Tutorial I EABCN Training School

Christian Wolf

June 2018

Tutorial Objectives

- 1. Towards micro heterogeneity: the income fluctuation problem
 - Problem set-up and link to lectures
 - Details on the Kolmogorov forward equation
- 2. Tying up some loose ends on theory
 - Deriving HJB/KFE as continuous-time limits
 - MPCs and the Feynman-Kac formula
- 3. Going through codes in detail
 - Implementing HJB + KFE
 - Comparison with discrete-time best-practice
- 4. Harder problems, extensions
 - Models with non-convexities
 - · 2-asset models
 - Sparsity with many income states

1

1. The Income Fluctuation Problem

2. More Theory

HJB and KFE as Discrete-Time Limits The Feynman-Kac Formula Viscosity Solutions and FD Schemes

3. Coding Details

HJB and KFE: Implementation Vs. Discrete-Time Best Practice

4. Harder Problems

2-Asset Models
Non-Convexities

Sparsity and Many Income States

1. The Income Fluctuation Problem

2. More Theory

HJB and KFE as Discrete-Time Limits The Feynman-Kac Formula Viscosity Solutions and FD Schemes

3. Coding Details

HJB and KFE: Implementation Vs. Discrete-Time Best Practice

4. Harder Problems

2-Asset Models
Non-Convexities
Sparsity and Many Income State:

The Problem

- The income fluctuation/consumption insurance problem
 - Consider a single household subject to uninsurable income risk
 - Self-insure through risk-free borrowing/saving (with borrowing constraint)
 - o Significance: this is the canonical "heterogeneous-household" problem
- The problem of the household is

$$\max \mathbb{E}_0 \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} u(c_t) dt \right]$$

such that

$$\dot{a}_t = ra_t + y_t - c_t$$
 $a_t \geq \underline{a}$

and given an exogenous law of motion for y

- We let y follow a two-state Poisson process: $y \in \{y_1, y_2\}$
 - o Alternative (in lecture): diffusion process

1

Optimal Behavior: The HJB

Optimal household behavior is characterized by the HJB:

$$\rho v_j(a) = \max_c u(c) + \frac{\partial v_j(a)}{\partial a} (ra + y_j - c) + \lambda_j (v_{-j}(a) - v_j(a))$$

Everywhere on the interior of the state space we have the FOC

$$u'(c) = \frac{\partial v_j(a)}{\partial a}$$

On the boundary we have the state boundary condition

$$v_j'(\underline{a}) = u'(y_j + r\underline{a})$$

- Where does this come from? ensure positive drift at <u>a</u>
- Formal justification: constrained viscosity solution

Solving the HJB

Solution is exactly analogous to what you saw in lecture:

- 1. Discretize using finite difference approximation with upwinding
- 2. Find optimal consumption/savings from FOC to get

$$\rho v_{i,j} = u(c_{i,j}) + (v_{i,j})'[y_j + ra_i - c_{i,j}] + \lambda_j[v_{i,-j} - v_{i,j}]$$

3. Update from v^n to v^{n+1} using explicit or implicit iterative scheme, e.g.

$$\frac{v_{i,j}^{n+1} - v_{i,j}^{n}}{\Delta} + \rho v_{i,j}^{n+1} = u(c_{i,j}^{n}) + v_{i-1,j}^{n+1} x_{i,j} + v_{i,j}^{n+1} y_{i,j} + v_{i+1,j}^{n+1} z_{i,j} + v_{i,-j}^{n+1} \lambda_{j}$$

where

$$x_{i,j} = -\frac{(s_{i,j,B}^n)^-}{\Delta a}, \quad y_{i,j} = -\frac{(s_{i,j,F}^n)^+}{\Delta a} + \frac{(s_{i,j,B}^n)^-}{\Delta a} - \lambda_j, \quad z_{i,j} = -\frac{(s_{i,j,F}^n)^+}{\Delta a}$$

4. Repeat until convergence

5

Solving the HJB

In more compact notation the implicit system is

$$\frac{1}{\Delta}(v^{n+1} - v^n) + \rho v^{n+1} = u^n + A^n v^{n+1}$$

where

$$A^{n} = \begin{pmatrix} y_{1,1} & z_{1,1} & 0 & \dots & 0 & \lambda_{1} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ x_{2,1} & y_{2,1} & z_{2,1} & 0 & \dots & 0 & \lambda_{1} & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & x_{3,1} & y_{3,1} & z_{3,1} & 0 & \dots & 0 & \lambda_{1} & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & x_{l,1} & y_{l,1} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_{1} \\ \lambda_{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & y_{1,2} & z_{1,2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & x_{2,2} & y_{2,2} & z_{2,2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & x_{2,3} & y_{3,2} & z_{3,2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \ddots \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 & \lambda_{2} & 0 & \dots & 0 & x_{l,2} & y_{l,2} \end{pmatrix}$$

Household Distributions: The KFE

- What happens in an economy populated by many such households?
 - \circ Key object is the distribution of households over the state space: $g_t(a, y)$
 - Evolution of distribution is given by the KFE:

$$\partial_t g_t(a, y_j) = -\frac{d}{da} [s(a, y_j)g_t(a, y_j)] - \lambda_j g_t(a, y_j) + \lambda_{-j} g_t(a, y_{-j})$$

- We get the numerical solution almost for free
 - Discretize

$$0 = -[s_{i,j}g_{i,j}]' - \lambda_j g_{i,j} + \lambda_{-j}g_{i,-j}, \quad 1 = \sum_{i=1}^{l} g_{i,1} \Delta a + \sum_{i=1}^{l} g_{i,2} \Delta a$$

Now use

$$-\frac{g_{i,j}(s_{i,j,F}^n)^+ - g_{i-1,j}(s_{i-1,j,F}^n)^+}{\Delta a} - \frac{g_{i+1,j}(s_{i+1,j,B}^n)^- - g_{i,j}(s_{i-1,j,B}^n)^-}{\Delta a} - g_{i,j}\lambda_i + g_{i,-j}\lambda_{-j} = 0$$

o Then easy to see that this is just

$$A^Tg=0$$

Interpretation: generator/adjoint generator

7

1. The Income Fluctuation Problem

2. More Theory

HJB and KFE as Discrete-Time Limits The Feynman-Kac Formula Viscosity Solutions and FD Schemes

3. Coding Details

HJB and KFE: Implementation Vs. Discrete-Time Best Practice

4. Harder Problems

2-Asset Models Non-Convexities Sparsity and Many Income States

1. The Income Fluctuation Problem

2. More Theory

HJB and KFE as Discrete-Time Limits

The Feynman-Kac Formula Viscosity Solutions and FD Schemes

Coding Details

HJB and KFE: Implementation

Vs. Discrete-Time Best Practice

4. Harder Problems

2-Asset Models

Non-Convexities

Sparsity and Many Income States

From Bellman Equation to HJB

ullet For time periods of length Δ we have the standard Bellman equation

$$v(k_t) = \max_{c_t} \Delta u(c_t) + e^{-\rho \Delta} v(k_{t+\Delta})$$

such that

$$k_{t+\Delta} = \Delta [F(k_t) - \delta k_t - c_t] + k_t$$

- Limiting behavior of constraint is immediate: $\dot{k}_t = F(k_t) \delta k_t c_t$
- For HJB itself use that $e^{-\rho\Delta} \approx 1 \rho\Delta$:

$$v(k_t) = \max_{c_t} \Delta u(c_t) + (1 - \rho \Delta) v(k_{t+\Delta})$$

Re-arrange and divide by Δ:

$$\rho v(k_t) = \max_{c_t} u(c_t) + (1 - \Delta \rho) \frac{v(k_{t+\Delta}) - v(k_t)}{k_{t+\Delta} - k_t} \frac{k_{t+\Delta} - k_t}{\Delta}$$

· Taking limits completes the argument

The KFE

- In the income fluctuation problem wealth evolves as $a_{t+\Delta} = a_t + \Delta s_i(a_t)$
- Thus the fraction of people with wealth below a evolves as

$$G_i(a, t + \Delta) \equiv \Pr(a_{t+\Delta} \le a, z_{t+\Delta} = z_i) = (1 - \Delta\lambda_i)\Pr(a_t \le a - \Delta s_i(a), z_t = z_i) + \Delta\lambda_j\Pr(a_t \le a - \Delta s_j(a), z_t = z_j)$$

• Subtracting $G_i(a, t)$ from both sides, dividing by Δ :

$$\frac{G_i(a, t + \Delta) - G_i(a, t)}{\Delta} = \frac{G_i(a - \Delta s_i(a), t) - G_i(a, t)}{\Delta} - \lambda_i G_i(a - \Delta s_i(a), t) + \lambda_j G_j(a - \Delta s_j(a), t)$$

Taking the limit:

$$\partial_t G_i(a, t) = -s_i(a)\partial_a G_i(a, t) - \lambda_i G_i(a, t) + \lambda_j G_j(a, t)$$

Differentiate w.r.t. a:

$$\partial_t g_i(a, t) = -\partial_a s_i(a) g_i(a, t) - \lambda_i g_i(a, t) + \lambda_j g_j(a, t)$$

9

1. The Income Fluctuation Problem

2. More Theory

HJB and KFE as Discrete-Time Limits
The Feynman-Kac Formula
Viscosity Solutions and FD Schemes

3. Coding Details

HJB and KFE: Implementation Vs. Discrete-Time Best Practice

4. Harder Problems

2-Asset Models
Non-Convexities

Sparsity and Many Income States

The Feynman-Kac Formula

Consider a diffusion

$$dx_t = \mu(x_t)dt + \sigma(x_t)dW_t$$

Then the solution to the PDE

$$0 = f(x) + \mu(x)\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(x, t) + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^{2}(x)\frac{\partial u^{2}}{\partial x^{2}}(x, t) + \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(x, t)$$

with terminal condition $u(x, \tau) = 0$ satisfies

$$u(x,0) = \mathbb{E}_0 \left[\int_0^\tau f(x_t) dt \mid x_0 = x \right]$$

- This is slightly less general than the full Feynman-Kac formula (which allows for discounting in the integral)
- General formula features the infinitesimal generator of a stochastic process (a partial differential operator encoding everything you need)

Why this is useful

How should we define (measurable) MPCs in continuous time?

$$C_{\tau}(a, y) = \mathbb{E}_{0} \left[\int_{0}^{\tau} c(a_{t}, y_{t}) dt \mid a_{0} = a, y_{0} = y \right]$$

$$MPC_{\tau}(a, y) = \frac{\partial C_{\tau}}{\partial a}(a, y)$$

- First expression is consumption flow over interval (e.g. quarter)
- MPC then captures change in consumption over following quarter for change in income today
- Get more natural discrete MPCs as

$$MPC_{\tau}^{x}(a, y) \equiv \frac{C_{\tau}(a + x, y) - C_{\tau}(a, y)}{x}$$

- This is exactly what the Feynman-Kac formula gives us
 - \circ s = (a, y) follows a diffusion process
 - Thus remains to solve one PDE and take one derivative
 - Used for example in Kaplan, Moll and Violante (2018)

1

1. The Income Fluctuation Problem

2. More Theory

HJB and KFE as Discrete-Time Limits The Feynman-Kac Formula Viscosity Solutions and FD Schemes

3. Coding Details

HJB and KFE: Implementation Vs. Discrete-Time Best Practice

4. Harder Problems

2-Asset Models

Non-Convexities

Sparsity and Many Income States

A Quick Overview

- Consider a generic PDE: F(x, v, Dv) = 0, $x \in \Omega$
- Classical solution concept: find function v(x) such that
 - 1. v is continuous and differentiable over Ω
 - 2. Above equation holds for all $x \in \Omega$
- Viscosity solutions
 - Define a weak type of solution: don't require v to be differentiable everywhere, just satisfy PDE in a "weak" sense
 - \circ Basic idea: whenever v'(x) doesn't exist (kink) replace it with derivative of smooth function ϕ touching v

Main takeaways

- This is exactly the right solution concept
- o "Constrained" viscosity solutions give us boundary conditions
- Maximization problems only allow convex kinds

Finite Difference Schemes

Write the HJB as

$$0 = G(k, v(k), v'(k), v''(k))$$

and consider the FD scheme

$$0 = S(\Delta k, k_i, v_i; v_{i-1}, v_{i+1})$$

For example for a growth model

$$G(k, v(k), v'(k), v''(k)) = \rho v(k) - \max_{c} \{u(c) + v'(k)(F(k) - \delta k - c)\}$$

and

$$S(\Delta k, k_{i}, v_{i}; v_{i-1}, v_{i+1}) = \rho v_{i} - u(c_{i}) - \frac{v_{i+1} - v_{i}}{\Delta k} (F(k_{i}) - \delta k_{i} - c_{i})^{+} - \frac{v_{i} - v_{i-1}}{\Delta k} (F(k_{i}) - \delta k_{i} - c_{i})^{-}$$

Main Result

Three conditions:

- 1. Monotonicity. S is non-increasing in both v_{i-1} and v_{i+1}
- 2. Consistency. For every smooth function v with bounded derivatives:

$$S(\Delta k, k_i, v(k_i); v(k_{i-1}), v(k_{i+1})) \to G(v(k), v'(k), v''(k))$$

as $\Delta k \to 0$ and $k_i \to k$

3. Stability. For every $\Delta k > 0$, there is a solution v_i , i = 1, ..., I, uniformly bounded independent of Δk .

Theorem

If the FD scheme satisfies 1. - 3., then as $\Delta k \to 0$ its solution v_i converges uniformly to the unique viscosity solution of G.

Discussing Monotonicity

- Consistency and stability are usually easy; monotonicity is the problem
- Interpretation: value today is increasing in continuation value

$$\tilde{S}(\Delta k, k_i, v_i; v_{i-1}, v_{i+1}) = u(c_i) + \frac{v_{i+1} - v_i}{\Delta k} (F(k_i) + \delta k_i - c_i)^+
+ \frac{v_i - v_{i-1}}{\Delta k} (F(k_i) - \delta k_i - c_i)^-$$

and \tilde{S} is increasing in v_{i-1} , v_{i+1}

• Easy to see that upwind scheme does exactly that in growth model:

$$S(\Delta k, k_i, v_i; v_{i-1}, v_{i+1}) = \rho v_i - u(c_i) - \frac{v_{i+1} - v_i}{\Delta k} (F(k_i) - \delta k_i - c_i)^+ - \frac{v_i - v_{i-1}}{\Delta k} (F(k_i) - \delta k_i - c_i)^-$$

1. The Income Fluctuation Problem

2. More Theory

HJB and KFE as Discrete-Time Limits The Feynman-Kac Formula Viscosity Solutions and FD Schemes

3. Coding Details

HJB and KFE: Implementation Vs. Discrete-Time Best Practice

4. Harder Problems

2-Asset Models Non-Convexities Sparsity and Many Income States

1. The Income Fluctuation Problem

2. More Theory

HJB and KFE as Discrete-Time Limits The Feynman-Kac Formula Viscosity Solutions and FD Schemes

3. Coding Details

HJB and KFE: Implementation

Vs. Discrete-Time Best Practice

4. Harder Problems

2-Asset Models

Non-Convexities

Sparsity and Many Income States

A Simple Model

- We consider a simple 1-asset consumption-savings problem
- Recall the basic HJB

$$\rho v(a,y) = \max u(c) + \frac{\partial v}{\partial a} (ra + y - c) + \sum_{y'} \lambda(y,y') \left[v(a,y') - v(a,y) \right]$$

such that

The FOC is

$$u'(c) = \frac{\partial v}{\partial a}$$

and the state boundary condition is

$$u'(y+r\underline{a}) \le v_a(\underline{a},z) \quad \forall z$$

• Let's go through the codes line by line . . .

1. The Income Fluctuation Problem

2. More Theory

HJB and KFE as Discrete-Time Limit: The Feynman-Kac Formula Viscosity Solutions and FD Schemes

3. Coding Details

HJB and KFE: Implementation

Vs. Discrete-Time Best Practice

4. Harder Problems

2-Asset Models

Non-Convexities

Sparsity and Many Income States

Discrete-Time Solution Methods

- At least two robust general-purpose solution methods
 - Value function iteration
 - → Guess value function on grid, optimize on state grid
 - → Iterate function entries until convergence
 - o Projection methods
 - → Parameterize value function with basis functions, optimize exactly
 - → Iterate basis function coefficients until convergence
- Why are these methods slower than continuous time?
 - Need to optimize to get decision rules (instead of using FOCs)
 - o Do not get distribution update step for free
 - Distribution on grid tends to be less accurate (spikes)
- How problematic are these concerns?

Speeding Things Up

- 1. Decision rules: exploiting FOCs
 - Discrete time steps mean that constraints always matter
 - Endogenous gridpoint method offers workaround for special models
 - → Leading example: classical one-asset model
 - o My position: doesn't always work, but competitive when it does
- 2. Distribution updating: fine-grid histograms with interpolation
 - DON'T use Monte Carlo simulation (slow, inaccurate)
 - Optimize once given value function to get decision rules on fine grid
 - o Interpolate to incorporate off-grid information
 - My position: given decision rules, DT is not (much) worse

Numerical Implementation

• We consider the same 1-asset consumption-savings problem:

$$V(a, y) = \max u(c) + \beta \mathbb{E} [V(a', y')]$$

such that

$$a' + c = (1+r)a + y$$

 $a' \ge \underline{a}$

• The FOC is

$$u'(c) = \mu + \beta(1+r)\mathbb{E}\left[u'(c')\right]$$

or more carefully

$$u'(c(a, y)) = \mu(a, y) + \beta(1 + r)\mathbb{E}[u'(c(a', y'))]$$

• Codes on github; speed competitive with continuous time

1. The Income Fluctuation Problem

2. More Theory

HJB and KFE as Discrete-Time Limit: The Feynman-Kac Formula Viscosity Solutions and FD Schemes

3. Coding Details

HJB and KFE: Implementation

Vs. Discrete-Time Best Practice

4. Harder Problems

2-Asset Models
Non-Convexities
Sparsity and Many Income State:

1. The Income Fluctuation Problem

2. More Theory

HJB and KFE as Discrete-Time Limit The Feynman-Kac Formula Viscosity Solutions and FD Schemes

3. Coding Details

HJB and KFE: Implementation

Vs. Discrete-Time Best Practice

4. Harder Problems

2-Asset Models

Non-Convexities

Sparsity and Many Income State

Motivation

- Conventional 1-asset models are a bit limited
 - o 1 liquid asset: households can always tap wealth to smooth consumption
 - High average MPCs require many households to hold no wealth
- Solution: distinguish between liquid and illiquid wealth
 - Liquid assets b pay low returns, but are always accessible
 - Illiquid assets a are costly to tap into, but pay high returns
 - Main benefit: rationalizes high MPCs for positive-wealth households
- For today: discuss two modeling approaches
 - 1. Proper two-asset model [Kaplan, Moll & Violante (2018)]
 - 2. Fudge two-asset model with b = b(a) [Kaplan, Moll & Wolf (2018)]

A Two-Asset Model

Households now insure against income risk using two assets:

$$\dot{b}_t = r^b b_t + y_t - c_t - d_t - \chi(d_t, a_t)
\dot{a}_t = r^a a_t + d_t$$

• The problem of the household then is

$$\max \mathbb{E}_0 \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} u(c_t) dt \right]$$

such that

$$\dot{b}_t = r^b b_t + y_t - c_t - d_t - \chi(d_t, a_t), \quad b_t \ge \underline{b}
\dot{a}_t = r^a a_t + d_t, \quad a_t \ge \underline{a}$$

and given an exogenous law of motion for y

Solving the Two-Asset Model

The HJB equation is

$$\rho v(a, b, y_j) = \max_{c, d} u(c) + \partial_b v(a, b, y_j) (y_j + r^b b - d - \chi(d, a) - c)
+ \partial_a (d + r^a a) + \lambda_j (v(a, b, y_{-j}) v(a, b, y_j))$$

• This gives the two FOCs

$$u'(c) = \partial_b v(a, b, y_j)$$

$$\partial_a v(a, b, y_j) = \partial_b v(a, b, y_j) (1 + \chi_d(d, a))$$

- Numerical implementation
 - Need to work harder to get a monotone FD scheme
 - o Details in appendix of KMV (2018), or talk to me

2-Asset Fudge: Discrete Time

- Let's start with discrete time because it's more transparent
- The Bellman equation is

$$V(a, y) = \max u(c) + \beta \mathbb{E} \left[V(a', y') \right]$$

such that

$$a' + c = (1+r)a + y$$
$$c \le b(a) + ra + y$$

• Re-arranging the second constraint:

$$a' \geq a - b(a)$$

• The FOC is

$$u'(c) = \mu + \beta(1+r)\mathbb{E}\left[u'(c') - \frac{1}{1+r}\mu'(1-b_a(a'))\right]$$

• Problem for EGP: may not be monotone

2-Asset Fudge: Continuous-Time Limit

Let's write the constraints for time periods of length Δ:

$$\Delta c + a' = a + \Delta (ra + y)$$

 $\Delta c \le b(a) + \Delta (ra + y)$

• The limit for the first one is as usual:

$$\dot{a} = ra + y - c$$

For the second one get

$$\begin{cases} b(a) \ge 0 & \text{if } b(a) > 0 \\ c \le ra + y & \text{if } b(a) = 0 \end{cases}$$

Relative to the usual problem we just change the state boundary:

$$u'(y+ra) \le v_a(a,y) \quad \forall y, a \text{ s.t. } b(a) = 0$$

1. The Income Fluctuation Problem

2. More Theory

HJB and KFE as Discrete-Time Limit The Feynman-Kac Formula Viscosity Solutions and FD Schemes

3. Coding Details

HJB and KFE: Implementation

Vs. Discrete-Time Best Practice

4. Harder Problems

2-Asset Models

Non-Convexities

Sparsity and Many Income States

The Skiba Model

Growth model with non-convex production function

$$v(k) = \max \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} u(c_t) dt$$

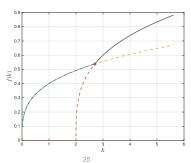
such that

$$\dot{k}_t = f(k_t) - \delta k_t - c_t, \quad k_0 = k$$

and where

$$f(k) = \max\{f_L(k), f_H(k)\}$$

$$f_L(k) = A_L k^{\alpha}, \quad f_H(k) = A_H((k - \kappa)^+)^{\alpha}$$



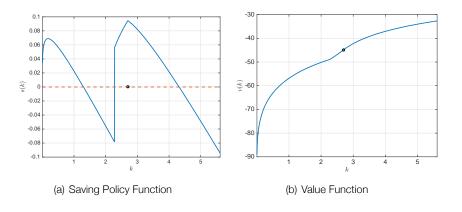
The Skiba Model

- Why FOC-based solution methods struggle in discrete time
 - o FOC is

$$u'(f(k) - \delta k - k') = \beta v'(k')$$

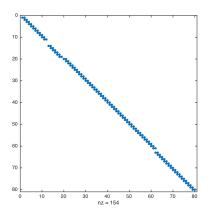
- Problem: FOC is no longer sufficient (for some k's the FOC has multiple solutions as a result of kink in production and so value function)
- But non-convexity causes no problems for our algorithm
 - Can simply change production function in benchmark codes
 - Viscosity solution + FD designed to handle non-convexities and non-differentiabilities with upwinding scheme
- These insights generalize to richer environments [Achdou et al. (2017)]
 - o Interesting application: housing/mortgages

Economics of the Skiba Model



- Skiba point is the left of the kink in f(k)
 - Intuition: start pushing towards the high technology not just at point where it's used, but earlier
- Two steady states ("poverty trap")

Numerical Solution



- Steady states: no outflow
 - Negative savings with forward approximation, positive savings with backward approximation
- Skiba point: jump in flows

Outline

1. The Income Fluctuation Problem

2. More Theory

HJB and KFE as Discrete-Time Limit: The Feynman-Kac Formula Viscosity Solutions and FD Schemes

3. Coding Details

HJB and KFE: Implementation

Vs. Discrete-Time Best Practice

4. Harder Problems

2-Asset Models
Non-Convexities
Sparsity and Many Income States

Losing Sparsity

Recall the basic (vectorized) updating equation:

$$\frac{1}{\Delta}(V^{n+1} - V^n) + \rho V^{n+1} = u^n + (\tilde{A}^n + \Lambda)V^{n+1}$$

where \tilde{A}^n contains only the savings transition

- Uses implicit method for speed
- \circ But problem: with many income states A^n is not sparse anymore
- · Solution: implicit for assets, explicit for income risk
 - Mixture scheme gives

$$\frac{1}{\Delta}(V^{n+1} - V^n) + \rho V^{n+1} = u^n + \tilde{A}^n V^{n+1} + \Lambda V^n$$

where \tilde{A}^n is tri-diagonal

Can thus even parallelize for each income state k:

$$\frac{1}{\Delta}(V_k^{n+1} - V_k^n) + \rho V_k^{n+1} = u_k^n + \tilde{A}_k^n V^{n+1} + \sum_{k' \neq l} \lambda_{k,k'} (V_k'^n - V_k^n)$$

Thanks for your attention – Questions?

Appendix: Viscosity Solutions

Let's specialize to a simple HJB:

$$\rho v(x) = \max_{c} u(c, x) + v'(x)f(c, x)$$

A viscosity solution is a continuous function *v* such that:

1. (Subsolution) If ϕ is smooth and $v-\phi$ has a local maximum at x^* (v may have a concave kink), then

$$\rho v(x^*) \le \max_{c} u(c, x^*) + \phi'(x^*) f(c, x^*)$$

2. (Supersolution) If ϕ is smooth and $v-\phi$ has a local minimum at x^* (v may have a convex kink), then

$$\rho v(x^*) \ge \max_{c} u(c, x^*) + \phi'(x^*) f(c, x^*)$$

Appendix: Viscosity Solutions

- Basic idea: sidestep non-differentiability and use monotonicity
- Consider discrete-time Bellman equation:

$$v(x_t) = \max_{c} \Delta u(c, x_t) + (1 - \rho \Delta) v(x_{t+\Delta})$$

such that

$$x_{t+\Delta} = \Delta f(x_t, c) + x_t$$

- Now let ϕ be s.t. $\phi(x^*) = v(x^*)$ and $v \phi$ has a local minimum at x^*
- Then at $x_t = x^*$ we have

$$v(x_t) \ge \max_{c} \Delta u(c, x_t) + (1 - \rho \Delta) \phi(x_{t+\Delta})$$

since $v(x) > \phi(x)$ in a neighborhood of x^* and by monotonicity

• Subtract $(1 - \rho \Delta)\phi(x_t)$, take limits, and the supersolution condition follows (subsolution condition is symmetric)

Appendix: Viscosity Solutions

- 1. Only allow convex kinks
 - Maximization problems only admit convex (downward) kinks
 - Proof strategy: convex Hamiltonian, then contradiction with concave kinks
- 2. Boundary conditions
 - Easy to motivate when differentiable:

$$\rho v(x) = H(x, \lambda) = \max u(c, x) + \lambda f(c, x) = \max u(c, x) + v'(x)f(c, x)$$

and then combine envelope theorem and complementary slackness:

$$H_{\lambda}(x,\lambda) = f(c^{*}(x),x)$$

$$H_{\lambda}(x_{\min}.v'(x_{\min})) \geq 0$$

- Constrained viscosity solution: for maximization subsolution at x = x_{min}, supersolution at x = x_{max}
- 3. Unique solution: proof using comparison theorems

Appendix: Financial Frictions

- Introduce two kinds of non-convexities to entrepreneurship model
 - Financial frictions
 - Two entrepreneur production technologies
- Entrepreneur problem
 - \circ Preferences: $\mathbb{E}_0\left[\int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t}u(c_t)dt\right]$
 - Labor income: wz^{θ}
 - o Entrepreneurial technologies

$$y_u = F_u(z, k, \ell) = zB_u k^{\alpha} \ell^{\beta}$$

$$y_p = F_p(z, k, \ell) = zB_p((k - f_k)^+)^{\alpha} ((\ell - f_\ell)^+)^{\beta}$$

- Financial constraint: $k < \lambda a$
- · Rest of the economy: representative firm with

$$Y_c = F_c(A, K_c, L_c) = AB_c K_c^{\eta} L_c^{1-\eta}$$

Appendix: Financial Frictions

Optimal use of technology:

$$\Pi_j(a, z, A; w, r) = \max_{\ell, k \le \lambda a} F_j(z, A, k, \ell) - (r + \delta)k - w\ell, \quad j = p, u$$

• Occupation choice:

$$M(a, z, A; w, r) = \max\{wz^{\theta}, \Pi_{u}(a, z, A; w, r), \Pi_{p}(a, z, A; w, r)\}$$

• Consumption-savings problem:

$$\max_{\{c_t\}} \mathbb{E}_0 \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} u(c_t) dt \right]$$

such that

$$da_t = [M(a_t, z_t, A_t; w_t, r_t) + r_t a_t - c_t]dt$$

$$dz_t = \mu(z_t)dt + \sigma(z_t)dW_t$$

$$a_t \ge 0$$

Appendix: Financial Frictions

Optimal entrepreneur behavior

$$\rho v_{t}(a,z) = \max_{c} u(c) + \partial_{a} v_{t}(a,z) [M(a,z;w_{t},r_{t}) + r_{t}a - c]
+ \partial_{z} v(a,z) \mu(z) + \frac{1}{2} \partial_{zz} v_{t}(a,zt) \sigma^{2}(z) + \dot{v}_{t}(a,z)
\partial_{t} g_{t}(a,z) = -\partial_{a} [s_{t}(a,z)g_{t}(a,z)] - \partial_{z} [\mu(z)g_{t}(a,z)] + \frac{1}{2} \partial_{zz} [\sigma^{2}(z)g_{t}(a,z)]
s_{t}(a,z) = M(a,z;w_{t},r_{t}) + r_{t}a - c_{t}(a,z)$$

Public firms

$$r_t = \partial_K F_c(A, K_{ct}, L_{ct}) - \delta, \quad w_t = \partial_L F_c(A, K_{ct}, L_{ct})$$

Capital market-clearing

savings =
$$K_c + K_u + K_p$$

· Labor market-clearing

supply of workers =
$$L_c + L_u + L_p$$