

Das House Kapital

Brown Bag Seminar, University of St.Gallen

Volker Grossmann, **Benjamin Larin**, Thomas Steger

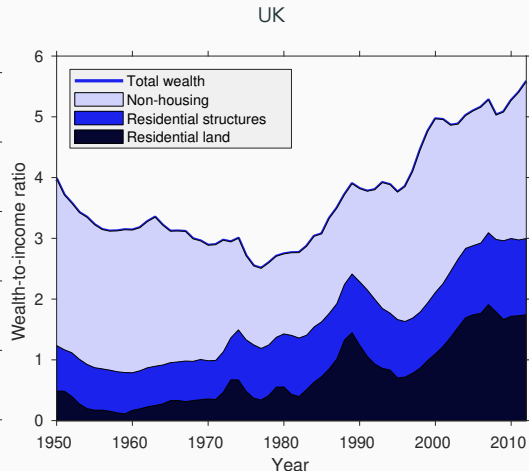
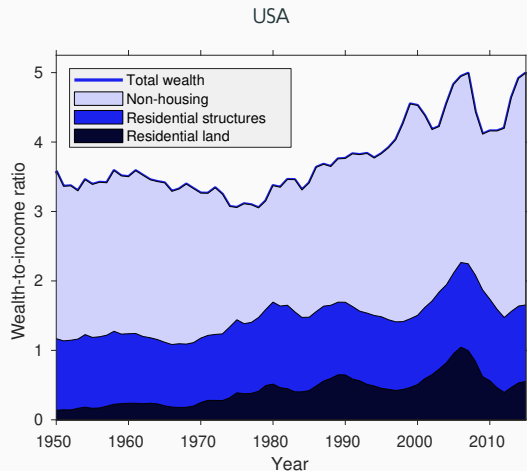
March 18, 2020

University of St.Gallen, Swiss Institute for Empirical Economic Research, Globalization of Real Estate Network

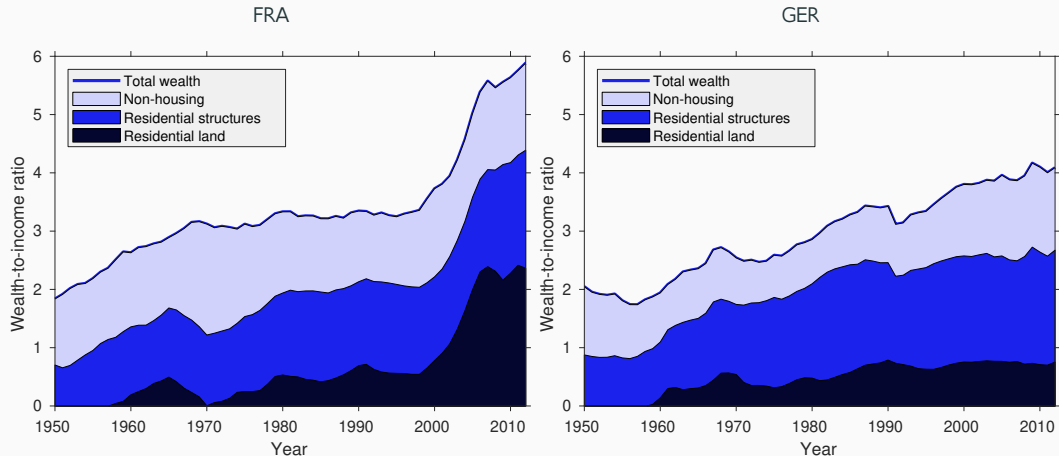
work in progress, preliminary results

Introduction

Housing became the largest asset class



Housing became the largest asset class



→ Economist (Special Report, 2020): [How did housing become the largest asset class?](#)

The paper in one slide

Research question: Why did the housing wealth-to-income ratio increase since 1950?

The paper in one slide

Research question: Why did the housing wealth-to-income ratio increase since 1950?

Method:

- Stylized facts on housing & macro for 4 developed economies

The paper in one slide

Research question: Why did the housing wealth-to-income ratio increase since 1950?

Method:

- Stylized facts on housing & macro for 4 developed economies
- Novel housing & macro model that is designed to think long term

The paper in one slide

Research question: Why did the housing wealth-to-income ratio increase since 1950?

Method:

- Stylized facts on housing & macro for 4 developed economies
- Novel housing & macro model that is designed to think long term
- Steady state insights and numerical experiments to answer research question and replicate stylized facts

The paper in one slide

Research question: Why did the housing wealth-to-income ratio increase since 1950?

Method:

- Stylized facts on housing & macro for 4 developed economies
- Novel housing & macro model that is designed to think long term
- Steady state insights and numerical experiments to answer research question and replicate stylized facts

Main results:

- Two mechanism, in a growing economy, push rent and house price up: i) housing uses the fixed factor intensively and ii) differential technological change

The paper in one slide

Research question: Why did the housing wealth-to-income ratio increase since 1950?

Method:

- Stylized facts on housing & macro for 4 developed economies
- Novel housing & macro model that is designed to think long term
- Steady state insights and numerical experiments to answer research question and replicate stylized facts

Main results:

- Two mechanism, in a growing economy, push rent and house price up: i) housing uses the fixed factor intensively and ii) differential technological change
- Some stylized facts can be explained in steady state, others not → transition

The paper in one slide

Research question: Why did the housing wealth-to-income ratio increase since 1950?

Method:

- Stylized facts on housing & macro for 4 developed economies
- Novel housing & macro model that is designed to think long term
- Steady state insights and numerical experiments to answer research question and replicate stylized facts

Main results:

- Two mechanism, in a growing economy, push rent and house price up: i) housing uses the fixed factor intensively and ii) differential technological change
- Some stylized facts can be explained in steady state, others not → transition
- Calibrated model replicates (overpredicts) increase in housing wealth to income ratio, in line with the stylized facts

Macroeconomic relevance of rising housing wealth-to-income ratio

- Increasing housing wealth-to-income ratios implies that average household pays a higher multiple of income to purchase a house (if # of houses per household remained largely constant)

Macroeconomic relevance of rising housing wealth-to-income ratio

- Increasing housing wealth-to-income ratios implies that average household pays a higher multiple of income to purchase a house (if # of houses per household remained largely constant)
- Financial sector: rising wealth-to-income ratio and housing wealth-to-income ratio

Macroeconomic relevance of rising housing wealth-to-income ratio

- Increasing housing wealth-to-income ratios implies that average household pays a higher multiple of income to purchase a house (if # of houses per household remained largely constant)
- Financial sector: rising wealth-to-income ratio and housing wealth-to-income ratio
 - Contribute to an increase in the financial sector Philippon (2015); Gennaioli et al. (2014)

Macroeconomic relevance of rising housing wealth-to-income ratio

- Increasing housing wealth-to-income ratios implies that average household pays a higher multiple of income to purchase a house (if # of houses per household remained largely constant)
- Financial sector: rising wealth-to-income ratio and housing wealth-to-income ratio
 - Contribute to an increase in the financial sector Philippon (2015); Gennaioli et al. (2014)
 - Lead to more private debt via mortgage loans Jordà et al. (2016)

Macroeconomic relevance of rising housing wealth-to-income ratio

- Increasing housing wealth-to-income ratios implies that average household pays a higher multiple of income to purchase a house (if # of houses per household remained largely constant)
- Financial sector: rising wealth-to-income ratio and housing wealth-to-income ratio
 - Contribute to an increase in the financial sector Philippon (2015); Gennaioli et al. (2014)
 - Lead to more private debt via mortgage loans Jordà et al. (2016)
- Declining labor income share \Leftrightarrow rising wealth income share Gutierrez Gallardo and Piton (forth.)

Macroeconomic relevance of rising housing wealth-to-income ratio

- Increasing housing wealth-to-income ratios implies that average household pays a higher multiple of income to purchase a house (if # of houses per household remained largely constant)
- Financial sector: rising wealth-to-income ratio and housing wealth-to-income ratio
 - Contribute to an increase in the financial sector Philippon (2015); Gennaioli et al. (2014)
 - Lead to more private debt via mortgage loans Jordà et al. (2016)
- Declining labor income share \Leftrightarrow rising wealth income share Gutierrez Gallardo and Piton (forth.)
 - *Wealth share* = *housing wealth share* + *non-housing wealth share*

Macroeconomic relevance of rising housing wealth-to-income ratio

- Increasing housing wealth-to-income ratios implies that average household pays a higher multiple of income to purchase a house (if # of houses per household remained largely constant)
- Financial sector: rising wealth-to-income ratio and housing wealth-to-income ratio
 - Contribute to an increase in the financial sector Philippon (2015); Gennaioli et al. (2014)
 - Lead to more private debt via mortgage loans Jordà et al. (2016)
- Declining labor income share \Leftrightarrow rising wealth income share Gutierrez Gallardo and Piton (forth.)
 - *Wealth share* = *housing wealth share* + *non-housing wealth share*
 - Rognlie (2015): *housing wealth share* \uparrow and *non-housing wealth share* = *const.*

Macroeconomic relevance of rising housing wealth-to-income ratio

- Increasing housing wealth-to-income ratios implies that average household pays a higher multiple of income to purchase a house (if # of houses per household remained largely constant)
- Financial sector: rising wealth-to-income ratio and housing wealth-to-income ratio
 - Contribute to an increase in the financial sector Philippon (2015); Gennaioli et al. (2014)
 - Lead to more private debt via mortgage loans Jordà et al. (2016)
- Declining labor income share \Leftrightarrow rising wealth income share Gutierrez Gallardo and Piton (forth.)
 - *Wealth share* = *housing wealth share* + *non-housing wealth share*
 - Rognlie (2015): *housing wealth share* \uparrow and *non-housing wealth share* = *const.*
 - *Housing wealth share* = $\left(r^H - \frac{\Delta P^H}{P^H}\right) \frac{W^H}{NNP}$

Macroeconomic relevance of rising housing wealth-to-income ratio

- Increasing housing wealth-to-income ratios implies that average household pays a higher multiple of income to purchase a house (if # of houses per household remained largely constant)
- Financial sector: rising wealth-to-income ratio and housing wealth-to-income ratio
 - Contribute to an increase in the financial sector Philippon (2015); Gennaioli et al. (2014)
 - Lead to more private debt via mortgage loans Jordà et al. (2016)
- Declining labor income share \Leftrightarrow rising wealth income share Gutierrez Gallardo and Piton (forth.)
 - *Wealth share* = *housing wealth share* + *non-housing wealth share*
 - Rognlie (2015): *housing wealth share* \uparrow and *non-housing wealth share* = *const.*
 - *Housing wealth share* = $\left(r^H - \frac{\Delta P^H}{P^H}\right) \frac{W^H}{NNP}$
 - Jordà et al. (2019): declining/stable r^H and stable $\frac{\Delta P^H}{P^H}$

Macroeconomic relevance of rising housing wealth-to-income ratio

- Increasing housing wealth-to-income ratios implies that average household pays a higher multiple of income to purchase a house (if # of houses per household remained largely constant)
 - Financial sector: rising wealth-to-income ratio and housing wealth-to-income ratio
 - Contribute to an increase in the financial sector Philippon (2015); Gennaioli et al. (2014)
 - Lead to more private debt via mortgage loans Jordà et al. (2016)
 - Declining labor income share \Leftrightarrow rising wealth income share Gutierrez Gallardo and Piton (forth.)
 - *Wealth share* = *housing wealth share* + *non-housing wealth share*
 - Rognlie (2015): *housing wealth share* \uparrow and *non-housing wealth share* = *const.*
 - *Housing wealth share* = $\left(r^H - \frac{\Delta P^H}{P^H}\right) \frac{W^H}{NNP}$
 - Jorda et al. (2019): declining/stable r^H and stable $\frac{\Delta P^H}{P^H}$
- Rising *wealth share* has to be explained by rising *housing wealth-to-income ratio* $\frac{W^H}{NNP}$

What this paper is not about

- Finance: financial liberalization, great mortgaging
→ this paper: fundamental forces

What this paper is not about

- Finance: financial liberalization, great mortgaging
→ this paper: fundamental forces
- Inequality, heterogeneous agent models, homeownership
→ this paper: simple theory

What this paper is not about

- Finance: financial liberalization, great mortgaging
→ this paper: fundamental forces
- Inequality, heterogeneous agent models, homeownership
→ this paper: simple theory
- VAR / reduced form econometrics
→ this paper: model-based inference
→ this paper: simple theory

What this paper is not about

- Finance: financial liberalization, great mortgaging
→ this paper: fundamental forces
- Inequality, heterogeneous agent models, homeownership
→ this paper: simple theory
- VAR / reduced form econometrics
→ this paper: model-based inference
→ this paper: simple theory
- Regional economics, urbanization, spatial modeling

- **Early literature:** Ricardo (1817); Nichols (1970)
- **Housing wealth, house and land prices:** Davis and Heathcote (2007); Piketty and Zucman (2014); Rognlie (2015); Stiglitz (2015); Knoll, Schularick, and Steger (2016)
- **Short run:** Davis and Heathcote (2005); Hornstein (2009), Iacoviello, and Neri (2010); Favilukis et al. (2017); Piazzesi and Schneider (2016)
- **Long run:** Hansen and Prescott (2002); Borri and Reichlin (2018); Herkenhoff, Ohanian, and Prescott (2018); Miles and Sefton (2018); Bonnet et al. (2019)
- **Declining labor income share:** Karabarbounis and Neiman (2013); Piketty (2014); Rognlie (2015); Grossmann et al. (2017); Cetto, Koehl, and Philippon (2019); Aghion et al. (2019); Gutierrez Gallardo and Piton (forthcoming)

1. Introduction
2. Facts
3. Model
4. Steady state
5. Transition
6. Discussion
7. Summary

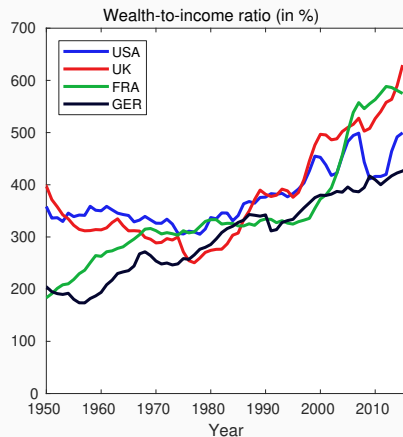
Facts

Stylized facts on housing & macro in the long run

1. **Wealth:** Wealth-to-income ratio \uparrow , housing wealth-to-income ratio $\uparrow\uparrow$
2. **Prices:** Real house price $\uparrow\uparrow$, construction cost \uparrow , residential land prices $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$
3. **Quantities:** House quantity $\uparrow\uparrow$, residential structures $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$, residential land \uparrow
4. **Land share:** Residential land value as share of housing wealth \uparrow
5. **Rent:** Housing rent \uparrow

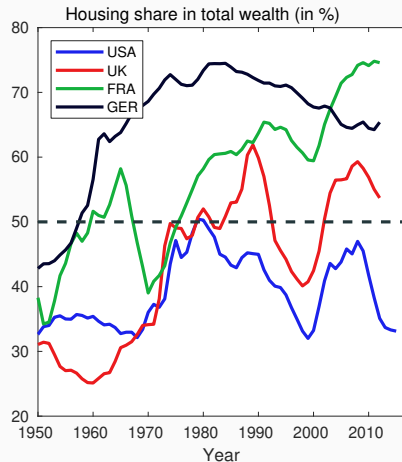
Stylized facts on housing & macro in the long run

1. **Wealth:** Wealth-to-income ratio \uparrow , housing wealth-to-income ratio $\uparrow\uparrow$



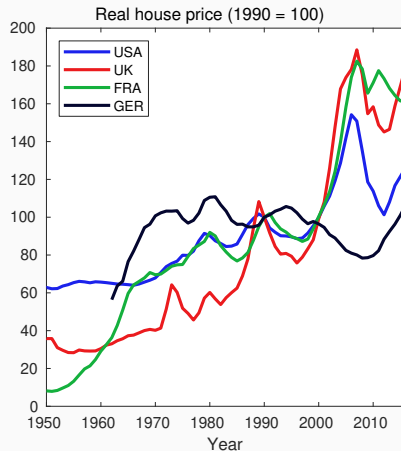
Stylized facts on housing & macro in the long run

1. **Wealth:** Wealth-to-income ratio \uparrow , **housing**
wealth-to-income ratio $\uparrow\uparrow$



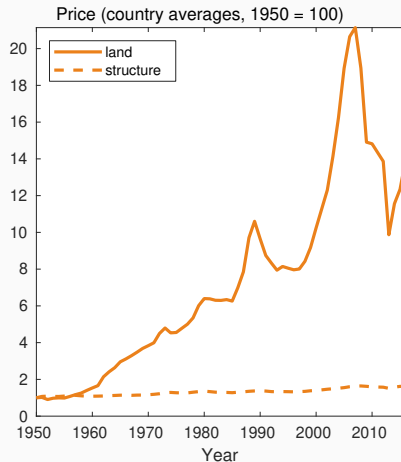
Stylized facts on housing & macro in the long run

1. **Wealth:** Wealth-to-income ratio \uparrow , housing wealth-to-income ratio $\uparrow\uparrow$
2. **Prices:** Real house price $\uparrow\uparrow$, construction cost \uparrow , residential land prices $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$



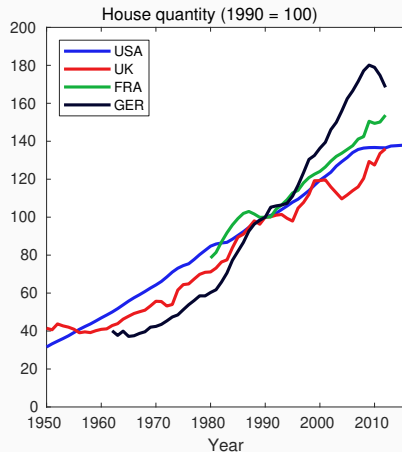
Stylized facts on housing & macro in the long run

1. **Wealth:** Wealth-to-income ratio \uparrow , housing wealth-to-income ratio $\uparrow\uparrow$
2. **Prices:** Real house price $\uparrow\uparrow$, **construction cost** \uparrow , **residential land prices** $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$



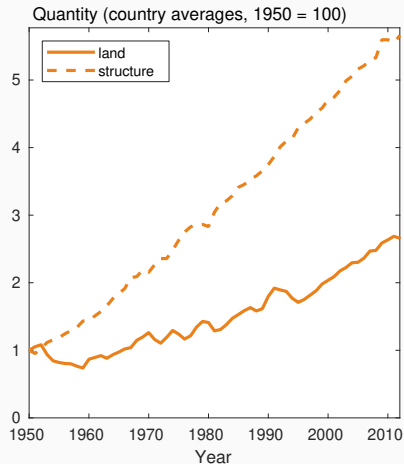
Stylized facts on housing & macro in the long run

1. **Wealth:** Wealth-to-income ratio \uparrow , housing wealth-to-income ratio $\uparrow\uparrow$
2. **Prices:** Real house price $\uparrow\uparrow$, construction cost \uparrow , residential land prices $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$
3. **Quantities:** House quantity $\uparrow\uparrow$, residential structures $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$, residential land \uparrow



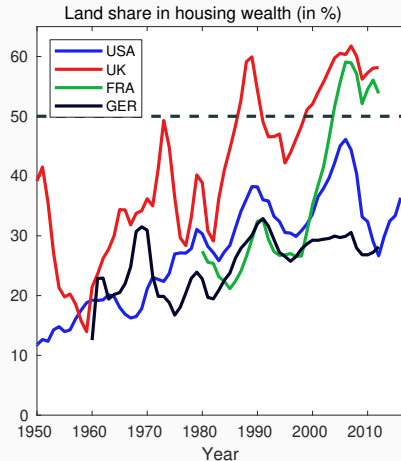
Stylized facts on housing & macro in the long run

1. **Wealth:** Wealth-to-income ratio \uparrow , housing wealth-to-income ratio $\uparrow\uparrow$
2. **Prices:** Real house price $\uparrow\uparrow$, construction cost \uparrow , residential land prices $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$
3. **Quantities:** House quantity $\uparrow\uparrow$, **residential structures** $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$, **residential land** \uparrow



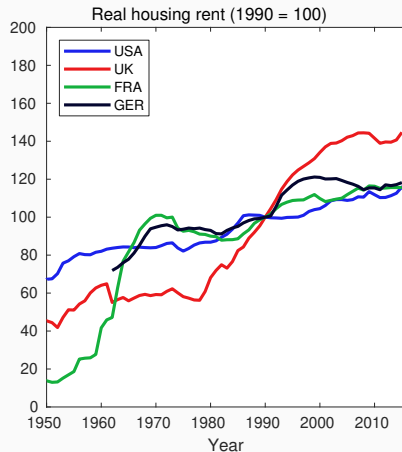
Stylized facts on housing & macro in the long run

1. **Wealth:** Wealth-to-income ratio \uparrow , housing wealth-to-income ratio $\uparrow\uparrow$
2. **Prices:** Real house price $\uparrow\uparrow$, construction cost \uparrow , residential land prices $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$
3. **Quantities:** House quantity $\uparrow\uparrow$, residential structures $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$, residential land \uparrow
4. **Land share:** Residential land value as share of housing wealth \uparrow



Stylized facts on housing & macro in the long run

1. **Wealth:** Wealth-to-income ratio \uparrow , housing wealth-to-income ratio $\uparrow\uparrow$
2. **Prices:** Real house price $\uparrow\uparrow$, construction cost \uparrow , residential land prices $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$
3. **Quantities:** House quantity $\uparrow\uparrow$, residential structures $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$, residential land \uparrow
4. **Land share:** Residential land value as share of housing wealth \uparrow
5. **Rent:** Housing rent \uparrow



Stylized facts on housing & macro in the long run

1. **Wealth:** Wealth-to-income ratio \uparrow , housing wealth-to-income ratio $\uparrow\uparrow$
2. **Prices:** Real house price $\uparrow\uparrow$, construction cost \uparrow , residential land prices $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$
3. **Quantities:** House quantity $\uparrow\uparrow$, residential structures $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$, residential land \uparrow
4. **Land share:** Residential land value as share of housing wealth \uparrow
5. **Rent:** Housing rent \uparrow

Stylized facts: numbers

Fact #	Variable	US	UK	FR	DE
		1950–2015	1950–2012	1960–2012	1962–2012
1	wealth-to-income ratio	1.39	1.4	2.2	1.88
	housing wealth-to-income ratio	1.42	2.4	3.2	1.93
	non-housing wealth-to-income ratio	1.38	0.9	1.2	1.79
2	house price	1.9	4.0	6.0	1.6
	residential land price	8.4	9.6	32.2	2.3
	residential structure price	1.2	2.1	1.1	1.4
3	house quantity	4.4	3.3	2.2	4.2
	residential land quantity	2.8	2.1	1.6	3.5
	residential structure quantity	5.5	4.3	6.3	4.3
4	land's share in housing wealth	2.8	1.5	3.8	1.2
5	housing rent	1.7	3.1	2.8	1.6

Model



General model characteristics

- Ramsey growth model (frictionless, neoclassical economy)

General model characteristics

- Ramsey growth model (frictionless, neoclassical economy)
- Two main sectors: numeraire sector & housing sector

General model characteristics

- Ramsey growth model (frictionless, neoclassical economy)
- Two main sectors: numeraire sector & housing sector
- Exogenous population growth & exogenous technological change

General model characteristics

- Ramsey growth model (frictionless, neoclassical economy)
- Two main sectors: numeraire sector & housing sector
- Exogenous population growth & exogenous technological change

Specific characteristics (relative to literature)

- Fixed quantity of overall land & endogenous land allocation

General model characteristics

- Ramsey growth model (frictionless, neoclassical economy)
- Two main sectors: numeraire sector & housing sector
- Exogenous population growth & exogenous technological change

Specific characteristics (relative to literature)

- Fixed quantity of overall land & endogenous land allocation
- Three stocks: capital K , residential structure X , fixed land Z (residential land N and non-residential land Z^Y)

General model characteristics

- Ramsey growth model (frictionless, neoclassical economy)
- Two main sectors: numeraire sector & housing sector
- Exogenous population growth & exogenous technological change

Specific characteristics (relative to literature)

- Fixed quantity of overall land & endogenous land allocation
- Three stocks: capital K , residential structure X , fixed land Z (residential land N and non-residential land Z^Y)
- Housing stock: two-dimensional object (reproducible X & non-reproducible N)

Representative household chooses $\{C_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ and $\{S_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ to maximize

$$U = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\rho t} L_t \frac{\left[\left(\frac{C_t}{L_t} \right)^{1-\theta} \left(\frac{S_t}{L_t} \right)^{\theta} \right]^{1-\sigma} - 1}{1-\sigma} dt, \quad (1)$$

Representative household chooses $\{C_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ and $\{S_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ to maximize

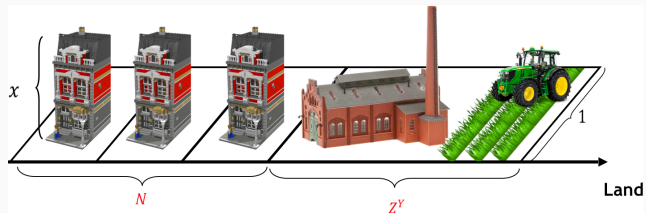
$$U = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\rho t} L_t \frac{\left[\left(\frac{C_t}{L_t} \right)^{1-\theta} \left(\frac{S_t}{L_t} \right)^{\theta} \right]^{1-\sigma} - 1}{1-\sigma} dt, \quad (1)$$

subject to

$$\dot{W}_t = r_t W_t + w_t L_t + \Pi_t^N - C_t - q_t S_t, \quad W_0 = \text{given}, \quad NPGC. \quad (2)$$

Notes: The measure of households is normalized to one. Each household consists of measure L_t members. Each household member supplies one unit of labor inelastically such that labor supply per household is L_t . Households maximize "the sum" of per-capita utility.

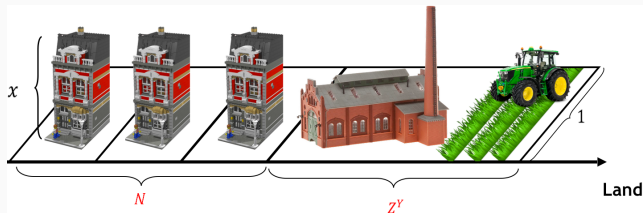
Production sectors



Numeraire sector

$$Y = (K)^\alpha (B^Y L^Y)^\beta (B^Y Z^Y)^{1-\alpha-\beta}$$

Production sectors



Housing sector

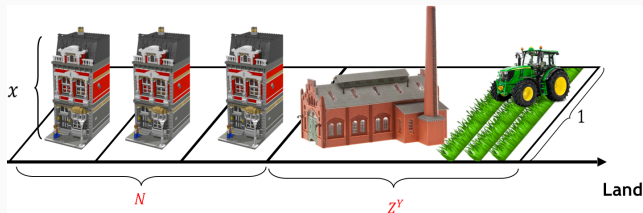
- Housing services supply: S

$$S = X^\gamma N^{1-\gamma}$$

Numeraire sector

$$Y = (K)^\alpha (B^Y L^Y)^\beta (B^Y Z^Y)^{1-\alpha-\beta}$$

Production sectors



Housing sector

- Housing services supply: S

$$S = X^\gamma \dot{N}^{1-\gamma}$$

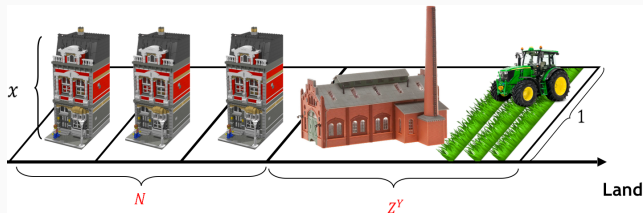
- Real estate development: \dot{N}

$$Cost = P^Z \dot{N} + w \frac{\xi}{2} \left(\overset{\text{extensive}}{\dot{N}} \right)^2$$

Numeraire sector

$$Y = (K)^\alpha (B^Y L^Y)^\beta (B^Y Z^Y)^{1-\alpha-\beta}$$

Production sectors



Housing sector

- Housing services supply: S

$$S = X^\gamma \mathbf{N}^{1-\gamma}$$

- Real estate development: \dot{N}

$$\text{Cost} = P^Z \dot{N} + w \overset{\text{extensive}}{\frac{\xi}{2}} \left(\dot{N} \right)^2$$

- Construction: \dot{X}

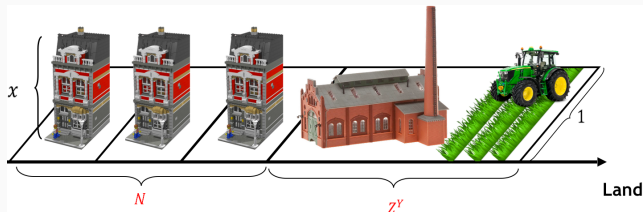
$$\dot{X} = (M)^\eta \left(\mathbf{B}^X L^X \right)^{1-\eta} - \delta^X X$$

intensive

Numeraire sector

$$Y = (K)^\alpha \left(\mathbf{B}^Y L^Y \right)^\beta \left(\mathbf{B}^Y \mathbf{Z}^Y \right)^{1-\alpha-\beta}$$

Production sectors



Housing sector

- Housing services supply: S

$$S = X^\gamma N^{1-\gamma}$$

- Real estate development: \dot{N}

$$\text{Cost} = P^Z \dot{N} + w \frac{\xi}{2} \left(\dot{N} \right)^2$$

extensive

- Construction: \dot{X}

$$\dot{X} = (M)^\eta (B^X L^X)^{1-\eta} - \delta^X X$$

intensive

Numeraire sector

$$Y = (K)^\alpha (B^Y L^Y)^\beta (B^Y Z^Y)^{1-\alpha-\beta}$$

Resource constraints

- Labor:

$$L^Y + L^X + L^N = L$$

- Land:

$$N + Z^Y = Z$$

- Wealth consists of 4 assets

$$W = \underbrace{P^N N + P^X X}_{\text{housing wealth}} + \underbrace{P^Z Z^Y + K}_{\text{non-housing wealth}}$$

- Wealth consists of 4 assets

$$W = \underbrace{P^N N + P^X X}_{\text{housing wealth}} + \underbrace{P^Z Z^Y + K}_{\text{non-housing wealth}}$$

- No-arbitrage conditions hold in equilibrium

$$r = \frac{\dot{P}^N}{P^N} + \frac{R^N}{P^N} = \frac{\dot{P}^X}{P^X} + \frac{R^X}{P^X} = \frac{\dot{P}^Z}{P^Z} + \frac{R^Z}{P^Z}$$

General equilibrium

A **general equilibrium** is a sequence of quantities and prices

$$\left\{ Y_t, K_t, X_t, N_t, M_t, L_t^Y, L_t^X, L_t^N, Z_t^Y, C_t, S_t, W_t, q_t, w_t, r_t, P_t^Z, P_t^N, P_t^X, R_t^Z, R_t^N, R_t^X \right\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$$

for initial conditions K_0, N_0, X_0 and given $\{B_t^X, B_t^Y, L_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ such that

- i) households maximize eq. (1) subject to eq. (2)
- ii) firms in construction sector, numeraire sector, real estate developers, and housing services producers maximize profits, taking prices as given
- iii) labor market clears: $L_t^X + L_t^Y + L_t^N = L_t$
- iv) land market clears: $N_t + Z_t^Y = Z$
- v) asset markets clears: $W_t = K_t + P_t^N N_t + P_t^X X_t + P_t^Z Z_t^Y$
- vi) perfect arbitrage across all assets holds
- vii) market for housing services clears
- viii) market for numeraire good clears: $Y_t = C_t + I_t^K + I_t^{Z^Y} + I_t^N + M_t$

redundant due to Walras' law

$$I_t^{Z^Y} \equiv P_t^Z \dot{Z}_t^Y, I_t^N \equiv P_t^N \dot{N}_t + w L^N$$

Steady state

Steady state growth rates: differential technological growth

Variables	Growth rate
r	0

Notes: Parameters g^Y and g^X denote growth rates of the technology variable in the numeraire sector, B^Y , and the technology variable in the construction sector, B^X , respectively. The house price is defined as a Laspeyres price index. Land share in housing wealth is defined as $\lambda_t \equiv (P_t^N N_t) / (P_t^N N_t + P_t^X X_t)$.

Steady state growth rates: differential technological growth

Variables	Growth rate
r	0
$Y, K, M, w, R^Z, R^N, P^Z, P^N, C, NNP, W$	g^Y

Notes: Parameters g^Y and g^X denote growth rates of the technology variable in the numeraire sector, B^Y , and the technology variable in the construction sector, B^X , respectively. The house price is defined as a Laspeyres price index. Land share in housing wealth is defined as $\lambda_t \equiv (P_t^N N_t) / (P_t^N N_t + P_t^X X_t)$.

Steady state growth rates: differential technological growth

Variables	Growth rate
r	0
$Y, K, M, w, R^Z, R^N, P^Z, P^N, C, NNP, W$	g^Y
X, I^X	$\eta g^Y + (1 - \eta)g^X$

Notes: Parameters g^Y and g^X denote growth rates of the technology variable in the numeraire sector, B^Y , and the technology variable in the construction sector, B^X , respectively. The house price is defined as a Laspeyres price index. Land share in housing wealth is defined as $\lambda_t \equiv (P_t^N N_t) / (P_t^N N_t + P_t^X X_t)$.

Steady state growth rates: differential technological growth

Variables	Growth rate
r	0
$Y, K, M, w, R^Z, R^N, P^Z, P^N, C, NNP, W$	g^Y
X, I^X	$\eta g^Y + (1 - \eta) g^X$
R^X, P^X	$(1 - \eta) (g^Y - g^X)$

Notes: Parameters g^Y and g^X denote growth rates of the technology variable in the numeraire sector, B^Y , and the technology variable in the construction sector, B^X , respectively. The house price is defined as a Laspeyres price index. Land share in housing wealth is defined as $\lambda_t \equiv (P_t^N N_t) / (P_t^N N_t + P_t^X X_t)$.

Steady state growth rates: differential technological growth

Variables	Growth rate
r	0
$Y, K, M, w, R^Z, R^N, P^Z, P^N, C, NNP, W$	g^Y
X, I^X	$\eta g^Y + (1 - \eta) g^X$
R^X, P^X	$(1 - \eta) (g^Y - g^X)$
S	$\gamma [\eta g^Y + (1 - \eta) g^X]$

Notes: Parameters g^Y and g^X denote growth rates of the technology variable in the numeraire sector, B^Y , and the technology variable in the construction sector, B^X , respectively. The house price is defined as a Laspeyres price index. Land share in housing wealth is defined as $\lambda_t \equiv (P_t^N N_t) / (P_t^N N_t + P_t^X X_t)$.

Steady state growth rates: differential technological growth

Variables	Growth rate
r	0
$Y, K, M, w, R^Z, R^N, P^Z, P^N, C, NNP, W$	g^Y
X, I^X	$\eta g^Y + (1 - \eta) g^X$
R^X, P^X	$(1 - \eta) (g^Y - g^X)$
S	$\gamma [\eta g^Y + (1 - \eta) g^X]$
q	$(1 - \eta \gamma) g^Y - (1 - \eta) \gamma g^X$

Notes: Parameters g^Y and g^X denote growth rates of the technology variable in the numeraire sector, B^Y , and the technology variable in the construction sector, B^X , respectively. The house price is defined as a Laspeyres price index. Land share in housing wealth is defined as $\lambda_t \equiv (P_t^N N_t) / (P_t^N N_t + P_t^X X_t)$.

Steady state growth rates: differential technological growth

Variables	Growth rate
r	0
$Y, K, M, w, R^Z, R^N, P^Z, P^N, C, NNP, W$	g^Y
X, I^X	$\eta g^Y + (1 - \eta) g^X$
R^X, P^X	$(1 - \eta) (g^Y - g^X)$
S	$\gamma [\eta g^Y + (1 - \eta) g^X]$
q	$(1 - \eta \gamma) g^Y - (1 - \eta) \gamma g^X$
$P_t^H \equiv \frac{P_t^N N_0 + P_t^X X_0}{P_0^N N_0 + P_0^X X_0}$	$\lambda_t g^Y + (1 - \lambda_t)(1 - \eta) (g^Y - g^X)$

Notes: Parameters g^Y and g^X denote growth rates of the technology variable in the numeraire sector, B^Y , and the technology variable in the construction sector, B^X , respectively. The house price is defined as a Laspeyres price index. Land share in housing wealth is defined as $\lambda_t \equiv (P_t^N N_t) / (P_t^N N_t + P_t^X X_t)$.

Stylized facts: steady state phenomena?

Stylized fact		Steady state?	Condition / comments
#	explanation		
1	Wealth-to-income ratios $\frac{p^H H + p^Z Z^Y + K}{NNP} \uparrow$ and $\frac{p^H H}{NNP} \uparrow$	no	wealth-to-income ratios constant in steady state

Notes: The expression g_x denotes the growth rate of an endogenous variable x .

Stylized facts: steady state phenomena?

Stylized fact		Steady state?	Condition / comments
#	explanation		
1	Wealth-to-income ratios $\frac{p^H_H + p^Z_Z Y + K}{NNP} \uparrow$ and $\frac{p^H_H}{NNP} \uparrow$	no	wealth-to-income ratios constant in steady state
2	Prices $g_{pN}, g_{pX}, g_{pH} > 0$ $g_{pN} > g_{pH} > g_{pX}$	yes	$g^Y > \max\{g^X, 0\}$ $g^X > -\frac{\eta}{1-\eta} g^Y$

Notes: The expression g_x denotes the growth rate of an endogenous variable x .

Stylized facts: steady state phenomena?

Stylized fact		Steady state?	Condition / comments
#	explanation		
1	Wealth-to-income ratios $\frac{P^H H + P^Z Z^Y + K}{NNP} \uparrow$ and $\frac{P^H H}{NNP} \uparrow$	no	wealth-to-income ratios constant in steady state
2	Prices $g_{pN}, g_{pX}, g_{pH} > 0$ $g_{pN} > g_{pH} > g_{pX}$	yes	$g^Y > \max\{g^X, 0\}$ $g^X > -\frac{\eta}{1-\eta} g^Y$
3	Quantities $g_X > g_N \geq 0$	yes	$g^X > -\frac{\eta}{1-\eta} g^Y$

Notes: The expression g_x denotes the growth rate of an endogenous variable x .

Stylized facts: steady state phenomena?

Stylized fact		Steady state?	Condition / comments
#	explanation		
1	Wealth-to-income ratios $\frac{P^H H + P^Z Z^Y + K}{NNP} \uparrow$ and $\frac{P^H H}{NNP} \uparrow$	no	wealth-to-income ratios constant in steady state
2	Prices $g_{pN}, g_{pX}, g_{pH} > 0$ $g_{pN} > g_{pH} > g_{pX}$	yes	$g^Y > \max\{g^X, 0\}$ $g^X > -\frac{\eta}{1-\eta} g^Y$
3	Quantities $g_X > g_N \geq 0$	yes	$g^X > -\frac{\eta}{1-\eta} g^Y$
4	Land share $\frac{P^N N}{P^N N + P^X X} \uparrow$	no	land share constant in steady state

Notes: The expression g_x denotes the growth rate of an endogenous variable x .

Stylized facts: steady state phenomena?

Stylized fact		Steady state?	Condition / comments
#	explanation		
1	Wealth-to-income ratios $\frac{P^H H + P^Z Z^Y + K}{NNP} \uparrow$ and $\frac{P^H H}{NNP} \uparrow$	no	wealth-to-income ratios constant in steady state
2	Prices $g_{pN}, g_{pX}, g_{pH} > 0$ $g_{pN} > g_{pH} > g_{pX}$	yes	$g^Y > \max\{g^X, 0\}$ $g^X > -\frac{\eta}{1-\eta} g^Y$
3	Quantities $g_X > g_N \geq 0$	yes	$g^X > -\frac{\eta}{1-\eta} g^Y$
4	Land share $\frac{P^N N}{P^N N + P^X X} \uparrow$	no	land share constant in steady state
5	Rents $g_q > 0$	yes	$g^X < \frac{1-\eta\gamma}{(1-\eta)\gamma} g^Y$

Notes: The expression g_x denotes the growth rate of an endogenous variable x .

Transition



Research question: Why did housing wealth increase since 1950?

- To answer this question, we must study transitional dynamics

Research question: Why did housing wealth increase since 1950?

- To answer this question, we must study transitional dynamics
- Can the calibrated model replicate the empirical data on housing wealth?

Research question: Why did housing wealth increase since 1950?

- To answer this question, we must study transitional dynamics
- Can the calibrated model replicate the empirical data on housing wealth?
- And: Is this explanation compatible with observations on prices, quantities, and the other remaining stylized facts?

The model is calibrated to the US (and the UK) over 1950–2015 at an annual frequency

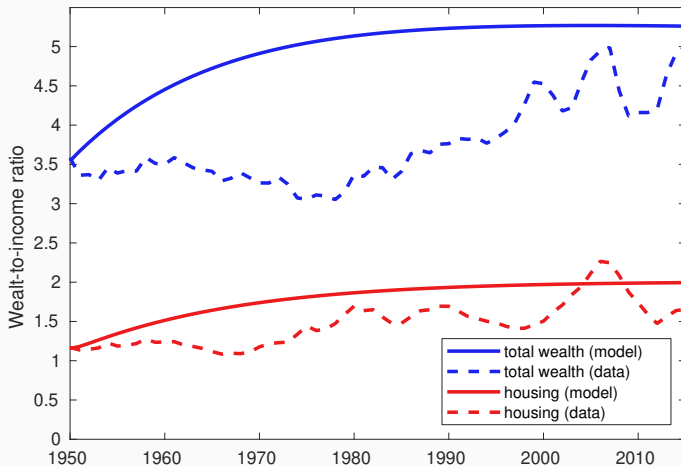
- We do not impose that the economy is in steady state
- Calibrated outside the model: θ , σ , δ^K , δ^X , β , and $\{L_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$
- Calibrated jointly inside the model: 10 parameters to match 10 moments

exogenous parameters

targeted moments

endogenous parameters

Stylized fact 1: housing wealth



Notes: Overall wealth-to-income and housing wealth-to-income ratio.

$$\frac{\text{wealth}}{\text{income}} \uparrow$$

Wealth decomposition

$$\frac{\text{wealth}}{\text{income}} \uparrow = \frac{\text{housing wealth}}{\text{income}} \uparrow + \frac{\text{non-housing wealth}}{\text{income}}$$

Wealth decomposition

$$\frac{\text{wealth}}{\text{income}} \uparrow = \frac{\text{housing wealth}}{\text{income}} \uparrow + \frac{\text{non-housing wealth}}{\text{income}}$$

$$\frac{\text{housing wealth}}{\text{income}}$$

Wealth decomposition

$$\frac{\text{wealth}}{\text{income}} \uparrow = \frac{\text{housing wealth}}{\text{income}} \uparrow + \frac{\text{non-housing wealth}}{\text{income}}$$

$$\frac{\text{housing wealth}}{\text{income}} = \frac{p^{\text{housing}} \uparrow \times Q^{\text{housing}}}{\text{income}}$$

Notation: P is price, Q is quantity

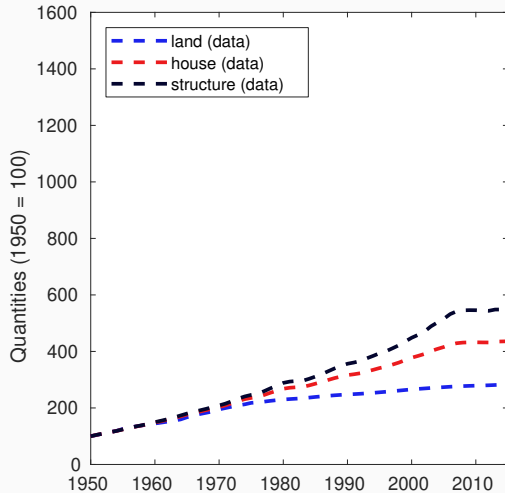
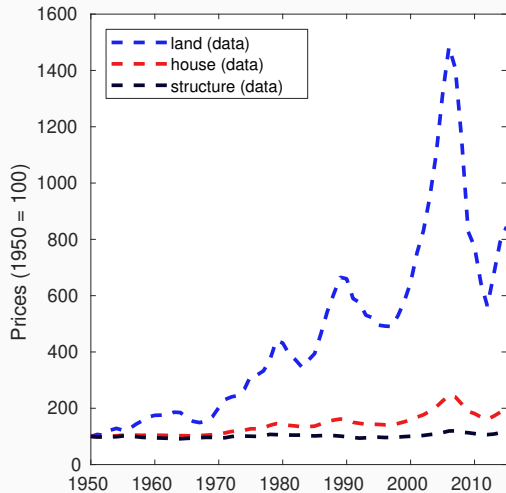
Wealth decomposition

$$\frac{\text{wealth}}{\text{income}} \uparrow = \frac{\text{housing wealth}}{\text{income}} \uparrow + \frac{\text{non-housing wealth}}{\text{income}}$$

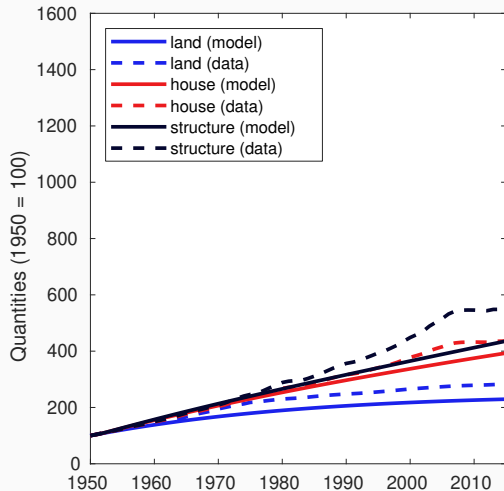
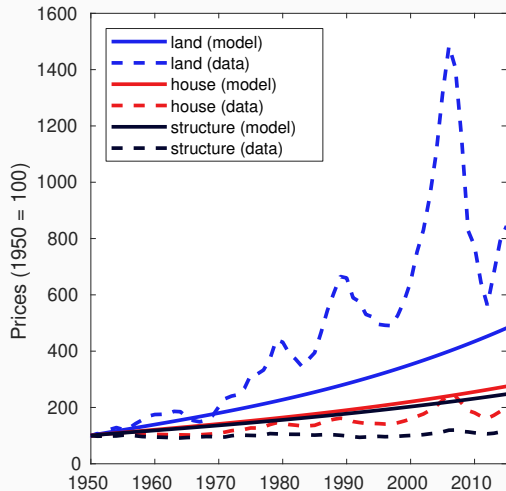
$$\frac{\text{housing wealth}}{\text{income}} = \frac{p^{\text{housing}} \uparrow \times Q^{\text{housing}}}{\text{income}} = \frac{p^{\text{structures}} \times Q^{\text{structures}}}{\text{income}} + \frac{p^{\text{land}} \uparrow \times Q^{\text{land}}}{\text{income}}$$

Notation: P is price, Q is quantity

Prices & quantities - stylized facts 2 & 3



Prices & quantities - stylized facts 2 & 3



Other stylized facts and the relevant model elements

stylized fact	variable	data (US)	model (4) baseline
1	$\frac{W}{NNP}$	1.39	1.55
	$\frac{P^N N + P^X X}{NNP}$	1.42	1.80
	P^H	1.93	2.75
2	P^N	8.45	4.82
	P^X	1.16	2.47
	N	2.80	2.29
3	X	5.49	4.36
	$\frac{P^N N}{P^N N + P^X X}$	2.84	1.02
5	q	1.70	1.70

Notes. All values are growth factors of the respective variable between 1950 and 2015. Bold numbers highlight targeted moments.

Other stylized facts and the relevant model elements

stylized fact	variable	data (US)	model (1) Ramsey
1	$\frac{W}{NNP}$	1.39	1.24
	$\frac{P^N N + P^X X}{NNP}$	1.42	-
	P^H	1.93	-
2	P^N	8.45	-
	P^X	1.16	-
3	N	2.80	-
	X	5.49	-
4	$\frac{P^N N}{P^N N + P^X X}$	2.84	-
5	q	1.70	-

Notes. All values are growth factors of the respective variable between 1950 and 2015. Bold numbers highlight targeted moments.

Other stylized facts and the relevant model elements

stylized fact	variable	data (US)	model (1) Ramsey	model (2) + exog. X & N
1	$\frac{W}{NNP}$	1.39	1.24	1.22
	$\frac{P^N N + P^X X}{NNP}$	1.42	-	1.14
2	P^H	1.93	-	6.85
	P^N	8.45	-	6.84
	P^X	1.16	-	6.86
3	N	2.80	-	1.00
	X	5.49	-	1.00
4	$\frac{P^N N}{P^N N + P^X X}$	2.84	-	1.00
5	q	1.70	-	6.48

Notes. All values are growth factors of the respective variable between 1950 and 2015. Bold numbers highlight targeted moments.

Other stylized facts and the relevant model elements

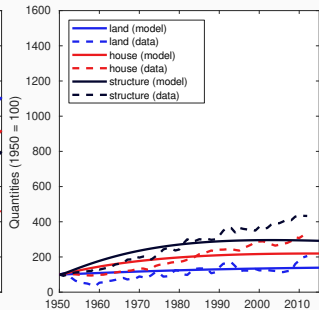
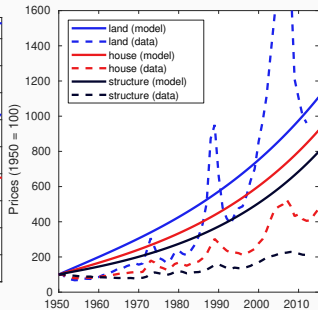
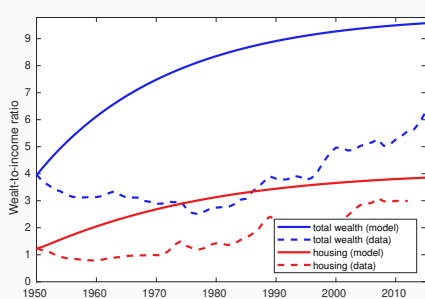
stylized fact	variable	data (US)	model (1) Ramsey	model (2) + exog. X & N	model (3) + endog. X
1	$\frac{W}{NNP}$	1.39	1.24	1.22	4.91
	$\frac{P^N N + P^X X}{NNP}$	1.42	-	1.14	10.44
2	P^H	1.93	-	6.85	57.18
	P^N	8.45	-	6.84	496.83
	P^X	1.16	-	6.86	1.89
3	N	2.80	-	1.00	1.00
	X	5.49	-	1.00	4.25
4	$\frac{P^N N}{P^N N + P^X X}$	2.84	-	1.00	7.93
5	q	1.70	-	6.48	1.70

Notes. All values are growth factors of the respective variable between 1950 and 2015. Bold numbers highlight targeted moments.

Other stylized facts and the relevant model elements

stylized fact	variable	data (US)	model (1) Ramsey	model (2) + exog. X & N	model (3) + endog. X	model (4) baseline
1	$\frac{W}{NNP}$	1.39	1.24	1.22	4.91	1.55
	$\frac{P^N N + P^X X}{NNP}$	1.42	-	1.14	10.44	1.80
2	P^H	1.93	-	6.85	57.18	2.75
	P^N	8.45	-	6.84	496.83	4.82
	P^X	1.16	-	6.86	1.89	2.47
3	N	2.80	-	1.00	1.00	2.29
	X	5.49	-	1.00	4.25	4.36
4	$\frac{P^N N}{P^N N + P^X X}$	2.84	-	1.00	7.93	1.02
5	q	1.70	-	6.48	1.70	1.70

Notes. All values are growth factors of the respective variable between 1950 and 2015. Bold numbers highlight targeted moments.



Discussion

The model underestimates the surge in the land share in housing. What's missing?

- CES in housing services production: N and X being weak substitutes
→ preliminary results on next slide
- Zoning regulation: supply of residential land, constraining N
- Urbanization: supply of residential land, constraining N
- Homeownership "revolution" and great mortgaging: demand for housing services, θ , increases

stylized fact	variable	data (US)	model (4) baseline	model (5) $g^X = -\frac{\eta}{1-\eta}g^Y$
1	$\frac{W}{NNP}$	1.39	1.55	1.70
	$\frac{P^N N + P^X X}{NNP}$	1.42	1.80	2.01
	P^H	1.93	2.75	3.37
2	P^N	8.45	4.82	5.56
	P^X	1.16	2.47	3.07
3	N	2.80	2.29	2.08
	X	5.49	4.36	3.94
4	$\frac{P^N N}{P^N N + P^X X}$	2.84	1.02	0.96
5	q	1.70	1.70	1.93

Notes. All values are growth factors of the respective variable between 1950 and 2015. Bold numbers highlight targeted moments. Model (5) is re-calibrated while model (6) applies the same parameters from (5) except the elasticity of substitution between N and X in the production function of S .

stylized fact	variable	data (US)	model (4) baseline	model (5) $g^X = -\frac{\eta}{1-\eta}g^Y$	model (6) $EoS = 0.25$
1	$\frac{W}{NNP}$	1.39	1.55	1.70	1.97
	$\frac{P^N N + P^X X}{NNP}$	1.42	1.80	2.01	2.58
	P^H	1.93	2.75	3.37	6.42
2	P^N	8.45	4.82	5.56	8.45
	P^X	1.16	2.47	3.07	2.79
3	N	2.80	2.29	2.08	1.97
	X	5.49	4.36	3.94	4.84
4	$\frac{P^N N}{P^N N + P^X X}$	2.84	1.02	0.96	1.07
5	q	1.70	1.70	1.93	2.58

Notes. All values are growth factors of the respective variable between 1950 and 2015. Bold numbers highlight targeted moments. Model (5) is re-calibrated while model (6) applies the same parameters from (5) except the elasticity of substitution between N and X in the production function of S .

Summary

Summary

- Our explanation for the long term increase in housing wealth rests on fundamental principles

Summary

- Our explanation for the long term increase in housing wealth rests on fundamental principles
 - The overall land endowments is fixed

Summary

- Our explanation for the long term increase in housing wealth rests on fundamental principles
 - The overall land endowments is fixed
 - Housing is land intensive & there is differential technological change

Summary

- Our explanation for the long term increase in housing wealth rests on fundamental principles
 - The overall land endowments is fixed
 - Housing is land intensive & there is differential technological change
 - Housing wealth comprises a reproducible component & a non-reproducible component

Summary

- Our explanation for the long term increase in housing wealth rests on fundamental principles
 - The overall land endowments is fixed
 - Housing is land intensive & there is differential technological change
 - Housing wealth comprises a reproducible component & a non-reproducible component
- Main takeaways

Summary

- Our explanation for the long term increase in housing wealth rests on fundamental principles
 - The overall land endowments is fixed
 - Housing is land intensive & there is differential technological change
 - Housing wealth comprises a reproducible component & a non-reproducible component
- Main takeaways
 - Our theory offers a candidate explanation for rising housing wealth and the other stylized facts on housing & macro

Summary

- Our explanation for the long term increase in housing wealth rests on fundamental principles
 - The overall land endowments is fixed
 - Housing is land intensive & there is differential technological change
 - Housing wealth comprises a reproducible component & a non-reproducible component
- Main takeaways
 - Our theory offers a candidate explanation for rising housing wealth and the other stylized facts on housing & macro
 - Two mechanism, in a growing economy, push the rent and the house price up: i) housing uses the fixed factor intensively and ii) differential technological change

Summary

- Our explanation for the long term increase in housing wealth rests on fundamental principles
 - The overall land endowments is fixed
 - Housing is land intensive & there is differential technological change
 - Housing wealth comprises a reproducible component & a non-reproducible component
- Main takeaways
 - Our theory offers a candidate explanation for rising housing wealth and the other stylized facts on housing & macro
 - Two mechanism, in a growing economy, push the rent and the house price up: i) housing uses the fixed factor intensively and ii) differential technological change
 - The resulting surge in housing wealth manifests itself primarily as an increase of the residential land price (non-reproducible component of housing wealth)

Appendix

Firm problem: numeraire

Mass one of identical firms that act under perfect competition and maximize

$$\max_{K, L^Y, Z^Y} (K)^\alpha \left(B^Y L^Y\right)^\beta \left(B^Y Z^Y\right)^{1-\alpha-\beta} - wL^Y - (r + \delta^K)K - R^Z Z^Y$$

FOC

$$r = \alpha \frac{Y}{K} - \delta^K, \quad w = \beta \frac{Y}{L^Y}, \quad \text{and} \quad R^Z = (1 - \alpha - \beta) \frac{Y}{Z^Y}$$

Aggregate capital stock evolves according to

$$\dot{K}_t = I_t^K - \delta^K K_t$$

Firm problem: housing services

Mass one of identical firms that act under perfect competition and maximize

$$\max_{X,N} q \underbrace{X^\gamma N^{1-\gamma}}_{=S} - (R^X + \delta^X P^X)X - R^N N$$

FOC

$$R^X = \gamma \frac{qS}{X} - \delta^X P^X, \quad \text{and} \quad R^N = (1 - \gamma) \frac{qS}{N}$$

Firm problem: real estate development (I/II)

Mass one of identical firms take prices as given and face the production function

$$\dot{N} = f(Z^N, L^N) = \begin{cases} \min \left\{ Z^N, \sqrt{\frac{2}{\xi}} L^N \right\} & \text{if } Z^N \geq 0 \\ \max \left\{ Z^N, -\sqrt{\frac{2}{\xi}} L^N \right\} & \text{if } Z^N < 0 \end{cases}$$

Cost minimization

$$\min_{Z^N, L^N} P^Z Z^N + w L^N$$

subject to

$$f(Z^N, L^N) = \bar{\dot{N}}$$

yields the cost function

$$\mathcal{C}(\dot{N}; P^Z, w) = P^Z \dot{N} + \frac{\xi w}{2} (\dot{N})^2$$

Firm problem: real estate development (II/II)

Profit maximization

$$\max_{\dot{N}} P^N \dot{N} - C(\dot{N}; P^N, P^Z, w)$$

FOC

$$\dot{N} = Z^N = \frac{P^N - P^Z}{\xi w} \quad \text{and} \quad L^N = \frac{(P^N - P^Z)^2}{2\xi w^2}$$

Profits

$$\Pi^N = \frac{(P^N - P^Z)^2}{2\xi w} = wL^N$$

Firm problem: construction sector

Mass one of identical firms that act under perfect competition and maximize

$$\max_{M, L^X} P^X M^\eta \underbrace{\left(B^X L^X \right)^{1-\eta}}_{=I^X} - M - wL^X$$

FOC ([interior solution](#))

$$w = (1 - \eta) \frac{P^X I^X}{L^X} \quad \text{and} \quad 1 = \eta \frac{P^X I^X}{M}$$

Canonical model

- Merits & features
 - Suitable for business cycle phenomena
 - Limited land scarcity
 - No land rivalry
 - Long-run inconsistency: replacement investment require land: $\int_0^\infty \bar{Z} dt = \infty$!

Davis and Heathcote (2005), Hornstein (2009), Iacoviello and Neri (2010), Favalukis, Ludvigson and Van Nieuwerburgh (2017), Borri and Reichlin (2018), ...

Canonical model (cont')

Numeraire good

$$Y_t = B_t^Y (K_t^Y)^\alpha (L_t^Y)^{1-\alpha}$$

non-residential rent missing

Construction

$$X_t = B_t^X (K_t^X)^\gamma (L_t^X)^{1-\gamma}$$

intermediate input

Housing services

$$\underbrace{B_t^H X_t^\beta \bar{Z}^{1-\beta}}_{\text{gross investment}} = \underbrace{\dot{H}_t}_{\text{net investment}} + \underbrace{\delta^H H_t}_{\text{replacement investment}}$$

\bar{Z} is (time-invariant) flow variable

Housing market clearing

$$S_t = q_t H_t$$

housing consumption

Capital market clearing

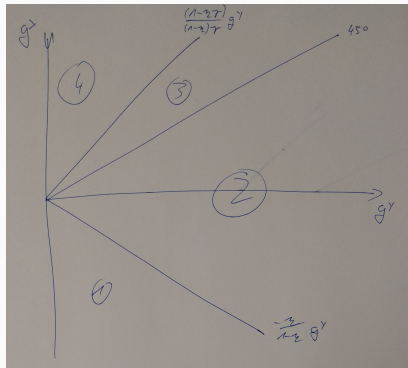
$$K_t^X + K_t^Y = K_t$$

Labor market clearing

$$L_t^X + L_t^Y = L_t$$

Relation of g^X and g^Y and steady state growth rates

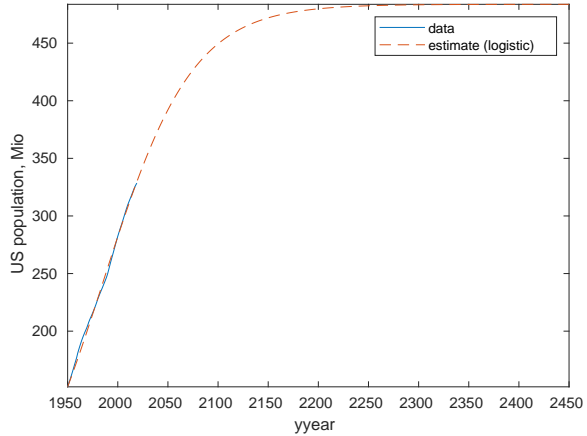
- If $g^X = -\frac{\eta}{1-\eta}g^Y$, then X, I^X , and S are constant while R^X, P^X , and q all grow at the rate g^Y
- If $g^Y = g^X$, then X, I^X grow at the rate g^Y , while R^X, P^X are constant and rents grow at $(1-\gamma)g^Y$ and S at $\gamma g^Y \rightarrow$ large spread in growth rates of $P^N(g^Y)$ and $P^X(0)$
- Region 1: X, I^X, S decline ↘
- Region 2: no variable declining in the long run
- Region 3: P^X, R^X decline ↘
- Region 4: P^X, R^X, q decline ↘



Calibrated outside of the model (US)

Parameter	Value	Explanation/Target
θ	0.19	housing expenditure share
σ	10/3	intertemporal elasticity of substitution
δ^K	$\ln(1 + 0.056)$	capital depreciation rate
δ^X	$\ln(1 + 0.015)$	structure depreciation rate
β	0.613	labor income share in Y sector
$\{L_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$	logistic difference equation	population dynamics

Population dynamics



Endogenously calibrated parameters (US)

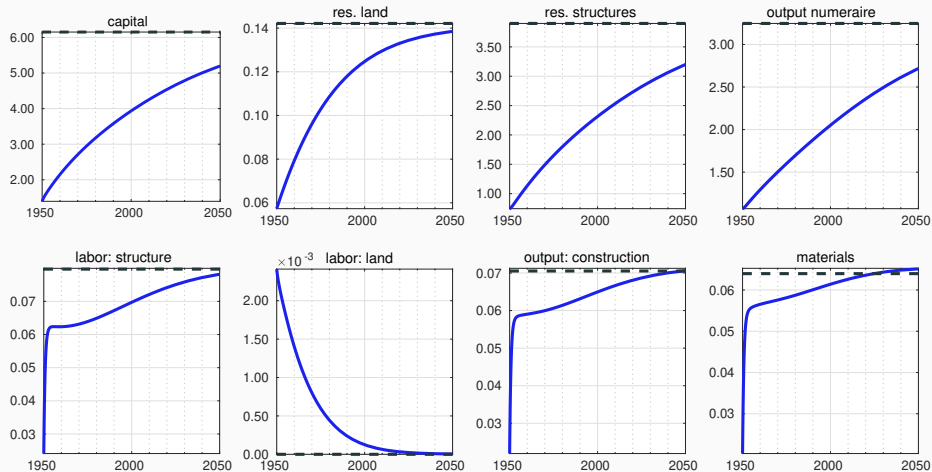
#	Parameter	Explanation	Value
1	ρ	time preference rate	0.040
2	K_0/K	initial capital stock (share of final)	0.227
3	γ	structure's elasticity in S	0.906
4	η	materials elasticity in I^X	0.556
5	X_0/X	initial stock of residential structures (share of final)	0.191
6	α	capital elasticity in Y	0.275
7	g^Y	technical growth in numeraire sector	0.017
8	g^X	technical growth in construction sector	-0.014
9	ξ	intensity of convex adjustment cost in residential land development	759.06
10	N_0/N	initial stock of residential land	0.403

Notes: Initial states, K_0 , N_0 , X_0 , are expressed relative to their respective final steady state values (normalized).

Targeted moments (US)

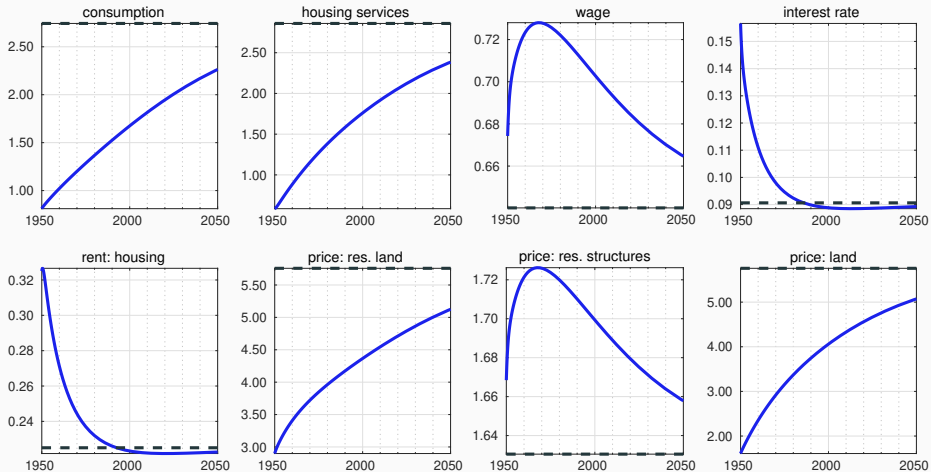
#	Moment	Data	Model	rel difference in %
1	$\frac{W}{NNP}$, 1950	3.6	3.6	0.000
2	$\frac{P^N N + P^X X}{W}$, 1950	32.6	32.6	0.000
3	$\frac{P^N N}{P^N N + P^X X}$, 1950	11.8	11.8	0.000
4	long-run $\frac{L^X + L^N}{L}$	2.5	2.5	0.000
5	$\frac{RESI}{GDP}$, 1950	5.6	5.6	0.000
6	$\frac{R^Z Z^Y}{NNP}$, 1950	10.0	10.0	0.001
7	$\frac{NNP_{2015}}{NNP_{1950}}$	6.0	6.0	0.000
8	$\frac{q_{2015}}{q_{1953}}$	1.7	1.7	0.000
9	Half-life of N (years)	22.6	22.6	0.001
10	$\frac{X_{2015}/N_{2015}}{X_{1950}/N_{1950}}$	2.8	2.8	0.000

Transition (I/III)



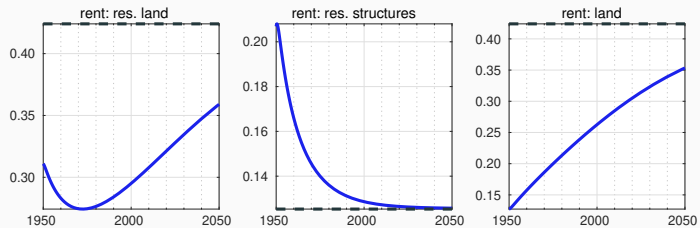
Notes: All variables are normalized.

Transition (II/III)



Notes: All variables are normalized.

Transition (III/III)



Notes: All variables are normalized.

Housing rents and interest rates

