

Bank liquidity and credit frictions

Jonathan Swarbrick

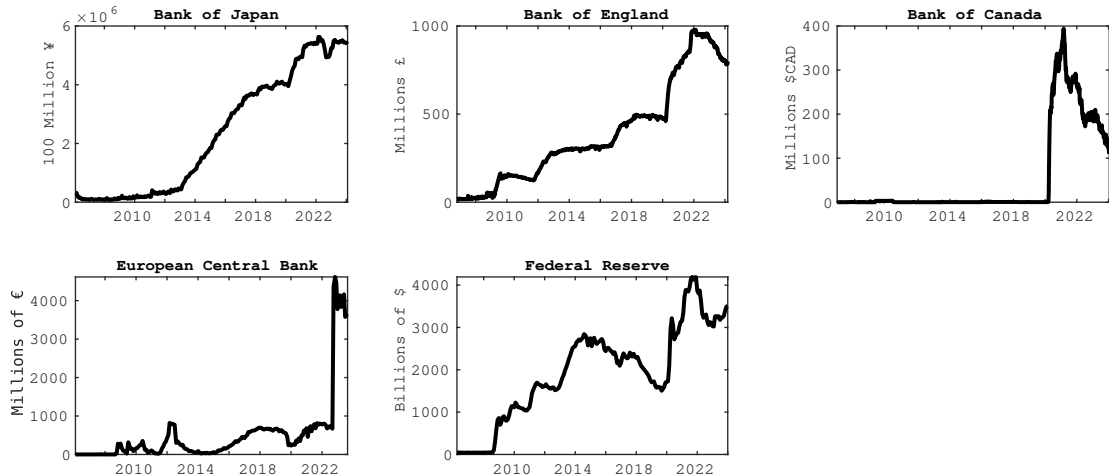
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Sky-rocketing banking sector liquidity



Shows central bank reserve balances / deposit facility use

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Expanded toolkit – balance sheet policies, more prominent role for forward guidance, credit easing policies etc

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Bank liquidity and the credit channel

Increasing banking sector liquidity and UMPs have had an unclear affect on bank lending

Central banks injected huge amounts of liquidity, but banks often increase excess reserves rather than increase lending:

- ▶ 2008–2009 excess reserves in US \uparrow while lending standards were tightened (source: SLOOS)
- ▶ 2010–2012 lots of liquidity in eurozone banking sector without increasing lending in stressed economies

Some evidence on liquidity and lending 1/2

Evidence:

- ▶ More (less) liquidity tends to increase (decrease) lending: [Kashyap, Rajan & Stein \(2002\)](#) (see also [Adrian & Shin 2010](#), [Carpenter, Demiralp & Eisenschmidt 2014](#))
- ▶ [Kashyap & Stein \(2000\)](#) find monetary policy transmission stronger for banks with less liquid balance sheets
 - ▶ Banks with more liquid assets smooth lending following tightening (see also [Ivashina & Scharfstein 2010](#), [Cornett, McNutt, Strahan & Tehranian 2011](#))

However:

- ▶ [Acharya, Eisert, Eufinger & Hirsch \(2019\)](#) find in the euroarea, increased liquidity driven by balance sheet policies led to banks holding more cash and low interest assets, but did not increase loans
 - ▶ See also [Gambacorta & Marques-Ibanez \(2011\)](#), [Joyce, Tong & Woods \(2011\)](#), [Loutskina \(2011\)](#), [Disyatat \(2011\)](#), [Iyer et al. \(2014\)](#)

Some evidence on liquidity and lending 2/2

The usual mechanism is **more liquidity** \Rightarrow **more lending**

But sometimes the impact of liquidity is ambiguous, it depends on:

- ▶ balance sheet of banks ([Berger & Bouwman 2009](#), [Disyatat 2011](#), [Cornett et al. 2011](#), [Gambacorta & Marques-Ibanez 2011](#))
- ▶ profitability of lending ([Disyatat 2011](#))
- ▶ risk in the economy ([Joyce, Tong & Woods 2011](#), [Gambacorta & Marques-Ibanez 2011](#))

Lending to SMEs

Lending to SMEs seized up in eurozone

- ▶ Continued despite easing of sovereign debt crisis
- ▶ Despite easy monetary conditions
- ▶ Driven by credit supply rather than demand ([Holton, Lawless & McCann 2013](#))
- ▶ [Iyer, Peydró, da Rocha-Lopes & Schoar \(2014\)](#) find 'no overall positive effects of central bank liquidity but instead higher hoarding of liquidity'

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Plenty of evidence QE boosted activity at the ZLB ([Gambacorta, Hofmann & Peersman 2014](#))

- ▶ An important channel was an increase in lending ([Rodnyansky & Darmouni 2017](#), [Ferrando, Popov & Udell 2019](#))
- ▶ But evidence that smaller firms remained credit constrained ([Acharya, Eisert, Eufinger & Hirsch 2019](#), [Finnegan & Kapoor 2023](#))

Aim of Paper

Build a model to rationalise some of this evidence

- ▶ The ambiguous link between liquidity and lending
- ▶ Small business lending frictions

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Use this to study:

- ▶ Role of monetary policy (interest rates and UMPs)
- ▶ Interaction between liquidity and credit frictions

Credit channel of monetary policy

There is a huge literature on credit channel of monetary policy:

- ▶ Starting point: [Bernanke & Blinder \(1988\)](#) shows how increased reserves translate to higher lending in IS/LM model
- ▶ [Bernanke & Gertler \(1995\)](#) highlight two distinct channels: *bank-lending* channel and *balance-sheet* channel
- ▶ Balance sheet channel: e.g., [Bernanke & Gertler \(1989\)](#), [Gertler & Gilchrist \(1994\)](#), [Bernanke, Gertler & Gilchrist \(1999\)](#), [Iacoviello \(2005\)](#)
- ▶ Bank lending channel: e.g., [Gertler & Kiyotaki \(2010\)](#), [Cúrdia & Woodford \(2010\)](#), [Brunnermeier & Sannikov \(2014\)](#), [Holden, Levine & Swarbrick \(2020\)](#)

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I build on a literature that studies the impact of information frictions in bank lending (see, e.g, [Diamond 1984](#), [Kiyotaki & Moore 1997](#), [Ioannidou et al. 2022](#))

- ▶ In particular, adverse selection and credit rationing: [Stiglitz & Weiss \(1981\)](#), [Eisfeldt \(2004\)](#), [Bolton, Santos & Scheinkman \(2011\)](#), [Martin & Taddei \(2013\)](#), [Kurlat \(2013\)](#), [Benhabib, Dong & Wang \(2018\)](#), [Bigio \(2015\)](#) [Chang \(2018\)](#), [Ikeda \(2020\)](#)

Interest rate corridors and liquidity management

Traditionally, central banks could implement monetary policy via:

- ▶ OMOs
- ▶ setting reserve requirements
- ▶ setting interest rates on standing facilities in corridor system

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- ▶ setting interest rates on standing facilities in corridor system

With abundant liquidity, the corridor system became more important

- ▶ ECB already has corridor system in place
- ▶ Fed began paying IoER during GFC, moving towards corridor system
- ▶ As liquidity rose, many central banks moved to a floor system

See [Bindseil \(2000\)](#) (theory of bank liquidity management), [Whitesell \(2006\)](#) (corridor system), and [Goodfriend \(2002\)](#) (comparison of frameworks: RR vs corridors)

Corridor system 1/2

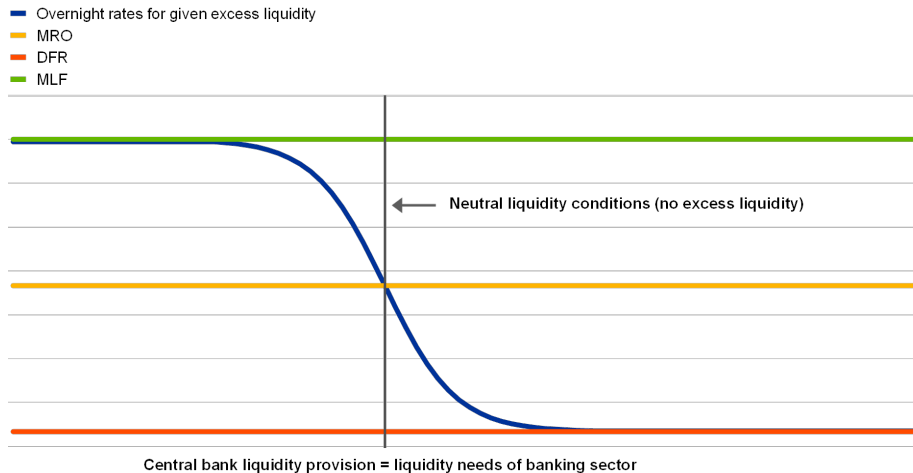
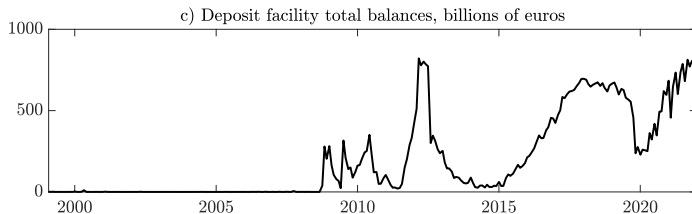
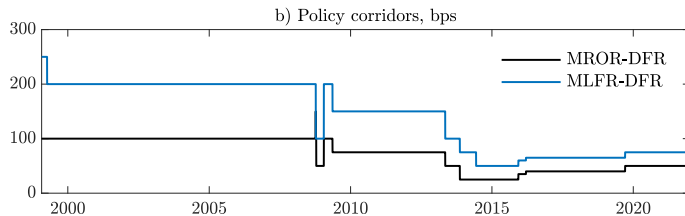
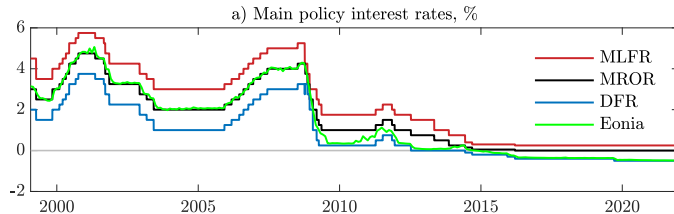


Figure: From [Eisenschmidt, Kedan & Tietz \(2018\)](#) (ECB Economic Bulletin 2018(5))

Corridor system 2/2

- ▶ Width of interest rate corridor to manage the volatility of overnight rate ([Bindseil & Jablecki 2011](#))
 - ▶ Narrow corridor → low volatility
 - ▶ Wide corridor → high interbank market volumes
- ▶ High reserve balances → floor becomes more important
 - ▶ Floor (CB deposit rate) becomes main policy interest rate
 - ▶ Deposit rate lowered to incentivize increased lending to real economy
 - ▶ [Draghi \(2015\)](#): “cuts in the rate on the deposit facility vastly improve the transmission of our monetary policy”

ECB interest rates



This paper

It is very early stage – comments very welcome!

This paper:

- ▶ presents a model with endogenous excess reserves
- ▶ the interest on reserves affects banks incentives
- ▶ we'll see that liquidity injections impact lending conditions via:
 - ▶ affecting bank profitability
 - ▶ altering the incentive structure when banks face adverse selection
- ▶ it is not the volume of liquidity that matters, it is bank profitability, and the interaction with information frictions
- ▶ QE can have a positive or negative impact on lending
- ▶ always positive at the ZLB

Snapshot of results: model and credit friction

New Keynesian model with:

- ▶ risky bank lending with adverse selection and credit rationing
- ▶ bank liquidity risk (not shown today)

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Main mechanism:

- ▶ Central bank deposit facility is an outside option for banks
- ▶ When adverse selection is bad (e.g., high risk), banks can ration credit
- ▶ CB deposit rate (loR) affects incentives
- ▶ If loR relatively high, banks ration credit more

Snapshot of results: initial results

Provisional results:

- ▶ If ZLB squeezes corridor → more credit rationing
 - ▶ additional cost of ZLB
 - ▶ importance of negative rates
- ▶ QE can be used as an additional tool
 - ▶ Can shift monetary policy towards a floor system
- ▶ Away from ZLB, two main channels:
 - ▶ lowers overnight rate compared to main policy target rate – usual demand channel expansion ↑
 - ▶ increases incentive to ration credit contraction ↓
 - ▶ Which effect dominates depends on financial conditions (firm risk)
- ▶ At the ZLB, I find QE can always help

Model details: households and final good sector

New Keynesian (Calvo) model with frictional bank lending

- ▶ Follow [Swarbrick \(2023\)](#) – [Stiglitz & Weiss \(1981\)](#) information problem (see also, e.g., [Ikeda 2020](#))
- ▶ Standard representative household:
 - ▶ Consumes; provides labour; saves in bank, bonds, or equity
- ▶ Monopolistic competitive retailers
 - ▶ Purchase homogenous wholesale good, sell differentiated final good
 - ▶ Set retail price s.t., Calvo frictions
 - ▶ Leads to NK Phillips curve

Intermediate goods firms

We assume there are 'small firms' and 'large firms' (proportion exogenous, firm type random)

- ▶ To focus on bank lending channel/credit friction affecting **SMBs**
- ▶ Small firms characterised as being unable to i) diversify risk, ii) having unverifiable information
- ▶ All require 1 unit of external finance (firm size not about size!)
- ▶ The number of firms determines aggregate production
- ▶ Firm entry costs – firm entry until firm value = costs
- ▶ Cobb-Douglas production function

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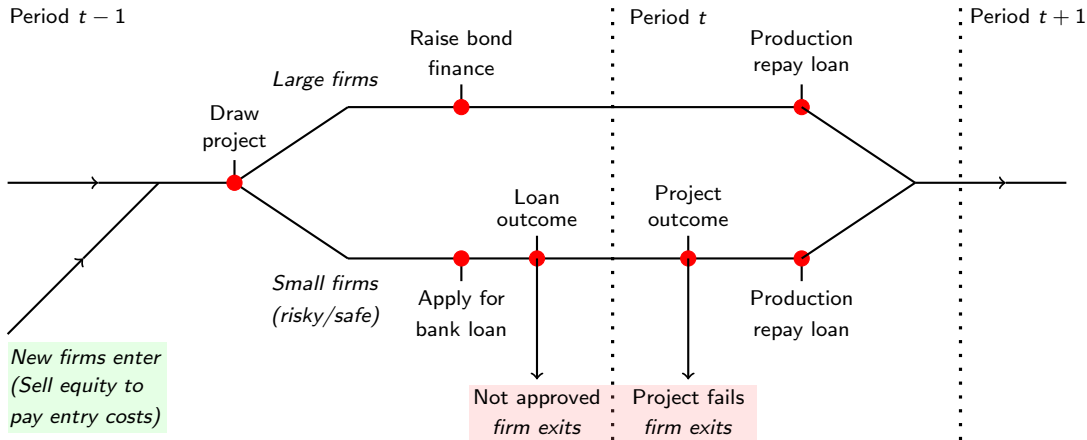
Large firms:

- ▶ No information problem, so raise finance in bond market

Small firms:

- ▶ Each period, firms draw a project, either **risky** or **safe** – but expected return the same
- ▶ Project type is private information

Firm dynamics



Banks and lending

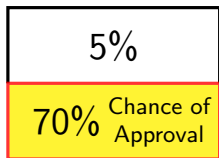
Banks provide a role of screening SMBs

- ▶ Separate borrowers using loan approval
 - ▶ Abstract from collateral and loan size
 - ▶ Loan terms are repayment rate and approval rate

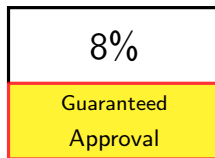
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 - ▶ Illustration:



Loan 1



Loan 2

abound

10.6% APR

We've got them to guarantee this loan rate. If you're accepted, this is the rate you will get

£254.05

/mth

Over 4 years at rep APR

£2194.4

Total interest cost

100%

Acceptance chance

[More info](#)



6.9% APR

Representative

£238.03

/mth

Over 4 years at rep APR

£1425.5

Total interest cost

80%

Acceptance chance

[More info](#)



6.4% APR

Representative

£235.86

/mth

Over 4 years at rep APR

£1321.21

Total interest cost

30%

Acceptance chance

[More info](#)

Sainsbury's Bank

6% APR

Representative

£234.12

/mth

Over 4 years at rep APR

£1237.87

Total interest cost

0%

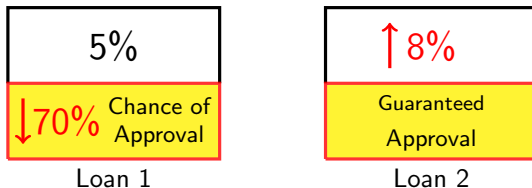
Acceptance chance

[More info](#)

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 - ▶ Illustration:



- ▶ When risk is high, banks can ration credit and hold excess reserves (paying CB deposit rate)

Banks

Using central banks liquidity and HH deposits:

- banks post loan contracts specifying **interest rate** τ_t^i and **approval probability** x_t^i

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Using central banks liquidity and HH deposits:

- ▶ banks post loan contracts specifying **interest rate** τ_t^i and **approval probability** x_t^i
- ▶ τ_t^i and x_t^i chosen solve:

$$\max_{\substack{x_t^s, x_t^r \\ \tau_t^s, \tau_t^r}} \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{\Lambda_{t,t+1}}{\Pi_{t,t+1}} \left(\lambda x_t^s \left(\tau_t^s - R_t^* \right) + (1 - \lambda) x_t^r \left(p_{t+1}^r \tau_t^r - R_t^* \right) \right) \right] \quad (1)$$

$$\text{s.t. IC \& IR constraints} \quad (2)$$

$$\lambda x_t^s + (1 - \lambda) x_t^r \leq \bar{x}_t \quad (3)$$

$$0 \leq x_t^s \leq x_t^r \leq 1 \quad (4)$$

- ▶ IR constraint binds for safe firms (no expected profits)
- ▶ IC constraint binds for risky firms (earn expected profits to reveal type)
- ▶ IC, IR also $\Rightarrow \tau_t^r \geq \tau_t^s, x_t^r \geq x_t^s$
- ▶ R_t^* is opportunity cost of funds (e.g., interest on reserve balances)

Banks first-order conditions

Solution to the problem yields:

$$\mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{\Lambda_{t,t+1}}{\Pi_{t,t+1}} (p_{t+1} R_{t+1}^r - R_t^*) \right] = \varrho_t - \psi_t \frac{1}{1-\lambda} + \varphi_t^r \frac{1}{1-\lambda} \quad (5)$$

$$\mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{\Lambda_{t,t+1}}{\Pi_{t,t+1}} \left((\lambda + (1-\lambda) p_{t+1}) R_{t+1}^s - R_t^* \right) \right] = \varrho_t + \varphi_t^r - \varphi_t^s \quad (6)$$

And

$$\varphi_t^s, \varphi_t^r, \varrho_t, \psi_t \geq 0 \quad (7)$$

$$\lambda x_t^s + (1-\lambda) x_t^r \leq \bar{x}_t \quad (8)$$

$$0 \leq x_t^s \leq x_t^r \leq 1 \quad (9)$$

$$\varphi_t^s x_t^s = \varphi_t^r (1 - x_t^r) = \varrho_t (\bar{x}_t - \lambda x_t^s - (1-\lambda) x_t^r) = 0 \quad (10)$$

$$\psi_t (x_t^r - x_t^s) = 0 \quad (11)$$

Investment wedge and credit rationing

The investment wedge stems the information rents

- ▶ Paid to risky firms
- ▶ Higher the risk, the higher the spread

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If the risk increases enough, banks will ration credit

- ▶ Low interest rate loans face lower approval probability
- ▶ This allows banks to raise interest rates on risky loans
- ▶ I.e., lending standards tighten
- ▶ Banks earn a lower interest on reserves than loans, so the spread rises even higher

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An important identity will by value of lending $\varrho_t \geq 0$ (ψ is multiplier on $x_t^r \geq x_t^s$ constraint):

$$\text{Shadow value of lending} = \varrho_t = \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{\Lambda_{t,t+1}}{\Pi_{t,t+1}} \left(\left(1 - \frac{1-\lambda}{\lambda} (1 - p_{t+1}) \right) R_{t+1}^s - R_t^* \right) \right] - \psi_t \quad (12)$$

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An important identity will by value of lending $q_t \geq 0$ (ψ is multiplier on $x_t^r \geq x_t^s$ constraint):

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Monetary policy

Standard Taylor rule

$$r_t^{mro} = \bar{r} + \gamma_{\pi} (\pi_{t-1,t} - \pi^*) + \gamma_y (y_t - \bar{y}) \quad (13)$$

- ▶ Think of this as the central bank setting the main refinancing rate at regular full -allotment auctions
- ▶ Interest rate on HH deposits $R_t = R_t^{mro}$ in equilibrium

Central bank also has two standing facilities

- ▶ Deposit facility paying R_t^{df} (excess reserves)
- ▶ Lending facility charging R_t^{lf}

We also allow the bank to conduct QE through purchasing assets from HHs — more on this if time

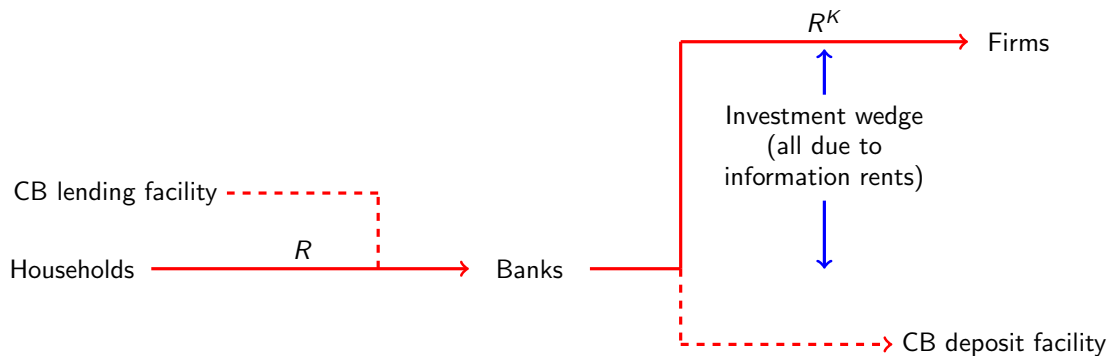
Interest rates

Benchmark – efficient financial markets



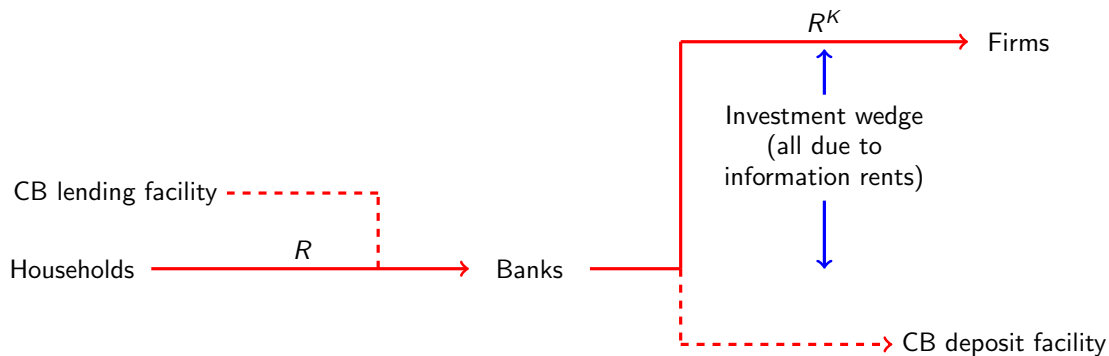
Interest rates

Benchmark – credit frictions, no excess liquidity



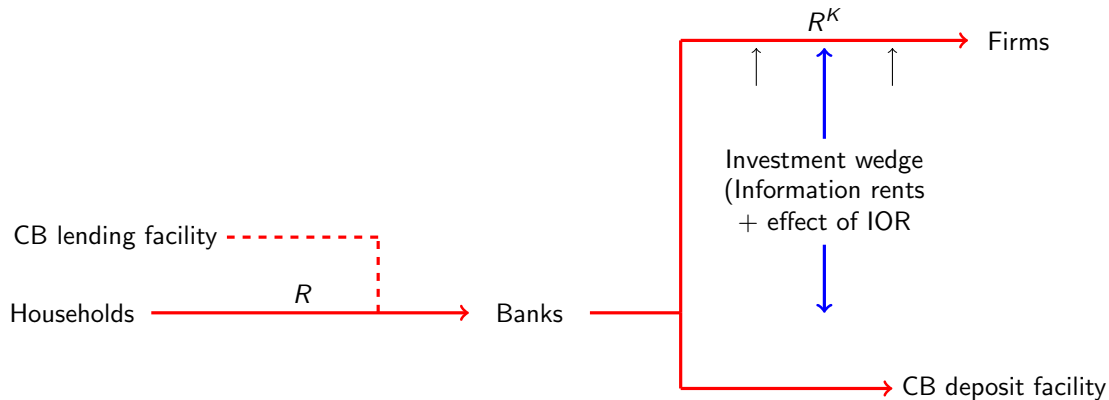
Interest rates

Benchmark – credit frictions, no excess liquidity



Interest rates

Benchmark – credit frictions, with excess liquidity

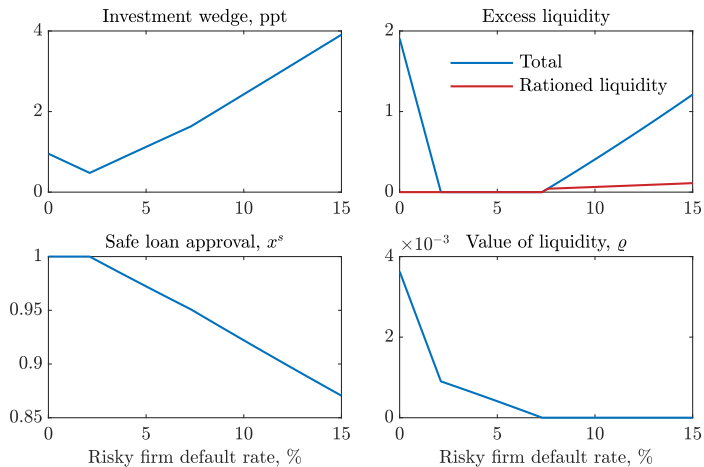


Note: interest rate corridor only matters when banks hold excess reserves

Excess liquidity can arise from two sources

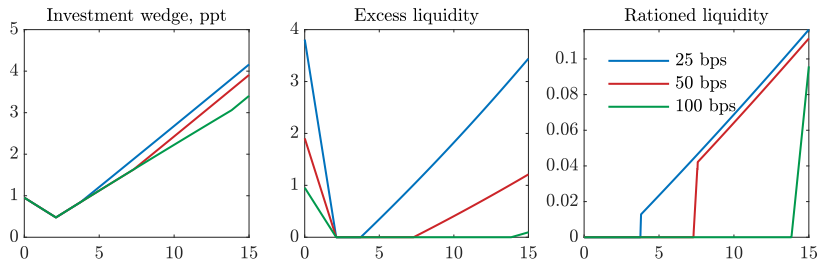
1. More liquidity available than firms looking for loans at equilibrium interest rates
 - ▶ Depends on risk and entry costs
 - ▶ Lower risk \rightarrow lower firm profits
 - ▶ **Low profits** + **high entry costs** = few firms
 - ▶ Fewer firms \rightarrow less investment \rightarrow higher marginal return on capital
 - ▶ Excess liquidity in banking sector and positive spread
2. Banks ration credit due to high level of risk
 - ▶ To raise risky loan interest rates, banks must lower approval of safe loans
 - ▶ I.e., cannot only tighten standards on high-interest rate loans
 - ▶ Safe borrowers rationed
 - ▶ Banks hold excess reserves instead

Comparative statics – effect of risk



Result: large region with no excess reserves – the interest rate corridor has no role

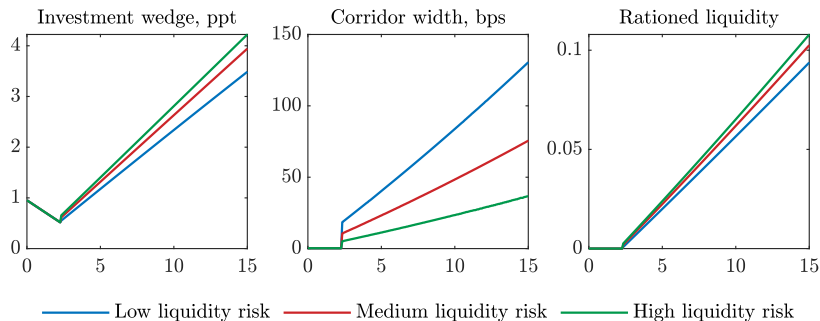
Comparative statics – role of corridor



Result: changes in deposit rate only affect economy through the effect on credit rationing.

x axis is risky firm default rate.

Provisional results – optimal corridor width



x axis is risky firm default rate.

Dynamics

To evaluate the model dynamics, we compute impulse response functions:

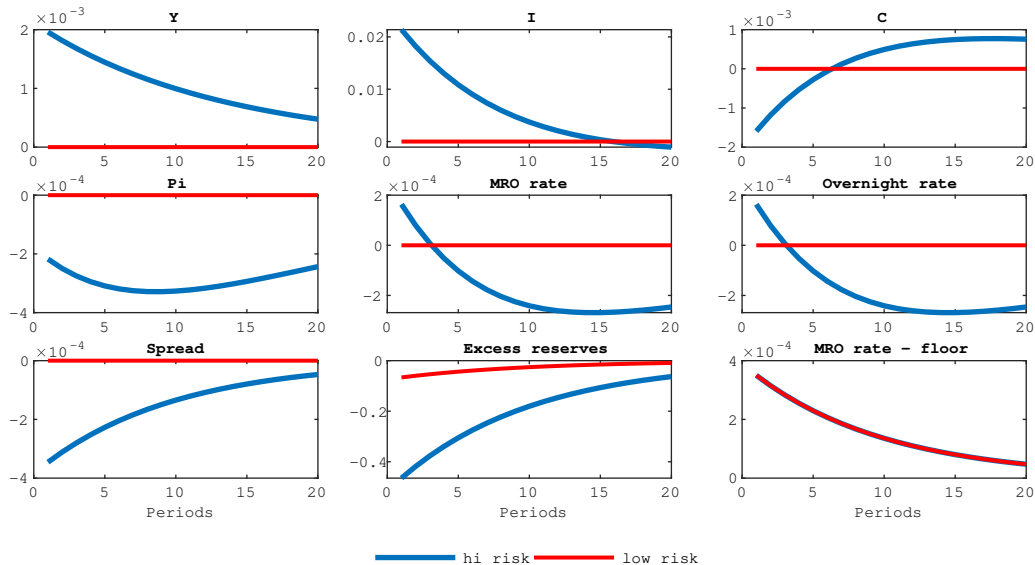
- ▶ To temporary widening of the corridor
 - ▶ Interest on reserves falls
 - ▶ No impact in low-risk economy (no holding excess reserves)
 - ▶ Increased lending in high-risk economy (banks holding excess reserves)

Dynamics

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- ▶ To temporary widening of the corridor
 - ▶ Interest on reserves falls
 - ▶ No impact in low-risk economy (no holding excess reserves)
 - ▶ Increased lending in high-risk economy (banks holding excess reserves)
- ▶ QE shock – modeled as a fall in the overnight interest rate below MRO
 - ▶ Two possible effects:
 - ▶ Standard channel: expansion via lower interest rates
 - ▶ Profitability channel: contraction as banks incentive to lend falls, can ratio credit and hold higher reserves

Temporary widening of corridor



Note: shows deviations from SS % or ppt (inflation/interest rates). Excess reserves are reserves/loans ratio

Quantitative Easing

The equilibrium interest rate depends on the volume of banking sector liquidity

- ▶ Suppose the CB purchases assets from HHs or injects bank liquidity directly
- ▶ Banks will take liquidity as long as expected return = expected funding cost
- ▶ Expected bank return (L_t is loans, S_t is Assets = loans + reserves):

$$1 = \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{\Lambda_{t,t+1}}{\Pi_{t,t+1}} \left(\underbrace{\left[\lambda x_t^s + (1 - \lambda) (1 - (1 - p_{t+1}) x_t^s) \right] R_t^s \frac{L_t}{S_t}}_{\text{Return on lending}} + \underbrace{\left(1 - (\lambda x_t^s + (1 - \lambda) \frac{L_t}{S_t}) \right) R_t^*}_{\text{Return on reserves}} \right) \right]$$

- ▶ This lowers average bank return, so will only clear at lower interest rate

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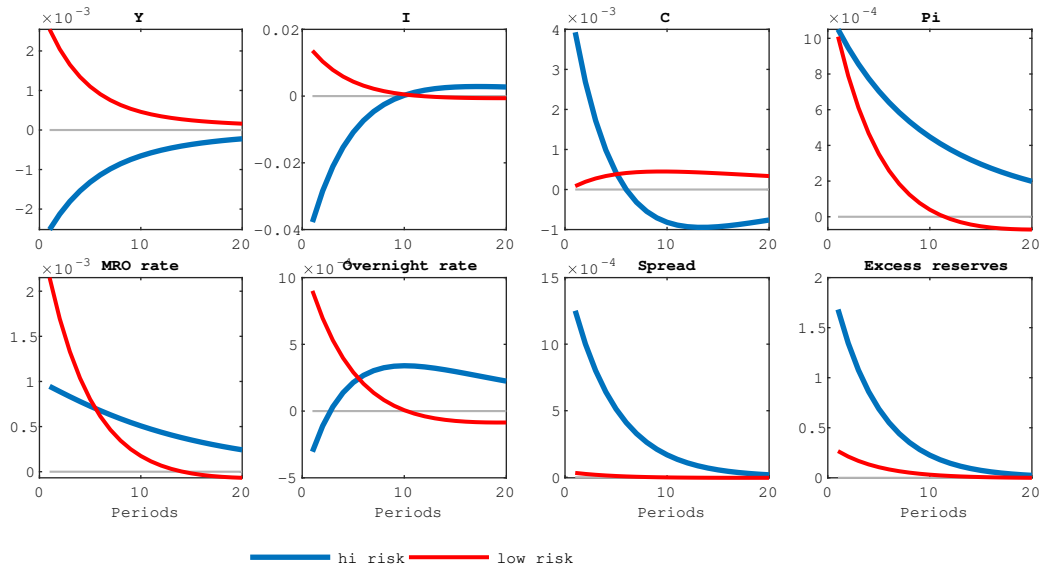
$$1 = \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{\Lambda_{t,t+1}}{\Pi_{t,t+1}} \left(\underbrace{\left[\lambda x_t^s + (1 - \lambda) (1 - (1 - p_{t+1}) x_t^s) \right] R_t^s \frac{L_t}{S_t}}_{\text{Return on lending}} + \underbrace{\left(1 - (\lambda x_t^s + (1 - \lambda) \frac{L_t}{S_t}) \right) R_t^*}_{\text{Return on reserves}} \right) \right]$$

- ▶ This lowers average bank return, so will only clear at lower interest rate

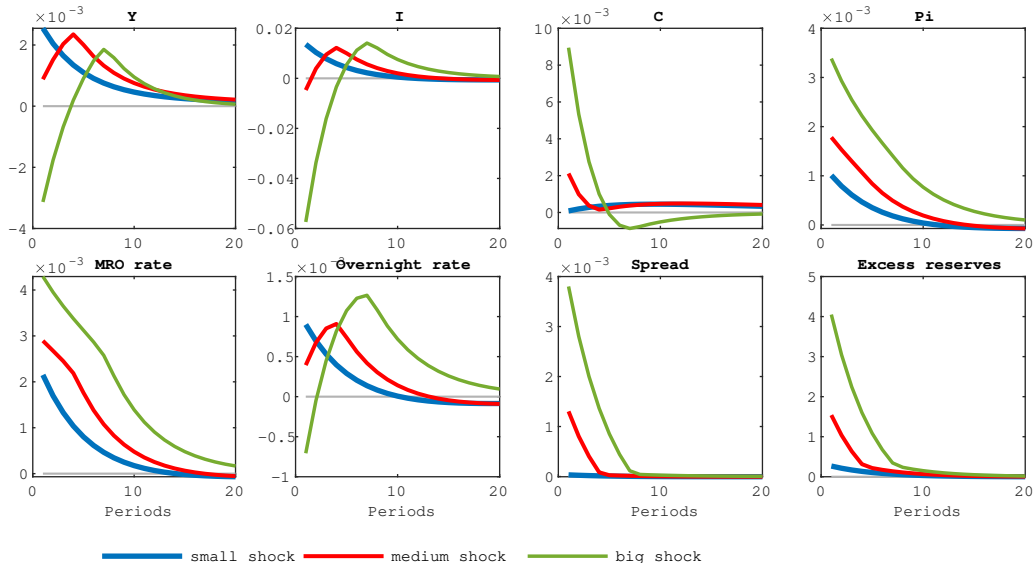
Two competing effects

- ▶ With lower interest rates, banks pass on to more favourable lending conditions: **lending** \uparrow
- ▶ As equilibrium interest rate \downarrow but CB deposit rate unchanged, incentive to ration credit: **lending** \downarrow

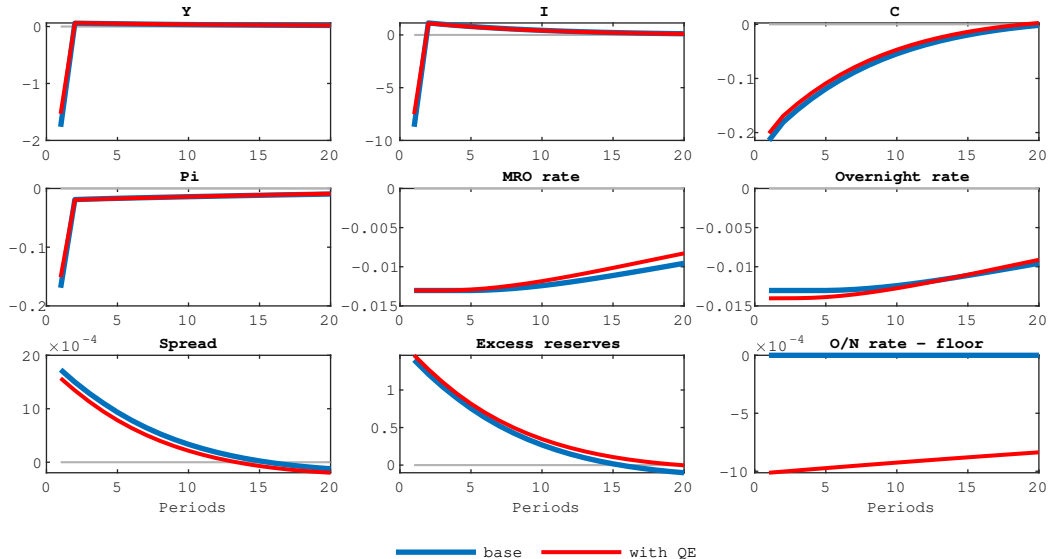
QE programme -- high risk vs. low risk economy



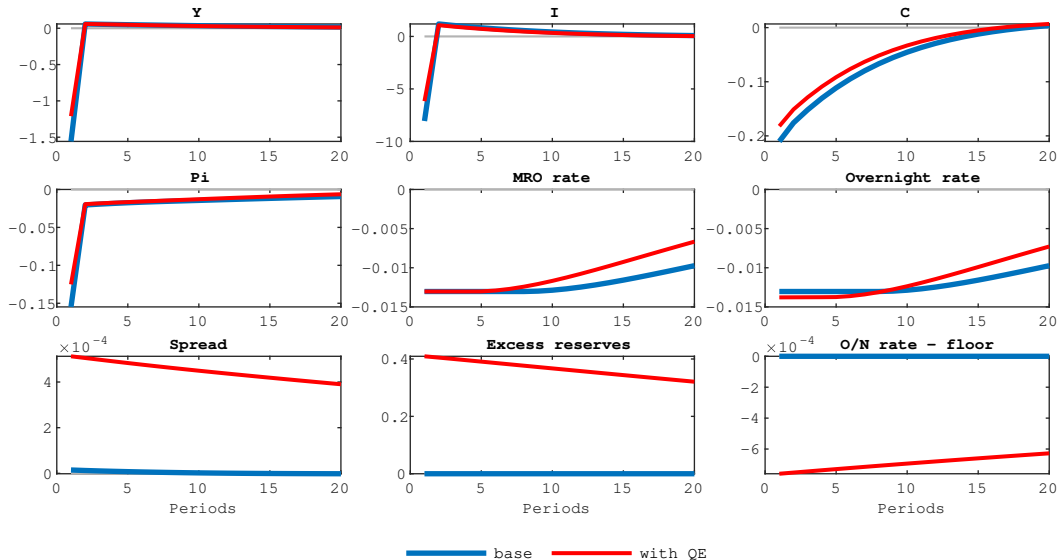
QE -- low risk economy, programme size effect



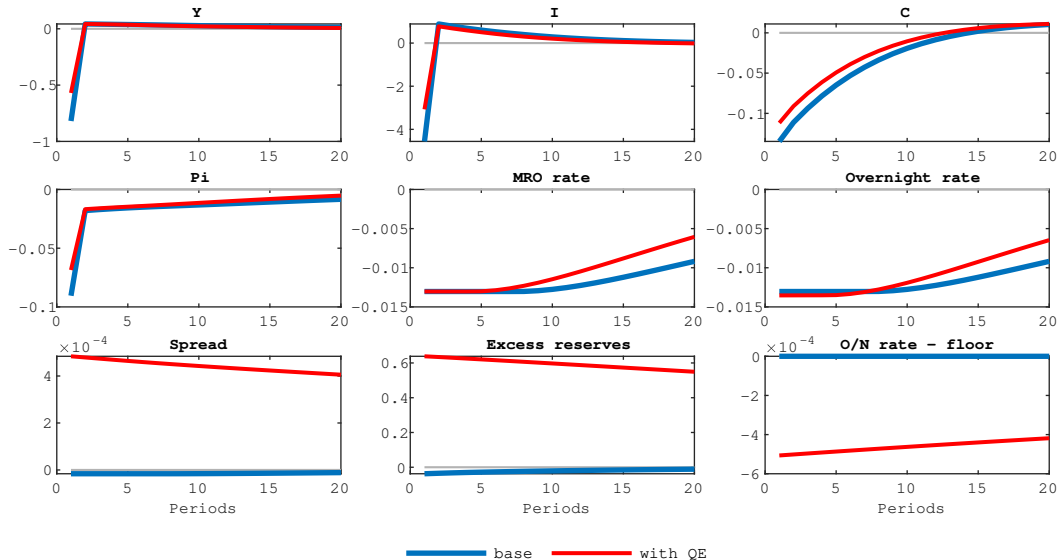
Demand shock with/without QE -- low risk economy



Demand shock with/without QE -- medium risk economy



Demand shock with/without QE -- high risk economy



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Firms: large and small firms

- ▶ Differentiate between large (observable projects) and small (unobservable projects) firms
- ▶ Every period, firms draw their type (large/small) and a project (risky/safe):
 1. λ are **safe** – known return, no risk of default
 2. $1 - \lambda$ are **risky** – uncertain return, risk of default
- ▶ Project type doesn't matter for large firms as we'll assume equal NPV
- ▶ Entry costs – new firms raise equity finance to enter \implies claim on future profits
- ▶ Firms must raise outside finance for ongoing investment

Small firms

Firms raise k units of outside finance (loans)

- ▶ convert to $\omega_t^i k$ units of capital, $i \in \{s, r\}$
- ▶ succeed with probability p_{t+1}^i , otherwise yield zero
- ▶ $\omega_t^s = p_t^s = \omega_t^r p_t^r = 1$, $\omega_t^r > 1$, $p_t^r < 1$

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If funded, choose labour demand to maximise period profits:

$$V_t^i = \max_{h_t(\omega_t^i)} \left\{ \frac{P_t^W}{P_t} y_t(\omega_t^i) - \frac{W_t}{P_t} h_t(\omega_t^i) - \left(\frac{\tau_{t-1}^i}{\Pi_{t-1,t}} q_{t-1} - (1 - \delta) \omega_t^i q_t \right) k + V_t \right\} \quad (14)$$

where

$$y_t(\omega_t^i) = z_t \left[\omega_t^i k \right]^\alpha \left[h_t(\omega_t^i) \right]^{1-\alpha}$$

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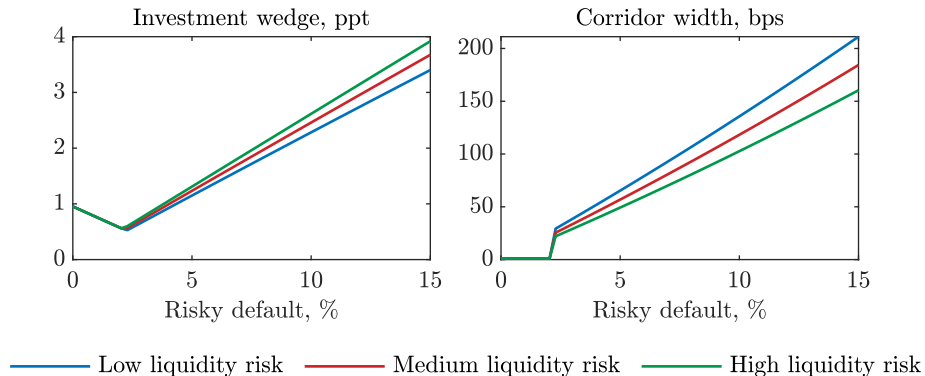
$$V_t^i = \max_{h_t(\omega_t^i)} \left\{ \frac{P_t^W}{P_t} y_t(\omega_t^i) - \frac{W_t}{P_t} h_t(\omega_t^i) - \left(\frac{\tau_{t-1}^i}{\Pi_{t-1,t}} q_{t-1} - (1 - \delta) \omega_t^i q_t \right) k + V_t \right\} \quad (14)$$

where

$$y_t(\omega_t^i) = z_t \left[\omega_t^i k \right]^\alpha \left[h_t(\omega_t^i) \right]^{1-\alpha}$$
$$V_t = \mathbb{E}_t \left[\Lambda_{t,t+1} \left(\eta V_{t+1}^c + (1 - \eta) \left(\lambda x_t^s V_{t+1}^s + (1 - \lambda) x_t^r p_{t+1}^r V_{t+1}^r \right) \right) \right]$$

- τ_{t-1}^i is the loan repayment rate

Optimal corridor



Monetary policy shock

