_1(x_{t-1} - \mu_x) + g_2(x_t - \mu_x) + g_3 \mathbb{E}_t(x_{t+1} - \mu_x) + g_4(v_t - \mu_v) + g_5 \varepsilon_t,$$

where  $g_1, \dots, g_5$  are the matrices of partial derivatives of  $g$  with respect to its first to fifth arguments, respectively. This approximation obviously completely ignores the bound. Thus, we propose to increase its accuracy by imposing the bound on the linearized equations, i.e. by instead working with the equation:

$$v_t = \max\{0, \mu_v + g_1(x_{t-1} - \mu_x) + g_2(x_t - \mu_x) + g_3 \mathbb{E}_t(x_{t+1} - \mu_x) + g_4(v_t - \mu_v) + g_5 \varepsilon_t\}.$$

This gives a system of equations in nearly the same form as that for which we developed a solution algorithm in section 4, the only difference being the presence of expectations operators and uncertainty. We deal with these following the extended path approach of Fair and Taylor (1983). I.e., if we are currently in period  $t$  of a simulation, we assume that the agents in the model believe that for all  $s > t$ ,  $\varepsilon_s = 0$ . Thus, in each period of a simulation run, we merely have to solve a perfect foresight problem of the form of Problem 2, using the methods of section 4. We then advance one period, draw new shocks, and repeat the process.

We can also use a slightly modified form of the representation of Problem 3 to track the endogenous “news” that is coming from the bound, following Holden and Paetz (2012). In particular, we are effectively replacing the bounded equations with equations of the form:

$$v_{a,t} = \mathbb{E}_t(g(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t))_a + I_{1,t} y_t^{(a)},$$

for all  $a \in \{1, \dots, c\}$ , where, for all  $a \in \{1, \dots, c\}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \forall i \in \{1, \dots, T-1\}, \quad y_{i,t}^{(a)} &= y_{i+1,t-1}^{(a)} + \eta_{i,t}^{(a)}, \\ y_{T,t}^{(a)} &= \eta_{T,t}^{(a)}, \end{aligned}$$

implying that  $y_{1,t}^{(a)} = \sum_{i=1}^T \eta_{i,t-i}^{(a)}$ , where  $\eta_{i,t}^{(a)}$  contains the news about the likelihood of the  $a^{\text{th}}$  bound binding in period  $t+i$ . Whereas the  $y$ s found by the LCP solver will always be positive, the implied  $\eta_{i,t}^{(a)}$  need not necessarily be positive, as shocks may hit today which result in the economy moving away from the bound.

### 5.1.3. Higher order approximations

While the applicability of the results of section 2 to linearized models was probably immediately clear, applying these methods to models solved with a higher order approximation is slightly more subtle. Recall that in linear models, we started by introducing news shocks to the bounded equation(s) and stacking the impulse responses to these news shocks into the  $M$  matrix. In order to use these impulse responses to tell us about the path of the bounded variable, we exploited the fact that the impulse response to a linear combination of shocks is the same linear combination of the individual impulse responses. It was this linearity that gave the  $q + My$  representation of the path of the bounded variable.

Now, consider what would happen in a pruned or non-pruned second order approximation following a similar linear combination of shocks. Under such an approximation, it is no longer true in general that the impulse response to a linear combination of shocks is a linear combination of the impulse responses, since the second order approximation captures interactions between the shocks (amongst other things). However, if the partial derivative of  $f$  and  $g$  with respect to each of the shocks being combined is zero, then the shocks only have second or higher order effects, hence, any interaction between them would be a fourth order effect or higher, and so would not be captured contemporaneously by the second order approximation. The period after the shocks hit, though, linearity would again be broken if a non-pruned second order approximation had been taken, since the slope of the response of the states to their lags vary with the states' levels. This is not true under a pruned perturbation approximation though, since under such an approximation, the solution takes the form:

$$\begin{aligned} x_t^{(1)} &= \alpha x_{t-1}^{(1)} + \beta_0 \varepsilon_t, \\ x_t^{(2)} &= \alpha x_{t-1}^{(2)} + \frac{1}{2} \beta_{22} (x_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes x_{t-1}^{(1)}) + \beta_{20} (x_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \varepsilon_t) + \frac{1}{2} \beta_{00} (\varepsilon_t \otimes \varepsilon_t), \\ x_t &= \mu_x + x^{(0)} + x_t^{(1)} + x_t^{(2)}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $x^{(0)} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is a constant,  $x_t^{(1)}$  is the first order component of the approximation,  $x_t^{(2)}$  is the second order component of the approximation, and where  $\beta_0$  has zero columns corresponding to each shock with respect to which the partial derivatives of  $f$  and  $g$  is zero (Kim et al. 2008). Thus,  $x_t^{(1)}$  does not respond to any shocks with respect to which the partial derivatives of  $f$  and  $g$  is zero, and hence  $x_t^{(2)}$  and  $x_t$  are linear in such shocks.

In light of this discussion, in order to preserve the  $q + My$  representation, we just need to define  $M$  as stacking the impulse responses of the bounded equation(s) to news shocks which hit the bounded equation(s) raised to the power of two, rather than in levels. This generalises to higher order pruned perturbation approximations as one would expect. Hence, in a  $d^{\text{th}}$  order pruned perturbation approximation, we replace the bounded equations with equations of the form:

$$v_{a,t} = \mathbb{E}_t(g(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t))_a + I_{1,} y_t^{(a)},$$

for all  $a \in \{1, \dots, c\}$ , where, now, for all  $a \in \{1, \dots, c\}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \forall i \in \{1, \dots, T-1\}, \quad y_{i,t}^{(a)} &= y_{i+1,t-1}^{(a)} + \kappa (\eta_{i,t}^{(a)})^d, \\ y_{T,t}^{(a)} &= \kappa (\eta_{T,t}^{(a)})^d, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\kappa$  is a very small constant in order to ensure that the presence of the additional shocks does not have an unwanted risk effect elsewhere in the model. We obviously scale the impulse responses which make up  $M$  by  $\frac{1}{\kappa}$  to correct for this. In practice, we do not actually need to augment the model we approximate (in, e.g. Dynare) with all of these additional equations. This is because in the limit as  $\kappa \rightarrow 0$ , the generated impulse responses tend to the impulse responses used to construct the  $M$  matrix at first order (since the contemporaneous response must be the same, and the subsequent response is given by  $x_t - x^{(0)} = \alpha(x_{t-1} - x^{(0)})$  in both cases).

Hence, in order to impose the bound in non-linear models solved by perturbation, we can proceed much as we did at first order. At each time step, we first evaluate the expected path of the bounded variable(s), and stack the results in  $q$ . Thanks to the augmented state space representation of pruned perturbation solutions, this is possible without any Monte-Carlo simulation, as we show in section 9.7 in the appendices. Then, we use the  $M$  matrix derived from the first order approximation, and calculated as in section 2.2 in the LCP ( $q, M$ ). Finally, we use the solution to this LCP to calculate the required offsets to each variable this period, again based on the first order approximation to the model. Since we are not actually augmenting the model's state space, even for high degree approximations to the model, imposing the bound will not slow down simulation much more than it does at order one.

## 5.2. Integrating over future uncertainty

The downside to the approach discussed in the previous section is that the news shocks that hit the bounded equation(s) will not be conditionally mean zero, i.e.  $\mathbb{E}_{t-1} \eta_{i,t}^{(a)} \neq 0$ . For example, in a model with a zero lower bound on nominal interest rates and persistence in productivity growth rates, the lower is the state of productivity's growth rate, the higher the chances of hitting the bound today, thus  $\mathbb{E}_{t-1} \eta_{i,t}^{(a)}$  will be decreasing in this state. This failure of rationality with respect to expectations at the bound stems from the fact that we are still treating the bound in a pseudo-perfect foresight manner. In each period, agents act as if they believed that no future news shocks would ever hit the bounded equation. Due to the strict convexity of the  $x \mapsto \max\{0, x\}$  mapping and Jensen's inequality, this manifests itself as a systematic downward bias in expectations of  $v_t$ .

To rectify this bias, we need to integrate over future uncertainty to calculate the expectation of the cumulated news shocks (the elements of  $y$ ). We do this following the stochastic extended path approach of Adjemian and Juillard (2013). However, in our context this will be much easier than in the general fully non-linear context of Adjemian and Juillard (2013). In particular, in the basic algorithm of that paper, to integrate over  $S$  periods of future uncertainty, in a model with  $m$  shocks, they have to solve the perfect foresight model  $p^{mS}$  times, for some constant  $p \geq 2$ . While they are able to reduce this somewhat through the removal of low weighted quadrature nodes to produce a sparse tree of shocks, the resulting distribution of paths will significantly under-estimate the true variance of the model, and they still have to solve the perfect foresight model many more times when the number of shocks is high.

In our context, we will be able to do much better. In particular, we will be able to attain comparable accuracy with the evaluation of only a polynomial in  $S$  number of solutions of the perfect foresight problem, regardless of the number of shocks in the model. Furthermore, since solving an LCP is much easier than solving a general fully non-linear perfect foresight problem, each of these solutions is orders of magnitude faster for us. The key to our invariance to the number of shocks in the model is the fact that in the absence of any bounds, we are able to write down a closed form expression for the conditional covariance of the bounded variables, thanks to the properties of pruned perturbation solutions. To be slightly more specific, suppose that  $w_{t,s}$  is the value the bounded variables would take at  $s$  if the constraints did not apply from period  $t$  onwards. Then, we will be able to calculate  $\text{cov}_t(w_{t,t+i}, w_{t,t+j})$ , for  $t, i, j \in \mathbb{N}$ , without any numerical integration. The derivation of this is contained in section 9.8 in the appendices.

For clarity of presentation, let us assume that there is a single bounded variable. As ever, the generalisation to multiple bounded variables will be straightforward. Now, ideally we would like to integrate over infinitely many periods of future uncertainty, but clearly this is not practical in reality. Instead, Adjemian and Juillard (2013) advocate integrating over  $S \in \mathbb{N}^+$  periods of future uncertainty, and then ignoring uncertainty from period  $S + 1$  onwards. By introducing a “discontinuity” in time of this sort, we would risk getting spurious movement in the expected path of variables around  $S$  periods into the future. Indeed, this occurred in some early numerical experiments that took this approach. Instead then, we apply a smooth windowing function to the covariance. In particular, if we define  $\Omega_t$  by:

$$\Omega_{t,i,j} = \frac{1}{4} \left( 1 + \cos \left( \pi \frac{i-1}{S} \right) \right) \left( 1 + \cos \left( \pi \frac{j-1}{S} \right) \right) \text{cov}_t(w_{t,t+i}, w_{t,t+j}),$$

then for the purposes of integration, we make the approximation that:

$$[w_{t,t+1} \quad \cdots \quad w_{t,t+S}]' \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbb{E}_t[w_{t,t+1} \quad \cdots \quad w_{t,t+S}]', \Omega_t).$$

Of course the cosine window is ad hoc, but so too is the step-function window used by Adjemian and Juillard (2013). The legitimacy of both come from the fact that as  $S \rightarrow \infty$ , the error in this approximation would go to zero were  $[w_{t,t+1} \quad \cdots \quad w_{t,t+S}]'$  really normally distributed. One further argument in favour of our cosine window is that it is widely used in signal processing due to its low distortion in the frequency domain (see e.g. Harris 1978). In this literature, it is termed the Hann or Hanning window. We also note that for most DSGE models, the additional error coming from the normal approximation will be minimal, since it is exact at first order, and higher order approximations are usually dominated by their first order terms.

Given this normal approximation, integration is then relatively straightforward. We first take the Schur decomposition of  $\Omega_t$ , giving  $\Omega_t = UDU'$ , where  $U$  is an orthogonal matrix and  $D \geq 0$  is diagonal, with the elements sorted in decreasing order. To reduce the integration dimension without overly affecting accuracy,

we set any elements of  $D$  which are less than 1% of the maximum element of  $D$  to zero, as these components are unlikely to have a big impact. Indeed, when  $S$  is very large, it may be advisable to set all but the  $\tilde{S}$  largest elements of  $D$  to zero, which means the cost of integration will scale in  $\tilde{S}$  not  $S$ . After these steps we that that  $D = \begin{bmatrix} D_{11} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , where  $\dim D_{11} = \hat{S} \times \hat{S}$  for some  $\hat{S} \leq S$ . Conformably partitioning  $U$  as  $U = [U_{\cdot 1} \quad U'_{\cdot 1}]$ , and defining  $\Lambda := U_{\cdot 1} \sqrt{D_{11}}$ , we then have that  $\Lambda \Lambda' \approx \Omega_t$ . Then if  $\zeta \sim N(0, I_{\hat{S}})$ , then  $(\mathbb{E}_t[w_{t,t+1} \quad \dots \quad w_{t,t+S}])' + \Lambda \zeta$  has approximately the same distribution as  $[w_{t,t+1} \quad \dots \quad w_{t,t+S}]'$ . We have thus transformed the problem of integrating over the distribution of  $[w_{t,t+1} \quad \dots \quad w_{t,t+S}]'$  to that of integrating over the  $\hat{S}$  independent standard normals which make up  $\zeta$ . We do this using either quasi-Monte Carlo methods, the sparse nested Gaussian cubature rules of Genz and Keister (1996), or the equal weight degree 3 monomial cubature rule with  $2\hat{S} + 1$  nodes<sup>18</sup>. Of course, ideally we would like to break the domain of integration into pieces on which the integrand was continuous, but this is not computationally practical for even moderately large  $\hat{S}$ .<sup>19</sup>

The latter rule exactly integrates all degree 3 monomials in the components of  $\nu$ . While a third order approximation to the cumulated news shocks,  $y$ , as a function of  $\zeta$  may do a poor job at capturing this highly non-linear (and even non-differentiable) mapping, in practice the approximation to the integral is often surprisingly accurate. This is in a large part due to the robustness of the integration rule which stems from its equal, positive weights. All known higher degree integration rules that do not use more than polynomial in  $\hat{S}$  nodes also feature negative weights on at least some nodes (Cools 2003), which means that their result is not guaranteed to lie within the convex hull of the source evaluations, and, in this case in which we are integrating a positive function ( $y$ ), it further means the result can have the wrong sign.

The Genz and Keister (1996) rules allow one to choose the maximum degree of monomial that should be integrated exactly, up to a maximum order of 51. The number of points used is  $O(\hat{S}^K)$ , where  $2K + 1$  is the degree of monomial that is integrated exactly. When  $K > 0$  and  $\hat{S} > 1$ , the rule features negative weights on at least one node, which means it is susceptible to the problems mentioned above. However, it has a few points in its favour. Firstly, by using negative weights, the rule is able to ensure that the maximum over the absolute vectors of integration points is independent of  $\hat{S}$ . This contrasts with the aforementioned rule in which the higher is  $\hat{S}$ , the further into the tails of the distribution one has to evaluate the integrand. Given the extreme non-linearity of the integrand, evaluating far into the tails can lead the equal weighted integration rule to produce a heavily upwards biased estimate of the integral. Secondly, by using a higher degree rule, we can generally obtain a better approximation to the integrand, despite its non-differentiability. Finally, the Genz and Keister (1996) rules are nested, which means that we can use an adaptive integration degree without wasting evaluations, continuing to increase the degree until approximate convergence. In practice, the results of these rules often repeatedly flip from biased down to biased up as the degree increases, due to the discontinuities. To lessen this, we take a statistical approach to smoothing across degrees, as detailed in section 9.9 in the appendices. We show there that with a high enough maximum degree, this

<sup>18</sup> While there is a degree 3 monomial cubature rule with only  $2\hat{S}$  nodes, since we are evaluating the zero point anyway, it is costless to include it in the cubature, and doing so will generally reduce the error of the rule. As well as the zero point, the rule we use evaluates at  $\pm \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{2 + 4\hat{S}}$  with respect to each coordinate.

<sup>19</sup> For example, with  $\hat{S} = 1$ , there are at least as many discontinuities as there are non-zero elements in  $\Lambda$ . While we could in theory get the full set of discontinuities at arbitrary dimension using a parametric linear complementarity problem solver such as the algorithm of Jones and Morrari (2006) which works providing that  $M$  is general positive semi-definite, this is computationally intractable for  $\hat{S}$  or  $T$  bigger than (about) ten, and integrating over all of these regions separately is computationally intractable even for much smaller  $\hat{S}$ .



smoothed method still exactly integrates monomials of a given degree, albeit less efficiently than the unsmoothed one. Its practical performance on the discontinuous functions we need to integrate appears much improved over the base Genz and Keister (1996) rules though.

The final integration method we consider is quasi Monte Carlo, generating points from a Sobol sequence (Sobol 1967). Given that the functions we are integrating are absolutely continuous (as they are piecewise polynomial, with a finite number of manifolds of non-differentiability), quasi Monte Carlo with  $2^{1+l} - 1$  draws will produce an error that decays as  $O\left(\frac{l^S}{2^l}\right)$ . With the Sobol sequence, the choice of  $2^{1+l} - 1$  integration points for some  $l \in \mathbb{N}$  also ensures that the points are exactly mean zero, hopefully lessening overall bias. However, on functions that are well approximated by a polynomial, quasi Monte Carlo will generally require far more evaluations of the integrand for a similar accuracy than the Genz and Keister (1996) rules would. Which dominates in practice will depend on the precise integrand, which in turn will depend on the model and its current state. At times where the bound is either highly likely to bind or highly likely not to bind, whatever future shocks hit, it is likely that our smoothed variant of the Genz and Keister (1996) rules will dominate, however, at times when the bound is only binding with moderate probability, quasi Monte Carlo's "dumb" approach may give it better performance.

Whichever approach to integration is taken, we end with an approximation to the expected value of the "y" vector of cumulated news shocks needed to impose the bound. This y will imply a set of news shocks that hit today, just as it does when we ignore future uncertainty. We can thus proceed with the simulation exactly as we do in the case without integrating over future uncertainty.

### 5.3. Hybrid local/global approach

Ideally, we would like to integrate over infinitely many periods of future uncertainty each period, but clearly this is infeasible. Thus, an alternative approach is needed. Recall, that the source of the inaccuracy of the base algorithm (without integrating over future uncertainty), was that the resulting news shocks were partially predictable by the model's state variables, and by the other shocks in the model. This suggests that if we could somehow tweak the bounded equation so that the needed news shocks were orthogonal to the states and the shock, then we would have a much more accurate simulation.

This is the approach we pursue here. In particular, given original equations with bounds of the form:

$$v_t = \mathbb{E}_t \max\{0, g(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t)\},$$

where  $g(\mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_x, \mu_v, 0) \gg 0$ , we replace them with equations of the form:

$$\begin{aligned} v_{a,t} &= \mathbb{E}_t(g(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t))_a + I_{1,\cdot} y_t^{(a)} + \theta'_{\cdot,a} \varsigma_t, \\ \tilde{v}_{a,t} &= \mathbb{E}_t(g(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_{t+1}, v_t, \varepsilon_t))_a + I_{1,\cdot} y_t^{(a)}, \end{aligned}$$

for all  $a \in \{1, \dots, c\}$ , where  $\theta = [\theta_{\cdot,1} \ \dots \ \theta_{\cdot,c}]$  is a matrix of unknown parameters,

$$\varsigma_t := \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ x_{t-1} \\ \varepsilon_t \end{bmatrix}^{\otimes d},^{20}$$

where  $d$  is again the degree of perturbation approximation being taken, and  $\cdot^{\otimes d}$  denotes Kronecker exponentiation, and where, just as in section 5.1, for all  $a \in \{1, \dots, c\}$ :

<sup>20</sup> In practice, we just use the state variables from  $x_{t-1}$ .

$$\forall i \in \{1, \dots, T-1\}, \quad y_{i,t}^{(a)} = y_{i+1,t-1}^{(a)} + \kappa(\eta_{i,t}^{(a)})^d,$$

$$y_{T,t}^{(a)} = \kappa(\eta_{T,t}^{(a)})^d.$$

In the first step of the algorithm, we set  $\eta_{i,t}^{(a)} = 0$  for all  $i, t, a$  and attempt to solve for  $\theta$  such that:

$$0 = \mathbb{E}_{\varsigma_t}(\max\{0, \tilde{v}_t\} - v_t)' = \mathbb{E}_{\varsigma_t}(\max\{0, \tilde{v}_t\} - \tilde{v}_t - \theta' \varsigma_t)' = \mathbb{E}_{\varsigma_t}(\max\{-\tilde{v}_t, 0\} - \theta' \varsigma_t)'.$$

In other words, we try to find a  $\theta$  at which the error in the approximation of  $\max\{0, \tilde{v}_t\}$  by  $v_t$  is orthogonal to the states and shocks of the model. This gives an optimal polynomial approximation to the bounded variables, and has a direct impact on the policy functions for other variables, capturing, for example, the precautionary motive to avoid the bound. This procedure is similar in spirit to the parameterised expectations algorithm of den Haan and Marcet (1990).

Now, at a  $\theta$  that solved the previous equations, we would have that:

$$\mathbb{E}_{\varsigma_t} \max\{-\tilde{v}_t, 0\}' = \mathbb{E}_{\varsigma_t} \varsigma_t' \theta,$$

so:

$$\theta = (\mathbb{E}_{\varsigma_t} \varsigma_t \varsigma_t')^{-1} \mathbb{E}_{\varsigma_t} \max\{-\tilde{v}_t, 0\}'.$$

Now, thanks to the existence of an augmented state-space representation for pruned perturbation solutions (as discussed in section 9.7 in the appendices) we can evaluate  $\mathbb{E}_{\varsigma_t}$ ,  $\mathbb{E}\tilde{v}_t$ ,  $\mathbb{E}_{\varsigma_t} \varsigma_t'$ ,  $\mathbb{E}_{\varsigma_t} \tilde{v}_t'$  without any Monte Carlo simulation, or numerical integration. Furthermore, note that if:

$$\begin{bmatrix} p \\ q \end{bmatrix} \sim N \left( \begin{bmatrix} \mu_p \\ \mu_q \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{pp} & \sigma_{pq} \\ \sigma_{qp} & \sigma_{qq} \end{bmatrix} \right),$$

then, by explicit integration:

$$\mathbb{E}_p \max\{-q, 0\} = \mu_p \exp \left( -\frac{\mu_q^2}{2\sigma_{qq}} \right) \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_{qq}}{2\pi}} - (\mu_p \mu_q + \sigma_{pq}) \left( 1 - \Phi \left( \frac{\mu_q}{\sqrt{\sigma_{qq}}} \right) \right),$$

where  $\Phi$  is the cumulative distribution function of a standard normal. Thus, if we approximate the joint distribution of  $\varsigma_t$  and  $v_t$  by a Gaussian, then we can also calculate  $\mathbb{E}_{\varsigma_t} \max\{-\tilde{v}_t, 0\}'$  and hence  $\theta$  too, all without any Monte Carlo simulation, or numerical integration. Since DSGE models are usually dominated by their first order terms, in practice, not much accuracy is lost by this joint Gaussian approximation, so this is the approach we take here.

The existence of a formula for  $\theta$  suggests a fixed point algorithm. We first guess  $\theta$ , then we solve the model by perturbation given that value for  $\theta$ . We then calculate a new value for  $\theta$  using  $\theta = (\mathbb{E}_{\varsigma_t} \varsigma_t \varsigma_t')^{-1} \mathbb{E}_{\varsigma_t} \max\{-\tilde{v}_t, 0\}'$ . In practice, this fixed point iteration is non-convergent for many frequently encountered models, so we instead just solve for the fixed point using a non-linear equation solver, such as “fmincon” in MATLAB. Given that each evaluation only requires us to solve the model by perturbation and then to make some relatively straightforward numerical calculations, this system of non-linear equations can be solved very quickly even when the dimensions of  $\theta$  is large. As such, although this is a global algorithm since we are integrating over the entire state space, it is orders of magnitude faster than standard global algorithms which require either numerical integration at each point on a grid, or long simulation runs.

Once we have found  $\theta$ , simulation is a simple extension of the simulation algorithm involving integrating over future uncertainty. Rather than constructing a single  $M$  matrix, we now have one coming from the responses of  $\tilde{v}$ , which we continue to call  $M$ , and one coming from the responses of  $v$ , which we now call  $\bar{M}$ . As ever, at each simulation period, we need to solve for the  $y$  which makes expectations close to rational.

Conceptually, we do this by finding a  $y$  which brings  $q + \bar{M}y$  as close as possible to our best estimate of rational expectations.

First, note that  $v_t$  is not likely to be a particularly accurate approximation to  $\max\{0, \tilde{v}_t\}$ , since polynomials cannot well approximate discontinuities. Thus, it is more appropriate as a model of long-run expectations, rather than as a model of the near term. However, by integrating over future uncertainty (with LCPs using the  $M$  matrix, not the  $\bar{M}$  one), as in section 5.2, we can get a reasonable estimates of the path of the constrained variables. Let us write  $\mathcal{E}_{s,t}$  for this approximation to the expected value of  $v_{t+s}$  from the “true” model with occasionally binding constraints, when we set  $S := T$ . Then we define a scaled deviation from  $\mathcal{E}_{s,t}$ , which we call  $e_{s,t}$ , by:

$$\mathbb{E}_t v_{t+s} = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \cos \left( \pi \frac{\max\{0, s-1\}}{T} \right) \right) \mathcal{E}_{s,t} + \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \cos \left( \pi \frac{\max\{0, s-1\}}{T} \right) \right) \right] [\mathbb{E}_t v_{t+s} + e_{s,t}],$$

which treats  $\mathbb{E}_t v_{t+s}$  as a linear interpolation between  $\mathcal{E}_{s,t}$  and  $\mathbb{E}_t v_{t+s} + e_{s,t}$  with weights equal to the windowing function applied to the covariance matrix when integrating over future uncertainty, so as to capture the fact that departures from  $\mathcal{E}_{s,t}$  are more acceptable at long horizons where it is less accurate. This seems a natural choice, given our windowing function. It implies:

$$0 = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \cos \left( \pi \frac{\max\{0, s-1\}}{T} \right) \right) [\mathcal{E}_{s,t} - \mathbb{E}_t v_{t+s}] + \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \cos \left( \pi \frac{\max\{0, s-1\}}{T} \right) \right) \right] e_{s,t},$$

so for  $s = 0$  and  $s = 1$  we have  $\mathcal{E}_{s,t} = \mathbb{E}_t v_{t+s}$ .

We then choose  $e_t := \text{vec}[e_{0,t} \ \cdots \ e_{T-1,t}] \in \mathbb{R}^{cT \times 1}$  and  $y_t := \text{vec}[y_t^{(1)} \ \cdots \ y_t^{(c)}] \in \mathbb{R}^{Tc \times 1}$  to minimise:

$$\omega e_t' e_t + (y_t - \mathbb{E}_{t-1} y_t)' (y_t - \mathbb{E}_{t-1} y_t),$$

where  $\omega$  is an arbitrary constant, subject to the constraints:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_t v_{t+s} &\geq 0, \quad \forall s \in \{0, \dots, T-1\}, \\ \begin{bmatrix} y_{s+1,t}^{(1)} \\ \vdots \\ y_{s+1,t}^{(c)} \end{bmatrix} &\geq \mathbb{E}_t \tilde{v}_{t+s} - \mathbb{E}_t v_{t+s}, \quad \forall s \in \{0, \dots, T-1\}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathbb{E}_t v_{t+s}$ ,  $\mathbb{E}_t \tilde{v}_{t+s}$ , are functions of  $y_t$ , for  $s \in \{0, \dots, T-1\}$ , since:

$$\text{vec}[\mathbb{E}_t v_t \ \cdots \ \mathbb{E}_t v_{t+T-1}]' = q + \bar{M}y_t,$$

and:

$$\text{vec}[\mathbb{E}_t \tilde{v}_t \ \cdots \ \mathbb{E}_t \tilde{v}_{t+T-1}]' = \tilde{q} + My_t,$$

for some  $q, \tilde{q} \in \mathbb{R}^{Tc \times 1}$ . By construction, this is a concave quadratic programming problem, and so may be solved in time polynomial in  $cT$  using the ellipsoid method (Kozlov, Tarasov, and Khachiyan 1980). The first constraint on the problem ensures that expectations of the bounded variable are positive, which they must be as the bound is at zero by assumption. The second constraint ensures that at each horizon  $s$ ,  $\mathbb{E}_t v_{t+s} \geq \mathbb{E}_t g(x_{t+s-1}, x_{t+s}, x_{t+s+1}, v_{t+s}, \varepsilon_{t+s})$ , which should hold since  $\max\{0, g(x_{t+s-1}, x_{t+s}, x_{t+s+1}, v_{t+s}, \varepsilon_{t+s})\} \geq g(x_{t+s-1}, x_{t+s}, x_{t+s+1}, v_{t+s}, \varepsilon_{t+s})$ . Finally, the objective trades off the magnitude of the news shocks, with the magnitude of the scaled deviations. With our suggested setting of  $\omega := 1$ , a deviation between  $\mathcal{E}_{s,t}$  and  $\mathbb{E}_t v_{t+s}$  at a horizon of  $s = 1 + \frac{T}{2}$  is given equal weighting to the news shocks, while deviations at earlier horizons are given greater weightings, and deviations at later horizons are given lesser ones. This seems a reasonable compromise as with  $q \gg 0$ ,  $y_t = \mathbb{E}_{t-1} y_t$  is usually feasible, so we can afford to place a substantial weight on the constraint without distorting  $y_t$  too much at long horizons. As with any such decision, the ultimate test is its practical performance, which we discuss in section 6, after first discussing the implementation of these algorithms in the next section.

## 5.4. The DynareOBC toolkit

Code implementing all of the algorithms discussed here is contained in the author's "DynareOBC" toolkit which is a suite of MATLAB files designed to augment the abilities of Dynare (Adjemian et al. 2011). The toolkit may be downloaded from <http://github.org/tholden/dynareOBC>, and this site also contains complete documentation for its assorted options. To use it, one merely has to include a "max", "min" or "abs" in the "MOD" file describing the DSGE model to be simulated, and then to invoke DynareOBC with the MATLAB command "dynareOBC ModFileName.MOD".

Internally, DynareOBC uses the "YALMIP" (Löfberg 2004) MATLAB toolkit as an interface to a wide variety of open source and commercial mixed integer linear programming solvers. The distribution of DynareOBC comes with a variety of open source solvers, so DynareOBC is certainly not dependent on any particular commercial packages (other than MATLAB itself). DynareOBC also attempts to obtain a parametric solution to the LCP  $(q, M)$  for  $q$  which only violate the bound in at most the first few periods, using the MPT toolkit (Herceg et al. 2013), which in turn uses an algorithm due to Jones and Morrari (2006). The resulting parametric solution takes the form of a compiled MEX function, which, when passed a  $q$ , returns the  $y$  that solves the LCP. This reduces the number of times the LCP needs to be solved in inner loops, increasing performance. Furthermore, DynareOBC includes efficient code for testing whether  $M$  is a P-matrix, based on an algorithm of Tsatsomeros and Li (2000), and can also test if  $M$  is an S-matrix or (strictly) semi-monotone. Additionally, DynareOBC contains code for facilitating the calculation of Jin and Judd (2002) style accuracy checks. Thus, DynareOBC functions as an easy to use, one stop shop for all queries one might have of a model with occasionally binding constraints.

## 6. Performance of our algorithm

TODO

NOTE: Some provisional accuracy results are contained in the slides for this paper which are available from: <https://github.com/tholden/dynareOBC/raw/master/slides.pdf>

## 7. Conclusion

TODO

TODO Suggestion of price level targeting

TODO Suggestion that failing this, policy makers may wish to choose policy rules to ensure that solving the LCP problem is possible in polynomial time, and that the LCP is at least always feasible.

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## 9. Appendices

### 9.1. Construction of a model with arbitrary $M$ matrix

Let  $\mathcal{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times T}$ . Consider a model with the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_t &= \max\{0, b_t\}, \\
 a_t &= 1 + \sum_{j=1}^T \sum_{k=1}^T M_{j,k} (c_{j-1,k-1,t} - c_{j,k,t}) + d_{0,t}, \\
 c_{0,0,t} &= a_t - b_t, \\
 c_{0,k,t} &= \mathbb{E}_t c_{0,k-1,t+1}, \quad \forall k \in \{1, \dots, T\}, \\
 c_{j,k,t} &= c_{j-1,k,t-1}, \quad \forall j \in \{1, \dots, T\}, k \in \{0, \dots, T\}, \\
 d_{k,t} &= d_{k+1,t-1}, \quad \forall k \in \{0, \dots, T-1\}, \\
 d_{T,t} &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

with steady-state  $a_{\cdot} = b_{\cdot} = 1$ ,  $c_{j,k,\cdot} = 0$ ,  $d_{k,\cdot} = 0$  for all  $j, k \in \{0, \dots, T\}$ . Defining:

$$x_t := [a_t \quad b_t \quad (\text{vec } c_{\cdot,\cdot,t})' \quad d'_{\cdot,t}]'$$

and dropping expectations, this model is then in the form of Problem 2.

Now consider the model's Problem 3 type equivalent, in which for  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ :

$$a_t = \begin{cases} b_t + y_{t,0} & \text{if } t \leq T \\ b_t & \text{if } t > T' \end{cases}$$

where  $y_{\cdot,\cdot}$  is defined as in Problem 3. Thus, if  $c_{j,k,0} = 0$  and  $d_{k,0} = 0$  for all  $j, k \in \{0, \dots, T\}$ , then for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ ,  $j, k \in \{0, \dots, T\}$ :

$$c_{0,k,t} = \begin{cases} y_{t+k,0} & \text{if } t+k \leq T \\ 0 & \text{if } t+k > T' \end{cases}$$

$$c_{j,k,t} = \begin{cases} c_{0,k,t-j} & \text{if } t-j > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } t-j \leq 0 \end{cases} = \begin{cases} y_{t+k-j,0} & \text{if } t-j > 0, t+k-j \leq T \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

Hence, for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ ,  $j, k \in \{1, \dots, T\}$ :

$$c_{j-1,k-1,t} - c_{j,k,t} = \begin{cases} y_{t+k-j,0} & \text{if } t-j = 0, t+k-j \leq T \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} = \begin{cases} y_{k,0} & \text{if } t = j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

Therefore, for all  $t \in \{1, \dots, T\}$ :

$$a_t - 1 = \sum_{k=1}^T M_{t,k} y_{k,0}.$$

Consequently, if  $y_{k,0} = I_{\cdot,l}$  for some  $l \in \{1, \dots, T\}$ , then  $a_t - 1 = M_{t,l}$  (i.e. the relative impulse response to a news-shock at horizon  $l$ ) is the  $l^{\text{th}}$  column of  $M$ .

Finally, note that in the model's Problem 1 equivalent, if  $c_{j,k,0} = 0$  for all  $j, k \in \{0, \dots, T\}$ , then for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ ,  $a_t = b_t = d_{0,t} = d_{t,0}$ . Hence, if  $d_{\cdot,0} = q$  for some  $q \in \mathbb{R}^T$ , then  $q = q$  for this model.

## 9.2. Construction of a static model with no solution

Consider the model:

$$\begin{aligned} a_t &= \max\{0, b_t\}, \\ a_t &= 1 - c_t, \\ c_t &= a_t - b_t. \end{aligned}$$

Then in the model's Problem 3 type equivalent, in which for  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ :

$$a_t = \begin{cases} b_t + y_{t,0} & \text{if } t \leq T \\ b_t & \text{if } t > T' \end{cases}$$

where  $y_{\cdot,\cdot}$  is defined as in Problem 3, we have that:

$$c_t = \begin{cases} y_{t,0} & \text{if } t \leq T \\ 0 & \text{if } t > T' \end{cases}$$

so:

$$b_t = \begin{cases} 1 - 2y_{t,0} & \text{if } t \leq T \\ 1 & \text{if } t > T' \end{cases}$$

implying:

$$a_t = \begin{cases} 1 - y_{t,0} & \text{if } t \leq T \\ 1 & \text{if } t > T' \end{cases}$$

thus,  $M = -I$  for this model.

## 9.3. Proof of sufficient conditions for feasibility with $T = \infty$

First, define  $G := -C(B + CF)^{-1}$ , and note that if  $L$  is the lag (right-shift) operator, the model from Problem 1 can be written as:

$$L^{-1}(ALL + BL + C)(x - \mu) = 0.$$

Furthermore, by the definitions of  $F$  and  $G$ :

$$(L - G)(B + CF)(I - FL) = ALL + BL + C,$$



so the stability of the model from Problem 1 is determined by the solutions for  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  of the polynomial:

$$0 = \det(Az^2 + Bz + C) = \det(Iz - G) \det(B + CF) \det(I - Fz).$$

Now by Assumption 1, all of the roots of  $\det(I - Fz)$  are strictly outside of the unit circle, and all of the other roots of  $\det(Az^2 + Bz + C)$  are weakly inside the unit circle (else there would be indeterminacy), thus, all of the roots of  $\det(Iz - G)$  are weakly inside the unit circle. Therefore, if we write  $\rho_M$  for the spectral radius of some matrix  $M$ , then, by this discussion and Assumption 2,  $\rho_G < 1$ .

Next, let  $s_t^*, x_t^* \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times \mathbb{N}^+}$  be such that for any  $y \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}^+}$ , the  $k^{\text{th}}$  columns of  $s_t^* y$  and  $x_t^* y$  give the value of  $s_t$  and  $x_t$  following a magnitude 1 news shock at horizon  $k$ , i.e. when  $x_0 = \mu$  and  $y_0$  is the  $k^{\text{th}}$  row of  $I_{\mathbb{N}^+ \times \mathbb{N}^+}$ . Then:

$$\begin{aligned} s_t^* &= -(B + CF)^{-1} [I_{\cdot,1} I_{t,1:\infty} + G I_{\cdot,1} I_{t+1,1:\infty} + G^2 I_{\cdot,1} I_{t+2,1:\infty} + \dots] = -(B + CF)^{-1} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (GL)^k I_{\cdot,1} I_{t,1:\infty} = \\ &= -(B + CF)^{-1} (I - GL)^{-1} I_{\cdot,1} I_{t,1:\infty}, \end{aligned}$$

where the infinite sums are well defined as  $\rho_G < 1$ , and where  $I_{t,1:\infty} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times \mathbb{N}^+}$  is a row vector with zeros everywhere except position  $t$  where there is a 1. Thus:

$$s_t^* = [0_{n \times (t-1)} \quad s_1^*] = L^{t-1} s_1^*.$$

Furthermore,

$$(x_t^* - \mu^*) = \sum_{j=1}^t F^{t-j} s_j^* = \sum_{j=1}^t F^{t-j} L^{j-1} s_1^*,$$

i.e.:

$$(x_t^* - \mu^*)_{\cdot,k} = \sum_{j=1}^t F^{t-j} s_{1,\cdot,k+1-j}^* = - \sum_{j=1}^{\min\{t,k\}} F^{t-j} (B + CF)^{-1} G^{k-j} I_{\cdot,1},$$

and so the  $k^{\text{th}}$  offset diagonal of  $M$  ( $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ ) is given by the first row of the  $k^{\text{th}}$  column of:

$$L^{-t} (x_t^* - \mu^*) = L^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^t (FL^{-1})^{t-j} s_1^* = L^{-1} \sum_{j=0}^{t-1} (FL^{-1})^j s_1^*,$$

where we abuse notation slightly by allowing  $L^{-1}$  to give a result with indices in  $\mathbb{Z}$  rather than  $\mathbb{N}^+$ , with padding by zeros. Consequently, for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}^+$ ,  $M_{t,k} = O(t^n \rho_F^t)$ , as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ ,  $M_{t,k} = O(t^n \rho_G^k)$ , as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , and for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $M_{t,t+k} - \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} M_{\tau,\tau+k} = O(t^{n-1} (\rho_F \rho_G)^t)$ , as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . Hence,

$$\sup_{y \in [0,1]^{\mathbb{N}^+}} \inf_{t \in \mathbb{N}^+} M_{t,1:\infty} y$$

exists and is well defined, and so:

$$\zeta = \sup_{\substack{y \in [0,1]^{\mathbb{N}^+} \\ \exists T \in \mathbb{N} \text{ s.t. } \forall t > T, y_t = 0}} \inf_{t \in \mathbb{N}^+} M_{t,1:\infty} y = \sup_{y \in [0,1]^{\mathbb{N}^+}} \inf_{t \in \mathbb{N}^+} M_{t,1:\infty} y,$$

since every point in  $[0,1]^{\mathbb{N}^+}$  is a limit (under the supremum norm) of a sequence of points in the set:

$$\{y \in [0,1]^{\mathbb{N}^+} \mid \exists T \in \mathbb{N} \text{ s.t. } \forall t > T, y_t = 0\}.$$

Thus, we just need to provide conditions under which  $\sup_{y \in [0,1]^{\mathbb{N}^+}} \inf_{t \in \mathbb{N}^+} M_{t,1:\infty} y > 0$ .

To produce such conditions, we need constructive bounds on  $M$ , even if they have slightly worse convergence rates. For any matrix,  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  with  $\rho_M < 1$ , and any  $\phi \in (\rho_M, 1)$ , let:

$$C_{M,\phi} := \sup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \left\| (M \phi^{-1})^k \right\|_2.$$

Furthermore, for any matrix,  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  with  $\rho_M < 1$ , and any  $\epsilon > 0$ , let:

$$\rho_{M,\epsilon} := \max\{|z| \mid z \in \mathbb{C}, \sigma_{\min}(M - zI) = \epsilon\},$$

where  $\sigma_{\min}(M - zI)$  is the minimum singular value of  $M - zI$ , and let  $\epsilon^*(M) \in (0, \infty]$  solve:

$$\rho_{M,\epsilon} = 1.$$

(This has a solution in  $(0, \infty]$  by continuity as  $\rho_M < 1$ .) Then, by Theorem 16.2 of Trefethen and Embree (2005), for any  $K \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $k > K$ :

$$\|(M\phi^{-1})^k\|_2 \leq \|(M\phi^{-1})^K\|_2 \|(M\phi^{-1})^{k-K}\|_2 \leq \frac{\|(M\phi^{-1})^K\|_2}{\epsilon^*(M\phi^{-1})}.$$

Now,  $\|(M\phi^{-1})^K\|_2 \rightarrow 0$  as  $K \rightarrow \infty$ , hence, there exists some  $K \in \mathbb{N}$  such that:

$$\sup_{k=0,\dots,K} \|(M\phi^{-1})^k\|_2 \geq \frac{\|(M\phi^{-1})^K\|_2}{\epsilon^*(M\phi^{-1})} \geq \sup_{k>K} \|(M\phi^{-1})^k\|_2,$$

meaning  $C_{M,\phi} = \sup_{k=0,\dots,K} \|(M\phi^{-1})^k\|_2$ . The quantity  $\rho_{M,\epsilon}$  (and hence  $\epsilon^*(M)$ ) may be efficiently computed using the methods described by Wright and Trefethen (2001), and implemented in their EigTool toolkit<sup>21</sup>. Thus,  $C_{M,\phi}$  may be calculated in finitely many operations by iterating over  $K \in \mathbb{N}$  until a  $K$  is found which satisfies:

$$\sup_{k=0,\dots,K} \|(M\phi^{-1})^k\|_2 \geq \frac{\|(M\phi^{-1})^K\|_2}{\epsilon^*(M\phi^{-1})}.$$

From the definition of  $C_{M,\phi}$ , we have that for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and any  $\phi \in (\rho_M, 1)$ :

$$\|M^k\|_2 \leq C_{M,\phi} \phi^k.$$

Now, fix  $\phi_F \in (\rho_F, 1)$  and  $\phi_G \in (\rho_G, 1)$ ,<sup>22</sup> and define:

$$\mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} := C_{F, \phi_F} C_{G, \phi_G} \|(B + CF)^{-1}\|_2,$$

then, for all  $t, k \in \mathbb{N}^+$ :

$$\begin{aligned} |M_{t,k}| &= |(x_t^* - \mu^*)_{1,k}| \leq \|(x_t^* - \mu^*)_{\cdot,k}\|_2 \leq \sum_{j=1}^{\min\{t,k\}} \|F^{t-j}\|_2 \|(B + CF)^{-1}\|_2 \|G^{k-j}\|_2 \\ &\leq \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \sum_{j=1}^{\min\{t,k\}} \phi_F^{t-j} \phi_G^{k-j} = \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \phi_F^t \phi_G^k \frac{(\phi_F \phi_G)^{-\min\{t,k\}} - 1}{1 - \phi_F \phi_G}. \end{aligned}$$

Additionally, for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} |M_{t,t+k} - \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} M_{\tau, \tau+k}| &= |(L^{-t}(x_t^* - \mu^*))_{1,k} - (\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} L^{-t}(x_t^* - \mu^*))_{1,k}| \\ &\leq \left\| \left( L^{-1} \sum_{j=0}^{t-1} (FL^{-1})^j s_1^* - L^{-1} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (FL^{-1})^j s_1^* \right)_{\cdot,k} \right\|_2 = \left\| \left( \sum_{j=\max\{t,-k\}}^{\infty} F^j s_{1,\cdot, j+k+1}^* \right)_{\cdot,0} \right\|_2 \\ &= \left\| \sum_{j=\max\{t,-k\}}^{\infty} F^j (B + CF)^{-1} G^{j+k} I_{\cdot,1} \right\|_2 \leq \sum_{j=\max\{t,-k\}}^{\infty} \|F^j\|_2 \|(B + CF)^{-1}\|_2 \|G^{j+k}\|_2 \\ &\leq \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \sum_{j=\max\{t,-k\}}^{\infty} \phi_F^j \phi_G^{j+k} = \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^{\max\{t,-k\}} \phi_G^{\max\{0,t+k\}}}{1 - \phi_F \phi_G}, \end{aligned}$$

so, for all  $t, k \in \mathbb{N}^+$ :

$$|M_{t,k} - \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} M_{\tau, \tau+k-t}| \leq \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^k}{1 - \phi_F \phi_G}.$$

<sup>21</sup> This toolkit is available from <https://github.com/eigtool/eigtool>, and is included in dynareOBC.

<sup>22</sup> In practice, we try a grid of values, as it is problem dependent whether high  $\phi_F$  and low  $\mathcal{K}(M\phi^{-1})$  is preferable to low  $\phi_F$  and high  $\mathcal{K}(M\phi^{-1})$ .

To evaluate  $\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} M_{\tau, \tau+k-t}$ , note that this limit is the top element from the  $(k-t)^{\text{th}}$  column of:

$$d := \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} L^{-\tau}(x_{\tau}^* - \mu^*) = L^{-1}(I - FL^{-1})^{-1}s_1^* = -(I - FL^{-1})^{-1}(B + CF)^{-1}(I - GL)^{-1}I_{\cdot,1}I_{0,-\infty;\infty},$$

where  $I_{0,-\infty;\infty} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times \mathbb{Z}}$  is zero everywhere apart from index 0 where it equals 1. Hence, by the definitions of  $F$  and  $G$ :

$$AL^{-1}d + Bd + CLd = -I_{\cdot,1}I_{0,-\infty;\infty}.$$

In other words, if we write  $d_k$  in place of  $d_{\cdot,k}$  for convenience, then, for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ :

$$Ad_{k+1} + Bd_k + Cd_{k-1} = -\begin{cases} I_{\cdot,1} & \text{if } k = 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

I.e. the homogeneous part of the difference equation for  $d_{-t}$  is identical to that of  $x_t - \mu$ . The time reversal here is intuitive since we are indexing diagonals such that indices increase as we move up and to the right in  $M$ , but time is increasing as we move down in  $M$ .

It turns out that exploiting the possibility of reversing time is the key to easily evaluating  $d_k$ . First, note that for  $k < 0$ , it must be the case that  $d_k = Fd_{k+1}$ , since the shock has already “occurred” (remember, that we are going forwards in “time” when we reduce  $k$ ). Now consider the model in which we are going forwards time when we increase  $k$ , i.e. the model with:

$$L(AL^{-1}L^{-1} + BL^{-1} + C)d = 0,$$

subject to the terminal condition that  $d_k \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , which must hold as we have already proved that the first row of  $M$  converges to zero. Now, let  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $z \neq 0$  be a solution to:

$$0 = \det(Az^2 + Bz + C),$$

and define  $\tilde{z} = z^{-1}$ , so:

$$0 = \det(A + B\tilde{z} + C\tilde{z}^2) = z^{-2} \det(Az^2 + Bz + C) = \det(I - G\tilde{z}) \det(B + CF) \det(I\tilde{z} - F).$$

By Assumption 1, all of the roots of  $\det(I\tilde{z} - F)$  are inside the unit circle, thus they cannot contribute to the dynamics of the time reversed process, else the terminal condition would be violated. Thus, the time reversed model has a unique solution satisfying the terminal condition with a transition matrix with the same eigenvalues as  $G$ . Consequently, this solution can be calculated via standard methods for solving linear DSGE models, and it will be given by:

$$d_k = Hd_{k-1},$$

for all  $k > 0$ , where  $H = -(B + AH)^{-1}C$ , and  $\phi_H = \phi_G < 1$ , by Assumption 2.

It just remains to determine the value of  $d_0$ . By the previous results, this must satisfy:

$$-I_{\cdot,1} = Ad_1 + Bd_0 + Cd_{-1} = (AH + B + CF)d_0.$$

Hence:

$$d_0 = -(AH + B + CF)^{-1}I_{\cdot,1}.$$

This gives a readily computed solution for the limits of the diagonals of  $M$ . Lastly, note that:

$$|d_{-t,1}| \leq \|d_{-t}\|_2 = \|F^t d_0\|_2 \leq \|F^t\|_2 \|d_0\|_2 \leq C_{F,\phi_F} \phi_F^t \|d_0\|_2,$$

and:

$$|d_{t,1}| \leq \|d_t\|_2 = \|H^t d_0\|_2 \leq \|H^t\|_2 \|d_0\|_2 \leq C_{H,\phi_H} \phi_H^t \|d_0\|_2.$$

We will use these results in producing our bounds on  $\zeta$ .

First, fix  $T \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , and define a new matrix  $\underline{M}^{(T)} \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}^+ \times \mathbb{N}^+}$  by  $\underline{M}_{1:T,1:T}^{(T)} = M_{1:T,1:T}$ , and for all  $t, k \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , with  $\min\{t, k\} > T$ ,  $\underline{M}_{t,k}^{(T)} = d_{k-t,1} - \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^k}{1 - \phi_F \phi_G}$ , then:

$$\begin{aligned} \varsigma &\geq \max_{\substack{y \in [0,1]^T \\ y_\infty \in [0,1]}} \inf_{t \in \mathbb{N}^+} M_{t,1:\infty} \left[ y_\infty 1_{\infty \times 1}^y \right] \geq \max_{\substack{y \in [0,1]^T \\ y_\infty \in [0,1]}} \inf_{t \in \mathbb{N}^+} \underline{M}_{t,1:\infty}^{(T)} \left[ y_\infty 1_{\infty \times 1}^y \right] \\ &= \max_{\substack{y \in [0,1]^T \\ y_\infty \in [0,1]}} \min \left\{ \min_{t=1,\dots,T} \left[ M_{t,1:T} y + \sum_{k=T+1}^{\infty} \left( d_{k-t,1} - \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^k}{1 - \phi_F \phi_G} \right) y_\infty \right], \right. \\ &\quad \left. \inf_{t \in \mathbb{N}^+, t > T} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^T \left( d_{k-t,1} - \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^k}{1 - \phi_F \phi_G} \right) y_k + \sum_{k=T+1}^{\infty} \left( d_{k-t,1} - \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^k}{1 - \phi_F \phi_G} \right) y_\infty \right] \right\} \\ &\geq \max_{\substack{y \in [0,1]^T \\ y_\infty \in [0,1]}} \min \left\{ \min_{t=1,\dots,T} \left[ M_{t,1:T} y + ((I-H)^{-1} d_{T+1-t})_1 y_\infty - \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^{T+1}}{(1 - \phi_F \phi_G)(1 - \phi_G)} y_\infty \right], \right. \\ &\quad \min_{t=T+1,\dots,2T} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^T \left( d_{-(t-k),1} - \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^k}{1 - \phi_F \phi_G} \right) y_k + ((I-F)^{-1} (d_{-1} - d_{-(t-T)}))_1 y_\infty \right. \\ &\quad \left. + ((I-H)^{-1} d_0)_1 y_\infty - \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^{T+1}}{(1 - \phi_F \phi_G)(1 - \phi_G)} y_\infty \right], \\ &\quad \left. \inf_{t \in \mathbb{N}^+, t > 2T} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^T d_{-(t-k),1} y_k + ((I-F)^{-1} (d_{-1} - d_{-(t-T)}))_1 y_\infty \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + ((I-H)^{-1} d_0)_1 y_\infty - \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^{2T+1} \phi_G}{(1 - \phi_F \phi_G)(1 - \phi_G)} \right] \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Now, for  $t \geq T$ :

$$\left| ((I-F)^{-1} d_{-(t-T)})_1 \right| \leq \|(I-F)^{-1} d_{-(t-T)}\|_2 \leq \|(I-F)^{-1}\|_2 \|d_{-(t-T)}\|_2 \leq C_{F, \phi_F} \phi_F^{t-T} \|(I-F)^{-1}\|_2 \|d_0\|_2,$$

so:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^T d_{-(t-k),1} y_k - ((I-F)^{-1} d_{-(t-T)})_1 y_\infty &\geq - \sum_{k=1}^T C_{F, \phi_F} \phi_F^{t-k} \|d_0\|_2 - C_{F, \phi_F} \phi_F^{t-T} \|(I-F)^{-1}\|_2 \|d_0\|_2 y_\infty \\ &= -C_{F, \phi_F} \frac{\phi_F^t (\phi_F^{-T} - 1)}{1 - \phi_F} \|d_0\|_2 - C_{F, \phi_F} \phi_F^{t-T} \|(I-F)^{-1}\|_2 \|d_0\|_2 y_\infty, \end{aligned}$$

thus:

$$\varsigma \geq \max_{\substack{y \in [0,1]^T \\ y_\infty \in [0,1]}} \min \left\{ \min_{t=1,\dots,T} \left[ M_{t,1:T} y + ((I-H)^{-1} d_{T+1-t})_1 y_\infty - \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^{T+1}}{(1 - \phi_F \phi_G)(1 - \phi_G)} y_\infty \right], \right. \\ \min_{t=T+1,\dots,2T} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^T \left( d_{-(t-k),1} - \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^k}{1 - \phi_F \phi_G} \right) y_k + ((I-F)^{-1} (d_{-1} - d_{-(t-T)}))_1 y_\infty \right. \\ \left. + ((I-H)^{-1} d_0)_1 y_\infty - \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^{T+1}}{(1 - \phi_F \phi_G)(1 - \phi_G)} y_\infty \right], \\ \left. \left[ -C_{F, \phi_F} \frac{\phi_F^{2T+1} (\phi_F^{-T} - 1)}{1 - \phi_F} \|d_0\|_2 - C_{F, \phi_F} \phi_F^{T+1} \|(I-F)^{-1}\|_2 \|d_0\|_2 y_\infty + ((I-F)^{-1} d_{-1})_1 y_\infty \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + ((I-H)^{-1} d_0)_1 y_\infty - \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^{2T+1} \phi_G}{(1 - \phi_F \phi_G)(1 - \phi_G)} \right] \right\}.$$

To construct an upper bound on  $\varsigma$ , fix  $T \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , and define a new matrix  $\overline{M}^{(T)} \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}^+ \times \mathbb{N}^+}$  by  $\overline{M}_{1:T,1:T}^{(T)} = M_{1:T,1:T}$ , and for all  $t, k \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , with  $\min\{t, k\} > T$ ,  $\overline{M}_{t,k}^{(T)} = |d_{k-t,1}| + \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^k}{1 - \phi_F \phi_G}$ . Then:

$$\varsigma = \sup_{y \in [0,1]^{\mathbb{N}^+}} \inf_{t \in \mathbb{N}^+} M_{t,1:\infty} y \leq \sup_{y \in [0,1]^{\mathbb{N}^+}} \inf_{t \in \mathbb{N}^+} \overline{M}_{t,1:\infty} y \leq \sup_{y \in [0,1]^{\mathbb{N}^+}} \min_{t=1,\dots,T} \overline{M}_{t,1:\infty} y \leq \max_{y \in [0,1]^T} \min_{t=1,\dots,T} \overline{M}_{t,1:\infty} \left[ 1_{\infty \times 1}^y \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \max_{y \in [0,1]^T} \min_{t=1,\dots,T} \left[ M_{t,1:T}y + \sum_{k=T+1}^{\infty} |d_{k-t,1}| + \sum_{k=T+1}^{\infty} \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^k}{1 - \phi_F \phi_G} \right] \\
&\leq \max_{y \in [0,1]^T} \min_{t=1,\dots,T} \left[ M_{t,1:T}y + \sum_{k=T+1-t}^{\infty} |d_{k,1}| + \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^{T+1}}{1 - \phi_F \phi_G} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \phi_G^k \right] \\
&\leq \max_{y \in [0,1]^T} \min_{t=1,\dots,T} \left[ M_{t,1:T}y + C_{H, \phi_H} \|d_0\|_2 \phi_H^{T+1-t} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \phi_H^k + \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^{T+1}}{(1 - \phi_F \phi_G)(1 - \phi_G)} \right] \\
&= \max_{y \in [0,1]^T} \min_{t=1,\dots,T} \left[ M_{t,1:T}y + \frac{C_{H, \phi_H} \|d_0\|_2 \phi_H^{T+1-t}}{1 - \phi_H} + \mathcal{D}_{\phi_F, \phi_G} \frac{\phi_F^t \phi_G^{T+1}}{(1 - \phi_F \phi_G)(1 - \phi_G)} \right].
\end{aligned}$$

#### 9.4. Proof of the properties of the BPY model

Defining  $x_t = [x_{i,t} \ x_{y,t} \ x_{\pi,t}]'$ , the BPY model is in the form of Problem 2, with:

$$A := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\alpha_{\Delta y} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B := \begin{bmatrix} -1 & \alpha_{\Delta y} & \alpha_{\pi} \\ -\frac{1}{\sigma} & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{\sigma} \\ 0 & 0 & \beta \end{bmatrix}.$$

Assumption 2 is satisfied for this model as:

$$\det(A + B + C) = \det \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & \alpha_{\pi} \\ -\frac{1}{\sigma} & 0 & \frac{1}{\sigma} \\ 0 & \gamma & -1 \end{bmatrix} \neq 0$$

as  $\alpha_{\pi} \neq 1$  and  $\gamma \neq 0$ . Let  $f := F_{2,2}$ , where  $F$  is as in Assumption 1. Then:

$$F = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \alpha_{\Delta y}(f-1) + \alpha_{\pi} \frac{\gamma f}{1 - \beta f} & 0 \\ 0 & f & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\gamma f}{1 - \beta f} & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Hence:

$$f = f^2 - \frac{1}{\sigma} \left( \alpha_{\Delta y}(f-1) + \alpha_{\pi} \frac{\gamma f}{1 - \beta f} - \frac{\gamma f^2}{1 - \beta f} \right),$$

i.e.:

$$\beta \sigma f^3 - \left( (\alpha_{\Delta y} + \sigma)\beta + \gamma + \sigma \right) f^2 + \left( (1 + \beta)\alpha_{\Delta y} + \gamma\alpha_{\pi} + \sigma \right) f - \alpha_{\Delta y} = 0. \quad (3)$$

When  $f \leq 0$ , the left hand side is negative, and when  $f = 1$ , the left hand side equals  $(\alpha_{\pi} - 1)\gamma > 0$  (by assumption on  $\alpha_{\pi}$ ), hence equation (3) has either one or three solutions in  $(0,1)$ , and no solutions in  $(-\infty, 0]$ . We wish to prove there is a unique solution in  $(-1,1)$ . First note that when  $\alpha_{\pi} = 1$ , the discriminant of the polynomial is:

$$\left( (1 - \beta)(\alpha_{\Delta y} - \sigma) - \gamma \right)^2 \left( (\beta\alpha_{\Delta y})^2 + 2\beta(\gamma - \sigma)\alpha_{\Delta y} + (\gamma + \sigma)^2 \right).$$

The first multiplicand is positive. The second is minimised when  $\sigma = \beta\alpha_{\Delta y} - \gamma$ , at the value  $4\beta\gamma\alpha_{\Delta y} > 0$ , hence this multiplicand is positive too. Consequently, at least for small  $\alpha_{\pi}$ , there are three real solutions for  $f$ , so there may be multiple solutions in  $(0,1)$ .

Suppose for a contradiction that there were at least three solutions to equation (3) in  $(0,1)$  (double counting repeated roots), even for arbitrary large  $\beta \in (0,1)$ . Let  $f_1, f_2, f_3 \in (0,1)$  be the three roots. Then, by Vieta's formulas:

$$\begin{aligned}
3 > f_1 + f_2 + f_3 &= \frac{(\alpha_{\Delta y} + \sigma)\beta + \gamma + \sigma}{\beta\sigma}, \\
3 > f_1 f_2 + f_1 f_3 + f_2 f_3 &= \frac{(1 + \beta)\alpha_{\Delta y} + \gamma\alpha_\pi + \sigma}{\beta\sigma}, \\
1 > f_1 f_2 f_3 &= \frac{\alpha_{\Delta y}}{\beta\sigma},
\end{aligned}$$

so:

$$\begin{aligned}
(2\beta - 1)\sigma &> \beta\alpha_{\Delta y} + \gamma > \gamma > 0 \\
\beta &> \frac{1}{2}, \quad (2\beta - 1)\sigma > \gamma, \\
\beta\sigma &> \beta\alpha_{\Delta y} + \gamma + \sigma(1 - \beta), \\
2\beta\sigma &> (1 + \beta)\alpha_{\Delta y} + \gamma\alpha_\pi + \sigma(1 - \beta), \\
\beta\sigma &> \alpha_{\Delta y}.
\end{aligned}$$

Also, the first derivative of equation (3) must be strictly positive at  $f = 1$ , so:

$$(1 - \beta)(\alpha_{\Delta y} - \sigma) + (\alpha_\pi - 2)\gamma > 0.$$

Combining all of these inequalities gives the bounds:

$$\begin{aligned}
0 < \alpha_{\Delta y} &< 2\sigma - \frac{\gamma + \sigma}{\beta}, \\
2 + \frac{(1 - \beta)(\sigma - \alpha_{\Delta y})}{\gamma} &< \alpha_\pi < \frac{(3\beta - 1)\sigma - (1 + \beta)\alpha_{\Delta y}}{\gamma}.
\end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, if there are multiple solutions to equation (3), then the discriminant of its first derivative must be weakly positive, i.e.:

$$\left((\alpha_{\Delta y} + \sigma)\beta + \gamma + \sigma\right)^2 - 3\beta\sigma\left((1 + \beta)\alpha_{\Delta y} + \gamma\alpha_\pi + \sigma\right) \geq 0.$$

Therefore, we have the following bounds on  $\alpha_\pi$ :

$$2 + \frac{(1 - \beta)(\sigma - \alpha_{\Delta y})}{\gamma} < \alpha_\pi \leq \frac{\left((\alpha_{\Delta y} + \sigma)\beta + \gamma + \sigma\right)^2 - 3\beta\sigma\left((1 + \beta)\alpha_{\Delta y} + \sigma\right)}{3\beta\sigma\gamma}$$

since,

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{(3\beta - 1)\sigma - (1 + \beta)\alpha_{\Delta y}}{\gamma} - \frac{\left((\alpha_{\Delta y} + \sigma)\beta + \gamma + \sigma\right)^2 - 3\beta\sigma\left((1 + \beta)\alpha_{\Delta y} + \sigma\right)}{3\beta\sigma\gamma} \\
&= \frac{\left((2\sigma - \alpha_{\Delta y})\beta - \gamma - \sigma\right)\left((4\sigma + \alpha_{\Delta y})\beta + \gamma + \sigma\right)}{3\beta\gamma\sigma} > 0
\end{aligned}$$

as  $\alpha_{\Delta y} < 2\sigma - \frac{\gamma + \sigma}{\beta}$ . Consequently, there exists  $\lambda, \mu, \kappa \in [0, 1]$  such that:

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha_\pi &= (1 - \lambda) \left[ 2 + \frac{(1 - \beta)(\sigma - \alpha_{\Delta y})}{\gamma} \right] + \lambda \left[ \frac{\left((\alpha_{\Delta y} + \sigma)\beta + \gamma + \sigma\right)^2 - 3\beta\sigma\left((1 + \beta)\alpha_{\Delta y} + \sigma\right)}{3\beta\sigma\gamma} \right], \\
\alpha_{\Delta y} &= (1 - \mu)[0] + \mu \left[ 2\sigma - \frac{\gamma + \sigma}{\beta} \right], \\
\gamma &= (1 - \kappa)[0] + \kappa[(2\beta - 1)\sigma]
\end{aligned}$$

These simultaneous equations have unique solutions for  $\alpha_\pi, \alpha_{\Delta y}$  and  $\gamma$  in terms of  $\lambda, \mu$  and  $\kappa$ . Substituting these solutions into the discriminant of equation (3) gives a polynomial in  $\lambda, \mu, \kappa, \beta, \sigma$ . As such, an exact global maximum of the discriminant may be found subject to the constraints  $\lambda, \mu, \kappa \in [0, 1], \beta \in [\frac{1}{2}, 1], \sigma \in [0, \infty)$ , by using an exact compact polynomial optimisation solver, such as that in the Maple computer algebra

package. Doing this gives a maximum of 0 when  $\beta \in \{\frac{1}{2}, 1\}$ ,  $\kappa = 1$  and  $\sigma = 0$ . But of course, we actually require that  $\beta \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$ ,  $\kappa < 1$ ,  $\sigma > 0$ . Thus, by continuity, the discriminant is strictly negative over the entire possible domain. This gives the required contradiction to our assumption of three roots to the polynomial, establishing that Assumption 1 holds for this model.

Now, when  $T = 1$ ,  $M$  is equal to the top left element of the matrix  $-(B + CF)^{-1}$ , i.e.:

$$M = \frac{\beta\sigma f^2 - ((1 + \beta)\sigma + \gamma)f + \sigma}{\beta\sigma f^2 - ((1 + \beta)\sigma + \gamma + \beta\alpha_{\Delta y})f + \sigma + \alpha_{\Delta y} + \gamma\alpha_{\pi}}.$$

Now, multiplying the denominator by  $f$  gives:

$$\begin{aligned} & \beta\sigma f^3 - ((1 + \beta)\sigma + \gamma + \beta\alpha_{\Delta y})f^2 + (\sigma + \alpha_{\Delta y} + \gamma\alpha_{\pi})f \\ &= [\beta\sigma f^3 - ((\alpha_{\Delta y} + \sigma)\beta + \gamma + \sigma)f^2 + ((1 + \beta)\alpha_{\Delta y} + \gamma\alpha_{\pi} + \sigma)f - \alpha_{\Delta y}] - [\beta\alpha_{\Delta y}f - \alpha_{\Delta y}] \\ &= (1 - \beta f)\alpha_{\Delta y} > 0, \end{aligned}$$

by equation (3). Hence, the sign of  $M$  is that of  $\beta\sigma f^2 - ((1 + \beta)\sigma + \gamma)f + \sigma$ . I.e.,  $M$  is negative if and only if:

$$\frac{((1 + \beta)\sigma + \gamma) - \sqrt{((1 + \beta)\sigma + \gamma)^2 - 4\beta\sigma^2}}{2\beta\sigma} < f < \frac{((1 + \beta)\sigma + \gamma) + \sqrt{((1 + \beta)\sigma + \gamma)^2 - 4\beta\sigma^2}}{2\beta\sigma}.$$

The upper limit is greater than 1, so only the lower is relevant. To translate this bound on  $f$  into a bound on  $\alpha_{\Delta y}$ , we first need to establish that  $f$  is monotonic in  $\alpha_{\Delta y}$ .

Totally differentiating equation (3) gives:

$$\left[ 3\beta\sigma f^2 - 2((\alpha_{\Delta y} + \sigma)\beta + \gamma + \sigma)f + ((1 + \beta)\alpha_{\Delta y} + \gamma\alpha_{\pi} + \sigma) \right] \frac{df}{d\alpha_{\Delta y}} = (1 - \beta f)(1 - f) > 0.$$

Thus, the sign of  $\frac{df}{d\alpha_{\Delta y}}$  is equal to that of:

$$3\beta\sigma f^2 - 2((\alpha_{\Delta y} + \sigma)\beta + \gamma + \sigma)f + ((1 + \beta)\alpha_{\Delta y} + \gamma\alpha_{\pi} + \sigma).$$

Note, however, that this expression is just the derivative of the left hand side of equation (3) with respect to  $f$ .

To establish the sign of  $\frac{df}{d\alpha_{\Delta y}}$ , we consider two cases. First, suppose that equation (3) has three real solutions. Then, the unique solution to equation (3) in  $(0,1)$  is its lowest solution. Hence, this solution must be below the first local maximum of the left hand side of equation (3). Consequently, at the  $f \in (0,1)$ , which solves equation (3),  $3\beta\sigma f^2 - 2((\alpha_{\Delta y} + \sigma)\beta + \gamma + \sigma)f + ((1 + \beta)\alpha_{\Delta y} + \gamma\alpha_{\pi} + \sigma) > 0$ . Alternatively, suppose that equation (3) has a unique real solution. Then the left hand side of this equation cannot change sign in between its local maximum and its local minimum (if it has any). Thus, at the  $f \in (0,1)$  at which it changes sign, we must have that  $3\beta\sigma f^2 - 2((\alpha_{\Delta y} + \sigma)\beta + \gamma + \sigma)f + ((1 + \beta)\alpha_{\Delta y} + \gamma\alpha_{\pi} + \sigma) > 0$ . Therefore, in either case  $\frac{df}{d\alpha_{\Delta y}} > 0$ , meaning that  $f$  is monotonic increasing in  $\alpha_{\Delta y}$ .

Consequently, to find the critical  $(f, \alpha_{\Delta y})$  at which  $M$  changes sign, it is sufficient to find the lowest solution with respect to both  $f$  and  $\alpha_{\Delta y}$  of the pair of equations:

$$\begin{aligned} & \beta\sigma f^2 - ((1 + \beta)\sigma + \gamma)f + \sigma = 0, \\ & \beta\sigma f^3 - ((\alpha_{\Delta y} + \sigma)\beta + \gamma + \sigma)f^2 + ((1 + \beta)\alpha_{\Delta y} + \gamma\alpha_{\pi} + \sigma)f - \alpha_{\Delta y} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

The former implies that:

$$\beta\sigma f^3 - ((1 + \beta)\sigma + \gamma)f^2 + \sigma f = 0,$$

so, by the latter:

$$\alpha_{\Delta y} \beta f^2 - ((1 + \beta) \alpha_{\Delta y} + \gamma \alpha_{\pi}) f + \alpha_{\Delta y} = 0.$$

If  $\alpha_{\Delta y} = \sigma \alpha_{\pi}$ , then this equation holds if and only if:

$$\sigma \beta f^2 - ((1 + \beta) \sigma + \gamma) f + \sigma = 0.$$

Therefore, the critical  $(f, \alpha_{\Delta y})$  at which  $M$  changes sign are given by:

$$\alpha_{\Delta y} = \sigma \alpha_{\pi},$$

$$f = \frac{((1 + \beta) \sigma + \gamma) - \sqrt{((1 + \beta) \sigma + \gamma)^2 - 4 \beta \sigma^2}}{2 \beta \sigma}.$$

Thus,  $M$  is negative if and only if  $\alpha_{\Delta y} > \sigma \alpha_{\pi}$ , and  $M$  is zero if and only if  $\alpha_{\Delta y} = \sigma \alpha_{\pi}$ .

## 9.5. Proof of the properties of the BPY model with level targeting

Defining  $x_t = [x_{i,t} \ x_{y,t} \ x_{p,t}]'$ , the model of section 3.3 is in the form of Problem 2, with:

$$A := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B := \begin{bmatrix} -1 & \alpha_{\Delta y} & \alpha_{\pi} \\ -\frac{1}{\sigma} & -1 & -\frac{1}{\sigma} \\ 0 & \gamma & -1 - \beta \end{bmatrix}, \quad C := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{\sigma} \\ 0 & 0 & \beta \end{bmatrix}.$$

Assumption 2 is satisfied for this model as:

$$\det(A + B + C) = \det \begin{bmatrix} -1 & \alpha_{\Delta y} & \alpha_{\pi} \\ -\frac{1}{\sigma} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma & -1 \end{bmatrix} \neq 0$$

as  $\alpha_{\Delta y} \neq 0$  and  $\alpha_{\pi} \neq 0$ . Let  $f := F_{3,3}$ , where  $F$  is as in Assumption 1. Then:

$$F = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \frac{f(1-f)(\sigma \alpha_{\pi} - \alpha_{\Delta y})}{\alpha_{\Delta y} + (1-f)\sigma} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{f(1-f - \alpha_{\pi})}{\alpha_{\Delta y} + (1-f)\sigma} \\ 0 & 0 & f \end{bmatrix},$$

and so:

$$\beta \sigma f^3 - ((1 + 2\beta) \sigma + \beta \alpha_{\Delta y} + \gamma) f^2 + ((2 + \beta) \sigma + (1 + \beta) \alpha_{\Delta y} + (1 + \alpha_{\pi}) \gamma) f - (\sigma + \alpha_{\Delta y}) = 0.$$

Now define:

$$\hat{\alpha}_{\Delta y} := \sigma + \alpha_{\Delta y},$$

$$\hat{\alpha}_{\pi} := 1 + \alpha_{\pi}$$

so:

$$\beta \sigma f^3 - ((\hat{\alpha}_{\Delta y} + \sigma) \beta + \gamma + \sigma) f^2 + ((1 + \beta) \hat{\alpha}_{\Delta y} + \gamma \hat{\alpha}_{\pi} + \sigma) f - \hat{\alpha}_{\Delta y} = 0.$$

This is identical to the equation for  $f$  in the previous section, apart from the fact that  $\hat{\alpha}_{\Delta y}$  has replaced  $\alpha_{\Delta y}$  and  $\hat{\alpha}_{\pi}$  has replaced  $\alpha_{\pi}$ . Hence, by the results of the previous section, Assumption 1 holds for this model as well.

For this model, with  $T = 1$ :

$$M = \frac{(1-f)(1 + (1-f)\beta)\sigma^2 + ((1 + (1-f)\beta)\alpha_{\Delta y} + ((1-f) + \alpha_{\pi}f)\gamma)\sigma + (1-f)\gamma\alpha_{\Delta y}}{((1-f)(1 + (1-f)\beta)\sigma + (1 + (1-f)\beta)\alpha_{\Delta y} + ((1-f) + \alpha_{\pi})\gamma)(\sigma + \alpha_{\Delta y})} > 0.$$



## 9.6. Proof that the existence of a polynomial time approximate solution would imply $P=NP$

Suppose that we have some solution procedure which accepts problems in the form of Problem 2 (and possibly other problems) together with an accuracy level  $\epsilon$ , and, in time polynomial in  $n$ , returns a set  $\mathcal{D}_\epsilon \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  membership of which may be evaluated in time polynomial in  $n$ , and a policy function  $p_\epsilon: \mathcal{D}_\epsilon \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  that may be evaluated in time polynomial in  $n$  and that satisfies:

$$\|p^*(x) - p_\epsilon(x)\|_\infty < \epsilon,$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{D}^* \subseteq \mathcal{D}_\epsilon$ , where  $p_\epsilon(\cdot)$  may be evaluated in time polynomial in the number of state variables, and where  $p^*: \mathcal{D}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{D}^*$  is an exact policy function, i.e. a function satisfying:

1. For all  $x \in \mathcal{D}^*$ :

$$x_1 = \max\{0, I_{1,\cdot}\mu + A_{1,\cdot}(x - \mu) + (B_{1,\cdot} + I_{1,\cdot})(p^*(x) - \mu) + C_{1,\cdot}(p^*(p^*(x)) - \mu)\},$$

$$(A_{-1,\cdot} + B_{-1,\cdot} + C_{-1,\cdot})\mu = A_{-1,\cdot}x + B_{-1,\cdot}p^*(x) + C_{-1,\cdot}p^*(p^*(x)).$$

2. For all  $x_0 \in \mathcal{D}^*$ , if  $x_t = p^*(x_{t-1})$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , then  $x_t \rightarrow \mu$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .
3. For all  $x_0 \notin \mathcal{D}^*$ , there is no  $x_1, x_2, \dots \in \mathbb{R}^n$  which solve this instance of Problem 2.

Now consider the following “knapsack”-type problem from Chung (1989):

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### Problem 7

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Suppose  $a_1, \dots, a_{T-2}, b \in \mathbb{N}^+$  are given. Find  $z_1, \dots, z_{T-2} \in \{0,1\}$  such that  $\sum_{j=1}^{T-2} a_j z_j = b$ .

---

Chung (1989) shows that there exists  $q \in \mathbb{Z}^T$ ,  $M \in \mathbb{Z}^{T \times T}$ , such that Problem 7 has a solution if and only if the LCP  $(q, M)$  has a solution, where  $q$  and  $M$  may be computed from  $a_1, \dots, a_{T-2}$  and  $b$  in time polynomial in  $T$ . Furthermore, the details of the proof in Chung (1989) reveal that for any  $y \in \mathbb{R}^T$  that solves the LCP  $(q, M)$ ,  $y_{T-1} = y_T = 0$ , and setting  $z_t = \frac{y_t}{a_t}$  for  $t \in \{1, \dots, T-2\}$  solves Problem 7. Since  $a_1, \dots, a_{T-2} \in \mathbb{N}^+$  and  $z_1, \dots, z_{T-2} \in \{0,1\}$ , this implies that  $y_t \in \{0, a_t\} \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  for  $t \in \{1, \dots, T-2\}$ . Moreover, by Proposition 2, given  $a_1, \dots, a_{T-2}$  and  $b$  we can thus construct a model in the form of Problem 2 in polynomial time in  $T$ , featuring polynomial in  $T$  state variables, and such that for an appropriately chosen initial state, setting  $z_t = \frac{x_{1,t}}{a_t}$  for  $t \in \{1, \dots, T-2\}$  solves Problem 7 if it has a solution (where  $x_{1,t}$  gives the path of the bounded variable in the constructed model). Additionally, by inspecting the proof of Proposition 2 from the appendix (section 9.1), we see that since  $q \in \mathbb{Z}^T$ ,  $M \in \mathbb{Z}^{T \times T}$ , and  $y_t \in \mathbb{N}$  for all  $t \in \{1, \dots, T-2\}$ , it must be the case that for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $x_t \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  (for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ), so the model is always integer valued.

To complete the proof, we set  $\epsilon := \frac{1}{2}$ , and construct the policy function  $p_\epsilon$  for the constructed model. By assumption, we can do this in time polynomial in  $T$ . Using this we can construct an exact solution for  $z_t$  as follows. Set  $\hat{x}_0 := x_0$ . Now suppose we have defined  $\hat{x}_{t-1}$  for some  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ . We first test if  $\hat{x}_{t-1} \in \mathcal{D}_\epsilon$ . If it is not, then we terminate the procedure with a “no solution” message. Otherwise, we set each element of  $\hat{x}_t$  to be equal to the nearest integer to the corresponding element of  $p_\epsilon(\hat{x}_{t-1})$ . If we have successfully defined  $\hat{x}_t$  for  $t \in \{1, \dots, T-2\}$ , then define  $\hat{z}_t = \frac{\hat{x}_{1,t}}{a_t}$  for  $t \in \{1, \dots, T-2\}$  and test whether it solves Problem 7. If it does, report a “solution found” message, otherwise, report a “no solution” message. We now prove that this procedure works.

We first prove that if  $x_0 \in \mathcal{D}^* \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$  then  $\hat{x}_t = x_t \in \mathcal{D}^* \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ , by induction on  $t$ . The inductive base case is trivial. Suppose for the inductive step that for some  $t \in \mathbb{N}^+$ ,  $\hat{x}_{t-1} = x_{t-1} \in \mathcal{D}^* \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$ . Then  $\hat{x}_{t-1} \in$

$\mathcal{D}_\epsilon$ , so  $\hat{x}_t$  is defined and is equal to the (elementwise) nearest integer to  $p_\epsilon(\hat{x}_{t-1})$ . Then since as  $\hat{x}_{t-1} \in \mathcal{D}^*$ ,  $\|p^*(\hat{x}_{t-1}) - p_\epsilon(\hat{x}_{t-1})\|_\infty < \frac{1}{2}$ , and  $p^*: \mathcal{D}^* \cap \mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow \mathcal{D}^* \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$ , it must be the case that  $\hat{x}_t = p^*(\hat{x}_{t-1}) \in \mathcal{D}^* \cap \mathbb{Z}^n$ . This establishes the inductive hypothesis, and hence if we set  $\hat{z}_t = \frac{\hat{x}_{1,t}}{a_t}$  for  $t \in \{1, \dots, T-2\}$  then test whether it solves Problem 7, we will find that it does, giving a solution, after only polynomial in  $T$  calculations.

Now suppose that  $x_0 \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ , but  $x_0 \notin \mathcal{D}^*$ . There are two possibilities. Either we will find some  $t \in \{1, \dots, T-1\}$  for which  $\hat{x}_t \notin \mathcal{D}_\epsilon$ , and hence  $\hat{x}_t \notin \mathcal{D}^*$ , or we will successfully calculate  $\hat{x}_{1,t}$  for  $t \in \{1, \dots, T-2\}$ . By the previous result, in the former case we will have found in polynomial time in  $T$  a proof that  $x_0 \notin \mathcal{D}^*$ , and hence that there is no solution to Problem 7. In the latter case, we can again set  $\hat{z}_t = \frac{\hat{x}_{1,t}}{a_t}$  for  $t \in \{1, \dots, T-2\}$  and test whether it solves Problem 7, and we will find (in polynomial in  $T$  calculations) that it does not, giving an alternative polynomial time in  $T$  a proof that  $x_0 \notin \mathcal{D}^*$ , and hence that there is no solution to Problem 7.

We have thus established that the procedure described (calculating  $\hat{x}_1, \dots, \hat{x}_{T-2}$  and then testing whether  $\hat{z}_t = \frac{\hat{x}_{1,t}}{a_t}$  solves Problem 7), enables us to answer the question of whether Problem 7 has a solution in an amount of time that is polynomial in  $T$ . But Problem 7 is NP-complete (Karp 1972), and hence this implies that  $P=NP$ .

## 9.7. The augmented state-space representation of a pruned perturbation solution

We seek to convert the model into the form:

$$\begin{aligned} z_t &= o + P\tilde{z}_{t-1} + Q\tilde{\zeta}_t, \\ x_t &= u + Vz_t, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathbb{E}_{t-1}\tilde{\zeta}_t = 0$ , and where throughout,  $\tilde{\cdot}$ s over variables denote the subset of state variables. We proceed by taking each order of approximation in turn. We assume that the original model has  $l$  state variables. Of the assorted algorithms available for pruning, it appears that Lan and Meyer-Gohde's (2013a) algorithm is the most accurate (Lan and Meyer-Gohde 2013b), and so both the discussion below, and the implementation in DynareOBC is based on this approach, however, everything we say in the below would also go through with alternative pruning algorithms.

### 9.7.1. Order 1

At order 1:

$$\begin{aligned} x_t^{(1)} &= \alpha \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} + \beta_0 \epsilon_t, \\ x_t &= \mu_x + x_t^{(1)}, \end{aligned}$$

so if we define:

$$z_t := x_t^{(1)}, \quad \tilde{z}_t := \tilde{x}_t^{(1)}, \quad o := 0, \quad P := \alpha, \quad Q := \beta_0, \quad \tilde{\zeta}_t := \epsilon_t, \quad u := \mu_x, \quad V := I_n,$$

then we are done.

### 9.7.2. Order 2

At order 2:

$$\begin{aligned} x_t^{(1)} &= \alpha \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} + \beta_0 \epsilon_t, \\ x_t^{(2)} &= \alpha \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(2)} + \frac{1}{2} \beta_{22} (\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)}) + \beta_{20} (\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \epsilon_t) + \frac{1}{2} \beta_{00} (\epsilon_t \otimes \epsilon_t), \\ x_t &= \mu_x + x^{(0)} + x_t^{(1)} + x_t^{(2)}, \end{aligned}$$

for some constant  $x^{(0)}$ .

Now, note that:

$$\begin{aligned}
\tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} &= (\tilde{\alpha}\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} + \tilde{\beta}_0\varepsilon_t) \otimes (\tilde{\alpha}\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} + \tilde{\beta}_0\varepsilon_t) \\
&= \tilde{\alpha}\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{\alpha}\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} + \tilde{\alpha}\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0\varepsilon_t + \tilde{\beta}_0\varepsilon_t \otimes \tilde{\alpha}\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} + \tilde{\beta}_0\varepsilon_t \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0\varepsilon_t \\
&= (\tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\alpha})(\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)}) + (\tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0)(\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \varepsilon_t) + (\tilde{\beta}_0 \otimes \tilde{\alpha})(\varepsilon_t \otimes \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)}) + (\tilde{\beta}_0 \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0)(\varepsilon_t \otimes \varepsilon_t) \\
&= (\tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\alpha})(\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)}) + \left( (\tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0) + (\tilde{\beta}_0 \otimes \tilde{\alpha})K_{m,l} \right)(\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \varepsilon_t) + (\tilde{\beta}_0 \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0)(\varepsilon_t \otimes \varepsilon_t) \\
&= (\tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\alpha})(\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)}) + \left( (\tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0) + K_{l,l}(\tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0)K_{l,m}K_{m,l} \right)(\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \varepsilon_t) + (\tilde{\beta}_0 \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0)(\varepsilon_t \otimes \varepsilon_t) \\
&= (\tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\alpha})(\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)}) + (I_{l^2} + K_{l,l})(\tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0)(\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \varepsilon_t) + (\tilde{\beta}_0 \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0)(\varepsilon_t \otimes \varepsilon_t),
\end{aligned}$$

where  $K_{l,m} \in \mathbb{R}^{lm \times lm}$  is the commutation matrix for  $l \times m$  matrices, i.e. it is the unique matrix such that for all  $D \in \mathbb{R}^{l \times m}$ ,  $K_{l,m} \text{vec } D = \text{vec } D'$  (Magnus and Neudecker 1979). Thus, if we define:

$$\begin{aligned}
z_t &:= \begin{bmatrix} x_t^{(1)} \\ x_t^{(2)} \\ \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \tilde{z}_t := \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \\ \tilde{x}_t^{(2)} \\ \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \end{bmatrix}, \\
P &:= \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha & \frac{1}{2}\beta_{22} \\ 0 & 0 & \tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\alpha} \end{bmatrix}, \quad Q := \begin{bmatrix} \beta_0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2}\beta_{00} & \beta_{20} \\ 0 & \tilde{\beta}_0 \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0 & (I_{l^2} + K_{l,l})(\tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0) \end{bmatrix}, \\
\zeta_t &:= \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_t \\ \varepsilon_t \otimes \varepsilon_t - \text{vec } \Sigma \\ \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \varepsilon_t \end{bmatrix}, \quad o := \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{1}{2}\beta_{00} \text{vec } \Sigma \\ (\tilde{\beta}_0 \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0) \text{vec } \Sigma \end{bmatrix}, \\
u &:= \mu_x + x^{(0)}, \quad V := [I \quad I \quad 0],
\end{aligned}$$

then we are done.

### 9.7.3. Order 3

At order 3:

$$\begin{aligned}
x_t^{(1)} &= \alpha\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} + \beta_0\varepsilon_t, \\
x_t^{(2)} &= \alpha\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(2)} + \frac{1}{2}\beta_{22}(\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)}) + \beta_{20}(\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \varepsilon_t) + \frac{1}{2}\beta_{00}(\varepsilon_t \otimes \varepsilon_t), \\
x_t^{(1,\sigma^2)} &= \alpha\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1,\sigma^2)} + \frac{1}{2}\beta_{\sigma^2,0}\varepsilon_t + \frac{1}{2}\beta_{\sigma^2,1}\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)}, \\
x_t^{(3)} &= \alpha\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(3)} + \frac{1}{6}\beta_{333,1}(\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)}) + \frac{1}{6}\beta_{000}(\varepsilon_t \otimes \varepsilon_t \otimes \varepsilon_t) + \frac{1}{2}\beta_{330,1}(\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \varepsilon_t) \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2}\beta_{300}(\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \varepsilon_t \otimes \varepsilon_t) + \beta_{22}(\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(2)} \otimes \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)}) + \beta_{20}(\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(2)} \otimes \varepsilon_t), \\
x_t &= \mu_x + x^{(0)} + x_t^{(1)} + x_t^{(2)} + x_t^{(1,\sigma^2)} + x_t^{(3)},
\end{aligned}$$

for the same constant  $x^{(0)}$  as at order 2, providing the shocks have zero skewness (e.g. they are normally distributed). By similar calculations to those at second order, we then have that if we define:

$$z_t^3 := \mathbb{E}_s \begin{bmatrix} x_t^{(1)} \\ x_t^{(2)} \\ \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \\ x_t^{(1,\sigma^2)} \\ x_t^{(3)} \\ \tilde{x}_t^{(2)} \otimes \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \\ \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \end{bmatrix}, \quad z_t^3 := \mathbb{E}_s \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \\ \tilde{x}_t^{(2)} \\ \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \\ \tilde{x}_t^{(1,\sigma^2)} \\ \tilde{x}_t^{(3)} \\ \tilde{x}_t^{(2)} \otimes \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \\ \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_t^{(1)} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\begin{aligned}
P &:= \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha & \frac{1}{2}\beta_{22} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\alpha} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2}\beta_{\sigma^2,1} & 0 & 0 & \alpha & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2}\beta_{300}(I_l \otimes \text{vec } \Sigma) & 0 & 0 & 0 & \alpha & \beta_{22} \\ \left( \tilde{\beta}_{20} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0 + \frac{1}{2}K_{l,l}(\tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_{00}) \right) (I_l \otimes \text{vec } \Sigma) & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\alpha} \\ \left( (I_{l^2} + K_{l,l}) \otimes I_l + K_{l^2,l} \right) (\tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0 \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0) (I_l \otimes \text{vec } \Sigma) & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\
Q_{11} &:= \begin{bmatrix} \beta_0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2}\beta_{00} & \beta_{20} \\ 0 & \tilde{\beta}_0 \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0 & (I_{l^2} + K_{l,l})(\tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0) \\ \frac{1}{2}\beta_{\sigma^2,0} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\
Q_{22} &:= \begin{bmatrix} \beta_{20} & \frac{1}{2}\beta_{330,1} & \frac{1}{2}\beta_{300} & \frac{1}{6}\beta_{000} \\ \tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0 & \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\beta}_{22} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0 + (\tilde{\beta}_{20} \otimes \tilde{\alpha})(I_l \otimes K_{m,l}) & \tilde{\beta}_{20} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0 + \frac{1}{2}K_{l,l}(\tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_{00}) & \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\beta}_{00} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0 \\ 0 & (I_l \otimes (I_{l^2} + K_{l,l}) + K_{l,l^2})(\tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0) & ((I_{l^2} + K_{l,l}) \otimes I_l + K_{l^2,l})(\tilde{\alpha} \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0 \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0) & \tilde{\beta}_0 \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0 \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0 \end{bmatrix}, \\
Q &:= \begin{bmatrix} Q_{11} & 0 \\ 0 & Q_{22} \end{bmatrix}, \\
\zeta_t &:= \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_t \\ \varepsilon_t \otimes \varepsilon_t - \text{vec } \Sigma \\ \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \varepsilon_t \\ \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(2)} \otimes \varepsilon_t \\ \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \varepsilon_t \\ \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes (\varepsilon_t \otimes \varepsilon_t - \text{vec } \Sigma) \\ \varepsilon_t \otimes \varepsilon_t \otimes \varepsilon_t \end{bmatrix}, \quad o := \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{1}{2}\beta_{00} \text{vec } \Sigma \\ (\tilde{\beta}_0 \otimes \tilde{\beta}_0) \text{vec } \Sigma \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \\
u &:= \mu_x + x^{(0)}, \quad V := [I \quad I \quad 0 \quad I \quad I \quad 0 \quad 0],
\end{aligned}$$

then again we are done.

## 9.8. The conditional covariance of future variables under a pruned perturbation solution

First, suppose that:

$$z_t = o + Pz_{t-1} + Q\zeta_t$$

where  $\mathbb{E}_t \zeta_{t+k} = 0$  for  $k > 0$ . Then:

$$\mathbb{E}_t z_{t+k} = \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} P^j o + P^k z_t,$$

so:

$$z_{t+k} - \mathbb{E}_t z_{t+k} = \sum_{j=1}^k P^{k-j} Q \zeta_{t+j}.$$

Consequently:

$$\text{cov}_t(z_{t+a}, z_{t+b}) = \sum_{i=1}^a \sum_{j=1}^b P^{a-i} Q(\mathbb{E}_t \tilde{\zeta}_{t+i} \tilde{\zeta}'_{t+j}) Q' P^{b-j}$$

If  $\mathbb{E}_t \tilde{\zeta}_{t+i} \tilde{\zeta}'_{t+j} = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ , then this simplifies to:

$$\text{cov}_t(z_{t+a}, z_{t+b}) = P^{a-\min\{a,b\}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{\min\{a,b\}} P^{\min\{a,b\}-i} Q(\mathbb{E}_t \tilde{\zeta}_{t+i} \tilde{\zeta}'_{t+i}) Q' P^{\min\{a,b\}-i} \right] P^{b-\min\{a,b\}}.$$

Now, in the previous section of these appendices (9.7), we showed that at order 1, 2 and 3 the pruned perturbation solutions may be represented in the form:

$$z_t = o + P\tilde{z}_{t-1} + Q\tilde{\zeta}_t$$

where  $\mathbb{E}_t \tilde{\zeta}_{t+k} = 0$  for  $k > 0$ . It is trivial to add zero columns to  $P$  so that we instead have:

$$z_t = o + Pz_{t-1} + Q\tilde{\zeta}_t,$$

thus, we just need to evaluate  $\mathbb{E}_t(\tilde{\zeta}_{t+i} \tilde{\zeta}'_{t+j})$  in order to have a closed form expression for  $\text{cov}_t(z_{t+a}, z_{t+b})$ , then from this and the fact that  $x_t = u + Vz_t$ , we would have that:

$$\text{cov}_t(x_{t+a}, x_{t+b}) = \text{cov}_t(u + Vz_{t+a}, u + Vz_{t+b}) = V \text{cov}_t(z_{t+a}, z_{t+b}) V'.$$

We now proceed to evaluate  $\mathbb{E}_t \tilde{\zeta}_{t+i} \tilde{\zeta}'_{t+j}$  for orders 1 and 2. We skip the third order case as a second order approximation to the conditional covariance is normally sufficient for reasonable accuracy, and as the third order conditional covariance is very slow to calculate.

### 9.8.1. Order 1

At order 1,  $\tilde{\zeta}_t := \varepsilon_t$ , thus:

$$\mathbb{E}_t \tilde{\zeta}_{t+i} \tilde{\zeta}'_{t+j} = \begin{cases} \Sigma & \text{if } i = j \\ 0 & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}.$$

### 9.8.2. Order 2

At order 2:

$$\tilde{\zeta}_t := \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_t \\ \varepsilon_t \otimes \varepsilon_t - \text{vec } \Sigma \\ \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \varepsilon_t \end{bmatrix},$$

thus

$$\mathbb{E}_t \tilde{\zeta}_{t+i} \tilde{\zeta}'_{t+j} = 0 \text{ if } i \neq j,$$

and by theorem 4.3 of Magnus and Neudecker (1979):

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_s \tilde{\zeta}_t \tilde{\zeta}'_t &= \mathbb{E}_s \begin{bmatrix} 1 \otimes \varepsilon_t \\ \varepsilon_t \otimes \varepsilon_t - \text{vec } \Sigma \\ \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \varepsilon_t \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \otimes \varepsilon'_t & \varepsilon'_t \otimes \varepsilon'_t - (\text{vec } \Sigma)' & \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{1'} \otimes \varepsilon'_t \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma & 0 & \mathbb{E}_s \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{1'} \otimes \Sigma \\ 0 & (I_{m^2} + K_{m,m})(\Sigma \otimes \Sigma) & 0 \\ \mathbb{E}_s \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \otimes \Sigma & 0 & \mathbb{E}_s (\tilde{x}_{t-1}^{(1)} \tilde{x}_{t-1}^{1'}) \otimes \Sigma \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

## 9.9. Statistical smoothing of cubature results

Let  $\mathcal{Y}_{:,d} \in \mathbb{R}^T$  be the value of the integral calculated using a cubature rule that is exact for monomials up to degree  $d$ . Let  $\mathcal{Y} := [\mathcal{Y}_{:,1} \ \cdots \ \mathcal{Y}_{:,D}]$ , for some  $D \in \mathbb{N}^+$ . Let  $\mu$  be the true value of this integral. We seek to model the distribution of  $\mathcal{Y}$ . In particular, we suppose that  $\text{vec } \mathcal{Y}$  is jointly normally distributed, and that:

1) for all  $d \in \{1, \dots, D\}$ :  $\mathbb{E} \mathcal{Y}_{:,d} = \mu$ ,

2) for all  $t \in \{1, \dots, T\}$ ,  $d \in \{1, \dots, D\}$ :  $\text{var } \mathcal{Y}_{t,d} = \frac{\sigma_t^2 \kappa^{2(d-1)}}{(1-\rho^2)(1-\phi^2)}$ ,

$$3) \text{ for all } s, t \in \{1, \dots, T\}, c, d \in \{1, \dots, D\}: \frac{\text{cov}(\mathcal{Y}_{s,c}, \mathcal{Y}_{t,d})}{\sqrt{\text{var} \mathcal{Y}_{s,c}} \sqrt{\text{var} \mathcal{Y}_{t,d}}} = \phi^{|s-t|} \rho^{|c-d|},$$

where  $\rho, \phi \in (-1, 1)$  and  $\kappa \in (0, 1)$ . Here: 1) captures a belief that there is no systematic bias in our cubature rules over the space of functions we might like to integrate; 2) captures the fact that there is no reason to believe different coordinates of the integrand should be estimated equally precisely, through the  $\sigma_t^2$  term; 2) also captures our belief that integrals evaluated at higher degrees should be more accurate, through the  $\kappa^{2d}$  term; finally, 3) captures our beliefs that errors are correlated both across nearby integration degrees, and across nearby elements of the integrand.

Given these assumptions, straightforward calculation reveals that:

$$\text{vec } \mathcal{Y} \sim \mathcal{N}(1_{D \times 1} \otimes \mu, ((\text{diag } K)P(\text{diag } K)) \otimes ((\text{diag } \sigma)\Phi(\text{diag } \sigma))),$$

where:

$$K := \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \kappa \\ \vdots \\ \kappa^{D-1} \end{bmatrix}, \quad P := \frac{1}{1-\rho^2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho & \dots & \rho^{D-1} \\ \rho & 1 & \dots & \rho^{D-2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \rho^{D-1} & \rho^{D-2} & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Phi := \frac{1}{1-\phi^2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \phi & \dots & \phi^{T-1} \\ \phi & 1 & \dots & \phi^{T-2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi^{T-1} & \phi^{T-2} & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Hence, given an observation of  $\mathcal{Y}$  it is straightforward to find the  $\mu, \kappa, \rho, \phi$  which maximise the likelihood of that observation. We then take the maximum likelihood estimate of  $\mu$  as our new estimate of the true value of the integral.

Alternatively, we may wish to impose a prior over  $\kappa$ , as when  $D$  is small, there is little information about this parameter, so the optimisation tends to push it towards zero. (For example, when  $D = 2$ , in the limit as  $\kappa \rightarrow 0$ , the likelihood goes to  $\infty$ .) In DynareOBC, we allow the user to specify the parameters of the following density:

$$f(\kappa) = \frac{1 - (1 - \kappa^\alpha)^\beta}{1 - \frac{\Gamma(1+\beta)\Gamma(\frac{1}{\alpha})}{\alpha\Gamma(1+\beta+\frac{1}{\alpha})}}$$

to use as a prior for  $\kappa$ . We then maximise the posterior density, implicitly placing a flat prior on all other parameters. This appears to improve accuracy for large as well as small  $D$ , by ensuring that  $\kappa$  is not driven too small, too quickly.

We end with some theoretical results to demonstrate that this integration method still exactly integrates polynomials, albeit with additional evaluations. First, note that two times the negative log likelihood is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} & \log |((\text{diag } K)P(\text{diag } K)) \otimes ((\text{diag } \sigma)\Phi(\text{diag } \sigma))| \\ & + (\text{vec } \mathcal{Y} - 1_{D \times 1} \otimes \mu)' [((\text{diag } K)P(\text{diag } K)) \otimes ((\text{diag } \sigma)\Phi(\text{diag } \sigma))]^{-1} (\text{vec } \mathcal{Y} - 1_{D \times 1} \otimes \mu) \\ & + TD \log(2\pi) \\ = & T[D(D-1) \log \kappa - \log(1-\rho) - \log(1+\rho)] + D[2(1'_{T \times 1} \log \sigma) - \log(1-\phi) - \log(1+\phi)] \\ & + \text{vec}(\mathcal{Y} - \mu 1'_{D \times 1})' [((\text{diag } K)^{-1}P^{-1}(\text{diag } K)^{-1}) \\ & \otimes ((\text{diag } \sigma)^{-1}\Phi^{-1}(\text{diag } \sigma)^{-1})] \text{vec}(\mathcal{Y} - \mu 1'_{D \times 1}) + TD \log(2\pi). \end{aligned}$$

Now, suppose that for some  $E \in \{0, \dots, D\}$ ,  $y_{\cdot, E+1} = y_{\cdot, E+2} = \dots = y_{\cdot, D}$ , which is true for example if the integrand is a polynomial which the degree  $E + 1$  rule integrates exactly. Furthermore, suppose that  $\rho = \phi = 0$ , and  $\mu = y_{\cdot, D}$ . Then, at these parameters, two times the negative log likelihood is given by:

$$TD(D-1) \log \kappa + 2D \sum_{t=1}^T \log \sigma_t + \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{d=1}^E \frac{(y_{t,d} - y_{t,D})^2}{\sigma_t^2 \kappa^{2(d-1)}} + TD \log(2\pi).$$

The  $\sigma$  minimising this expression satisfies the following for all  $t \in \{1, \dots, T\}$ :

$$\sigma_t^2 = \frac{1}{D} \sum_{d=1}^E \frac{(y_{t,d} - y_{t,D})^2}{\kappa^{2(d-1)}}.$$

With this  $\sigma$ , twice the negative log likelihood equals:

$$\begin{aligned} & TD(D-1) \log \kappa + D \sum_{t=1}^T \log \left[ \frac{1}{D} \sum_{d=1}^E \frac{(y_{t,d} - y_{t,D})^2}{\kappa^{2(d-1)}} \right] + TD(1 + \log(2\pi)) \\ & \leq TD(D-1) \log \kappa + TD \log \left[ \kappa^{-2(E-1)} \frac{E}{D} \max \left\{ (y_{t,d} - y_{t,D})^2 \mid t \in \{1, \dots, T\}, d \in \{1, \dots, E\} \right\} \right] \\ & \quad + TD(1 + \log(2\pi)) \\ & = TD[(D-1) - 2(E-1)] \log \kappa + TD \log \left[ \frac{E}{D} \max \left\{ (y_{t,d} - y_{t,D})^2 \mid t \in \{1, \dots, T\}, d \in \{1, \dots, E\} \right\} \right] \\ & \quad + TD(1 + \log(2\pi)). \end{aligned}$$

Providing  $D \geq 2E$ , as  $\kappa \rightarrow 0$ , this last expression tends to  $-\infty$ , so the log likelihood must tend to  $\infty$ . Therefore, when  $D \geq 2E$ ,  $\kappa = \rho = \phi = 0$ ,  $\mu = y_{\cdot, D}$  maximises the log-likelihood, implying that the statistical smoothing procedure will return the exact integral of the integrand when used without a prior on  $\kappa$ . When there is a prior on  $\kappa$ , the same result will hold for some sufficiently high  $D$ , providing that the prior has support on  $(0,1)$  and providing that its log density is greater than  $\hat{\alpha} \log \kappa$  in a neighbourhood of 0, for some  $\hat{\alpha} \geq 0$ . The prior given above satisfies this condition with  $\hat{\alpha} = \alpha$ , so it will integrate exactly in the setting above providing  $D > 2E - 1 + \frac{2\alpha}{TD}$ .