

Dynamic Macroeconomics

Problem Set 1

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8 June 2022

Theory exercise 1

Let T have a contraction with a discount parameter $0 < \rho < 1$ as follows.

$$d(Tx_{k+1}, Tx_k) \leq \rho d(x_{k+1}, x_k), \forall k \geq 0$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} d(x_n, x_m) &\leq d(x_n, x_{n-1}) + d(x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}) + \dots + d(x_{m+1}, x_m) \text{ (by repeated applications of the triangle inequality)} \\ &\leq \rho^{n-m-1} d(x_{m+1}, x_m) + \rho^{n-m-2} d(x_{m+1}, x_m) + d(x_{m+1}, x_m) \\ &= (\rho^{n-m-1} + \rho^{n-m-2} + \dots + 1) d(x_{m+1}, x_m) \\ &= \frac{1 - \rho^{n-m}}{1 - \rho} d(x_{m+1}, x_m) \\ &= \rho^m \frac{1 - \rho^{n-m}}{1 - \rho} d(x_1, x_0) \end{aligned}$$

In short, $d(x_n, x_m) \leq \rho^m \frac{1 - \rho^{n-m}}{1 - \rho} d(x_1, x_0)$. Since $0 < \rho < 1$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty, m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\rho^m (1 - \rho^{n-m})}{1 - \rho} d(x_1, x_0) = 0, n > m$$

Hence, $\forall \varepsilon, \exists N(\varepsilon)$ such that $\forall m > N(\varepsilon), \frac{\rho^m (1 - \rho^{n-m})}{1 - \rho} d(x_1, x_0) < \varepsilon$ and so, $\forall n > m > N(\varepsilon), d(x_n, x_m) < \varepsilon$ must be true. Therefore, $T^n x = x_n$ is a Cauchy sequence.

Theory exercise 2

In general,

$$\begin{aligned} c_t &= y_t - k_{t+1} + (1 - \delta)k_t \\ &= y_t - k_{t+1} \end{aligned}$$

$$V(k_t) = \max_{k_{t+1}} \{U(y_t - k_{t+1}) + \beta E_t V(k_{t+1})\}$$

$$\frac{\partial V(k_t)}{\partial k_{t+1}} = U_c \cdot (-1) + \beta \frac{\partial E_t V(k_{t+1})}{\partial k_{t+1}} = 0$$

Assume log felicity, $U(c) = \ln(c)$, note $y_t = z_t k_t^\alpha$ and $V(k) = A + B \ln(k) + C \ln(z)$.

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial V(k_t)}{\partial k_{t+1}} &= \frac{1}{c_t} \cdot (-1) + \beta \frac{1}{k_{t+1}} = \frac{1}{z_t k_t^\alpha - k_{t+1}} \cdot (-1) + \beta \frac{B}{k_{t+1}} = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow \frac{1}{z_t k_t^\alpha - k_{t+1}} = \beta \frac{B}{k_{t+1}} \\ &\Rightarrow k_{t+1} = \frac{\beta B}{1 + \beta B} z_t k_t^\alpha - \text{policy function} \end{aligned}$$

Now replace $V(k_{t+1})$ by its guess and then k_{t+1} by the above found policy.

$$\begin{aligned} V(k_t) &= \max_{k_{t+1}} \{ \ln(z_t k_t^\alpha - k_{t+1}) + \beta E_t V(k_{t+1}) \} \\ &= \ln(z_t k_t^\alpha - k_{t+1}) + \beta E_t (A + B \ln(k_{t+1}) + C E_t \ln(z_{t+1})) \\ &= \ln(z_t k_t^\alpha - \frac{\beta B}{1 + \beta B} z_t k_t^\alpha) + \beta (A + B \ln(\frac{\beta B}{1 + \beta B} z_t k_t^\alpha) + C(\rho \ln(z_t) + \mu(1 - \rho))) \\ &= \ln(\frac{1}{1 + \beta B}) + \beta A + \beta B \ln(\frac{\beta B}{1 + \beta B}) + \beta C \mu(1 - \rho) + (\alpha + \beta B \alpha) \ln(k_t) + (1 + \beta B + C \rho) \ln(z_t) \end{aligned}$$

This expression should equal to

$$A + B \ln(k_t) + C \ln(z_t)$$

according to the guess. Matching the coefficients of the common terms of the two expressions, we can find the undetermined coefficients A , B and C as follows.

$$\alpha + \beta B \alpha = B \Rightarrow B = \frac{\alpha}{1 - \beta \alpha}$$

$$1 + \beta B + C\rho = C \Rightarrow C = \frac{1 + \beta B}{1 - \rho}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \ln\left(\frac{1}{1 + \beta B}\right) + \beta A + \beta B \ln\left(\frac{\beta B}{1 + \beta B}\right) + \beta C \mu(1 - \rho) &= A \\ \Rightarrow A &= \frac{1}{1 - \beta} \left(\ln\left(\frac{1}{1 + \beta B}\right) + \beta B \ln\left(\frac{\beta B}{1 + \beta B}\right) + \beta C \mu(1 - \rho) \right) \end{aligned}$$

All A, B, C coefficients are determined by model parameters, hence the solution is found.

Exercise 1a

Please find the code in the accompanying code files ("Ex1_a.jl" and "VFI_update_spline.jl") in the folder "codes".