

# **11. Monetary Policy in HANK**

Adv. Macro: Heterogenous Agent Models

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2025

**Summing Up What We Did So  
Far:**

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- **Dedicate last hour to the 2nd assignment.**

# Introduction

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  - Fiscal policy in the canonical HANK model
- **Today:**
  - Other pillar of stabilization policy: **Monetary policy**
  - Will use as example to study alternatives to **rational expectations** (RE) in HANK
- **Literature:**
  - *Seminal paper:* Kaplan, Moll, Violante (2018) »Monetary policy according to HANK«
  - Auclert Rognlie, Straub (2020) »Micro jumps, macro humps«
  - Alves, Kaplan, Moll, Violante (2020) »A further look at the propagation of monetary policy shocks in HANK«

## **Monetary Policy in HANK**

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- Introducing heterogeneous agents into the standard NK model **fundamentally** changes the transmission of Fiscal Policy
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- What about monetary policy?

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  - **Solution:** Firm equity

# Households

- Household problem:

$$v_t(z_t, a_{t-1}) = \max_{c_t} \frac{c_t^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma} - \varphi \frac{\ell_t^{1+\nu}}{1+\nu} + \beta \mathbb{E}_t [v_{t+1}(z_{t+1}, a_t)]$$

$$\text{s.t. } a_t + c_t = (1 + r_t^a) a_{t-1} + Z_t z_t + \chi_t$$

$$\log z_{t+1} = \rho_z \log z_t + \psi_{t+1}, \psi_t \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_\psi, \sigma_\psi), \mathbb{E}[z_t] = 1$$

$$a_t \geq 0$$

- with  $Z_t = w_t \ell_t$  - real labor income
- **decisions:** Consumption-saving,  $c_t$  (and  $a_t$ )
- **Union decision:** Labor supply,  $\ell_t$
- **Aggregate Consumption:**  $C_t^{hh} = \int c_t d\mathcal{D}_t$
- **Consumption function:**  $C_t^{hh} = C^{hh}(\{r_s^a, Z_s, \chi_s\}_{s=0}^\infty)$

- **Production and profits:**

$$Y_t = L_t$$

$$\Pi_t = Y_t - w_t L_t$$

- Optimize subject to demand curve (monopolistic competition)
- **First order condition:**
$$w_t = \frac{1}{\mu}$$
- where  $\mu > 1$  = markup - firms make positive profits in equilibrium

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- Firms are gonna be symmetric in eq.,  $p_{j,t}^D = p_t^D$
- Total value of firm equity is then  $\int p_t^D v_{j,t} dj = p_t^D$

# Mutual fund II

- **Problem:**

$$\max_{v_{j,t}} \int (\Pi_{j,t+1} + p_{j,t+1}^D) v_{j,t} - (1 + r_{t+1}^a) A_t$$

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  - Asset price today reflect discounted sum of future profits
- Valuation effects: As with nominal gov bonds:

$$1 + r_t^a = \begin{cases} \frac{\Pi_0 + p_0^D}{p_{ss}^D} & t = 0 \\ 1 + r_{t-1} & t > 0 \end{cases}$$

- Everybody works the same:

$$\ell_t = L_t^{hh}$$

- Maximization subject to wage adjustment cost imply a **New Keynesian Wage (Phillips) Curve** (NKWPC or NKWC)

$$\pi_t^w = \kappa \left( \varphi (L_t^{hh})^\nu - \frac{1}{\mu} (1 - \tau_t) w_t (C_t^{hh})^{-\sigma} \right) + \beta \pi_{t+1}^w$$

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- 2. **Alternative:** Real rate rule. CB chooses real rate  $r_t$  directly

$$r_t = r_{ss} + (\phi - 1) \pi_t$$

# Market clearing

1. Asset market:  $p_t^D = A_t^{hh}$
2. Labor market:  $L_t = L_t^{hh}$
3. Goods market:  $Y_t = C_t^{hh}$

# The consumption function

- Model features a consumption function:

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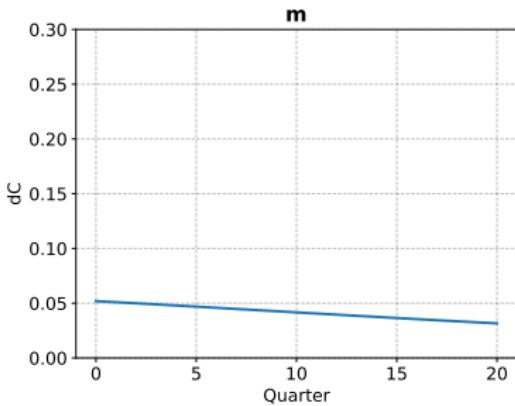
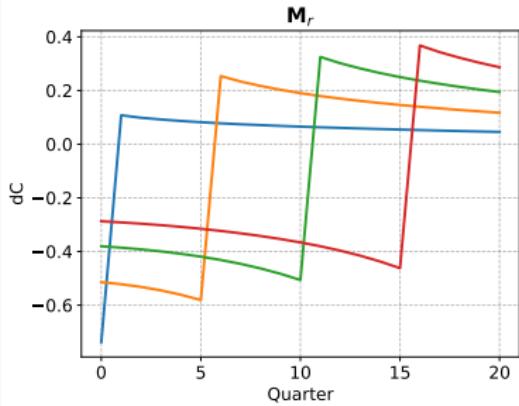
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- Note:  $\mathbf{m}$  is a vector not matrix (multiplies onto scalar  $dcap_0$ , not vector)

# Interest rate Jacobians



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- **Q1:** Sign? Positive/negative?
- **Q2:** Do you expect the effects of monetary policy on output to be larger in HANK than RANK?

# HANK-RANK equivalence

- Assume logarithmic utility  $u(c) = \log(c)$

# HANK-RANK equivalence

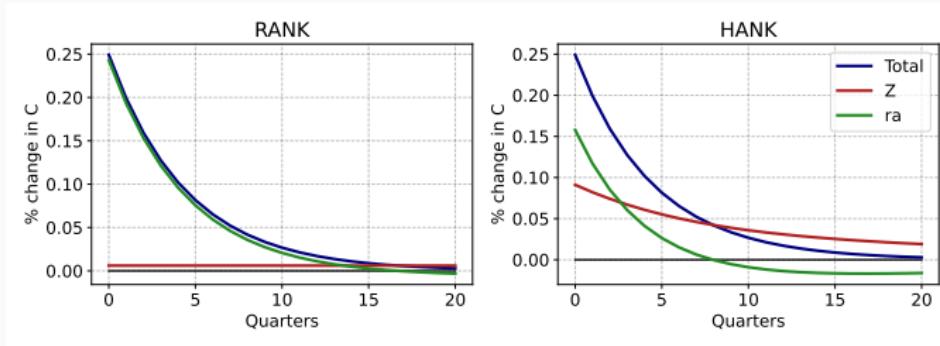
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  - ... **but transmission channel is different**
- Decompose  $d\mathbf{Y}$  into direct and indirect effect using  
$$d\mathbf{Y}^j = \mathbf{M}_{r^a}^j dr^a + \mathbf{M}^j dZ \text{ for } j \in \{HA, RA\}$$



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- Exact **equivalence** is the product of a number of simplifying assumptions:
  - Linear production function
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  - Equal incidence of labor income
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- How does the effectiveness of monetary policy look in more realistic models?
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**KMV 2018**

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- They study the transmission of monetary policy in medium scale HANK model
- Follows Kaplan & Violante (2014) closely
  - See lecture 2
  - Household can hold both liquid and illiquid assets
  - Model features both **poor** and **wealthy** Hand-to-mouth households

## Household problem

- Households solve (here converted to discrete time, paper in cont. time):

$$V_t(a_{t-1}, b_{t-1}, z_t) = \max_{c_t, a_t, b_t} u(c_t, \ell_t) + \beta E_t V_{t+1}(a_t, b_t, z_{t+1})$$

$$b_t + c_t = (1 - \tau_t) w_t z_t \ell_t + (1 + r_t^b) b_{t-1} - d_t - \chi(d_t, a_{t-1})$$

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- with  $b_t$ =liquid asset,  $a_t$ =illiquid assets,  $d_t$ =deposits into illiquid asset,  $\chi(d_t, a_{t-1})$  a convex cost

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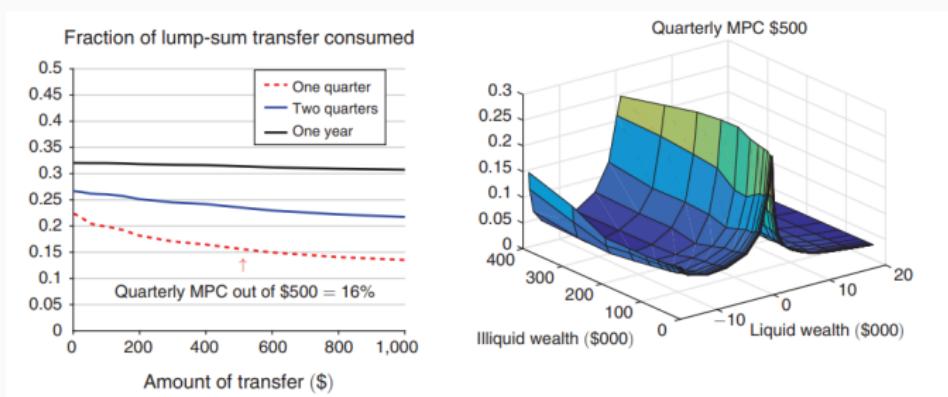
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- Return on illiquid asset  $r_t^a$  Return on liquid asset  $r_t^b$ 
  - Household will prefer to hold  $a_t$  due to superior return
  - But not good for consumption smoothing as they have to pay adjustment cost to use  $a_t$  for smoothing against shocks
  - Some HHs will be wealthy hand-to-mouth

- 1) MPCs for different sizes of stimulus checks, 2) MPCs across the wealth distribution



## Direct vs indirect effects

- Amplification in HANK (elasticity of  $C^{HANK} = -2.9$  vs  $C^{RANK} = -2.07$ )

# Direct vs indirect effects

- Amplification in HANK (elasticity of  $C^{HANK} = -2.9$  vs  $C^{RANK} = -2.07$ )
- Baseline HANK: Indirect effects account for majority of transmission ( $\approx 80\%$ )

TABLE 7—DECOMPOSITION OF THE EFFECT OF MONETARY SHOCK ON AGGREGATE CONSUMPTION

	Baseline (1)	$\omega = 1$ (2)	$\omega = 0.1$ (3)	$\frac{\varepsilon}{\theta} = 0.2$ (4)	$\phi = 2.0$ (5)	$\frac{1}{\nu} = 0.5$ (6)
Change in $r^b$ (pp)	-0.28	-0.34	-0.16	-0.21	-0.14	-0.25
Elasticity of $Y$	-3.96	-0.13	-24.9	-4.11	-3.94	-4.30
Elasticity of $I$	-9.43	7.83	-105	-9.47	-9.72	-9.79
Elasticity of $C$	-2.93	-2.06	-6.50	-2.96	-3.00	-2.87
Partial eq. elasticity of $C$	-0.55	-0.45	-0.99	-0.57	-0.59	-0.62
<i>Component of percent change in <math>C</math> due to</i>						
Direct effect: $r^b$	19	22	15	19	20	22
Indirect effect: $w$	51	56	51	51	51	38
Indirect effect: $T$	32	38	19	31	31	45
Indirect effect: $r^a$ and $q$	-2	-16	15	-2	-2	-4

## **Expectations**

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# Micro Jumps, Macro Humps

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# Micro Jumps, Macro Humps

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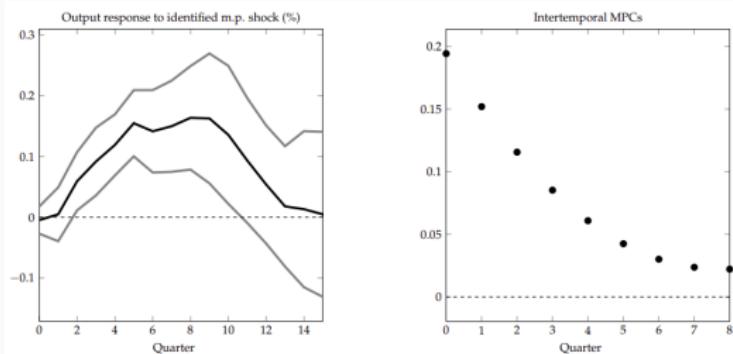
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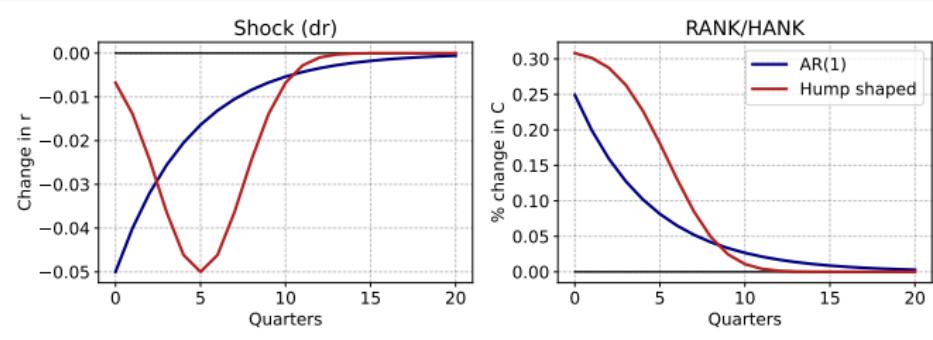
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- Estimate parameters in quantitative HANK model to match estimated effects of causal monetary policy shock
- Main hurdle: Empirical response of  $C$ ,  $Y$  is hump-shaped to monetary policy shock.
- Want a model that simultaneously match hump-shaped agg. response to  $r$  and iMPC moment



# The problem

- Standard model does **not** give hump shaped for  $C$  to standard shock
- Does not matter if **shock** is hump shaped or not



# The solution: RANK

- Solution in RANK litterature: Habits in utility function:

$$\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t u(C_t - \gamma C_{t-1})$$

$$\Rightarrow u'(C_t - \gamma C_{t-1}) = \beta R_{t+1} u'(C_{t+1} - \gamma C_t)$$

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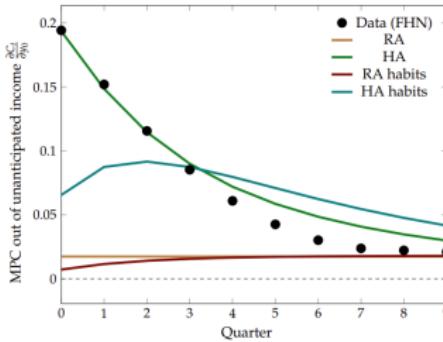
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- Generates persistence in C response to shocks because household don't want to deviate too much from last periods consumption level
- However:** Does not work in HANK because it kills iMPCs:



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  - Implies that steady state is unaffected
  - Still rational expectations w.r.t idiosyncratic income shocks
- Will only implement this to first-order (e.g. linear approximations)
  - Much more difficult if we want full non-linear solution

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- Example: Response of aggregate consumption  $\mathbf{C}$  to change in agg. income  $Z$

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- Note that elements above diagonal are affected by expectations (i.e. they concern the **future**)
  - Elements on and below diagonal reflect changes in income **today** or in the **past** (known by HHs)

# Expectations matrix

- Introduce expectations matrix  $E$ :

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & * & * & * & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & * & * & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & * & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

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  - Second column: Exp. of HHs at all dates w.r.t  $dZ_1$ ...
- How to get jacobian  $\hat{\mathbf{M}}$  associated with  $\mathbf{E}$ ?

# Stylized Example I

- Expectations matrix:

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.4 & 0.3 & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 0.6 & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

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- Future shock: Initial RE part from period 0 (weight: 0.3) and revision of expectations (weight:  $0.6 - 0.3$ )

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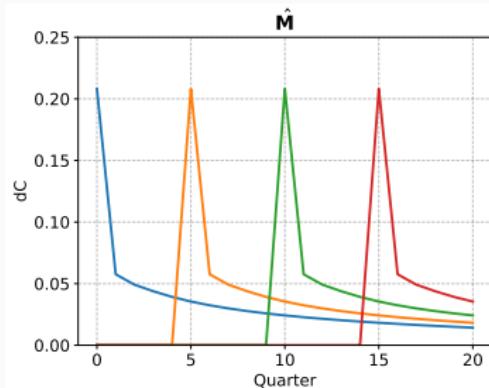
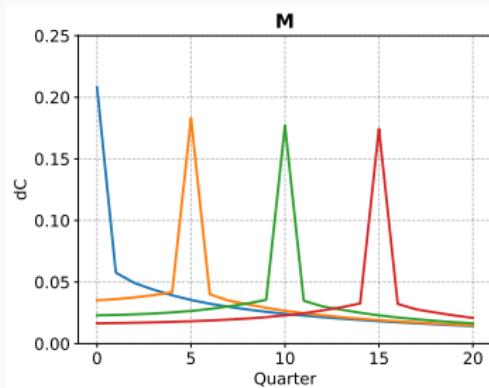
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# Jacobians

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- where  $-\hat{\mathbf{H}}_U^{-1} = \left( \mathbf{I} - \frac{1}{\mu} \hat{\mathbf{M}} \right)^{-1}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{H}}_X = -\hat{\mathbf{M}}_r$

# Non-RE expectations in GEModelTools

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  5. Solve for IRFs:
    - `model.find_IRFs(shocks=[x])`

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- Expectations matrix:

$$\mathbf{E} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 - \theta & 1 - \theta & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 - \theta^2 & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

# Sticky expectations

- Properties:
  - Response of consumption at 0 to  $Z_1$  is  $(1 - \theta) \frac{\partial C_0}{\partial Z_1}$
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- $\theta = 0$  gives us RE,  $\theta = 1$  gives us myopic behavior.
- Since households perfectly observe income changes **today and in past** iMPCs are preserved
  - **Unlike** habit formation

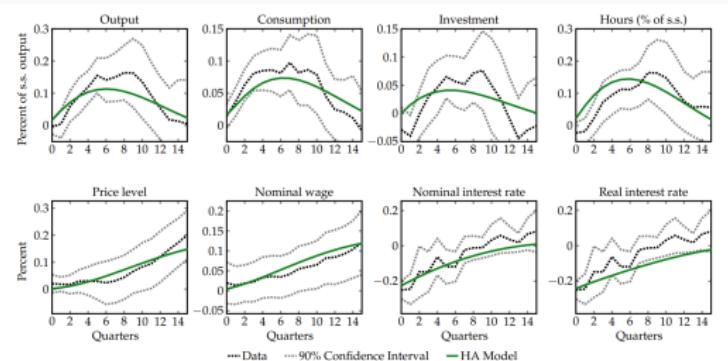
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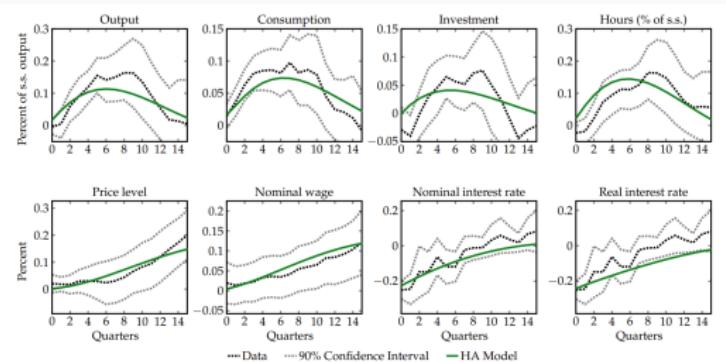
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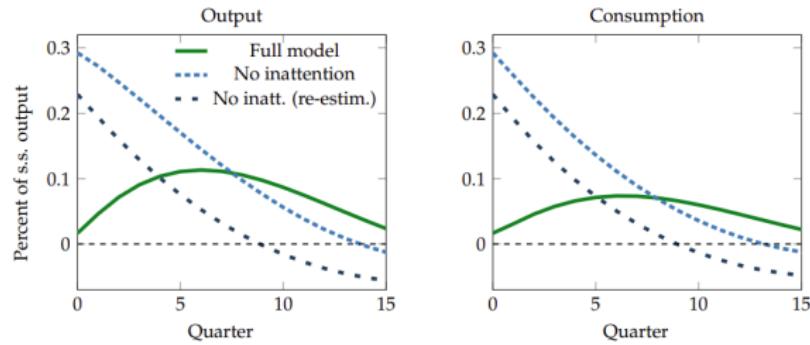
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- Estimate  $\theta = 0.935 \Rightarrow$  Large deviation from RE

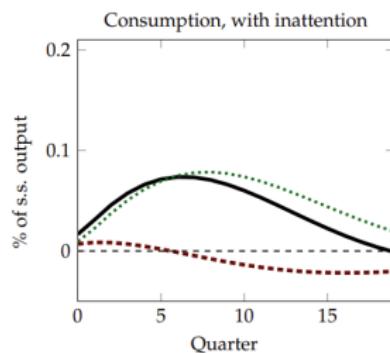
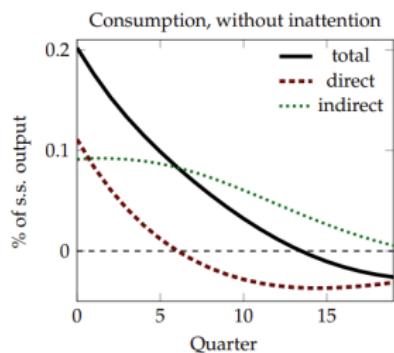
# RE vs. Non-RE

- Why we need sticky expectations in order to match empirical response



# Direct and indirect effects

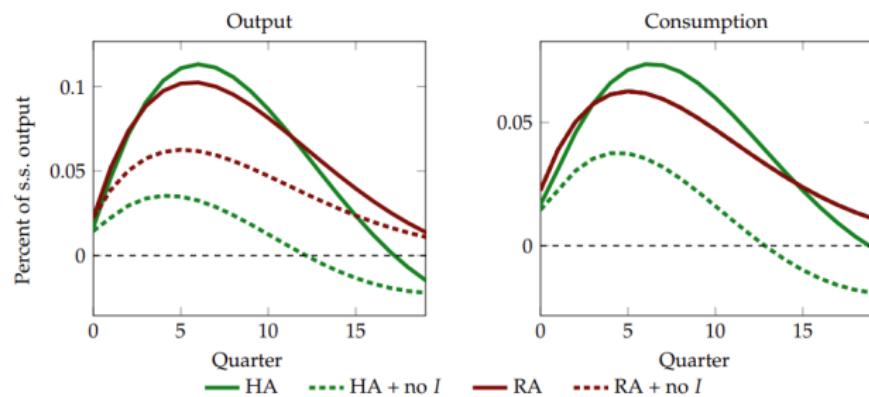
- Can decompose  $C$  into direct and indirect as before



- In the estimated model with sticky expectations indirect effect is by far the most important driver of consumption

# Importance of Investment

- Importance of indirect effects in HANK partly comes from *investment*



# Summing-Up

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2. To do so, we just need define an expectation matrix, and recompute the Jacobian accordingly
3. This allows HANK models to match the observed "hump-shape" in the data

## **Exercise**

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# Exercise

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Consider the HANK model described in section 2

1. Compare a monetary policy shock in HANK and RANK. Decompose the response in HANK into direct and indirect effects using the household Jacobians
2. Solve for a monetary policy shock in HANK and RANK with myopic expectations w.r.t  $r, Z$ , only  $r$  and only  $Z$
3. Solve for a monetary policy shock in HANK and RANK with sticky expectations w.r.t  $r, Z$ , only  $r$  and only  $Z$
4. Consider a model where households hold nominal government debt instead. Relax the borrowing constraint to  $-1$ ,  $\underline{a} = -1$  and solve for a monetary policy shock (assume rational expectations). Does the presence of household debt amplify or dampen the effects of monetary policy?

## **Summary**

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# Summary and next week

- **Today:**
  - Monetary policy in HANK
  - Alternatives to rational expectations, and how to implement them using jacobians
- **Next week:** HANK + unemployment risk in GE (**JD**)
- **Homework:**
  1. Work on exercise