

1 Unique and Stable Target and Steady State Points

This appendix proves Theorems H.1-H.4 and:

If \tilde{m} and \hat{m} both exist, then $\tilde{m} \leq \hat{m}$.

1.1 Proof of Theorem H.1

For the nondegenerate solution to the problem defined in Section 2.1 when FVAC, WRIC, and GIC-Mod all hold, there exists a unique cash-on-hand-to-permanent-income ratio $\hat{m} > 0$ such that

$$\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t] = 1 \text{ if } m_t = \hat{m}. \quad (1)$$

Moreover, \hat{m} is a point of ‘stability’ in the sense that

$$\begin{aligned} \forall m_t \in (0, \hat{m}), \quad \mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}] &> m_t \\ \forall m_t \in (\hat{m}, \infty), \quad \mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}] &< m_t. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

The elements of the proof of Theorem H.1 are:

- Existence and continuity of $\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t]$
- Existence of a point where $\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t] = 1$
- $\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}] - m_t$ is monotonically decreasing

1.2 Existence and Continuity of $\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t]$

The consumption function exists because we have imposed sufficient conditions (the WRIC and FVAC; Theorem 2.10).

Section 2.8 shows that for all t , $a_{t-1} = m_{t-1} - c_{t-1} > 0$. Since $m_t = a_{t-1}\mathcal{R}_t + \xi_t$, even if ξ_t takes on its minimum value of 0, $a_{t-1}\mathcal{R}_t > 0$, since both a_{t-1} and \mathcal{R}_t are strictly positive. With m_t and m_{t+1} both strictly positive, the ratio $\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t]$ inherits continuity (and, for that matter, continuous differentiability) from the consumption function.

1.3 Existence of a point where $\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t] = 1$.

This follows from:

1. Existence and continuity of $\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t]$ (just proven)
2. Existence a point where $\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t] < 1$
3. Existence a point where $\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t] > 1$
4. The Intermediate Value Theorem

1.3.1 Existence of m where $\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t] < 1$

If RIC holds. Logic exactly parallel to that of Section 3.1 leading to equation (39), but dropping the Φ_{t+1} from the RHS, establishes that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{m_t \uparrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t] &= \lim_{m_t \uparrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{\mathcal{R}_{t+1}(m_t - c(m_t)) + \xi_{t+1}}{m_t} \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_t[(\mathcal{R}/\Phi_{t+1})\mathbf{P}_R] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_t[\mathbf{P}/\Phi_{t+1}] \\ &< 1 \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

where the inequality reflects imposition of the **GIC-Mod** (26).

If RIC fails. When the **RIC** fails, the fact that $\lim_{m \uparrow \infty} c'(m) = 0$ (see equation (30)) means that the limit of the RHS of (3) as $m \uparrow \infty$ is $\bar{\mathcal{R}} = \mathbb{E}_t[\mathcal{R}_{t+1}]$. In the next step of this proof, we will prove that the combination **GIC-Mod** and **RIC** implies $\bar{\mathcal{R}} < 1$.

So we have $\lim_{m_t \uparrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t] < 1$ whether the **RIC** holds or fails.

1.3.2 Existence of $m > 1$ where $\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t] > 1$

Paralleling the logic for c in Section 3.2: the ratio of $\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}]$ to m_t is unbounded above as $m_t \downarrow 0$ because $\lim_{m_t \downarrow 0} \mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}] > 0$.

Intermediate Value Theorem. If $\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t]$ is continuous, and takes on values above and below 1, there must be at least one point at which it is equal to one.

1.3.3 $\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}] - m_t$ is monotonically decreasing.

Now define $\zeta(m_t) \equiv \mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}] - m_t$ and note that

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(m_t) < 0 &\leftrightarrow \mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t] < 1 \\ \zeta(m_t) = 0 &\leftrightarrow \mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t] = 1 \\ \zeta(m_t) > 0 &\leftrightarrow \mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t] > 1, \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

so that $\zeta(\hat{m}) = 0$. Our goal is to prove that $\zeta(\bullet)$ is strictly decreasing on $(0, \infty)$ using the fact that

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta'(m_t) &\equiv \left(\frac{d}{dm_t} \right) \zeta(m_t) = \mathbb{E}_t \left[\left(\frac{d}{dm_t} \right) (\mathcal{R}_{t+1}(m_t - c(m_t)) + \xi_{t+1} - m_t) \right] \\ &= \bar{\mathcal{R}} (1 - c'(m_t)) - 1. \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Now, we show that (given our other assumptions) $\zeta'(m)$ is decreasing (but for different reasons) whether the **RIC** holds or fails.

If RIC holds. Equation (16) indicates that if the **RIC** holds, then $\underline{\kappa} > 0$. We show at the bottom of Section 2.9.1 that if the **RIC** holds then $0 < \underline{\kappa} < c'(m_t) < 1$ so that

$$\bar{\mathcal{R}} (1 - c'(m_t)) - 1 < \bar{\mathcal{R}} (1 - \underbrace{(1 - \mathbf{P}_R)}_{\underline{\kappa}}) - 1$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \bar{\mathcal{R}} \mathbf{p}_R - 1 \\
&= \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{\mathbf{R}}{\Phi \Psi} \frac{\mathbf{p}}{\mathbf{R}} \right] - 1 \\
&= \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{\mathbf{p}}{\Phi \Psi} \right]}_{=\mathbf{p}_\Phi} - 1
\end{aligned}$$

which is negative because the **GIC-Mod** says $\mathbf{p}_\Phi < 1$.

If RIC fails. Under **RIC**, recall that $\lim_{m \uparrow \infty} c'(m) = 0$. Concavity of the consumption function means that c' is a decreasing function, so everywhere

$$\bar{\mathcal{R}} (1 - c'(m_t)) < \bar{\mathcal{R}}$$

which means that $\zeta'(m_t)$ from (5) is guaranteed to be negative if

$$\bar{\mathcal{R}} \equiv \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{\mathbf{R}}{\Phi \Psi} \right] < 1. \quad (6)$$

But the combination of the **GIC-Mod** holding and the **RIC** failing can be written:

$$\underbrace{\mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{\mathbf{p}}{\Phi \Psi} \right]}_{\mathbf{p}_\Phi} < 1 < \underbrace{\frac{\mathbf{p}_R}{\mathbf{R}}}_{\mathbf{p}_R},$$

and multiplying all three elements by \mathbf{R}/\mathbf{p} gives

$$\mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{\mathbf{R}}{\Phi \Psi} \right] < \mathbf{R}/\mathbf{p} < 1$$

which satisfies our requirement in (6).

1.4 Proof of Theorem H.4

For the nondegenerate solution to the problem defined in Section 2.1 when **FVAC**, **WRIC**, and **GIC** all hold, there exists a unique pseudo-steady-state cash-on-hand-to-income ratio $\check{m} > 0$ such that

$$\mathbb{E}_t[\Psi_{t+1} m_{t+1}/m_t] = 1 \text{ if } m_t = \check{m}. \quad (7)$$

Moreover, \check{m} is a point of stability in the sense that

$$\begin{aligned}
&\forall m_t \in (0, \check{m}), \quad \mathbb{E}_t[\mathbf{m}_{t+1}]/\mathbf{m}_t > \Phi \\
&\forall m_t \in (\check{m}, \infty), \quad \mathbb{E}_t[\mathbf{m}_{t+1}]/\mathbf{m}_t < \Phi.
\end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

The elements of the proof are:

- Existence and continuity of $\mathbb{E}_t[\Psi_{t+1} m_{t+1}/m_t]$
- Existence of a point where $\mathbb{E}_t[\Psi_{t+1} m_{t+1}/m_t] = 1$
- $\mathbb{E}_t[\Psi_{t+1} m_{t+1} - m_t]$ is monotonically decreasing

1.4.1 Existence and Continuity of the Ratio

Since by assumption $0 < \underline{\Psi} \leq \Psi_{t+1} \leq \bar{\Psi} < \infty$, our proof in 1.2 that demonstrated existence and continuity of $\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}/m_t]$ implies existence and continuity of $\mathbb{E}_t[\Psi_{t+1}m_{t+1}/m_t]$.

1.4.2 Existence of a stable point

Since by assumption $0 < \underline{\Psi} \leq \Psi_{t+1} \leq \bar{\Psi} < \infty$, our proof in Subsection 1.2 that the ratio of $\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}]$ to m_t is unbounded as $m_t \downarrow 0$ implies that the ratio $\mathbb{E}_t[\Psi_{t+1}m_{t+1}]$ to m_t is unbounded as $m_t \downarrow 0$.

The limit of the expected ratio as m_t goes to infinity is most easily calculated by modifying the steps for the prior theorem explicitly:

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{m_t \uparrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_t[\Psi_{t+1}m_{t+1}/m_t] &= \lim_{m_t \uparrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{\Phi_{t+1} ((R/\Phi_{t+1})a(m_t) + \xi_{t+1}) / \Phi}{m_t} \right] \\
&= \lim_{m_t \uparrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{(R/\Phi)a(m_t) + \Psi_{t+1}\xi_{t+1}}{m_t} \right] \\
&= \lim_{m_t \uparrow \infty} \left[\frac{(R/\Phi)a(m_t) + 1}{m_t} \right] \\
&= (R/\Phi)\mathfrak{P}_R \\
&= \mathfrak{P}_\Phi \\
&< 1
\end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

where the last two lines are merely a restatement of the GIC (19).

The Intermediate Value Theorem says that if $\mathbb{E}_t[\Psi_{t+1}m_{t+1}/m_t]$ is continuous, and takes on values above and below 1, there must be at least one point at which it is equal to one.

1.4.3 $\mathbb{E}_t[\Psi_{t+1}m_{t+1}] - m_t$ is monotonically decreasing.

Define $\zeta(m_t) \equiv \mathbb{E}_t[\Psi_{t+1}m_{t+1}] - m_t$ and note that

$$\begin{aligned}
\zeta(m_t) &< 0 \leftrightarrow \mathbb{E}_t[\Psi_{t+1}m_{t+1}/m_t] < 1 \\
\zeta(m_t) &= 0 \leftrightarrow \mathbb{E}_t[\Psi_{t+1}m_{t+1}/m_t] = 1 \\
\zeta(m_t) &> 0 \leftrightarrow \mathbb{E}_t[\Psi_{t+1}m_{t+1}/m_t] > 1,
\end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

so that $\zeta(\hat{m}) = 0$. Our goal is to prove that $\zeta(\bullet)$ is strictly decreasing on $(0, \infty)$ using the fact that

$$\begin{aligned}
\zeta'(m_t) &\equiv \left(\frac{d}{dm_t} \right) \zeta(m_t) = \mathbb{E}_t \left[\left(\frac{d}{dm_t} \right) (\mathcal{R}(m_t - c(m_t)) + \Psi_{t+1}\xi_{t+1} - m_t) \right] \\
&= (R/\Phi)(1 - c'(m_t)) - 1.
\end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

Now, we show that (given our other assumptions) $\zeta'(m)$ is decreasing (but for different reasons) whether the RIC holds or fails (RIC).

If RIC holds. Equation (16) indicates that if the RIC holds, then $\underline{\kappa} > 0$. We show at the bottom of Section 2.9.1 that if the RIC holds then $0 < \underline{\kappa} < c'(m_t) < 1$ so that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}(1 - c'(m_t)) - 1 &< \mathcal{R}(1 - \underbrace{(1 - \mathbf{P}_R)}_{\underline{\kappa}}) - 1 \\ &= (\mathcal{R}/\Phi)\mathbf{P}_R - 1 \end{aligned}$$

which is negative because the GIC says $\mathbf{P}_\Phi < 1$.

If RIC fails. Under RIC, recall that $\lim_{m \uparrow \infty} c'(m) = 0$. Concavity of the consumption function means that c' is a decreasing function, so everywhere

$$\mathcal{R}(1 - c'(m_t)) < \mathcal{R}$$

which means that $\zeta'(m_t)$ from (11) is guaranteed to be negative if

$$\mathcal{R} \equiv (\mathcal{R}/\Phi) < 1. \quad (12)$$

But we showed in Section 2.6 that the only circumstances under which the problem has a nondegenerate solution while the RIC fails were ones where the FHCW also fails (that is, (12) holds).

1.5 A Third Measure

A footnote in Section 3 mentions reasons why it may be useful to calculate $\mathbb{E}_t[\log(\mathbf{m}_{t+1}/\log \mathbf{m}_t)]$. Here we show that one way of doing that is to calculate a nonlinear adjustment factor for the expectation of the growth factor.

$$\begin{aligned} \log(\mathbf{m}_{t+1}/\mathbf{m}_t) &= \log(\Phi\Psi_{t+1}m_{t+1}) - \log m_t \\ &= \log \Phi(a_t\mathcal{R} + \Psi_{t+1}\xi_{t+1}) - \log m_t \\ &= \log \Phi(a_t\mathcal{R} + 1 + (\Psi_{t+1}\xi_{t+1} - 1)) - \log m_t \end{aligned}$$

Now define $\check{m}_{t+1} = a_t\mathcal{R} + 1$, and compute the expectation:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_t[\log(\mathbf{m}_{t+1}/\mathbf{m}_t)] &= \mathbb{E}_t[\log \Phi(\check{m}_{t+1} + (\Psi_{t+1}\xi_{t+1} - 1))] - \log m_t \\ &= \log \Phi + \mathbb{E}_t[\log \check{m}_{t+1}(1 + (\Psi_{t+1}\xi_{t+1} - 1)\check{m}_{t+1}^{-1})] - \log m_t \\ &= \underbrace{\log \Phi + \log \check{m}_{t+1} - \log m_t}_{\equiv \log \mathbb{E}_t[\mathbf{m}_{t+1}/\mathbf{m}_t]} + \mathbb{E}_t[\log(1 + (\Psi_{t+1}\xi_{t+1} - 1)\check{m}_{t+1}^{-1})] \end{aligned}$$

and exponentiating tells us that

$$\exp(\mathbb{E}_t[\log \mathbf{m}_{t+1}/\mathbf{m}_t]) = \mathbb{E}_t[\mathbf{m}_{t+1}/\mathbf{m}_t] \exp(\mathbb{E}_t[\log(1 + (\Psi_{t+1}\xi_{t+1} - 1)\check{m}_{t+1}^{-1})]) \quad (13)$$

and this latter factor is a number that approaches 1 from below as m_t rises. Thus the expected growth rate of the log is smaller than the log of the growth rate of the expected growth factor. This implies that the m at which ‘balanced growth’ can be expected in the log, \check{m} , exceeds the corresponding point for the ratio, \check{m} .

Furthermore, in the limit as \mathbf{m}_t gets arbitrarily large, if the RIC holds and thus $\underline{\kappa} > 0$, a_{t+1} rises without bound, as does $\check{m}_{t+1} = a_{t+1}\mathcal{R} + 1$, so the approximation $\log(1 + \epsilon) \approx \epsilon$ becomes arbitrarily good. Consequently, the last term on the RHS of (13)

can be approximated as

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}_t [\log(1 + (\Psi_{t+1}\xi_{t+1} - 1)\check{m}_{t+1}^{-1})] &\approx \mathbb{E}_t [(\Psi_{t+1}\xi_{t+1} - 1)\check{m}_{t+1}^{-1}] \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

This demonstrates that

$$\lim_{\mathbf{m}_t \uparrow \infty} \exp(\mathbb{E}_t[\log \mathbf{m}_{t+1}/\mathbf{m}_t]) = \mathbb{E}_t[\mathbf{m}_{t+1}/\mathbf{m}_t] \quad (14)$$

1.6 Proof of Lemma

1.6.1 Pseudo-Steady-State m Is Smaller than Target m

Designate

$$\begin{aligned}\check{m}_{t+1}(a) &= 1 + a\mathcal{R} \\ \hat{m}_{t+1}(a) &= 1 + a \underbrace{\mathcal{R}/\underline{\Psi}}_{\bar{\mathcal{R}} > \mathcal{R}}\end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

so that we can implicitly define the target and pseudo-steady-state points as

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{m} &= \hat{m}_{t+1}(\hat{m} - c(\hat{m})) \\ \check{m} &= \check{m}_{t+1}(\check{m} - c(\check{m}))\end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Then subtract:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{m} - \check{m} &= (\hat{a}\underline{\Psi}^{-1} - \check{a})\mathcal{R} \\ &= (a(\hat{m})\underline{\Psi}^{-1} - a(\check{m}))\mathcal{R} \\ &= (a(\hat{m})\underline{\Psi}^{-1} - (a(\hat{m} + \check{m} - \hat{m})))\mathcal{R} \\ &\approx (a(\hat{m})\underline{\Psi}^{-1} - (a(\hat{m}) + (\check{m} - \hat{m})a'(\hat{m})))\mathcal{R} \\ (\hat{m} - \check{m})(1 - \underbrace{a'(\hat{m})\mathcal{R}}_{< \mathbf{P}_\Phi < 1}) &= (\underline{\Psi}^{-1} - 1)\hat{a}\mathcal{R}\end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

The RHS of this equation is strictly positive because $\underline{\Psi}^{-1} > 1$ and both \hat{a} and \mathcal{R} are positive; while on the LHS, $(1 - \mathcal{R}a') > 0$. So the equation can only hold if $\hat{m} - \check{m} > 0$. That is, the target ratio exceeds the pseudo-steady-state ratio.¹

¹The use of the first order Taylor approximation could be substituted, clumsily, with the average of a' over the interval to remove the approximation in the derivations above.

1.6.2 The m Achieving Individual Expected-Log-Balanced-Growth Is Smaller than the Individual Pseudo-Steady-State m

Expected log balanced growth occurs when

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}_t[\log \mathbf{m}_{t+1}] &= \log \Phi \mathbf{m}_t \\
\mathbb{E}_t[\log \mathbf{p}_{t+1} m_{t+1}] &= \log \Phi \mathbf{p}_t m_t \\
\mathbb{E}_t[\log \Psi_{t+1} m_{t+1}] &= \log \Phi m_t \\
\mathbb{E}_t[\log (a(m_t) \mathcal{R} + \Psi_{t+1} \xi_{t+1} \Phi)] &= \log \Phi m_t \\
\mathbb{E}_t[\log (a(m_t) \mathcal{R} + \Psi_{t+1} \xi_{t+1})] &= \log m_t
\end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

and we call the m that satisfies this equation \tilde{m} .

Subtract the definition of \tilde{m} from that of \tilde{m} :

$$\exp(\mathbb{E}_t[\log (a(\tilde{m}) \mathcal{R} + \Psi_{t+1} \xi_{t+1})]) - (a(\tilde{m}) \mathcal{R} + 1) = \tilde{m} - \check{m} \tag{19}$$

Now we use the fact that the expectation of the log is less than the log of the expectation,

$$\exp(\mathbb{E}_t[\log (a(\tilde{m}) \mathcal{R} + \Psi_{t+1} \xi_{t+1})]) < (a(\tilde{m}) \mathcal{R} + 1) \tag{20}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned}
\exp(\mathbb{E}_t[\log (a(\tilde{m}) \mathcal{R} + 1)]) - (a(\tilde{m}) \mathcal{R} + 1) &< \tilde{m} - \check{m} \\
(a(\tilde{m}) \mathcal{R} + 1) - (a(\tilde{m}) \mathcal{R} + 1) &< \tilde{m} - \check{m} \\
(a(\tilde{m}) - a(\tilde{m} + \check{m} - \tilde{m})) \mathcal{R} &< \tilde{m} - \check{m} \\
(a(\tilde{m}) - (a(\tilde{m}) + (\check{m} - \tilde{m}) \bar{a}')) \mathcal{R} &< \tilde{m} - \check{m} \\
(\tilde{m} - \check{m}) \bar{a}' \mathcal{R} &< \tilde{m} - \check{m} \\
\underbrace{\bar{a}' \mathcal{R}}_{< \mathbf{p}_\Phi} &< 1
\end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

where we are interpreting \bar{a}' as the mean of the value of a' over the interval between \tilde{m} and \check{m} .