

## ECON 210C PROBLEM SET # 2

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### 1. INVESTMENT AND THE HOUSING MARKET

#### 1.1. Explain the model.

- (1)  $I = \psi(P)$ : Gross investment in housing is an increasing function of the price of houses. This specification implies that housing investment can be interpreted as a supply of new housings.
- (2)  $r + \delta = (R + \dot{P})/P$ : I assume that  $\delta$  denotes the depreciation rate of a house. LHS is opportunity costs of investing into a house: forgone real interest rate and depreciation of the house. RHS is benefits of investing into a house: (real) rental payment and capital gains from the price of house.
- (3)  $R = R(H)$ : Rental cost  $R$  is a decreasing function of available quantity of housing stock.
- (4)  $\dot{H} = I - \delta H$ : Change in  $H$  is the difference between housing investment (new housing) and depreciated housing stock.

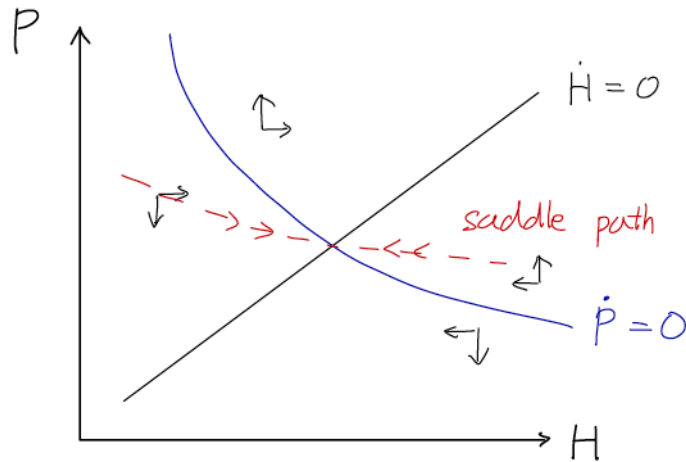
The model is closed: it has 4 endogenous variables  $(I, R, P, H)$  with 4 equations.

#### 1.2. Reduce the model into a 2-equation system.

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{H} &= \psi(P) - \delta H \\ r + \delta &= (R(H) + \dot{P})/P\end{aligned}$$

Here  $R$  is a function, not a variable.

#### 1.3. Draw phase diagram. \*Lines do not have to be linear.

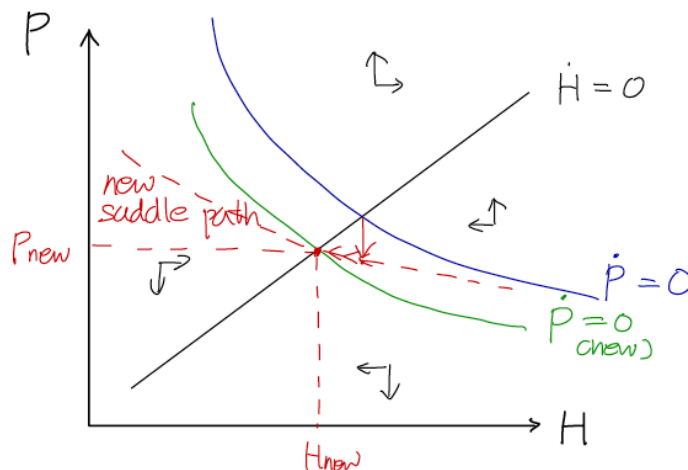


1.4. **Steady state effect of an increase in the real interest rate.**  $r$  only shows up in the equation for  $\dot{P}$ . Rewriting the equation:

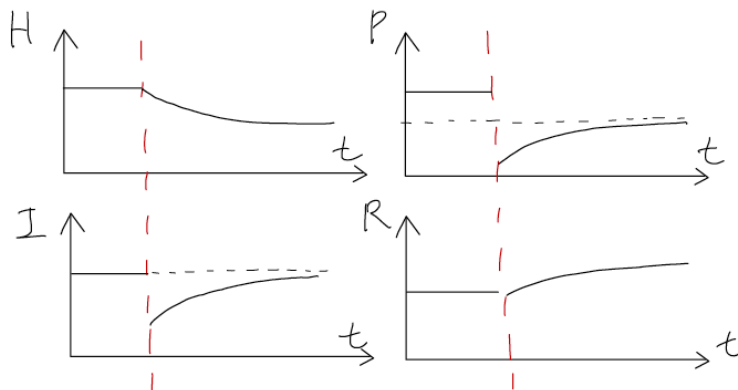
$$\dot{P} + R(H) = P(r + \delta)$$

Given a level of  $P$ , an increase in  $r$  makes RHS larger, requiring  $R(H)$  getting larger by the same amount to satisfy  $\dot{P} = 0$ . Since  $R$  is a decreasing function of  $H$ , it means that  $H$  has to decrease. Hence,  $\dot{P} = 0$  locus shifts to the left.

1.5. **Permanent increase in the real interest rate.** Suppose the real interest rate changes from  $r$  to  $r^*$ , where  $r < r^*$ . Recall that in the initial steady state,  $P = \frac{R(H)}{r + \delta}$ . At the arrival of the change,  $P$  drops to the level  $\frac{R(H)}{r^* + \delta}$ . Cheaper real price of housing assets (or higher opportunity cost of investing in housing) reduces the amount of housing investments. As the housing investment decreases, the quantity of housing stock gradually decreases, until  $R(H)$  goes up enough to satisfy  $\dot{P} = 0$  again.



Below is the impulse responses of each variable in response to the interest rate change.



## 2. DISCOUNT FACTOR SHOCK

Time-varying discount factor is being incorporated in the model through the Euler equation. Below is the model developed in the class with time-varying discount factor.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda_t &= \frac{1}{C_t} \\
 \frac{C_{t+1}}{C_t} &= \mathbb{E}_t \beta_{t+1} (1 + R_{t+1}) \\
 W_t &= (1 - \alpha) Z_t \left( \frac{K_{t-1}}{L_t} \right)^\alpha \\
 R_t + \delta &= \alpha Z_t \left( \frac{K_{t-1}}{L_t} \right)^{\alpha-1} \\
 L_t^{\frac{1}{\eta}} C_t &= W_t \\
 C_t + I_t + G_t &= Z_t L_t \left( \frac{K_{t-1}}{L_t} \right)^\alpha \\
 K_t &= (1 - \delta) K_{t-1} + I_t
 \end{aligned}$$

The model has seven endogenous variables ( $\lambda_t, K_t, W_t, C_t, L_t, R_t, I_t$ ) and three exogenous variables ( $\beta_t, Z_t, G_t$ ). We can also reduce the model into a 2-equation system. A log-linearized version of the system is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta \check{K}_t &= \frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{K}} \left( 1 + \frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha+1/\eta} \right) \check{Z}_t + \left( \frac{\alpha(1-\alpha)}{\alpha+1/\eta} \frac{\bar{Y}_t}{\bar{K}_t} + \alpha \frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{K}} - \delta \right) \check{K}_{t-1} \\ &\quad + \left( \frac{\bar{C}}{\bar{K}} + \frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{K}} \frac{(1-\alpha)}{\alpha+1/\eta} \right) \check{\lambda}_t - \frac{\bar{G}}{\bar{K}} \check{G}_t \\ \Delta \check{\lambda}_{t+1} &= -\check{\beta}_{t+1} - \frac{\alpha \frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{K}}}{\alpha \frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{K}} + 1 - \delta} \left[ \left( 1 + \frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha+1/\eta} \right) \check{Z}_{t+1} + (1-\alpha) \left( \frac{\alpha}{1/\eta + \alpha} - 1 \right) \check{K}_t + \frac{1-\alpha}{1/\eta + \alpha} \check{\lambda}_{t+1} \right]\end{aligned}$$

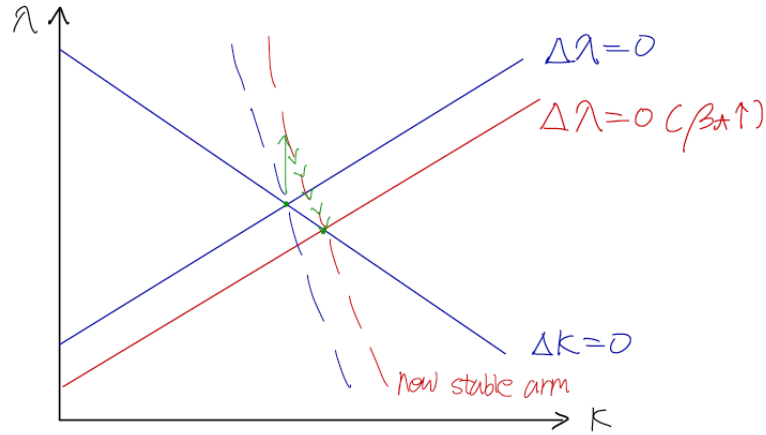
By setting  $\Delta \lambda_t = 0$ , we have the locus of points where the marginal utility of wealth is not changing.

**Locus**  $\Delta \lambda_t = 0$ .

$$\check{\lambda}_{t+1} = -\frac{1/\eta + \alpha}{1 - \alpha} \left[ \left( \frac{\alpha \frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{K}}}{\alpha \frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{K}} + 1 - \delta} \right)^{-1} \check{\beta}_{t+1} + \left( 1 + \frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha+1/\eta} \right) \check{Z}_{t+1} + (1-\alpha) \left( \frac{\alpha}{1/\eta + \alpha} - 1 \right) \check{K}_t \right]$$

Since  $\check{\beta}_t$  does not change the slope of the  $\Delta \lambda_t$  locus, the phase diagram for this economy is similar to the one we drew in class.

**Permanant discount factor shocks.** The increase in the discount factor means that agents become more patient - they value future utility relatively more than before. This means that they want to consume less in the present period and more in the future, relative to those people with lower discount rate.



In response to the shock, marginal utility jumps up to the new stable arm, inducing higher labor supply and investment along with lower consumption. Marginal utility and investments gradually decrease as the economy approaches to the new steady state, characterized by a higher capital stock and steady state consumption level.

**Transitory discount factor shocks.**

## 3. (NOISE) NEWS SHOCK

## 4. LABOR SUPPLY

- (a) To prepare for the days when  $w_t$  level is not high enough to compensate the consumption level  $C$  she would like to spend every period, she has to save some fraction of her income. Let the saving in period  $t$  be  $S_t$ . Her intertemporal and lifetime budget constraints are written as follows:

$$C + S_t = w_t N_t + S_{t-1}$$

$$\sum_{t=0}^T w_t N_t = C \times T$$

Now set up a Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{t=0}^T [\ln(1 + N_t) + \lambda_t (C + S_t - w_t N_t - S_{t-1})] + \psi \sum_{t=0}^T (w_t N_t - C \cdot T)$$

First order conditions for  $S_t$  and  $N_t$  are:

$$\lambda_t = \lambda_{t+1}$$

$$\frac{1}{1 + N_t} + \psi w_t = \lambda_t w_t$$

Combining the above two equations gives us the Euler equation:

$$w_t(1 + N_t) = w_{t+1}(1 + N_{t+1})$$

**There is no stochastic factor, why does the question state 'stochastic'?**

- (b) Rearrange the Euler equation:

$$\frac{w_{t+1}}{w_t} = \frac{1 + N_t}{1 + N_{t+1}} = \frac{\text{Marginal disutility of labor in period } t+1 (MU_{t+1})}{\text{Marginal disutility of labor in period } t (MU_t)}$$

If wage goes up in current period, either  $MU_t$  goes up or  $MU_{t+1}$  goes down, which means the individual either works more in this period to take advantage of the higher wage, or work less in the next period using up increased savings accumulated in period  $t$ .

(c)

(d)

## 5. IMPULSE RESPONSES

## 6. IMPULSE RESPONSES (2)