

ECON 220C PROBLEM SET # 1

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1. QUESTIONS FROM TEXTBOOK

1.1. Romer 5.8.

(a). We can start with the full Lagrangian, after substituting

$$C_t = K_t + Y_t - K_{t+1} = K_t + AK_t + e_t - K_{t+1} = (1 + A)K_t + e_t - K_{t+1}$$

to get

$$\mathcal{L} = E \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \frac{u(C_t) + \lambda_t((1 + A)K_t + e_t - K_{t+1})}{(1 + \rho)^t} \right]$$

which gives first order conditions with respect to C_t and K_{t+1} (which are chosen each period) of

$$u'(C_t) = \lambda_t$$

and

$$\lambda_t = \frac{(1 + A)E[\lambda_{t+1}]}{(1 + \rho)}$$

and combining gives

$$u'(C_t) = \frac{(1 + A)E[u'(C_{t+1})]}{(1 + \rho)}$$

but since $A = \rho$, we are left with a more standard

$$u'(C_t) = E[u'(C_{t+1})]$$

and we can substitute for $u'(C_t)$ since we are given the form of the utility function to get

$$u'(C_t) = 1 - 2\theta C_t$$

and we now have

$$1 - 2\theta C_t = E[1 - 2\theta C_{t+1}]$$

and from linearity of expectation we can cancel terms to get

$$C_t = E[C_{t+1}]$$

as our Euler equation.

(b). Substituting the guessed form into the resource constraint

$$C_t = (1 + A)K_t + e_t - K_{t+1}$$

gets us

$$\alpha + \beta K_t + \gamma e_t = (1 + A)K_t + e_t - K_{t+1}$$

and upon rearranging we have

$$K_{t+1} = (1 + A - \beta)K_t + (1 - \gamma)e_t - \alpha$$

as our function for future capital.

(c). We have given that

$$C_t = \alpha + \beta K_t + \gamma e_t$$

so we merely need to find

$$E[C_{t+1}] = E[\alpha + \beta K_{t+1} + \gamma e_{t+1}]$$

By linearity and substituting our earlier result, we have

$$E[C_{t+1}] = \alpha + \beta((1 + A - \beta)K_t + (1 - \gamma)e_t - \alpha) + \gamma E[e_{t+1}]$$

Since we are given that ε_t has expectation zero, we can substitute

$$E[e_{t+1}] = \phi e_t$$

(since we are merely applying the law of motion for e in period $t + 1$ rather than period t) and so we have

$$E[C_{t+1}] = \alpha + \beta((1 + A - \beta)K_t + (1 - \gamma)e_t - \alpha) + \gamma \phi e_t$$

which we can simplify as

$$E[C_{t+1}] = (1 - \beta)\alpha + \beta(1 + A - \beta)K_t + (\beta - \gamma\beta + \gamma\phi)e_t$$

and from the Euler equation we have

$$\alpha + \beta K_t + \gamma e_t = (1 - \beta)\alpha + \beta(1 + A - \beta)K_t + (\beta - \gamma\beta + \gamma\phi)e_t$$

and so we will have

$$\alpha = (1 - \beta)\alpha$$

$$\beta = \beta(1 + A - \beta)$$

$$\gamma = (\beta - \gamma\beta + \gamma\phi)$$

which upon solving this system (with 3 equations and 3 unknowns since A and ϕ are given) yield

$$\alpha = 0$$

$$\beta = A$$

$$\gamma = \frac{A}{1 + A - \phi}$$

for the parameters.

(d).

1.2. Romer 5.9.

(a). We can start with the full Lagrangian, after substituting

$$C_t = K_t + Y_t - K_{t+1} = K_t + AK_t - K_{t+1} = (1 + A)K_t - K_{t+1}$$

to get

$$\mathcal{L} = E \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \frac{u(C_t) + \lambda_t((1 + A)K_t - K_{t+1})}{(1 + \rho)^t} \right]$$

which gives first order conditions with respect to C_t and K_{t+1} (which are chosen each period) of

$$u'(C_t) = \lambda_t$$

and

$$\lambda_t = \frac{(1 + A)E[\lambda_{t+1}]}{(1 + \rho)}$$

and combining gives

$$u'(C_t) = \frac{(1 + A)E[u'(C_{t+1})]}{(1 + \rho)}$$

but since $A = \rho$, we are left with a more standard

$$u'(C_t) = E[u'(C_{t+1})]$$

and we can substitute for $u'(C_t)$ since we are given the form of the utility function to get

$$1 - 2\theta(C_t + v_t) = 1 - 2\theta(E[C_{t+1}] + E[v_t]) \implies C_t + v_t = E[C_{t+1}]$$

from linearity of expectation and the zero mean shock.

(b). Substituting the guessed form into the resource constraint

$$C_t = (1 + A)K_t - K_{t+1}$$

gets us

$$\alpha + \beta K_t + \gamma v_t = (1 + A)K_t - K_{t+1}$$

and upon rearranging we have

$$K_{t+1} = (1 + A - \beta)K_t - \gamma v_t - \alpha$$

as our function for future capital.

(c). We have given that

$$C_t = \alpha + \beta K_t + \gamma v_t$$

so we merely need to find

$$E[C_{t+1}] = E[\alpha + \beta K_{t+1} + \gamma v_{t+1}]$$

By linearity and substituting our earlier result, we have

$$E[C_{t+1}] = \alpha + \beta((1 + A - \beta)K_t - \gamma v_t - \alpha) + \gamma E[v_{t+1}]$$

Since we are given that v_t has expectation zero, we can substitute to obtain

$$E[C_{t+1}] = \alpha + \beta((1 + A - \beta)K_t - \gamma v_t - \alpha)$$

which we can simplify as

$$E[C_{t+1}] = (1 - \beta)\alpha + \beta(1 + A - \beta)K_t - \gamma\beta v_t$$

and from the Euler equation we have

$$\alpha + \beta K_t + (\gamma + 1)v_t = (1 - \beta)\alpha + \beta(1 + A - \beta)K_t - \gamma\beta v_t$$

and so we will have

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha &= (1 - \beta)\alpha \\ \beta &= \beta(1 + A - \beta) \\ \gamma + 1 &= \gamma\beta\end{aligned}$$

which upon solving this system (with 3 equations and 3 unknowns since A is given) yield

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha &= 0 \\ \beta &= A \\ \gamma &= -\frac{1}{1 + A}\end{aligned}$$

for the parameters.

(d). Solving for consumption gives

$$C_t = AK_t - \frac{1}{1 + A} \times v_t$$

while saving is

$$K_{t+1} = K_t + \frac{1}{1 + A} \times v_t$$

and so a one time positive shock means that the capital stock is higher forever (since there is persistence), and this higher capital stock will mean both output and consumption are higher.

1.3. Romer 5.11.

(a). This is the same for every value function: the choice of saving and investment must guarantee that utility in the current period is equal to the discounted expected value of the value function tomorrow, as otherwise the marginal value of allocating resources to today's utility would not be equal to the value of allocating resources for the future, violating the intertemporal first order conditions.

2. PERMANENT INCOME HYPOTHESIS AND THE “EXCESS SMOOTHNESS” PUZZLE

2.1. **Saving responses to shocks.** The Lagrangian is

$$\mathcal{L} = E_t \left\{ \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \beta^s U(C_{t+s}) + \lambda \left[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (A_t - (1+r)^{-s}(C_{t+k} - Y_{t+k})) \right] \right\}$$

The first order conditions for C_t and C_{t+s} are respectively

$$\begin{aligned} U'(C_t) - \lambda &= 0 \\ E_t [\beta^s U'(C_{t+s}) - \lambda(1+r)^{-s}] &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Given we have $\beta = (1+r)^{-1}$, we can combine the FOCs and we get

$$U'(C_t) = E_t [U'(C_{t+s})]$$

As utility is quadratic, this implies

$$C_t = E_t [C_{t+s}]$$

Now we use the fact that the budget constrain holds in expectation,

$$A_t = E_t \left[\sum_{s=0}^{\infty} (1+r)^{-s} (C_{t+s} - T_{t+s}) \right]$$

and we plug in $C_t = E_t [C_{t+s}]$ to get

$$C_t = (1-\beta)A_t + (1-\beta) \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \beta^s E_t [Y_{t+s}]$$

(a) $Y_t = \mu t + \phi Y_{t-1} + \epsilon_t$. Assuming $\epsilon_k = 0$ for $k \neq t$, we can iterate the expression for Y_{t+s} backwards to obtain

$$Y_{t+s} = \sum_{k=0}^s \left[\phi^k \mu(t+s-k) \right] + \phi^{s+1} Y_{t-1} + \phi^s \epsilon_t$$

Hence

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \epsilon_t} E_t [Y_{t+s}] = \phi^s$$

We can then use this to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial}{\partial \epsilon_t} C_t &= (1 - \beta) \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \beta^s \frac{\partial}{\partial \epsilon_t} E_t[Y_{t+s}] \\ &= (1 - \beta) \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \beta^s \phi^s \\ &= (1 - \beta) \frac{1}{1 - \beta \phi}\end{aligned}$$

3. ESTIMATION OF ADJUSTMENT COSTS

3.1. Optimality conditions. First we write the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = E \left\{ \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} R_t [(1 - \tau) K_t^\alpha L_t^{1-\alpha} - w_t L_t - I_t (1 + a(I_t/K_t - \delta))] + q_t ((1 - \delta) K_t + I_t - K_{t+1}) \right\}$$

which gives first order conditions with respect to L_t , I_t , and K_{t+1} (which are chosen each period) of

$$(1 - \alpha)(1 - \tau) K_t^\alpha L_t^{-\alpha} = w_t$$

for L_t ,

$$q_t = 1 + a(I_t/K_t - \delta) + a(I_t/K_t)$$

for I_t ,

$$q_t = E \left[\frac{\alpha(1 - \tau) K_t^{\alpha-1} L_t^{1-\alpha} + a(I_{t+1}/K_{t+1}) + (1 - \delta) q_{t+1}}{1 + r_t} \right]$$

for K_t .

Optimal level of investment requires only the constant for the function ϕ .

Log-linearizing the first order condition for investment, we have (since $I_t/K_t = \delta$ in the steady state)

4. PRACTICE LOG-LINEARIZATION

4.1. The original equation is

$$Y_t = C_t + I_t + G_t + NX_t$$

so we take logs to get

$$\log(Y_t) = \log(C_t + I_t + G_t + NX_t)$$

and do the first order Taylor series expansion at the steady state to get

$$\log \bar{Y} + \frac{1}{\bar{Y}} (Y_t - \bar{Y}) = \log(\bar{C} + \bar{I} + \bar{G} + \bar{N}\bar{X}) + \frac{1}{\bar{Y}} (C_t - \bar{C}) + \frac{1}{\bar{Y}} (I_t - \bar{I}) + \frac{1}{\bar{Y}} (G_t - \bar{G}) + \frac{1}{\bar{Y}} (NX_t - \bar{N}\bar{X})$$

and we rewrite as

$$\tilde{y} = \frac{\bar{C}}{\bar{Y}} \frac{(C_t - \bar{C})}{\bar{C}} + \frac{\bar{I}}{\bar{Y}} \frac{(I_t - \bar{I})}{\bar{I}} + \frac{\bar{G}}{\bar{Y}} \frac{(G_t - \bar{G})}{\bar{G}} + \frac{\bar{N}\bar{X}}{\bar{Y}} \frac{(NX_t - \bar{N}\bar{X})}{\bar{N}\bar{X}}$$

which comes out to just

$$\check{Y} = \frac{\bar{C}}{\bar{Y}}\check{C} + \frac{\bar{I}}{\bar{Y}}\check{Y} + \frac{\bar{G}}{\bar{Y}}\check{G}$$

4.2. The original equation is

$$Y_t = (\alpha K_t^\rho + (1 - \alpha)(A_t L_t)^\rho)^{\frac{1}{\rho}}$$

so we take logs to get

$$\log(Y_t) = \log((\alpha K_t^\rho + (1 - \alpha)(A_t L_t)^\rho)^{\frac{1}{\rho}})$$

and do the first order Taylor series expansion at the steady state to get

$$\check{Y} = \left(\frac{\alpha \bar{K}^{\rho-1}}{\alpha \bar{K}^\rho - (\alpha - 1)(\bar{A}\bar{L})^\rho} \right) (K_t - \bar{K}) + \left(\frac{(\alpha - 1)(\bar{A}\bar{L})^\rho}{\bar{A}((\alpha - 1)(\bar{A}\bar{L})^\rho - \alpha \bar{K}^\rho)} \right) (A_t - \bar{A}) + \left(\frac{(\alpha - 1)(\bar{A}\bar{L})^\rho}{\bar{L}((\alpha - 1)(\bar{A}\bar{L})^\rho - \alpha \bar{K}^\rho)} \right) (L_t - \bar{L})$$

and rewrite as

$$\check{Y} = \left(\frac{\alpha \bar{K}^\rho}{\alpha \bar{K}^\rho - (\alpha - 1)(\bar{A}\bar{L})^\rho} \right) \check{K} + \left(\frac{(\alpha - 1)(\bar{A}\bar{L})^\rho}{((\alpha - 1)(\bar{A}\bar{L})^\rho - \alpha \bar{K}^\rho)} \right) \check{A} + \left(\frac{(\alpha - 1)(\bar{A}\bar{L})^\rho}{((\alpha - 1)(\bar{A}\bar{L})^\rho - \alpha \bar{K}^\rho)} \right) \check{L}$$

4.3.

4.4.

4.5. The original equation is

$$\exp(i_t) = \left(\frac{P_t}{P_{t-1}} \right)^{\phi_\pi} \left(\frac{Y_t}{Y_{t-1}} \right)^{\phi_y} \exp(\rho i_{t-1})$$

so we take logs to get

$$i_t = \phi_\pi(\log(P_t) - \log(P_{t-1})) + \phi_y(\log(Y_t) - \log(Y_{t-1})) + \rho i_{t-1}$$

and do the first order Taylor series expansion at the steady state to get

$$i_t - \bar{i} = \frac{\phi_\pi}{\bar{P}}(P_t - \bar{P}) - \frac{\phi_\pi}{\bar{P}}(P_{t-1} - \bar{P}) + \frac{\phi_y}{\bar{Y}}(Y_t - \bar{Y}) - \frac{\phi_y}{\bar{Y}}(Y_{t-1} - \bar{Y}) + \rho(i_{t-1} - \bar{i})$$

and we can rewrite as

$$\check{i}_t = \frac{\phi_\pi}{\bar{i}}(\check{P}_t - \check{P}_{t-1}) + \frac{\phi_y}{\bar{i}}(\check{Y}_t - \check{Y}_{t-1}) + \rho \check{i}_{t-1}$$

4.6.

4.7.