

Higher-Order Forward Guidance^{*}

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Abstract

This paper presents a model of the business cycle that incorporates financial markets and endogenous financial volatility at the Zero Lower Bound (ZLB). Within this framework, forward guidance is identified as a crucial mechanism for coordinating the actions of market participants, guiding the economy towards optimal equilibrium paths with lower financial volatility and enhanced welfare. We reveal three novel insights: (i) Central banks, by credibly pledging future economic stabilization, can mitigate excess financial market volatility at the ZLB; (ii) Alternatively, a central bank's commitment not to stabilize the economy in the future can direct the economy towards more favorable equilibrium paths with reduced endogenous volatility at the ZLB, presenting a trade-off between future business cycle stabilization and reduced financial volatility at the ZLB; (iii) Retaining some degree of uncertainty regarding the timing of future stabilization plans strictly dominates other forms of forward guidance commitments. Finally, an examination of alternative fiscal policies reveals that measures encouraging increased investment in risky assets can stimulate economic activity at the ZLB by positively impacting aggregate household financial wealth.

Keywords: Monetary Policy, Forward Guidance, Macroprudential Policy, Financial Volatility, Risk-Premium

JEL Codes: E32, E43, E44, E52, E62

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1 Introduction

In the aftermath of the Great Recession and the recent Covid-19 pandemic, prolonged periods of constrained policy rates at the Zero Lower Bound (ZLB) have underscored the need for alternative monetary interventions, notably forward guidance. ZLB episodes are often characterized by heightened financial market volatility, exacerbated by the reduced efficacy of conventional monetary policy tools. In this context, forward guidance goes beyond its traditional roles of conveying economic forecasts (Delphic guidance) and making policy commitments (Odyssean guidance), and evolves into a tool for coordinating market participant actions and reducing overall economic uncertainty. This paper provides an analytically tractable framework for examining the effects of unconventional policies at the ZLB, and especially investigates the impact of forward guidance on the volatility of financial markets and the business cycle as well as welfare.

Our paper builds on a model that integrates endogenous financial volatility within a Two-Agent New Keynesian (TANK) framework. The model features a representative stock market index that encapsulates the ownership rights to the profits of firms in the economy. A group of hand-to-mouth workers supplies labor to these firms, while a group of capitalists holds the economy's aggregate financial wealth, allocating it between consumption and portfolio choices. In equilibrium, the wealth of capitalists is directly affected by the stock market performance. In this environment, an increase in endogenous financial volatility raises market risk-premium, leading to depressed asset prices and wealth of capitalists and lowering in turn aggregate demand, whose fluctuation determines the endogenous financial volatility itself.¹ This dynamic creates a coordination challenge for economic agents that has the potential to lead to self-fulfilling shocks in volatility, resulting in an endogenous state of elevated financial volatility. While [Lee and Dordal i Carreras \(2024\)](#) investigates the determinacy of the model's solutions under conventional monetary policy regimes in a nonlinear New Keynesian environment, this paper focuses on whether central bank forward guidance can steer agents towards equilibrium paths with lower financial volatility and quicker economic stabilization times at the ZLB.

Our analysis begins by exploring whether financial volatility intensifies when conventional monetary policy is constrained by the ZLB. We discover that a credible commitment from the central bank to stabilize the economy *after* the ZLB period can also ensure that

¹A decline in aggregate demand leads to reduced firm profitability, negatively impacting both the stock market capitalization and the aggregate wealth of capitalists. Therefore, economic and financial market volatility are tightly connected in our framework.

the excess volatility does not appear *during* the ZLB. This conclusion is derived through backward induction: if the monetary authority credibly commits to stabilize the economy in a finite period of time, it rules out the possibility of catastrophic (or exuberant) scenarios that contribute to the economic volatility faced by the agents. As a result, this precludes the feasibility of the unfavorable coordination equilibrium paths that would initially lead to these scenarios.

We then analyze the benefits of various forward guidance strategies. In our framework, traditional forward guidance includes an Odyssean component, in which the central bank credibly commits to keeping the policy rate at zero for a period longer than what economic conditions minimally require. Following this extended ZLB period of Odyssean guidance, the central bank implements a policy rule aimed at perfect stabilization outside the ZLB, as assumed in the preceding paragraph. The outcomes align with those identified in the prior research: by committing to a future period of accommodative policy rates, the central bank implicitly agrees to a temporary phase of positive excess demand and profits. This effect, owing to the forward-looking nature of stock markets, positively influences stock values at present, thereby raising aggregate demand during the ZLB. Such an approach spreads the costs of the ZLB over time, and is preferred when considering the quadratic welfare costs of fluctuations in the output gap. In addition, the commitment to perfect stabilization in the future precludes the appearance of excess financial volatility at the ZLB, as previously discussed.

The next strategy we consider explicitly leverages the agents' coordination problem to direct them towards an equilibrium with reduced financial and economic volatility at the ZLB. We term this approach *higher-order forward guidance*. For its execution, the central bank must relinquish the promise of perfect stabilization in the future: by committing not to enforce perfect stabilization at the conclusion of the Odyssean guidance period, the central bank enables the existence of coordinated equilibria that were previously ruled out by backward induction. This strategy allows the central bank to guide agents towards equilibrium paths with low levels of volatility and risk premiums at the ZLB, thereby maximizing expected welfare beyond the capabilities of traditional forward guidance (which we identify as a limiting case of this strategy). However, this intervention has its trade-offs: by committing not to stabilize the business cycle after the ZLB period, the central bank risks significant future output gap deviations. Thus, our higher-order guidance weighs the lack of stabilization in the future economy against reduced financial volatility in the present while at the ZLB. Furthermore, we uncover that even the central bank's slight hint that perfect

stabilization is not guaranteed at the conclusion of the Odyssean guidance period makes our higher-order forward guidance strategy viable.²

Finally, we analyze two macroprudential policies at the ZLB designed to incentivize investors to assume more financial risk, thereby raising asset prices and aggregate demand: (i) a subsidy on risky asset investments (or equivalently, a reduction in capital gains taxes), and (ii) fiscal redistribution among agents. The first policy illustrates that a temporary subsidy on holding risky assets at the ZLB enhances their Sharpe ratio, leading to higher asset prices and increased aggregate financial wealth of the economy. This surge in financial wealth boosts the aggregate demand of capitalists and alleviates the severity of recessions, as well as the welfare costs associated with the ZLB. However, our study emphasizes the need to consider the varying marginal propensities to consume (MPC) across households when selecting the optimal funding sources for the subsidy. In a hypothetical scenario where the subsidy is financed by non-distortionary taxation on hand-to-mouth workers, the policy's effectiveness is completely nullified: the increase in financial wealth and aggregate demand induced by the subsidy is exactly offset by a reduction in workers' consumption, which negatively impacts firm profitability and stock market capitalization. In this context, the second macroprudential policy examined focuses on the effects of fiscal transfers at the ZLB from capitalists with a low marginal propensity to consume to hand-to-mouth workers with a high marginal propensity to consume. As expected, this transfer leads to an increase in the economy's aggregate demand. We contribute to the literature by showing that such redistribution fosters increased demand through another channel: the initial rise in demand from workers' consumption boosts firm profitability, which in turn increases the financial wealth of capitalists and their willingness to invest in risky assets, as well as consumption demand, again raising financial wealth and initiating a self-reinforcing cycle.

Featuring a demand-driven economy with perfectly rigid prices,³ our framework emphasizes the significant impact of stock market performance on aggregate demand. Unlike prior studies, such as [Akerlof and Yellen \(1985\)](#), [Blanchard and Kiyotaki \(1987\)](#), [Eggerts-](#)

²To be specific, we prove that if the central bank promises there is a tiny probability that the business cycle might not be stabilized at the end of the Odyssean forward guidance period, then the higher-order forward guidance strategy becomes viable. Our model features a novel discontinuity in that regard: if the monetary authority achieves perfect stabilization with certainty after the ZLB period, we return to the traditional forward guidance case in which no excess volatility or risk premium is manipulated by the central bank. Even with a slight chance that perfect stabilization is relinquished, the central bank can engineer a better equilibrium with lower levels of financial volatility and risk premiums based on our higher-order forward guidance strategy.

³This assumption simplifies the analysis. An extended model with sticky prices à la [Calvo \(1983\)](#) produces qualitatively similar results.

son and Krugman (2012), Farhi and Werning (2012, 2016, 2017), Korinek and Simsek (2016), and Schmitt-Grohé and Uribe (2016), who focus on demand-driven recessions due to deleveraging borrowers and aggregate demand externalities, our model triggers the ZLB episodes with a decrease in aggregate demand for risky assets, identified as a key driver of financial recessions by Caballero and Farhi (2017) and Caballero and Simsek (2020). In a similar way to Werning (2012), we assume the economy’s exogenous and deterministic shift to the ZLB, here resulting from a shock that raises the risk premium in financial markets and reduces the demand for risky assets, resulting in a downward jump in the natural rate of interest to a negative territory. Our approach diverges from the literature by including an endogenous component to financial volatility, influenced by both the ZLB and forward guidance. Papers including Eggertsson et al. (2003), Campbell et al. (2012, 2019), Del Negro et al. (2013), McKay et al. (2016), and Caballero and Farhi (2017) explore the implications of forward guidance at the ZLB from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. Our research distinguishes itself by focusing specifically on the impact of forward guidance on higher-order moments including the endogenous volatility of financial markets and the broader economy.⁴ In addition, our study of macroprudential policies at the ZLB, while building on the existing literature, e.g., Lorenzoni (2008), Farhi and Werning (2012, 2016, 2017), and Korinek and Simsek (2016), places a stronger emphasis on the interplay between asset prices and aggregate demand.

Layout The structure of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents the model. Section 3 discusses the incorporation of the ZLB into our framework. Section 4 examines the effectiveness of various forward guidance strategies. Section 5 studies other macroprudential policies at the ZLB. Section 6 provides concluding remarks.⁵ The Online Appendix contains additional derivations and proofs. Specifically, Online Appendix F provides an analysis within the non-linear textbook New Keynesian model and demonstrates that the main equilibrium conditions and results are isomorphic to those of the model with financial markets presented here.

⁴Our approach, where central bank communications serve as an equilibrium coordination device, aligns well with the concept of ‘open-mouth’ operations at the ZLB described by Campbell and Weber (2019).

⁵Appendix I contains the parameter calibration, and derivations and proofs are detailed in Appendix II.

2 The Model

We begin by introducing a theoretical framework that facilitates the analysis of higher-order moments related to the aggregate financial and economic volatility of the economy.⁶

2.1 Setting

We consider a continuous-time framework within a filtered probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, (\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}}, \mathbb{P})$. The economy is composed of two equally sized agent groups: capitalists, characterized as neoclassical agents, and hand-to-mouth workers, conceptualized as Keynesian agents. This structure, closely aligned with the approach of [Greenwald et al. \(2014\)](#) and [Caballero et al. \(2024\)](#), assumes that all financial wealth is held by capitalists, while workers rely on labor income for consumption. The aggregate technology, denoted by A_t , introduces a single source of exogenous variation in the model and generates the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$. The process evolves according to a geometric Brownian motion given by:

$$\frac{dA_t}{A_t} = \underbrace{g}_{\text{Growth}} dt + \underbrace{\sigma_t}_{\text{Fundamental risk}} dZ_t ,$$

where g represents the expected growth rate, and σ_t signifies the economy's *fundamental* risk, which we take as exogenous. For simplicity, σ_t is initially assumed constant and equal to σ in Section 2. Later in Section 3, we introduce a deterministic shift in σ_t to explore various scenarios involving the ZLB.

2.1.1 Firms

The economy features a unit measure of monopolistically competitive firms, each producing a unique intermediate good $y_t(i)$, for $i \in [0, 1]$. These intermediate firms contribute to the final good y_t through a Dixit-Stiglitz aggregation function with a substitution elasticity

⁶Our results, except those in Section 5, also hold in a non-linear version of the standard New Keynesian model (e.g., [Woodford \(2003\)](#) and [Galí \(2015\)](#)). We choose a Two-Agent New Keynesian (TANK) model representation because it clarifies the interaction among financial volatility, risk-premium, aggregate wealth, and aggregate demand, and allows us to study various macroprudential policies in a tractable way, as shown in Section 5. Our analysis of a standard non-linear New Keynesian model is provided in Online Appendix F.

$\epsilon > 0$, as given by:

$$y_t = \left(\int_0^1 y_t(i)^{\frac{\epsilon-1}{\epsilon}} di \right)^{\frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon-1}}.$$

Each intermediate firm i employs a production function $y_t(i) = A_t(N_{W,t})^\alpha n_t(i)^{1-\alpha}$, where $N_{W,t}$ is the total labor in the economy, and $n_t(i)$ is the labor demand of firm i at time t . The inclusion of a production externality à la **Baxter and King (1991)** helps to align our model with observed asset price and wage co-movements, and does not alter other qualitative outcomes of our model.⁷

Intermediate firms face a downward-sloping demand curve $y_i(p_t(i)|p_t, y_t)$, with $p_t(i)$ representing the price of their own good, and p_t and y_t the aggregate price index and output, respectively:

$$y_i(p_t(i)|p_t, y_t) = y_t \left(\frac{p_t(i)}{p_t} \right)^{-\epsilon},$$

where price index $p_t = \left(\int_0^1 p_t(i)^{1-\epsilon} di \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\epsilon}}$ aggregates prices $\{p_t(i)\}$ from all intermediate goods. For tractability, we assume perfect price rigidity, $p_t(i) = p_t = \bar{p}$ for all t, i .⁸ Thus, each firm produces an equal level of output $y_t(i) = y_t$ for all i , determined by demand.

2.1.2 Workers

A representative hand-to-mouth worker supplies labor to the intermediate firm producers, earning wage income $w_t N_{W,t}$ and spending it entirely on final good consumption. The representative worker maximizes:

$$\max_{C_{W,t}, N_{W,t}} \frac{\left(\frac{C_{W,t}}{A_t} \right)^{1-\varphi}}{1-\varphi} - \frac{(N_{W,t})^{1+\chi_0}}{1+\chi_0}, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \bar{p} C_{W,t} = w_t N_{W,t}, \quad (1)$$

⁷In a model without **Baxter and King (1991)** externalities, increasing asset prices often correlate with lower wages, which is contrary to the empirical evidence (**Chodorow-Reich et al., 2021**) regarding the effects of stock price hikes on aggregate demand, employment, and wages. The **Baxter and King (1991)** externality enables our calibration to reflect these empirical trends by linking higher asset prices and aggregate demand with increased labor demand and wages.

⁸The alternative assumption of sticky price-resetting à la **Calvo (1983)** does not significantly alter the model dynamics or the qualitative results presented in this paper.

where $C_{W,t}$, $N_{W,t}$, and w_t stand for consumption, labor supply, and wage, respectively, with χ_0 being the inverse Frisch elasticity of labor supply. Following the approach of [Mertens and Ravn \(2011\)](#), we normalize consumption $C_{W,t}$ by technology A_t , which enables us to use a straightforward linearly additive utility function consistent with a balanced growth path.⁹ Finally, under our rigid price assumption, equilibrium labor demand by each firm i , $\{n_t(i)\}$, aggregates linearly into total labor $N_{W,t}$, resulting in $n_t(i) = N_{W,t}$ for all i . Plugging this finding back into the production function, equilibrium output y_t simplifies to a linear function of total labor, $y_t = A_t N_{W,t}$.

2.1.3 Financial Market and Capitalists

Unlike conventional New-Keynesian models where a representative household owns the economy's firms and receives lump-sum rebated profits, we assume firm profits are capitalized in the stock market through a representative index fund. Capitalists are faced with an optimal portfolio allocation problem, deciding between investing in a risk-free bond and the stock index at each moment t .

The aggregate nominal value of the stock index fund is represented by $\bar{p}A_tQ_t$, where Q_t is the normalized real index price. This price is endogenously determined and adapts to filtration $(\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$, following the equation:

$$\frac{dQ_t}{Q_t} = \mu_t^q dt + \underbrace{\sigma_t^q}_{\text{Financial volatility}} dZ_t ,$$

with μ_t^q and σ_t^q representing the endogenous drift and volatility of the process, respectively. We interpret σ_t^q as a measure of financial uncertainty or disruption. Therefore, aggregate financial wealth $\bar{p}A_tQ_t$ evolves according to a geometric Brownian motion, characterized by a combined volatility of $\sigma + \sigma_t^q$. Notably, σ_t^q , determined in equilibrium, can be either positive or negative, indicating that aggregate real stock market value A_tQ_t might be more (or less) volatile than the technology process, $\{A_t\}$. When σ_t^q is negative, financial wealth volatility $\sigma + \sigma_t^q$ becomes smaller than the fundamental volatility σ .¹⁰

Alongside the stock market, we introduce a risk-free bond with a nominal interest rate i_t , set by the central bank. Bonds are assumed to be in zero net supply in equilibrium. A

⁹This standardization simplifies the analysis without altering the qualitative results of our model.

¹⁰When $\sigma_t^q < 0$, we observe that $\text{Cov}_t(dA_t, dQ_t) = \sigma \sigma_t^q A_t Q_t dt < 0$, implying a negative covariance between TFP and asset prices.

unit measure of identical capitalists decides how to allocate their wealth between risk-free bonds and the risky stock index. By holding the later, capitalists earn the profits from the intermediate goods sector, which are distributed as stock dividends, and benefit from stock price revaluations due to changes in A_t and Q_t . Given the competitive nature of financial markets, each capitalist takes the nominal risk-free rate i_t , the expected stochastic stock market return i_t^m , and the total risk level $\sigma + \sigma_t^q$ as given when making portfolio decisions.¹¹ If a capitalist invests a fraction θ_t of their nominal wealth a_t in the stock market, the total risk borne becomes $\theta_t a_t (\sigma + \sigma_t^q)$ over the interval $[t, t + dt]$. Thus, the portfolio's riskiness is directly proportional to the investment share θ_t in the stock index. Capitalists, being risk-averse, demand a risk-premium compensation $i_t^m - i_t$ for investing in the risky index, which is determined in equilibrium. A representative capitalist solves the following problem:

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{C_t, \theta_t} \mathbb{E}_0 \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \log C_t dt , \\ \text{s.t. } & da_t = (a_t (i_t + \theta_t (i_t^m - i_t)) - \bar{p} C_t) dt + \theta_t a_t (\sigma + \sigma_t^q) dZ_t , \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where ρ and C_t denote the subjective discount rate and final good consumption of capitalists, respectively. At each instant, the capitalist earns returns from both risk-free bond and risky stock investments, allocating their income towards consumption of the final good.

2.2 Equilibrium and Asset Pricing

The nominal state price density of capitalists, denoted as ξ_t^N , can be expressed as follows:

$$\xi_t^N = e^{-\rho t} \frac{1}{C_t} \frac{1}{\bar{p}} , \quad \text{where } \mathbb{E}_t \left(\frac{d\xi_t^N}{\xi_t^N} \right) = -i_t dt , \quad (3)$$

and the stochastic discount factor of capitalists between the present time t and a future time s is defined as $\frac{\xi_s^N}{\xi_t^N}$. The aggregate stock market wealth, $\bar{p} A_t Q_t$, is defined as the sum of discounted profit streams from the intermediate goods sector, priced using ξ_t^N , under the assumption that capitalists are the marginal investors in the stock market in equilibrium.

¹¹The competitive market assumption is crucial in our model for explaining inefficiencies stemming from the aggregate demand externality that each capitalist's financial investment decision imposes on the economy. For more details, see [Farhi and Werning \(2016\)](#).

At time t , the total profit of the intermediate goods sector, denoted as D_t , is given by

$$D_t \equiv \bar{p}y_t - \underbrace{w_t N_{W,t}}_{=\bar{p}C_{W,t}} = \bar{p}(y_t - C_{W,t}) = \bar{p}C_t , \quad (4)$$

where $w_t N_{W,t}$, the wage income, is equivalent to the consumption expenditure of hand-to-mouth workers, given by $\bar{p}C_{W,t}$. Consequently, the total dividend is equal to the capitalists' aggregate consumption expenditure. Incorporating equation (4) into the asset pricing equation, we obtain

$$\bar{p}A_t Q_t = \mathbb{E}_t \frac{1}{\xi_t^N} \int_t^\infty \xi_s^N \underbrace{D_s}_{=\bar{p}C_s} ds = \frac{\bar{p}C_t}{\rho} , \quad (5)$$

which implies $C_t = \rho A_t Q_t$. It indicates that, in equilibrium, the rate of consumption by capitalists corresponds to a fixed proportion ρ of their aggregate financial wealth. From equations (4) and (5), the dividend yield of the stock market index fund is also constant and equal to ρ , which results in the equilibrium consumption of stock dividends by capitalists.

Agents of the same type (workers or capitalists) are identical and make symmetric decisions in equilibrium. Since bonds have a zero net supply, the capitalists' wealth share in the stock market, denoted as θ_t , must be equal to one for all t . This condition determines the equilibrium risk-premium demanded by capitalists. Drawing on equations (2), (3), and (5), the risk-premium is given by

$$\text{rp}_t \equiv i_t^m - i_t = (\sigma + \sigma_t^q)^2 , \quad (6)$$

where rp_t increases with the total volatility $\sigma + \sigma_t^q$ of the aggregate financial wealth $\bar{p}A_t Q_t$. It is important to note that the wealth gain (or loss) of a capitalist equates to the nominal revaluation of the stock market index. Our equilibrium conditions in equations (5) and (6) are consistent with [Merton \(1971\)](#).

The equilibrium in the goods market and the expected stock return i_t^m are characterized as follows: Given that capitalists' consumption $C_t = \rho A_t Q_t$ holds in equilibrium, the final goods market equilibrium condition can be written as

$$\rho A_t Q_t + \frac{w_t}{\bar{p}} N_{W,t} = y_t = A_t N_{W,t} . \quad (7)$$

The nominal expected return on stocks, i_t^m , comprises the dividend yield from firm profits and the nominal stock price revaluation resulting from fluctuations in $\{A_t, Q_t\}$. In

equilibrium, changes in i_t^m only affect nominal stock prices, as the dividend yield remains constant and equal to ρ . Defining $\{\mathbf{I}_t^m\}$ as the cumulative stock market return process, where $\mathbb{E}_t(d\mathbf{I}_t^m) = i_t^m dt$, equation (8) decomposes i_t^m into its dividend yield and expected stock revaluation components as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
d\mathbf{I}_t^m &= \frac{\overbrace{\bar{p} \left(y_t - \frac{w_t}{\bar{p}} N_{W,t} \right)}^{\text{Nominal dividend}}}{\underbrace{\bar{p} A_t Q_t}_{\text{Total stock market wealth}}} dt + \frac{\underbrace{d(\bar{p} A_t Q_t)}_{\text{Stock revaluation}}}{\bar{p} A_t Q_t} \\
&= \underbrace{(\rho + g + \mu_t^q + \sigma \sigma_t^q)}_{=i_t^m} dt + \underbrace{(\sigma + \sigma_t^q)}_{\text{Risk term}} dZ_t.
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

The real stock price Q_t is a pivotal factor in driving the business cycle in the model's equilibrium. An increase in Q_t leads to the higher consumption of capitalists, leading to higher wages, greater labor demand by firms, and consequently, increased consumption by all households.

Flexible Price Equilibrium In line with most of the literature, we adopt the equilibrium of the flexible price economy as the benchmark that guides the policy goals of the monetary authority. Details of this equilibrium are presented in Online Appendix A. Additionally, Online Appendix B outlines the necessary conditions for positive co-movement among the gaps in asset price, wage, labor supply, and consumption for both capitalists and workers. Here, ‘gaps’ refer to the log-deviations from the flexible price equilibrium. As illustrated in Online Appendix B, all the gaps are proportional to each other, and hereafter we write equilibrium conditions in asset price gap \hat{Q}_t .

In the flexible price equilibrium, denoted by the superscript n (indicating ‘natural’), we obtain $\mu_t^{q,n} = \sigma_t^{q,n} = 0$, implying a constant natural stock price, Q_t^n . The natural interest rate, denoted by r_t^n , represents the real risk-free rate in the flexible price economy. In equilibrium, this rate remains constant, and is given by $r^n = \rho + g - \sigma^2$.

2.3 Gap Economy

In particular, we define the risk-premium gap as $\hat{r}p_t \equiv rp_t - rp_t^n$, where rp_t^n stands for the natural counterpart of the risk-premium. We also introduce the concept of the risk-adjusted natural rate, r_t^T , defined as:

$$r_t^T \equiv r_t^n - \frac{1}{2}\hat{r}p_t. \quad (9)$$

This rate adjusts the natural rate of return to account for the risk differential between rigid and flexible price economies, serving as an anchor for monetary policy in our model. For example, a positive risk-premium gap, $\hat{r}p_t > 0$, reduces the stock market portfolio demand of capitalists compared to the benchmark economy, potentially leading to a recession.

This effect is formally illustrated in equation (10) of Proposition 1, where a decline in r_t^T relative to the risk-free policy rate i_t fosters expectations of future asset price revaluations, which manifest through drops in current asset prices and the output gap. Note that in a linearized conventional New Keynesian model, the natural rate r_t^n appears in place of r_t^T in (10).

Proposition 1 (Dynamic IS Equation) *The dynamic IS equation of the model, expressed in terms of the asset price gap, is given by:*¹²

$$d\hat{Q}_t = (i_t - r_t^T)dt + \sigma_t^q dZ_t, \quad (10)$$

Proof. See Online Appendix C.

■

2.4 Monetary Policy and Equilibrium Uniqueness

We complete the model by incorporating a monetary policy rule. This rule, in conjunction with the dynamic IS equation defined in equation (10) and the implementation of forward guidance or other macroprudential measures, is necessary to determine the model's solution. The baseline policy rule is expressed as follows:

$$i_t = \max \left\{ r_t^T + \phi_q \hat{Q}_t, 0 \right\}, \quad (11)$$

¹²A conventional definition using the output gap leads to a comparable expression in our model, since both variables are proportional in equilibrium.

where $\phi_q > 0$ satisfies the Taylor principle when not constrained by the ZLB.¹³ Combining equations (10) and (11) when the ZLB is not binding, we obtain

$$\mathbb{E}_t d\hat{Q}_t = \phi_q \hat{Q}_t ,$$

which leads to perfect stabilization of the asset price gap, $\hat{Q}_t = 0$ for all t , as the unique rational expectations equilibrium of the economy outside the ZLB.¹⁴ Section 3 discusses the stabilization and uniqueness properties of the model with a binding ZLB. Section 4 considers different forward guidance strategies that deviate from equation (11) by temporarily committing to a distinct set of passive policy rules (Odyssean guidance), whose stabilization and uniqueness properties are further discussed later.

3 The Zero Lower Bound

ZLB Recession Following Werning (2012), we consider a scenario where the interest rate reaches the ZLB due to a deterministic shift in the natural rate of interest, r_t^n . Specifically, we assume $\sigma_t = \bar{\sigma}$ for $0 \leq t \leq T$ and $\sigma_t = \underline{\sigma} < \bar{\sigma}$ for $t \geq T$. The TFP volatilities during these periods are such that the natural rate satisfies: $\underline{r} \equiv r^n(\bar{\sigma}) = \rho + g - \bar{\sigma}^2 < 0$ and $\bar{r} \equiv r^n(\underline{\sigma}) = \rho + g - \underline{\sigma}^2 > 0$, resulting in the ZLB binding in the first period. Without loss of generality, and as evident from the expression for r_t^n , we can alternatively consider shocks to the economy's growth rate g or the discount rate ρ as drivers of the ZLB spell. Our results also hold without loss of generality if T follows a stochastic distribution, which we illustrate in Online Appendix E. Therefore, we focus here on the simplest case where T is deterministic.

Recovery Without Guidance We begin our study of ZLB recessions by examining the benchmark scenario: economic recovery in the absence of forward guidance or other macroprudential policies. After period T , we assume that the monetary authority follows the Taylor rule presented in equation (11), achieving perfect economic stabilization defined by $\hat{Q}_t = 0$ for $t \geq T$. We infer by backward induction from equation (10) that perfect

¹³In addition to the Taylor principle $\phi_q > 0$, Lee and Dordal i Carreras (2024) establish that targeting the risk-adjusted natural rate or its risk-premium component is an additional necessary condition for ensuring equilibrium uniqueness in models incorporating higher-order terms in the dynamic IS equation.

¹⁴See Blanchard and Kahn (1980) and Buiter (1984) for a detailed presentation of the necessary conditions required for this uniqueness result.

stabilization with certainty at T necessarily implies the absence of volatility in the asset price gap \hat{Q}_t process in the preceding periods, $t < T$.¹⁵ Therefore, it follows that $\sigma_t^q = 0$ and $r_t^T = \underline{r} < 0$ for $t < T$ whenever the monetary authority can credibly commit to follow the Taylor rule in equation (11) for $t \geq T$. In this scenario, the dynamics of \hat{Q}_t according to (10) simplify to:

$$d\hat{Q}_t = -\underline{r} dt, \quad \text{for } t < T, \quad (12)$$

with associated boundary condition $\hat{Q}_T = 0$ and initial asset price gap given by $Q_0 = \underline{r} T$. The trajectory of $\{\hat{Q}_t\}$ following equation (12) is illustrated in Figure 1.

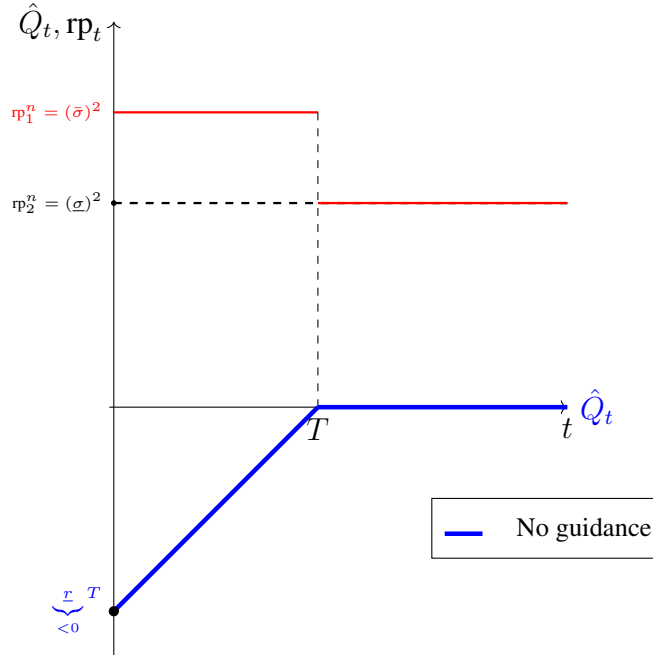


Figure 1: ZLB dynamics, economic recovery without guidance (Benchmark).

The initial increase in σ_t from $\underline{\sigma}$ to $\bar{\sigma}$ raises the risk premium from $rp_2^n = (\underline{\sigma})^2$ to $rp_1^n = \bar{\sigma}^2$. This leads to a decline in asset prices \hat{Q}_t because the ZLB prevents the risk-free rate from falling into negative territory, as would be necessary for complete stabilization. As a result, there is a diminished appetite among capitalists for stock market investments,

¹⁵For instance, at $T - \Delta$, where Δ is an infinitesimally small time interval, $\sigma_{T-\Delta}^q = 0$ is the only rational solution to equation (10) consistent with $\hat{Q}_T = 0$ for any possible realization of the stochastic component of the TFP process, $dZ_{T-\Delta}$. This result deterministically pins down the asset price gap of the preceding period, $\hat{Q}_{T-\Delta}$, leading by backward induction to $\sigma_t^q = 0$ for $t \leq T$.

leading to a reduction in both aggregate financial wealth and consumption demand.¹⁶ This path is consistent with the dynamics described in [Werning \(2012\)](#) and [Cochrane \(2017\)](#), despite our model featuring a distinct IS equation (10) with endogenous volatility σ_t^q influencing the drift in the \hat{Q}_t process, a departure from traditional New-Keynesian models. This result arises because ensuring future stabilization for $t \geq T$ effectively eliminates any excess endogenous volatility σ_t^q during a ZLB episode.

Remarks Central banks can prevent the emergence of endogenous volatility σ_t^q at the ZLB through a ‘credible’ commitment to stabilize the business cycle by a predetermined future date $T < +\infty$. Even if the monetary authority is constrained by the ZLB and thus unable to adhere to the policy rule outlined in (10), which directly targets the risk-premium, the additional financial stability costs resulting from policy inaction can be effectively managed, or even completely eliminated, by pledging to stabilize upon exiting the ZLB. One implication of this result is that the impact of the ZLB could vary significantly between countries: those with monetary authorities committed to stabilization after the ZLB period may only face the demand-driven recession described in this Section. In contrast, countries lacking the capacity or willingness to stabilize in the future might incur additional costs due to potential increases in σ_t^q during a ZLB episode. Exploration of these scenarios is left for future research.

4 Forward Guidance

This section analyzes two different forward guidance strategies and explores the potential stabilization trade-offs involved in the use of these policy tools.

4.1 Traditional Forward Guidance

We define traditional forward guidance as the communication strategy where the central bank credibly commits to maintaining a zero policy rate for a duration of time $\hat{T}^{\text{TFG}} > T$ exceeding the initial period of high fundamental volatility. We further assume that the central bank reverts to the policy rule defined in equation (11) after the forward guidance period

¹⁶While [Caballero and Farhi \(2017\)](#) demonstrate that an increased demand for safe assets can drive the economy into recession under ZLB constraints, our analysis suggests that it encourages investors to withdraw their wealth from the stock market, thus reducing stock market value and aggregate demand, akin to the findings of [Caballero and Simsek \(2020\)](#).

ends, resulting in a perfect stabilization of both the business cycle and financial markets for $t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}$. Following from the backward induction rationale presented in Section 3, stabilization with certainty after \hat{T}^{TFG} results in the absence of endogenous financial volatility, $\sigma_t^q = 0$, for $t < \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}$. The dynamics of \hat{Q}_t are described by

$$d\hat{Q}_t = \begin{cases} -\underline{r} dt, & \text{for } t < T, \\ -\bar{r} dt, & \text{for } T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}, \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

with associated boundary condition $\hat{Q}_{\hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}} = 0$, resulting in an initial asset price gap of $\hat{Q}_0 = \underline{r}T + \bar{r}(\hat{T}^{\text{TFG}} - T)$.

The dynamics of $\{\hat{Q}_t\}$ governed by equation (13) are depicted in Figure 2. Traditional forward guidance induces an artificial economic boom between T and \hat{T}^{TFG} , thereby alleviating recessionary pressures within the interval $0 \leq t < T$. Specifically, traditional forward guidance increases asset prices between T and \hat{T}^{TFG} , which results in a narrower initial asset price gap \hat{Q}_0 due to the forward-looking nature of stock markets.

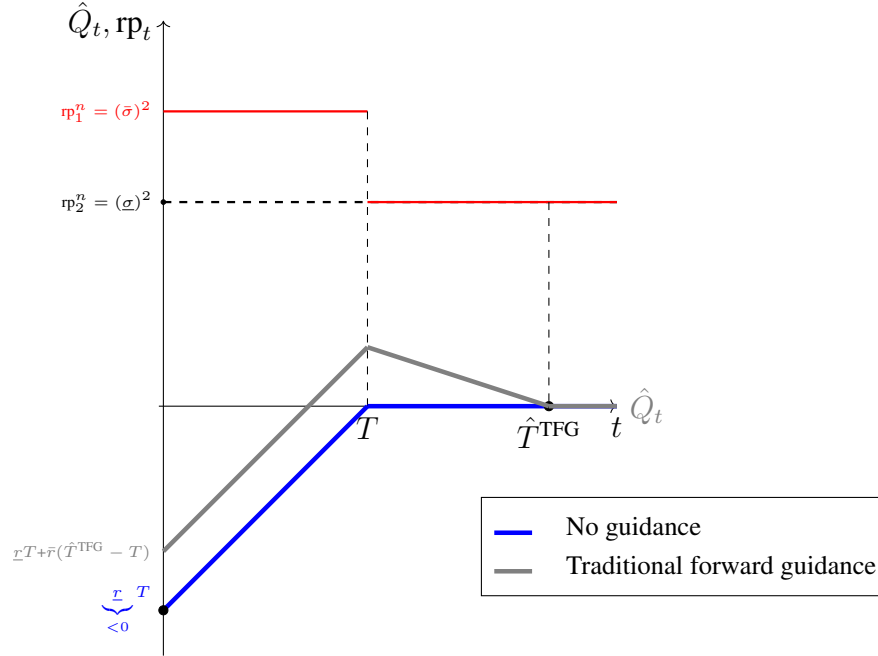


Figure 2: ZLB dynamics under traditional forward guidance.

Optimal Traditional Forward Guidance To determine the optimal forward guidance duration \hat{T}^{TFG} , we minimize the quadratic welfare loss function represented by:¹⁷

$$\mathbb{L}^Q \left(\{\hat{Q}_t\}_{t \geq 0} \right) = \mathbb{E}_0 \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_t^2 dt, \quad (14)$$

subject to the dynamics outlined in equation (13). The first-order condition with respect to \hat{T}^{TFG} results in:

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_t dt = 0. \quad (15)$$

Section 4.4 presents a summary of the principal statistics and welfare gains resulting from the adoption of the optimal traditional forward guidance policy outlined in this discussion.

In the next section, we argue that central banks might voluntarily forgo perfect stabilization in the future to reduce financial volatility at the ZLB and potentially achieve higher welfare than with the traditional forward guidance policy described here. We term this approach a ‘higher-order’ forward guidance policy.

4.2 Higher-Order Forward Guidance

The principal cause of ZLB recessions in our model is an excessively high risk premium, driven by increased fundamental volatility σ_t . As a result, central banks might alternatively consider focusing on mitigating financial risk by guiding agents’ actions toward a favorable trajectory for the asset price volatility $\{\sigma_t^q\}$ during the ZLB period, aiming to support asset prices and consumption demand.¹⁸

Context In the traditional forward guidance policy previously discussed, the central bank’s commitment to perfect stabilization (with certainty) at \hat{T}^{TFG} facilitates a smoother transition toward economic recovery. However, this approach prevents any deviation of σ_t^q from zero, its natural level, during the ZLB period, as depicted in Figure 3. This suggests that to sustain alternative equilibria where σ_t^q deviates from zero, the central bank must refrain

¹⁷The derivation of the quadratic welfare loss function in equation (14) is provided in Online Appendix G.

¹⁸The risk premium, rp_t , is given by $\text{rp}_t = (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_t^q)^2$ for $t < T$ and $\text{rp}_t = (\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_t^q)^2$ for $T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}$. Therefore, a negative σ_t^q can reduce the risk premium below its natural level, thereby improving asset prices and aggregate demand at the ZLB.

from promising perfect stabilization upon exiting the ZLB at \hat{T}^{TFG} , as illustrated in Figure 4.

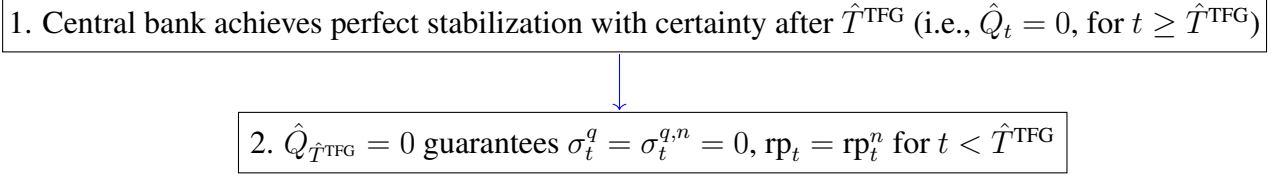


Figure 3: Mechanism under traditional forward guidance.

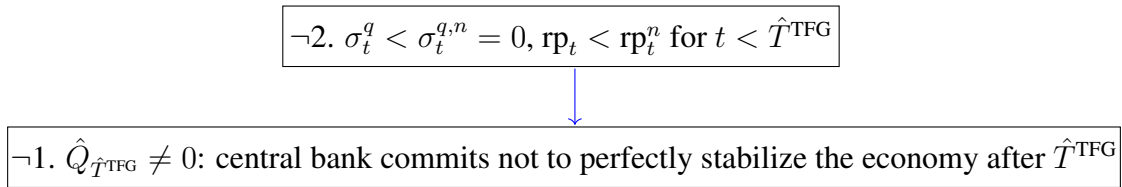


Figure 4: Mechanism under higher-order forward guidance.

Implementation We define \hat{T}^{HOFG} as the duration of the zero policy rate under our ‘higher-order’ policy. We model the commitment constraint described in Figure 4 by assuming that after the forward guidance regime with i_t equal to zero ends at \hat{T}^{HOFG} , the monetary authority implements a *passive policy rule* with i_t fixed at \bar{r} , allowing for the existence of multiple equilibria. The central bank then coordinates the economy’s agents into an optimal path within the admissible solutions set, subject to the constraints: $\sigma_t^q = 0$ for $t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$ and $\mathbb{E}_0 \hat{Q}_\infty = 0$. The latter is necessary to meet the economy’s transversality condition, while the former simplifies the optimization problem by assuming the central bank ends its influence on financial market volatility at the conclusion of the forward guidance period. Together with the dynamic IS equation in (10), these constraints indicate that the asset price gap is initially expected to close, $\mathbb{E}_0 \hat{Q}_{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} = 0$, by the end of the forward guidance period at \hat{T}^{HOFG} . In Section 4.3, we relax the constraints on central bank behavior and assume that it permanently reverts to the active Taylor rule in equation (11) with a constant probability of less than one after \hat{T}^{HOFG} .

Formalism We denote the natural risk premiums as $\text{rp}_1^n \equiv \bar{\sigma}^2$ for $t < T$ (high fundamental volatility region), $\text{rp}_2^n \equiv \underline{\sigma}^2$ for $T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$ (low fundamental volatility region), and $\text{rp}_3^n \equiv \underline{\sigma}^2$ for $t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$ (low fundamental volatility region post-forward guidance).

period).¹⁹

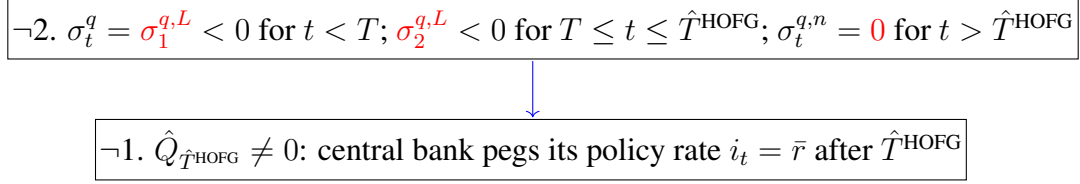


Figure 5: Simplified higher-order forward guidance.

We can simplify the optimization problem by assuming that the central bank maintains consistent financial volatility and risk-premium levels within each regime. Specifically, financial volatility σ_t^q is set to be $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ for $t < T$, $\sigma_2^{q,L}$ for $T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$, and zero for $t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$. The risk-premia associated with each period are $\text{rp}_1 \equiv (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_1^{q,L})^2 < \text{rp}_1^n$ for $t < T$, $\text{rp}_2 \equiv (\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L})^2 < \text{rp}_2^n$ for $T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$, and $\text{rp}_3 \equiv (\underline{\sigma})^2$ for $t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$.²⁰ This simplified problem is represented in Figure 5. Finally, the risk-adjusted natural rate in equation (9) is expressed as r_1^T for $t < T$ and r_2^T for $T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$, each being a function of $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ and $\sigma_2^{q,L}$, respectively:

$$\begin{aligned} r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L}) &\equiv \rho + g - \frac{\bar{\sigma}^2}{2} - \frac{(\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_1^{q,L})^2}{2} > \underline{r} \equiv r_1^T(0) \quad \text{when } \sigma_1^{q,L} < 0, \\ r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L}) &\equiv \rho + g - \frac{\underline{\sigma}^2}{2} - \frac{(\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L})^2}{2} > \bar{r} \equiv r_2^T(0) \quad \text{when } \sigma_2^{q,L} < 0. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

From equation (16), we observe that lower risk premia during the forward guidance period up to \hat{T}^{HOFG} lead to increased risk-adjusted rates and, consequently, higher values of the asset price gap $\{\hat{Q}_t\}$ along the expected equilibrium path (in comparison to a traditional forward guidance policy of the same duration). This results in reduction of the expected quadratic loss function in (14). However, as indicated by our IS equation (10), a σ_t^q different from zero introduces stochastic fluctuations in the trajectory of \hat{Q}_t , resulting in potential additional stabilization costs in the future. The green line in Figure 6 illustrates the expected trajectory (or deterministic component) of $\{\hat{Q}_t\}$ under a higher-order forward guidance policy as detailed in this section. The dashed lines alongside the expected path depict two possible sample paths that stem from stochastic variations in $\{\hat{Q}_t\}$.

¹⁹Risk premium is defined as $\text{rp}_t = (\sigma_t + \sigma_t^q)^2$, and the expression for the natural level stems from the existence of zero endogenous financial volatility in a flexible price economy, where $\sigma_t^{q,n} = 0$ for all t .

²⁰Proposition 2 later proves that $\sigma_1^{q,L} < 0$ and $\sigma_2^{q,L} < 0$ at the optimum. For illustration purposes, we assume these conditions are satisfied in the rest of the argument of this section.

In summary, central banks operating under our higher-order guidance with commitment face a trade-off between achieving lower risk premiums and higher asset price levels prior to \hat{T}^{HOFG} , and the subsequent costs of destabilization. This balancing act involves a careful choice of $\sigma_1^{q,L}$, $\sigma_2^{q,L}$, and \hat{T}^{HOFG} , as we discuss next. It will ultimately be the case that, due to the additional stabilization effects from negative $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ and $\sigma_2^{q,L}$, the optimal duration of the zero policy rate period \hat{T}^{HOFG} decreases compared to \hat{T}^{TFG} .

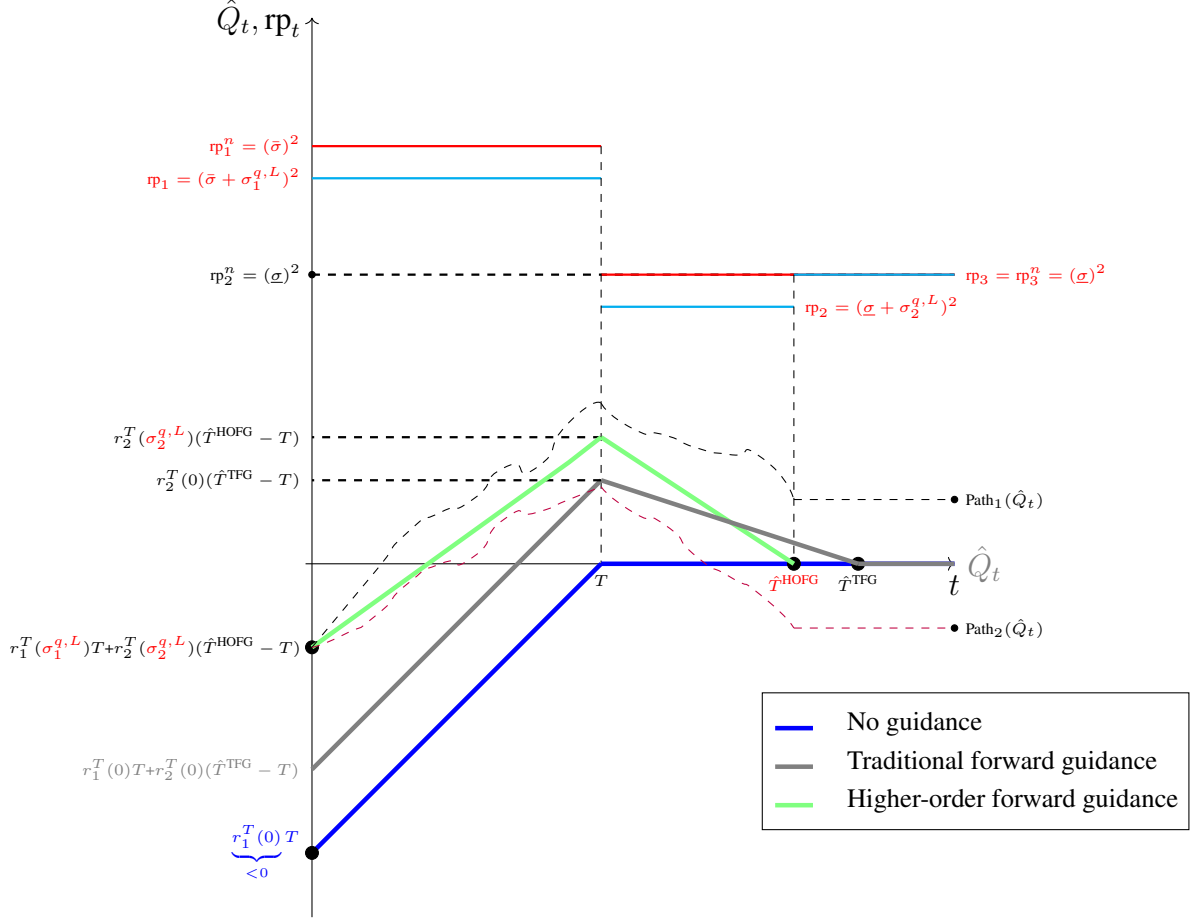


Figure 6: Intervention dynamics of $\{\hat{Q}_t\}$ with $\sigma_1^{q,L} < 0$, $\sigma_2^{q,L} < 0$, and $\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} < \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}$.

Optimal Higher-Order Forward Guidance The initial asset price gap \hat{Q}_0 is determined by the condition $\mathbb{E}_0 \hat{Q}_{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} = 0$ previously discussed and the dynamic IS equation in (10) as follows:

$$\hat{Q}_0 = r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})T + r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T). \quad (17)$$

The central bank minimizes the loss function given by (14) by selecting the optimal values

for $\sigma_1^{q,L}$, $\sigma_2^{q,L}$, and \hat{T}^{HOFG} . The formulation of the optimization problem is:

$$\min_{\sigma_1^{q,L}, \sigma_2^{q,L}, \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} \mathbb{E}_0 \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_t^2 dt, \text{ s.t. } d\hat{Q}_t = \begin{cases} -r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})dt + \sigma_1^{q,L}dZ_t, & \text{for } t < T, \\ -r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})dt + \sigma_2^{q,L}dZ_t, & \text{for } T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \\ 0, & \text{for } t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

with \hat{Q}_0 determined by equation (17). The following Proposition 2 summarizes the resulting optimal commitment path for the central bank under higher-order forward guidance.

Proposition 2 (Optimal Commitment Path) *The solution to the central bank's higher-order forward guidance optimization problem in (18) results in an optimal commitment path characterized by $\sigma_1^{q,L} < 0$, $\sigma_2^{q,L} < 0$, and $\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} < \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}$. In addition, optimal higher-order forward guidance always results in an equal or lower expected quadratic loss than the traditional forward guidance discussed in Section 4.1.*

Proof. See Appendix II. The latter part follows from the fact that when $(\sigma_1^{q,L}, \sigma_2^{q,L}, \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) = (0, 0, \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}})$, the trajectory of the asset price gap $\{\hat{Q}_t\}$ becomes identical to that of a traditional forward guidance policy with duration \hat{T}^{TFG} . Thus, an optimal choice of these parameters will always lead to an equal or lower value of the quadratic loss function presented in equation (14).

■

4.3 Higher-Order Forward Guidance *with* Stochastic Stabilization

In the previous section, we assumed that following the end of the forward guidance regime at \hat{T}^{HOFG} , the monetary authority would passively peg the policy rate i_t to the natural rate \bar{r} and set σ_t^q to zero indefinitely. This setup allows for σ_t^q to deviate from zero during the ZLB period, as illustrated in Figure 6. Moving to this section, we relax these assumptions while maintaining the support for the existence of multiple equilibria provided by the earlier framework. Now, we assume that after forward guidance ends, the central bank not only follows the outlined passive rule but also commits to a stochastic return to the perfect stabilization rule in equation (11). This commitment is represented as a constant probability

outcome determined by a Poisson process. Accordingly, \hat{Q}_t after \hat{T}^{HOFG} follows:

$$d\hat{Q}_t = -\hat{Q}_t d\Pi_t, \text{ s.t. } d\Pi_t = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{with probability } \nu dt, \\ 0, & \text{with probability } 1 - \nu dt, \end{cases}$$

where $d\Pi_t$ is a Poisson random variable, with rate parameter $\nu \geq 0$.²¹ The central bank's optimization problem can be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\sigma_1^{q,L}, \sigma_2^{q,L}, \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} \mathbb{E}_0 \int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_t^2 dt + \int_{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}^{\infty} e^{-\rho t} \cdot e^{-\nu(t-\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})} \cdot \hat{Q}_t^2 dt, \\ \text{s.t. } d\hat{Q}_t = \begin{cases} -r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})dt + \sigma_1^{q,L}dZ_t, & \text{for } t < T, \\ -r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})dt + \sigma_2^{q,L}dZ_t, & \text{for } T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \\ 0, & \text{for } t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

with \hat{Q}_0 determined by equation (17). Proposition 3 outlines the optimal commitment path for the central bank under higher-order forward guidance with stochastic stabilization.

Proposition 3 (Optimal Commitment Path with Stochastic Stabilization) *The solution to the central bank's forward guidance optimization problem in (19) results in an optimal commitment path characterized by $\sigma_1^{q,L} < 0$, $\sigma_2^{q,L} < 0$, and $\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} < \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}$. In addition, optimal higher-order forward guidance with a stochastic stabilization probability always results in an equal or lower expected quadratic loss than the traditional forward guidance discussed in Section 4.1.*

Furthermore, an increased probability of stabilization, indicated by higher values of ν , leads to a reduction in the optimal values of $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ and $\sigma_2^{q,L}$, resulting in a decrease in risk premia at the ZLB.

Proof. See Online Appendix D. The first part of the proposition directly extends the results of Proposition 2 to a stochastic stabilization environment. The latter part of the proposition is based on the reduced costs of a more aggressive countercyclical policy at the ZLB when future stabilization is more likely.

■

²¹Here, ν is treated as an exogenous parameter determined by external factors. If the central bank could choose an optimal ν , it would select $\nu \rightarrow +\infty$, as demonstrated in Online Appendix D.

Finally, Corollary 1 asserts that introducing a minimal degree of uncertainty about the timing of future stabilization in its communications is always optimal for the central bank, as it allows private agents to coordinate on the stochastic equilibrium with σ_t^q deviating from zero during the ZLB, as depicted in Figure 6. This approach facilitates the application of higher-order forward guidance, resulting in equilibrium paths that are strictly superior from a quadratic loss perspective compared to those under traditional forward guidance.

Corollary 1 (Discontinuity at the Limit) *The limit case where stabilization parameter ν equals $+\infty$ corresponds to the traditional forward guidance problem described in Section 4.1. As ν approaches $+\infty$ from the left, the central bank's expected quadratic loss function exhibits a discontinuity. Specifically, the expected quadratic loss is always lower when there is a non-zero probability of not achieving immediate stabilization by the end of the forward guidance period, \hat{T} . Formally:*

$$\lim_{\nu \rightarrow +\infty^-} \mathbb{L}^{Q,*}(\{\hat{Q}_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \nu) < \mathbb{L}^{Q,*}(\{\hat{Q}_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \nu = \infty) ,$$

where $\mathbb{L}^*(\{\hat{Q}_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \nu)$ represents the quadratic loss function defined in equation (14), evaluated at its optimum for an economy characterized by a Poisson rate ν .

Proof. See Online Appendix D. The intuition behind the statement's first part is that the probability of immediate stabilization upon exiting the forward guidance period at \hat{T}^{HOFG} becomes one when $\nu = +\infty$, aligning with the scenario of the traditional forward guidance policy in Section 4.1. The second part is based on that higher-order guidance consistently results in an equal or lower expected quadratic loss compared to the traditional guidance, regardless of ν , as outlined in Proposition 3.

■

Realism We remain agnostic about the exact mechanisms through which central bank communications serve as an equilibrium coordination device for private agents and how these communications can be effectively implemented in practice, including issues of credibility and commitment. Instead, we assume that central banks can select an equilibrium with superior welfare compared to traditional forward guidance when the necessary conditions presented in this section are met. Our theoretical results align well with various central bank communication strategies, which empirical literature finds to reduce market risk premia and long-term yields (see, e.g., Leombroni et al. (2021)).

4.4 Welfare Comparison

For the quantitative evaluation of different forward guidance policies discussed in this paper, we simulate optimal commitment paths at the ZLB under three scenarios: (i) no forward guidance, (ii) traditional forward guidance, and (iii) higher-order forward guidance with varying probabilities of stabilization. The initial ZLB duration T is set at 20 quarters to reflect the lengthy ZLB periods that followed the global financial crisis. The Poisson rate parameter ν in the higher-order forward guidance policy is first calibrated to zero, denoting a zero probability of reverting to an active policy rule, and then to one, signifying the expectation of resuming an active policy rule one quarter after the forward guidance period concludes. The remaining model parameters are calibrated based on values commonly found in the literature, as detailed in Appendix Table I.1.

We define the loss function \mathbb{L} as the quadratic output loss per quarter, and approximate it by:

$$\mathbb{L}_{\text{Per-period}}^Y \equiv \rho \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \mathbb{E}_0 \left(\hat{Y}_t^2 \right) \approx \zeta^2 \cdot \rho \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \frac{1}{s} \sum_{i=1}^s \left(\hat{Q}_t^{(i)} \right)^2 dt ,$$

where $\zeta > 0$ follows from the relationship $\hat{Y}_t = \zeta \hat{Q}_t$, as derived in equation (B.1) of Online Appendix B. Here, $\hat{Q}_t^{(i)}$ represents the i^{th} simulated stochastic sample path of the asset price gap.²² We consider a scenario characterized by a one-time ZLB recession commencing in period zero, without any expectation of future recurrence. Therefore, \mathbb{L} is to be interpreted as the expected conditional loss associated with a single ZLB episode.

Policy	No guidance	Traditional	Higher-Order (no stochastic stabilization)	Higher-Order (with stoch. stab., $\nu = 1$)
$\sigma_1^{q,L}$	0	0	−1.27%	−4.13%
$\sigma_2^{q,L}$	0	0	−0.24%	−3.79%
\hat{T}^{HOFG}	20	25.27	25.09	24.68
$\mathbb{L}_{\text{Per-period}}^Y$	7%	1.93%	1.81%	1.69%

Table 1: Policy comparisons.

Table 1 presents the results of our simulation, where $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ and $\sigma_2^{q,L}$ are expressed as percentages of the fundamental volatilities $\bar{\sigma}$ and $\underline{\sigma}$, respectively. The initial columns report the

²²We use $s = 10^4$ randomly simulated sample paths to approximate the quadratic loss of the higher-order forward guidance policies.

effectiveness of traditional guidance, showing the central bank extending the ZLB for just over a year, reducing total loss by about five percentage points. These findings are aligned with existing literature (see [Campbell et al. \(2012, 2019\)](#), [Del Negro et al. \(2013\)](#), [McKay et al. \(2016\)](#)).²³ The last two columns provide summary statistics on optimal higher-order guidance implementation under the two stabilization regimes discussed above. The results are consistent with higher-order guidance characteristics described in Propositions 2 and 3. Higher-order guidance, compared to traditional policy, further reduces ZLB costs by a moderate 0.12%-0.24% per quarter through lower financial market volatility during the guidance period, and allows for an earlier exit from the ZLB. Finally, the last column reports that gains from higher-order guidance double when there is a positive probability of returning to full stabilization in the future.

Standard New Keynesian Model Our results in Section 3 and Section 4 hold in a non-linear version of the standard New Keynesian model (e.g., [Woodford \(2003\)](#) and [Galí \(2015\)](#)): even in a textbook New Keynesian model, higher aggregate endogenous volatility increases the degree of precautionary savings, depressing consumption demand and thereby inducing a recession. In this environment, a central bank has an incentive to choose an equilibrium with lower aggregate volatility during the ZLB periods, based on our higher-order forward guidance policy. We provide a detailed analysis of the textbook non-linear New Keynesian model in Online Appendix F.

In Section 5, we shift our focus to explore potential macroprudential interventions from a fiscal perspective, aimed at increasing asset prices \hat{Q}_t and stabilizing the business cycle during a ZLB recession.

5 Macprudential Policies

This section examines two types of macroprudential policies designed to stimulate the economy at the ZLB. Firstly, we consider a fiscal subsidy aimed at encouraging capitalists to undertake higher levels of risk, thereby boosting asset prices and other real economic activities. Secondly, we explore the impact of direct fiscal transfers from capitalists to

²³These studies also note the issue of traditional forward guidance being overly potent in plain vanilla New-Keynesian frameworks compared to empirical estimates. This paper does not include the quantitative adjustments proposed in the literature to address this discrepancy, focusing instead on the distinctions between traditional and higher-order forward guidance policies.

hand-to-mouth workers, who typically exhibit a higher marginal propensity to consume. This policy is shown to increase overall stock market dividends, and consequently, asset prices \hat{Q}_t and consumption. To assess the impact of macroprudential policies on the business cycle, forward guidance is excluded from our analysis in this section. We maintain the same scenario as outlined in Section 3, and assume that monetary policy reverts to the perfect stabilization rule specified in equation (11) for $t \geq T$.

5.1 Fiscal Subsidy on Stock Market Investment

In the period up to T , where $r_t^n = \underline{r} < 0$ and monetary policy is constrained by the ZLB, the risk-premium level $\text{rp}_1^n = \bar{\sigma}^2$ required by capitalists leads to a reduction in asset prices, \hat{Q}_t . To counteract this, we propose a subsidy policy aimed at incentivizing capitalists' holdings of the risky stock market index. This intervention is expected to increase \hat{Q}_t , thereby addressing the aggregate demand externalities responsible for dragging the economy into a ZLB recession.²⁴

We begin by examining a government subsidy for the purchase of (risky) stock market index shares.²⁵ Specifically, instead of the usual expected return i_t^m , a capitalist earns an expected return of $(1 + \tau)i_t^m$ for every dollar invested in the stock market, where $\tau \geq 0$ is the stock subsidy. To fund this intervention, the government imposes a 'lump-sum' tax L_t on capitalists. Consequently, a capitalist solves the optimization problem with a modified flow budget constraint given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{C_t, \theta_t} \mathbb{E}_0 \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \log C_t dt \\ \text{s.t. } da_t = (a_t (i_t + \theta_t((1 + \tau)i_t^m - i_t)) - \bar{p}C_t - L_t) dt + \theta_t a_t (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_t^q) dZ_t. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

In equilibrium, capitalists finance the stock market subsidy by paying taxes L_t equal to $\tau \bar{p} A_t Q_t i_t^m$. Setting $\theta_t = 1$ in equilibrium, we can express the stock market's expected

²⁴Numerous studies have examined the link between externalities (e.g., pecuniary or aggregate-demand) and macroprudential policies. Notable references include Caballero and Krishnamurthy (2001), Lorenzoni (2008), Farhi et al. (2009), Bianchi and Mendoza (2010), Jeanne and Korinek (2010), Stein (2012), Farhi and Werning (2012, 2016, 2017), Korinek and Simsek (2016), Dávila and Korinek (2018), among others.

²⁵In our model, a subsidy for stock investments functions similarly to a tax break on capital income, a policy commonly implemented *in practice* by governments. We opt for the subsidy model for simplicity in notation.

return as follows:

$$i_t^m = \frac{i_t + (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_t^q)^2}{1 + \tau} = \underbrace{\rho}_{\text{Dividend yield}} + \underbrace{g + \mu_t^q + \sigma_t \sigma_t^q}_{\text{Capital gain}}. \quad (21)$$

As detailed in Section 3, given that σ_t^q and i_t equal zero for $t \leq T$, equation (21) simplifies to

$$i_t^m = \frac{\bar{\sigma}^2}{1 + \tau},$$

which is lower than $\bar{\sigma}^2$ and inversely proportional to τ . Thus, a positive subsidy rate $\tau > 0$ increases \hat{Q}_t along the path up to time T , when the economy achieves perfect stabilization with $\hat{Q}_T = 0$. Proposition 4 summarizes this result.

Proposition 4 (Fiscal Subsidy on Stock Market Expected Returns) *Under the ZLB environment of Section 3, where a fiscal subsidy $\tau \geq 0$ is applied to the expected return of stock markets, the dynamics of \hat{Q}_t during the period $t < T$ are given by:*

$$d\hat{Q}_t = - \left(\underbrace{\underline{r}}_{\equiv r^n(\bar{\sigma}) < 0} + \underbrace{\frac{\tau}{1 + \tau} \bar{\sigma}^2}_{> 0} \right) dt, \quad (22)$$

for $\underline{r} + \frac{\tau}{1 + \tau} \bar{\sigma}^2 < 0$ and $\hat{Q}_T = 0$. When $\underline{r} + \frac{\tau}{1 + \tau} \bar{\sigma}^2 > 0$, the subsidy $\tau > 0$ lifts the economy out of the ZLB and immediate stabilization becomes possible by adhering to the policy rule outlined in equation (11).

Proof. See Appendix II.

■

In equation (22), a positive subsidy $\tau > 0$ increases the effective natural rate from \underline{r} to $\underline{r} + \frac{\tau}{1 + \tau} \bar{\sigma}^2$. This rise narrows the gap between the ZLB and the ‘effective’ natural rate, consequently raising \hat{Q}_t relative to the scenario described in Section 3. It is important to note that as τ approaches infinity, the expression $\underline{r} + \frac{\tau}{1 + \tau} \bar{\sigma}^2$ converges to $\underline{r} + \bar{\sigma}^2 = \rho + g > 0$. In this situation, the economy moves away from the ZLB and the monetary authority can achieve perfect stabilization by adhering to the policy rule outlined in equation (11).

Tax on whom? We now consider an alternative funding scheme for the stock market subsidy τ by imposing a lump-sum tax L_t on hand-to-mouth workers. Under this policy,

the budget constraint of the workers (1) becomes

$$\frac{w_t}{\bar{p}} N_{W,t} = C_{W,t} + \frac{L_t}{\bar{p}}. \quad (23)$$

Hand-to-mouth workers, characterized by a marginal propensity to consume of one, experience a proportional reduction in their consumption due to taxation. This fall in workers' consumption adversely impacts stock dividends and prices, \hat{Q}_t . In this context, the formula for the stock market's expected return i_t^m is as follows:

$$i_t^m = \underbrace{\frac{y_t - \frac{w_t}{\bar{p}} N_{W,t}}{A_t Q_t}}_{\text{Dividend yield}} + \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{d(\bar{p} A_t Q_t)}{\bar{p} A_t Q_t} \frac{1}{dt} \right] = \underbrace{\rho - \tau i_t^m}_{\text{Dividend yield}} + \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{d(\bar{p} A_t Q_t)}{\bar{p} A_t Q_t} \frac{1}{dt} \right], \quad (24)$$

where we used an equilibrium tax equal to $\tau i_t^m \bar{p} A_t Q_t$ to obtain the last equality. Proposition 5 summarizes our findings, highlighting the crucial role of tax scheme design in determining the effectiveness of the macroprudential policy.

Proposition 5 (Fiscal Subsidy and Tax on Workers) *The positive impact of a subsidy τ on asset prices is precisely offset by the reduced consumption of hand-to-mouth workers due to taxation L_t . Consequently, this results in no net effect on the dynamics of $\{\hat{Q}_t\}$ during a ZLB episode, apart from a redistribution of wealth from workers to capitalists. The trajectory of asset prices under this taxation scheme corresponds with the benchmark scenario, which lacks forward guidance and macroprudential interventions, as depicted in Figure 1.*

Proof. See Appendix II.

■

5.2 Fiscal Redistribution

Lastly, we consider a redistribution policy in the form of a fiscal transfer $L_t > 0$ from capitalists to hand-to-mouth workers during a ZLB episode.²⁶ This policy increases aggregate demand due to the high marginal propensity to consume of workers and, in turn, the total

²⁶A policy subsidizing firms' payroll, financed through a lump-sum tax L_t on capitalists, produces identical results. When firms incur net payroll costs of $w_t N_{W,t} - L_t$, the consequent rise in employment effectively creates a transfer of income equivalent to L_t to the workers. We opt for the direct transfer formulation for simplicity in notation.

dividends paid by the stock market index. The expected return on the stock market i_t^m then becomes:

$$i_t^m = \frac{y_t - \frac{w_t}{\bar{p}} N_{W,t}}{A_t Q_t} + \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{d(\bar{p} A_t Q_t)}{\bar{p} A_t Q_t} \frac{1}{dt} \right] = \rho + \underbrace{\frac{L_t}{\bar{p} A_t Q_t}}_{>0} + \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{d(\bar{p} A_t Q_t)}{\bar{p} A_t Q_t} \frac{1}{dt} \right].$$

Assuming capitalists finance this transfer L_t by paying a portion φ of their wealth a_t , the dividend yield increases to $\rho + \varphi$ from a baseline yield (before transfers) of ρ . This adjustment raises the effective natural rate of interest from \underline{r} to $\underline{r} + \varphi$, resulting in an increase in asset prices \hat{Q}_t and a narrower output gap during a ZLB episode. Proposition 6 summarizes this result.

Proposition 6 (Fiscal Redistribution) *In the ZLB environment presented in Section 3, and under a redistribution scheme where a $\varphi \geq 0$ portion of capitalists' wealth is transferred to hand-to-mouth workers, the dynamic IS equation for \hat{Q}_t becomes:*

$$d\hat{Q}_t = -(\underbrace{\underline{r}}_{<0} + \varphi) dt, \quad (25)$$

for $\underline{r} + \varphi < 0$. After time T , the central bank perfectly stabilizes the economy and eliminates the volatility in asset prices, $\sigma_t^q = 0$, for all $t \geq T$. When $\underline{r} + \varphi > 0$, fiscal transfers lift the economy out of the ZLB and immediate stabilization is possible by adhering to the policy rule outlined in equation (11), with $\underline{r} + \varphi$ as the effective natural rate.

Proof. See Appendix II.

■

From the capitalists' perspective, this policy effectively reduces their expected wealth growth by φ , taking the expected stock market return i_t^m as given. At the ZLB, i_t^m does not react to fiscal transfers due to the binding constraint on the policy rate i_t .²⁷ As a result, the equilibrium growth rates of capitalists' wealth and the stock price index fall by φ , due to a less significant initial decline in asset prices \hat{Q}_0 at the start of the ZLB episode. Therefore, fiscal transfers to workers with a high marginal propensity to consume not only enhance aggregate demand but also create additional wealth effects which manifest through increases in dividend yields and asset prices, \hat{Q}_t .

²⁷Note from the capitalists' optimization that risk-premium rp_t is given by $\bar{\sigma}^2$ during the ZLB, and $i_t^m = i_t + \text{rp}_t$.

6 Conclusion

This paper explores the likelihood of increased financial volatility at the ZLB and finds that a credible commitment to future economic stabilization prevents excess volatility from developing. We then examine the effects of traditional forward guidance, defined as the monetary authority's promise to maintain a zero policy rate for an extended period. This commitment fosters expectations of higher future asset prices and aggregate demand, thereby increasing the market valuation of households' financial wealth and, consequently, their aggregate consumption at the ZLB.

Our findings suggest that a central bank may not always find it optimal to commit to perfectly stabilizing the business cycle in the future. By refusing to do so, the central bank permits alternative equilibrium paths with lower financial volatility at the ZLB and higher expected welfare. While this strategy is preferable from a welfare perspective, it involves trade-offs. Specifically, a lack of commitment or a positive degree of uncertainty about the timing of future stabilization enables the central bank to reduce financial volatility at the ZLB, but at the expense of potentially large and costly output gap deviations in the future.

Finally, we investigate the efficacy of alternative fiscal policies at the ZLB, such as subsidies for risky asset investments and fiscal redistribution among households. Both policies have the potential to augment households' risk-bearing capacity, resulting in a higher valuation of their financial wealth and, consequently, an increase in aggregate consumption demand.

This paper aims to provide valuable insights for academics and policymakers interested in the interplay between financial uncertainty and unconventional policies at the ZLB, notably forward guidance. We leave to future research the study of central banks' communication policies under alternative scenarios, such as private information about the state of the economy.

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I Parameter Calibration

	Parameter Description	Value	Source
φ	Relative Risk Aversion	0.2	Within the admissible calibration ranges specified by Gandelman and Hernández-Murillo (2014) .
χ_0	Inverse Frisch labor supply elasticity	0.25	See King and Rebelo (1999) .
ρ	Subjective time discount factor	0.020	Target 2.8% natural rate.
g	TFP growth rate	0.0083	Annual growth rate of 3.3%, which corresponds to the US TFP growth rate from 2009 to 2020, as detailed in Table 8 of Comin et al. (2023) .
$\underline{\sigma}$	TFP volatility, low volatility regime	0.009	See Dordal i Carreras et al. (2016) .
$\bar{\sigma}$	TFP volatility, high volatility regime	0.209	Target -1.5% natural rate (ZLB recession).
T	ZLB duration (quarters)	20	A five-year ZLB duration, consistent with periods such as the Global Financial Crisis and the Great Recession. See Dordal i Carreras et al. (2016) .
ν	Stabilization probability parameter	1	Target average duration $1/\nu$ of one quarter before returning to stabilization.
α	$1 -$ Labor income share	0.4	See Alvarez-Cuadrado et al. (2018) .
ϵ	Elasticity of substitution intermediate goods	7	Target steady-state mark-up of 16.7%. See Galí (2015) .

Table I.1: Parameter calibration used in Section 4.

II Proofs and Derivations

Proof of Proposition 2. In the context outlined in Section 4.2, the central bank solves the following problem:¹

$$\min_{\sigma_1^{q,L}, \sigma_2^{q,L}, \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} \mathbb{E}_0 \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_t^2 dt, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad d\hat{Q}_t = \begin{cases} -\underbrace{r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})}_{<0} dt + \sigma_1^{q,L} dZ_t, & \text{for } t < T, \\ -\underbrace{r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})}_{>0} dt + \sigma_2^{q,L} dZ_t, & \text{for } T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \\ 0, & \text{for } t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \end{cases}$$

with $\hat{Q}_0 = r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})T + r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T)$,

(II.1)

where

$$r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L}) \equiv \rho + g - \frac{\bar{\sigma}^2}{2} - \frac{(\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_1^{q,L})^2}{2} < 0, \quad r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L}) \equiv \rho + g - \frac{\underline{\sigma}^2}{2} - \frac{(\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L})^2}{2} > 0.$$

After \hat{T}^{HOFG} , there are no additional fluctuation in \hat{Q}_t . Defining r_s^T as $r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})$ for $s < T$ and as $r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})$ for $T \leq s \leq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$, the process of \hat{Q}_t can be articulated as follows:

$$\hat{Q}_t = \begin{cases} \underbrace{\int_t^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} r_s^T ds + \sigma_1^{q,L} \underbrace{Z_t}_{\sim N(0,t)}}_{\equiv \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG})}}, & \text{for } t \leq T, \\ \underbrace{\int_t^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} r^T(s) ds + \sigma_1^{q,L} Z_T + \sigma_2^{q,L} \underbrace{W_{t-T}}_{\sim N(0,t-T)}}_{\equiv \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG})}}, & \text{for } T < t \leq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \\ \sigma_1^{q,L} Z_T + \sigma_2^{q,L} \underbrace{W_{\hat{T}-T}}_{\sim N(0, \hat{T}-T)} = \hat{Q}_{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}, & \text{for } \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} < t. \end{cases} \quad (\text{II.2})$$

where it is assumed that after \hat{T}^{HOFG} , central banks maintain $\sigma_t^q = \sigma_t^{q,n} = 0$. In this equation, Z_t , W_{t-T} , and $U_{\hat{T}-T}$ are independent Brownian motions. If we square each term in equation (II.2) and apply the expectation operator with respect to the information

¹For this proof, it is implicitly assumed that $r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L}) < 0$ and $r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L}) > 0$ hold for the optimal values of $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ and $\sigma_2^{q,L}$, ensuring that the ZLB remains effective up to time T .

available at $t = 0$, we obtain:

$$\mathbb{E}_0 \hat{Q}_t^2 = \begin{cases} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})^2 + \left(\sigma_1^{q,L}\right)^2 t, & \text{for } t \leq T, \\ \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})^2 + \left(\sigma_1^{q,L}\right)^2 T + \left(\sigma_2^{q,L}\right)^2 (t - T), & \text{for } T < t \leq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \\ \left(\sigma_1^{q,L}\right)^2 T + \left(\sigma_2^{q,L}\right)^2 (\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T), & \text{for } \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} < t. \end{cases} \quad (\text{II.3})$$

If we substitute equation (II.3) into the central bank's loss function (14), the central bank's commitment problem can be expressed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \sigma_1^{q,L}, \sigma_2^{q,L}} \mathbb{E}_0 \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_t^2 dt \\ &= \min_{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \sigma_1^{q,L}, \sigma_2^{q,L}} \int_0^{\hat{T}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})^2 dt + \left(\sigma_1^{q,L}\right)^2 \underbrace{\int_0^T t e^{-\rho t} dt}_{=\frac{1}{\rho^2} - \frac{1}{\rho^2} e^{-\rho T} - \frac{T}{\rho} e^{-\rho T}} + \left(\sigma_1^{q,L}\right)^2 T \underbrace{\int_T^\infty e^{-\rho t} dt}_{=\frac{1}{\rho} e^{-\rho T}} \\ & \quad + \left(\sigma_2^{q,L}\right)^2 \underbrace{\int_T^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} (t - T) dt}_{=-\frac{1}{\rho} (\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T) e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} + \frac{e^{-\rho T} - e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho^2}} + \left(\sigma_2^{q,L}\right)^2 (\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T) \underbrace{\int_{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}^\infty e^{-\rho t} dt}_{=\frac{1}{\rho} e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}} \\ &= \min_{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \sigma_1^{q,L}, \sigma_2^{q,L}} \underbrace{\int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})^2 dt}_{\text{Deterministic fluctuations}} + \underbrace{\left(\sigma_1^{q,L}\right)^2 \frac{1}{\rho^2} (1 - e^{-\rho T}) + \left(\sigma_2^{q,L}\right)^2 \left(\frac{e^{-\rho T} - e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho^2} \right)}_{\text{Stochastic fluctuations}}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{II.4})$$

The central bank now has control over $\sigma_1^{q,L}$, $\sigma_2^{q,L}$, and \hat{T}^{HOFG} , in addition to its conventional monetary policy tool $\{i_t\}$. Initially, we derive the first-order condition for \hat{T}^{HOFG} , which is as follows:

$$2 \cdot \underbrace{r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})}_{>0} \int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) dt + \left(\sigma_2^{q,L}\right)^2 \frac{1}{\rho} e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} = 0, \quad (\text{II.5})$$

from which we obtain

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) dt = \int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} \| \sigma_1^{q,L} < 0, \sigma_2^{q,L} < 0) dt < 0. \quad (\text{II.6})$$

The first-order condition for \hat{T}^{HOFG} indicates that, at the optimum, the central bank reduces the value of \hat{T}^{HOFG} compared to \hat{T}^{TFG} (traditional forward guidance), as discussed in Section 4.1. This is because when the central bank utilizes traditional forward guidance and achieves perfect stabilization for $t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}$, the expression above becomes

$$\int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T} \| \sigma_1^{q,L} = \sigma_1^{q,n} = 0, \sigma_2^{q,L} = \sigma_2^{q,n} = 0) dt = 0, \quad (\text{II.7})$$

which is derived by plugging $\sigma_1^{q,L} = 0$ and $\sigma_2^{q,L} = 0$ into equation (II.5).

Given that at the optimum, $\sigma_1^{q,L} < 0$ and $\sigma_2^{q,L} < 0$ (which we will demonstrate),

$$\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} \| \sigma_1^{q,L} = 0, \sigma_2^{q,L} = 0) < \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} \| \sigma_1^{q,L} < 0, \sigma_2^{q,L} < 0).$$

Therefore, we deduce from equation (II.1) that at the optimum, $\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} < \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}$, as evidenced by comparing (II.7) with (II.6).

To characterize the optimal values of $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ and $\sigma_2^{q,L}$, a **variational argument** is required. This is because $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ and $\sigma_2^{q,L}$ influence the levels of $r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})$, $r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})$, and $\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})$. Specifically, we can derive:

$$\frac{\partial r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})}{\partial \sigma_1^{q,L}} = -(\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_1^{q,L}) < 0, \quad \frac{\partial r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})}{\partial \sigma_2^{q,L}} = -(\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L}) < 0.$$

Determining $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ An increase in $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ leads to a decrease in $r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})$, which alters the trajectory of $\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})$. This change is illustrated in Figure II.1, as depicted by the transition from the thick blue line to the dashed red line.

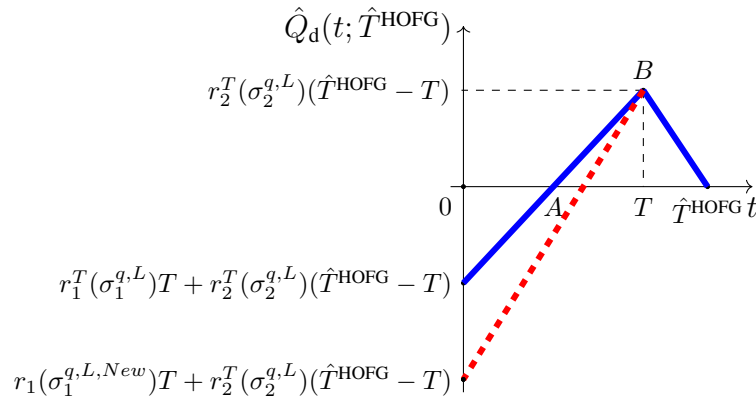


Figure II.1: Variation along $\sigma_1^{q,L}$. Increase to $\sigma_1^{q,L,New} > \sigma_1^{q,L}$.

Differentiating $\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) = \int_t^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} r_s^T ds$ with respect to $\sigma_1^{q,L}$, we obtain:

$$\frac{\partial \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})}{\partial \sigma_1^{q,L}} = \int_t^T -(\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_1^{q,L}) ds = -(\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_1^{q,L})(T - t), \quad \forall t \leq T.$$

To find optimal $\sigma_1^{q,L}$, we differentiate the objective function in (II.4) by $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ and obtain the following condition:

$$(\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_1^{q,L}) \int_0^T e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})(T - t) dt = (\sigma_1^{q,L}) \frac{1 - e^{-\rho T}}{\rho^2},$$

from which we can prove that $\sigma_1^{q,L} < 0$ must be satisfied at the optimum, given that

$$\int_0^T e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})(T - t) dt = \underbrace{\int_0^t e^{-\rho s} \hat{Q}_d(s; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) ds (T - t) \Big|_0^T}_{=0} + \underbrace{\int_0^T \int_0^t e^{-\rho s} \hat{Q}_d(s; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) ds dt}_{<0} < 0,$$

where $\int_0^t e^{-\rho s} \hat{Q}_d(s; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) ds < 0$ for $t \leq T$, as derived in equation (II.6).

Determining $\sigma_2^{q,L}$ An increase in $\sigma_2^{q,L}$ leads to a decrease in $r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})$, which alters the shape of $\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})$. This effect is illustrated in Figure II.2 by the transition from the thick blue line to the dashed red line. To further analyze this, we differentiate $\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})$ with respect to $\sigma_2^{q,L}$ and obtain:

$$\frac{\partial \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})}{\partial \sigma_2^{q,L}} = \begin{cases} \int_T^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} -(\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L}) ds = -(\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L})(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T), & t < T, \\ \int_t^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} -(\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L}) ds = -(\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L})(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - t), & T \leq t \leq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}. \end{cases}$$

To find the optimal $\sigma_2^{q,L}$, we differentiate the objective function in (II.4) by $\sigma_2^{q,L}$ and obtain

$$(\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L}) \left(\int_0^T e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T) dt + \int_T^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \underbrace{\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})}_{>0} (\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - t) dt \right) = (\sigma_2^{q,L}) \frac{e^{-\rho T} - e^{-\rho \hat{T}}}{\rho^2},$$

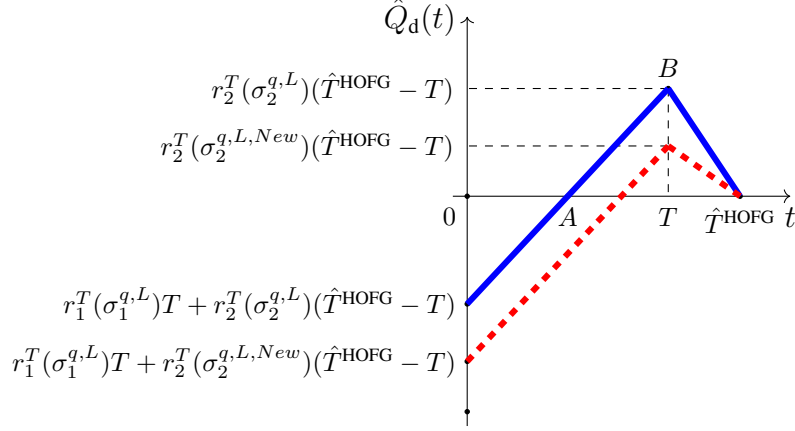


Figure II.2: Variation along $\sigma_2^{q,L}$. Increase to $\sigma_2^{q,L,New} > \sigma_2^{q,L}$.

from which we can demonstrate that at the optimum, $\sigma_2^{q,L} < 0$ must be satisfied, given that

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_0^T e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{HOFG}) (\hat{T}^{HOFG} - T) dt + \int_T^{\hat{T}^{HOFG}} e^{-\rho t} \underbrace{\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{HOFG})}_{>0} (\hat{T}^{HOFG} - t) dt \\
& < \int_0^T e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{HOFG}) (\hat{T}^{HOFG} - T) dt + \int_T^{\hat{T}^{HOFG}} e^{-\rho t} \underbrace{\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{HOFG})}_{>0} (\hat{T}^{HOFG} - T) dt \\
& = \underbrace{(\hat{T}^{HOFG} - T) \int_0^{\hat{T}^{HOFG}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{HOFG}) dt}_{<0} < 0,
\end{aligned}$$

where the final inequality is derived from equation (II.6). Hence, during periods of high TFP volatility (i.e., $t < T$) and low TFP volatility with forward guidance (i.e., $T \leq t \leq \hat{T}^{HOFG}$), a central bank aims to target financial volatility levels below those in a flexible price economy: $\sigma_1^{q,L} < \sigma_1^{q,n} = 0$ and $\sigma_2^{q,L} < \sigma_2^{q,n} = 0$. Such intervention reduces the required risk premium and raises the asset price level \hat{Q}_t , thereby increasing output.

■

First-Order Conditions for $\sigma_1^{q,L}$, $\sigma_2^{q,L}$, and \hat{T}^{HOFG} The deterministic component of the capitalists' asset gap process \hat{Q}_t , denoted as $\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{HOFG})$, is defined as follows (with

$r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})$ and $r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})$ specified in equation (16)):

$$\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) = \int_t^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} r_s^T ds = \begin{cases} \underbrace{r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})}_{<0} (T - t) + \underbrace{r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})}_{>0} (\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T), & \text{for } \forall t \leq T, \\ r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L}) (\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - t), & \text{for } T \leq \forall t < \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \end{cases}$$

from which we derive the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) dt &= \int_0^T e^{-\rho t} \left[r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L}) (T - t) + r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L}) (\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T) \right] dt \\ &\quad + \int_T^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L}) (\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - t) dt. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{II.8})$$

The first condition for \hat{T}^{HOFG} can be written as

$$2 \cdot r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L}) \int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) dt + \left(\sigma_2^{q,L} \right)^2 \frac{e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho} = 0, \quad (\text{II.9})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) dt &= r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L}) \left[\frac{e^{-\rho T}}{\rho^2} + \frac{T}{\rho} - \frac{1}{\rho^2} \right] + r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L}) (\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T) \frac{1 - e^{-\rho T}}{\rho} \\ &\quad + r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L}) \left[\frac{e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho^2} + \frac{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T}{\rho} e^{-\rho T} - \frac{1}{\rho^2} e^{-\rho T} \right], \end{aligned}$$

follows from equation (II.8). Combined with equation (II.9), the first-order condition for \hat{T}^{HOFG} is expressed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \cdot r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L}) \left[r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L}) \left[\frac{e^{-\rho T}}{\rho^2} + \frac{T}{\rho} - \frac{1}{\rho^2} \right] + r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L}) (\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T) \frac{1 - e^{-\rho T}}{\rho} \right. \\ \left. + r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L}) \left[\frac{e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho^2} + \frac{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T}{\rho} e^{-\rho T} - \frac{1}{\rho^2} e^{-\rho T} \right] \right] + \left(\sigma_2^{q,L} \right)^2 \frac{e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

The first-order condition for $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ is expressed as

$$\left(\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_1^{q,L} \right) \int_0^T e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) (T - t) dt = \left(\sigma_1^{q,L} \right) \frac{1 - e^{-\rho T}}{\rho^2}, \quad (\text{II.10})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})(T-t)dt &= r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L}) \left[-\frac{2}{\rho^3} e^{-\rho T} + \frac{T^2}{\rho} - \frac{2T}{\rho^2} + \frac{2}{\rho^3} \right] \\ &+ r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T) \left[\frac{e^{-\rho T}}{\rho^2} + \frac{T}{\rho} - \frac{1}{\rho^2} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{II.11})$$

Substituting equation (II.11) into equation (II.10), we arrive at:

$$\begin{aligned} (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_1^{q,L}) &\left[r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L}) \left[-\frac{2}{\rho^3} e^{-\rho T} + \frac{T^2}{\rho} - \frac{2T}{\rho^2} + \frac{2}{\rho^3} \right] + r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T) \left[\frac{e^{-\rho T}}{\rho^2} + \frac{T}{\rho} - \frac{1}{\rho^2} \right] \right] \\ &= (\sigma_1^{q,L}) \frac{1 - e^{-\rho T}}{\rho^2}, \end{aligned}$$

as the first-order condition for $\sigma_1^{q,L}$. Finally, the first-order condition for $\sigma_2^{q,L}$ is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} (\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L}) &\left((\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T) \int_0^T e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})dt + \int_T^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - t)dt \right) \\ &= (\sigma_2^{q,L}) \frac{e^{-\rho T} - e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho^2}, \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the first-order condition for $\sigma_2^{q,L}$ is expressed as:²

$$\begin{aligned} (\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L}) &\left[\left[r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L}) \left[\frac{e^{-\rho T}}{\rho^2} + \frac{T}{\rho} - \frac{1}{\rho^2} \right] + r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T) \frac{1 - e^{-\rho T}}{\rho} \right] (\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L}) \left[-\frac{2}{\rho^3} e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} + \frac{(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T)^2}{\rho} e^{-\rho T} - \frac{2(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T)}{\rho^2} e^{-\rho T} + \frac{2}{\rho^3} e^{-\rho T} \right] \right] \\ &= (\sigma_2^{q,L}) \frac{e^{-\rho T} - e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho^2}. \end{aligned}$$

²We use the following properties of $\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})$:

$$\int_0^T e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})dt = r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L}) \left[\frac{e^{-\rho T}}{\rho^2} + \frac{T}{\rho} - \frac{1}{\rho^2} \right] + r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T) \frac{1 - e^{-\rho T}}{\rho},$$

and

$$\int_T^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - t)dt = r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L}) \left[-\frac{2e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho^3} + \frac{(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T)^2}{\rho} e^{-\rho T} - \frac{2(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T)}{\rho^2} e^{-\rho T} + \frac{2e^{-\rho T}}{\rho^3} \right].$$

Proof of Proposition 4. We begin by solving the capitalist's problem presented in equation (20), considering a subsidy rate τ on stock market investments for $t \leq T$:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{C_t, \theta_t} \mathbb{E}_0 \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \log C_t dt \\ \text{s.t. } da_t = (a_t(i_t + \theta_t((1 + \tau)i_t^m - i_t)) - \bar{p}C_t - L_t)dt + \theta_t a_t (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_t^q) dZ_t. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{II.12})$$

Since the subsidy τ is financed through a lump-sum tax on capitalists, the dividend process in equation (4) and the stock market valuation equation (5) remain unchanged. As a result, $\bar{p}C_t = \rho a_t$ and $C_t = \rho A_t Q_t$. Equilibrium taxes L_t equal to $\tau i_t^m a_t$, and the budget constraint in equation (II.12) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dC_t}{C_t} = \frac{da_t}{a_t} &= ((1 + \tau)i_t^m - \rho - \tau i_t^m)dt + (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_t^q)dZ_t \\ &= (i_t^m - \rho)dt + (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_t^q)dZ_t, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{II.13})$$

where we used equilibrium condition $\theta_t = 1$. Since $\xi_t^N = e^{-\rho t} \frac{1}{\bar{p}C_t}$, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\xi_t^N}{\xi_t^N}(i_t^m, \sigma_t^q) &= -\rho dt - \frac{dC_t}{C_t} + \left(\frac{dC_t}{C_t}\right)^2 \\ &= -\rho dt - [(i_t^m - \rho)dt + (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_t^q)dZ_t] + (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_t^q)^2 dt \\ &= -[i_t^m - (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_t^q)^2] dt - (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_t^q)dZ_t. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{II.14})$$

The subsidy τ on the expected return i_t^m alters the original Euler equation $\mathbb{E}_t \frac{d\xi_t^N}{\xi_t^N} = -i_t dt$. Consequently, the revised expression with a subsidy τ must be :

$$\mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{d\xi_t^N}{\xi_t^N}((1 + \tau)i_t^m, \sigma_t^q) \right] = -[(1 + \tau)i_t^m - (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_t^q)^2] = -i_t dt,$$

from which we obtain equation (21):

$$i_t^m = \frac{i_t + (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_t^q)^2}{1 + \tau} = \frac{\bar{\sigma}^2}{1 + \tau},$$

where the final equality results from substituting $i_t = 0$ and $\sigma_t^q = 0$ into the equation. From equation (II.13), it follows that:

$$\frac{dC_t}{C_t} = (i_t^m - \rho)dt + \bar{\sigma}dZ_t = \left(\frac{\bar{\sigma}^2}{1 + \tau} - \rho\right)dt + \bar{\sigma}dZ_t, \quad (\text{II.15})$$

with which we obtain

$$d \ln C_t = \left(\frac{\bar{\sigma}^2}{1 + \tau} - \rho - \frac{\bar{\sigma}^2}{2} \right) dt + \bar{\sigma} dZ_t .$$

Finally, by using equation (A.6) from Online Appendix A, we derive the natural counterpart to the above expression:

$$d \ln C_t^m = \left(\underbrace{\bar{r}}_{<0} - \rho + \frac{\bar{\sigma}^2}{2} \right) + \bar{\sigma} dZ_t . \quad (\text{II.16})$$

Combining both expressions, we obtain the dynamic IS equation in (22).

■

Proof of Proposition 5. By equation (24), the condition that characterizes the equilibrium stock market return i_t^m is given by:

$$i_t^m = \frac{y_t - \overbrace{\frac{w_t}{\bar{p}} N_{W,t}}^{=C_{W,t} + \frac{L_t}{\bar{p}}}}{A_t Q_t} + \frac{d(\bar{p} A_t Q_t)}{\bar{p} A_t Q_t} \frac{1}{dt} = \underbrace{\rho - \tau i_t^m}_{\text{Dividend yield}} + \frac{d(\bar{p} A_t Q_t)}{\bar{p} A_t Q_t} \frac{1}{dt} ,$$

from which we obtain $(1 + \tau)i_t^m = \rho + g + \mu_t^q$ using $\sigma_t^q = 0$. Since $(1 + \tau)i_t^m = \bar{\sigma}^2$ by equation (21), we infer that μ_t^q remains constant in comparison to the scenario without subsidy, conditional on $i_t = 0$ and $\sigma_t^q = 0$. Therefore, the subsidy policy does not alter the $\{\hat{Q}_t\}$ process. To align this intuition with the mathematical representation, we begin by examining the process for C_t , which is different from that in equation (II.15), as capitalists are now exempt from paying taxes L_t :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dC_t}{C_t} &= ((1 + \tau)i_t^m - \rho)dt + \bar{\sigma}dZ_t \\ &= (\bar{\sigma}^2 - \rho)dt + \bar{\sigma}dZ_t . \end{aligned}$$

Given that the previous expression remains unchanged in the presence of subsidy τ , it can be inferred that a policy subsidizing the expected return of the stock market and financed by a lump-sum tax on workers does not impact the $\{\hat{Q}_t\}$ process. Consequently, the dynamics of $\{\hat{Q}_t\}$ are identical to those in an economy without this policy.

■

Proof of Proposition 6. A fiscal transfer $L_t > 0$ from capitalists to hand-to-mouth workers increases the aggregate dividends in the financial market. This results in a reduced need for expected future capital gains, which translates into higher asset prices \hat{Q}_t at the ZLB. The expected stock market return i_t^m under these circumstances is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} i_t^m &= \frac{A_t N_{W,t} - \overbrace{\frac{w_t}{\bar{p}} N_{W,t}}^{=C_{W,t} - \frac{L_t}{\bar{p}}} }{A_t Q_t} + \frac{d(\bar{p} A_t Q_t)}{\bar{p} A_t Q_t} \frac{1}{dt} = \rho + \underbrace{\frac{L_t}{\bar{p} A_t Q_t}}_{>0} + \frac{d(\bar{p} A_t Q_t)}{\bar{p} A_t Q_t} \frac{1}{dt} \\ &= \rho + \varphi + \frac{d(\bar{p} A_t Q_t)}{\bar{p} A_t Q_t} \frac{1}{dt} , \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality follows from L_t being equal to $\varphi \bar{p} A_t Q_t$ in equilibrium.

To derive equation (25), we start from the capitalists' optimization problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{C_t, \theta_t} \mathbb{E}_0 \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \log C_t dt \\ \text{s.t. } da_t = (a_t(i_t + \theta_t(i_t^m - i_t)) - \bar{p}C_t - L_t)dt + \theta_t a_t(\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_t^q)dZ_t , \end{aligned}$$

which features equilibrium conditions for C_t and θ_t identical to those described in equations (5) and (6), together with $\sigma_t^q = 0$. As a result, $C_t = \rho \bar{p} A_t Q_t$ and $i_t^m = i_t + (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_t^q)^2$ follows. In an equilibrium where $\sigma_t^q = 0$ and i_t is constrained by the ZLB, the wealth process for capitalists is given by:

$$\frac{dC_t}{C_t} = \frac{da_t}{a_t} = (i_t^m - \rho - \varphi) dt + \bar{\sigma}_t dZ_t = (\bar{\sigma}^2 - \varphi - \rho)dt + \bar{\sigma}_t dZ_t ,$$

from which we derive

$$d \ln C_t = \left(\frac{\bar{\sigma}^2}{2} - \varphi - \rho \right) dt + \bar{\sigma}_t dZ_t .$$

Subtracting the process for C_t^m in equation (II.16) yields the dynamic IS equation in (25).

■

A Flexible Price Equilibrium

This section derives the flexible price equilibrium of the model, establishing it as the benchmark for economic and welfare analysis. We begin by revisiting the Fisherian identity, incorporating an inflation premium linked to wealth volatility into the relation. Lemma A.1 summarizes the modified identity.

Lemma A.1 (Inflation Premium) *The real interest rate of the economy is given by:*

$$r_t = i_t - \pi_t + \underbrace{\sigma_t^p (\sigma + \sigma_t^p + \sigma_t^q)}_{\text{Wealth volatility}} . \quad (\text{A.1})$$

Proof of Lemma A.1. The financial wealth of capitalists is equal to the value of the stock market index, $a_t = p_t A_t Q_t$, which follows from bonds being in zero net supply and capitalists being symmetric and identical in equilibrium. We start by stating capitalist's nominal state-price density ξ_t^N , which satisfies the following condition:

$$\frac{d\xi_t^N}{\xi_t^N} = -i_t dt - (\sigma + \sigma_t^q) dZ_t ,$$

and the real state price density ξ_t^r , which is given by

$$\xi_t^r = e^{-\rho t} \frac{1}{C_t} = p_t \xi_t^N . \quad (\text{A.2})$$

Utilizing equations (2) and (3), and considering that $\theta_t = 1$ in equilibrium, the application of Ito's Lemma to equation (A.2) yields the following expression:

$$\frac{d\xi_t^r}{\xi_t^r} = \left(\underbrace{\pi_t - i_t - \sigma_t^p (\sigma + \sigma_t^q + \sigma_t^p)}_{=-r_t} \right) dt - (\sigma + \sigma_t^q) dZ_t ,$$

resulting in the modified Fisherian identity detailed in equation (A.1).

■

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Definition A.1 Let $\chi^{-1} \equiv \frac{1-\varphi}{\chi_0 + \varphi}$ represent the effective labor supply elasticity of workers, conditional on their optimal consumption decision.

Proposition A.1 summarizes the dynamics of the real wage, asset price, natural interest rate r_t^n , and the consumption process of capitalists within the flexible price equilibrium.

Proposition A.1 (Flexible Price Equilibrium) *In the flexible price equilibrium,¹ the following results are obtained:*

1. *The real wage is proportional to aggregate technology A_t , and given by*

$$\frac{w_t^n}{p_t} = \frac{(\epsilon - 1)(1 - \alpha)}{\epsilon} A_t .$$

2. *The equilibrium asset price Q_t^n is constant and given by*

$$Q_t^n = \frac{1}{\rho} \left(\frac{(\epsilon - 1)(1 - \alpha)}{\epsilon} \right)^{\frac{1}{\chi}} \left(1 - \frac{(\epsilon - 1)(1 - \alpha)}{\epsilon} \right) , \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_t^{q,n} = \sigma_t^{q,n} = 0 .$$

3. *The natural interest rate r_t^n is constant and defined as $r_t^n \equiv r^n = \rho + g - \sigma^2$. The consumption of capitalists evolves according to the following equation:*

$$\frac{dC_t^n}{C_t^n} = gdt + \sigma dZ_t = \underbrace{(r^n - \rho + \sigma^2)}_{\equiv \mu_t^{c,n}} dt + \underbrace{\sigma}_{\equiv \sigma_t^{c,n}} dZ_t .$$

Proof of Proposition A.1. Starting with the optimization problem of intermediate firms, the presence of an externality à la [Baxter and King \(1991\)](#) imposes extra steps on the aggregation process of individual decisions across firms. Utilizing the production function, the employed labor of firm i can be expressed as

$$n_t(i) = \left(\frac{y_t(i)}{A_t E_t} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}} ,$$

¹Variables in the flexible price (i.e., natural) equilibrium are denoted with the superscript n .

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where we defined $E_t \equiv (N_{W,t})^\alpha$. At any given time t , each intermediate firm i determines the optimal price $p_t(i)$ to maximize its profits,

$$\max_{p_t(i)} p_t(i) \left(\frac{p_t(i)}{p_t} \right)^{-\epsilon} y_t - w_t \left(\frac{y_t}{A_t E_t} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}} \left(\frac{p_t(i)}{p_t} \right)^{-\frac{\epsilon}{1-\alpha}}, \quad (\text{A.3})$$

taking the aggregate demand of the economy y_t as given. In the flexible price equilibrium, all firms charge the same price, $p_t(i) = p_t$ for all i , and hire the same amount of labor, $n_t(i) = N_{w,t}$ for all i . From the first-order condition (A.3), we obtain the real wage as

$$\frac{w_t^n}{p_t} = \frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon} (1 - \alpha) y_t^{\frac{-\alpha}{1-\alpha}} (A_t)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}} N_{W,t}^{\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha}} = \frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon} (1 - \alpha) y_t^{\frac{-\alpha}{1-\alpha}} (A_t)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}} \left(\frac{w_t^n}{p_t} \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{\chi(1-\alpha)}} A_t^{\frac{-\alpha}{\chi(1-\alpha)}},$$

which can be further simplified to the following expression:

$$\frac{w_t^n}{p_t} = \left(\frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon} (1 - \alpha) \right)^{\frac{\chi(1-\alpha)}{\chi(1-\alpha)-\alpha}} y_t^{\frac{-\chi\alpha}{\chi(1-\alpha)-\alpha}} A_t^{\frac{\chi-\alpha}{\chi(1-\alpha)-\alpha}}.$$

Aggregate production in the flexible price equilibrium is linear, $y_t = A_t N_{W,t}$. We obtain:

$$y_t = A_t \left(\frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon} (1 - \alpha) \right)^{\frac{(1-\alpha)}{\chi(1-\alpha)-\alpha}} y_t^{\frac{-\alpha}{\chi(1-\alpha)-\alpha}} A_t^{\frac{1-\frac{\alpha}{\chi}}{\chi(1-\alpha)-\alpha}} A_t^{-\frac{1}{\chi}}.$$

The previous expression allows us to write the natural level of output y_t^n and the natural real wage $\frac{w_t^n}{p_t}$ as

$$y_t^n = \left(\frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon} (1 - \alpha) \right)^{\frac{1}{\chi}} A_t \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{w_t^n}{p_t} = \frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon} (1 - \alpha) A_t,$$

from which we obtain

$$N_{W,t}^n = \left(\frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon} (1 - \alpha) \right)^{\frac{1}{\chi}} \quad \text{and} \quad C_{W,t}^n = \left(\frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon} (1 - \alpha) \right)^{1+\frac{1}{\chi}} A_t. \quad (\text{A.4})$$

In equilibrium, the combined consumption of capitalists and workers equates to the total

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final output, as detailed in equation (7). Following from equation (A.4), we obtain:

$$\rho A_t Q_t^n + \left(\frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon} (1 - \alpha) \right)^{1 + \frac{1}{\chi}} A_t = \left(\frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon} (1 - \alpha) \right)^{\frac{1}{\chi}} A_t .$$

where we defined Q_t^n to be the natural stock price. Therefore, we obtain an expression for Q_t^n as

$$Q_t^n = \frac{1}{\rho} \left(\frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon} (1 - \alpha) \right)^{\frac{1}{\chi}} \left(1 - \frac{(\epsilon - 1)(1 - \alpha)}{\epsilon} \right) ,$$

and $C_t^n = \rho A_t Q_t^n$. Since Q_t^n is constant in equilibrium, its process in a flexible price economy exhibits neither drift nor volatility, which implies $\mu_t^{q,n} = \sigma_t^{q,n} = 0$. To determine the natural interest rate r_t^n , we start from the capital gain component outlined in equation (8). The application of Ito's lemma yields:

$$\mathbb{E}_t \frac{d(p_t A_t Q_t)}{p_t A_t Q_t} \frac{1}{dt} = \pi_t + \underbrace{\mu_t^q}_{=0} + g + \underbrace{\sigma_t^q}_{=0} \sigma_t^p + \sigma \left(\sigma_t^p + \underbrace{\sigma_t^q}_{=0} \right) .$$

Given a constant dividend yield equal to ρ , applying expectations to both sides of equation (8) and combining this expression with the equilibrium condition presented in equation (6) results in:

$$i_t^m = \rho + \pi_t + g + \sigma \sigma_t^p = i_t + (\sigma + \sigma_t^p)^2 .$$

Inserting the previous expression into the Fisherian identity in equation (A.1), we express the natural rate of interest r_t^n as

$$r_t^n = i_t - \pi_t + \sigma_t^p \left(\sigma + \underbrace{\sigma_t^{q,n}}_{=0} + \sigma_t^p \right) = \rho + g - \sigma^2 , \quad (\text{A.5})$$

which is a function of structural parameters, including σ , thereby proving the final point of

Proposition A.1. As the consumption of capitalists C_t^n is directly proportional to the level of technology A_t , it follows that:

$$\frac{dC_t^n}{C_t^n} = gdt + \sigma dZ_t = (r_t^n - \rho + \sigma^2) dt + \sigma dZ_t, \quad (\text{A.6})$$

where the last equality is derived using equation (A.5).

■

B Co-movements between gap variables

The following Lemma B.2 demonstrates that Assumption B.1 serves as a sufficient condition for the model to exhibit the empirical regularities of positive co-movements between asset prices and various business cycle variables, such as real wage and consumption (of capitalists and workers), as observed in data.²

Assumption B.1 (Labor Supply Elasticity) *The effective labor supply elasticity of workers satisfies: $\chi^{-1} > \frac{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{1 - \frac{\epsilon}{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}}$.*

Lemma B.2 (Positive comovement) *Under Assumption B.1, the consumption gaps of capitalists C_t and workers $C_{W,t}$, employment $N_{W,t}$, and real wage $\frac{w_t}{p_t}$ exhibit joint positive comovement. This relationship is approximated up to a first-order as follows:*

$$\hat{Q}_t = \hat{C}_t = \underbrace{\left(\chi^{-1} - \frac{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{1 - \frac{\epsilon}{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}} \right)}_{>0} \frac{\widehat{w}_t}{p_t} = \frac{1}{1 + \chi^{-1}} \left(\chi^{-1} - \frac{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{1 - \frac{\epsilon}{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}} \right) \widehat{C}_{W,t},$$

and is related to the output gap of the economy by:

$$\hat{Y}_t = \zeta \hat{Q}_t, \text{ where } \zeta \equiv \chi^{-1} \left(\chi^{-1} - \frac{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{1 - \frac{\epsilon}{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}} \right)^{-1} > 0. \quad (\text{B.1})$$

²See Table I.1 in the Appendix for a plausible calibration of the model parameters.

Proof of Lemma B.2. From $C_t = \rho A_t Q_t$, we obtain $\hat{C}_t = \hat{Q}_t$. We start from the flexible price economy's good market equilibrium condition, which can be written as

$$A_t \left(\frac{w_t^n}{p_t^n} \right)^{\frac{1}{\chi}} \frac{1}{A_t^{\frac{1}{\chi}}} = \rho A_t Q_t^n + \left(\frac{w_t^n}{p_t^n} \right)^{1+\frac{1}{\chi}} \frac{1}{A_t^{\frac{1}{\chi}}}, \quad (\text{B.2})$$

where $\frac{w_t^n}{p_t^n}$ is the real wage in the flexible price economy. We subtract equation (B.2) from the analogous good market condition in the sticky price economy, and divide by $y_t^n \equiv A_t^{1-\frac{1}{\chi}} \left(\frac{w_t^n}{p_t^n} \right)^{\frac{1}{\chi}}$, which yields the following result:

$$\underbrace{\frac{\left(\frac{w_t}{p_t} \right)^{\frac{1}{\chi}} - \left(\frac{w_t^n}{p_t^n} \right)^{\frac{1}{\chi}}}{\left(\frac{w_t^n}{p_t^n} \right)^{\frac{1}{\chi}}}}_{=\frac{1}{\chi} \frac{\widehat{w_t}}{\widehat{p_t}}} = \underbrace{\frac{C_t^n}{A_t^{1-\frac{1}{\chi}} \left(\frac{w_t^n}{p_t^n} \right)^{\frac{1}{\chi}}}}_{=1 - \frac{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon}} \hat{C}_t + \underbrace{\frac{\left(\frac{w_t}{p_t} \right)^{1+\frac{1}{\chi}} - \left(\frac{w_t^n}{p_t^n} \right)^{1+\frac{1}{\chi}}}{A_t \left(\frac{w_t^n}{p_t^n} \right)^{\frac{1}{\chi}}}}_{=\frac{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\chi} \right) \frac{\widehat{w_t}}{\widehat{p_t}}},$$

which can be written as

$$\frac{1}{\chi} \frac{\widehat{w_t}}{\widehat{p_t}} = \left(1 - \frac{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon} \right) \hat{C}_t + \frac{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon} \underbrace{\left(1 + \frac{1}{\chi} \right) \frac{\widehat{w_t}}{\widehat{p_t}}}_{=\hat{C}_{W,t}},$$

which, together with $\hat{C}_t = \hat{Q}_t$, leads to

$$\hat{Q}_t = \underbrace{\left(\chi^{-1} - \frac{\frac{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon}}{1 - \frac{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon}} \right)}_{>0} \frac{\widehat{w_t}}{\widehat{p_t}} = \frac{1}{1 + \chi^{-1}} \underbrace{\left(\chi^{-1} - \frac{\frac{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon}}{1 - \frac{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon}} \right)}_{>0} \widehat{C}_{W,t}.$$

Finally, equation (B.1) follows by combining the previous expression with the market clearing condition $Y_t = C_t + C_{W,t}$, from which we obtain

$$\hat{Y}_t = \left(1 - \frac{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon} \right) \hat{Q}_t + \frac{(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon} \hat{C}_{W,t} = \zeta \hat{Q}_t.$$

■

C Deriving the IS equation (10)

Proof of Proposition 1. With equations (2) with $\theta_t = 1$ and (6), capitalists' consumption C_t follows

$$\frac{dC_t}{C_t} = \left(i_t + (\sigma + \sigma_t^q)^2 - \rho \right) dt + (\sigma_t + \sigma_t^q) dZ_t. \quad (\text{C.1})$$

where we use $i_t^m = i_t + (\sigma + \sigma_t^q)^2$. Thus, with equations (A.6), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} d\hat{Q}_t = d\hat{C}_t &= \left(i_t - \underbrace{\left(r_t^n - \frac{(\sigma + \sigma_t^q)^2}{2} + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right)}_{\equiv r_t^T} \right) dt + \sigma_t^q dZ_t \\ &= (i_t - r_t^T) dt + \sigma_t^q dZ_t. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C.2})$$

Since we have risk-premium levels $\text{rp}_t = (\sigma_t + \sigma_t^q)^2$ in the sticky price economy and $\text{rp}_t^n = \sigma^2$ in the flexible price economy, we can express our risk-adjusted natural rate r_t^T as

$$r_t^T = r_t^n - \frac{1}{2} (\text{rp}_t - \text{rp}_t^n) = r_t^n - \frac{1}{2} \hat{r}p_t, \quad (\text{C.3})$$

■

D Stochastic Stabilization in Section 4.3

Proof of Proposition 3. We derive the equilibrium when there is a Poisson (with ν as its parameter) probability that the economy returns to full stabilization after \hat{T}^{HOFG} . $\nu \in [0, +\infty)$, where $\nu = 0$ means no return to stabilization (as in Proposition 2). Central

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bank solves:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \min_{\sigma_1^{q,L}, \sigma_2^{q,L}, \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} \mathbb{E}_0 \int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_t^2 dt + \mathbb{E}_0 \int_{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}^{\infty} e^{-\rho t} \cdot e^{-\nu(t-\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})} \cdot \hat{Q}_t^2 dt, \\
 & \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{cases} d\hat{Q}_t = -(\underbrace{r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})}_{<0})dt + (\sigma_1^{q,L})dZ_t, & \text{for } t < T, \\ d\hat{Q}_t = -(\underbrace{r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})}_{>0})dt + (\sigma_2^{q,L})dZ_t, & \text{for } T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \\ d\hat{Q}_t = 0, & \text{for } t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \end{cases} \quad (\text{D.1}) \\
 & \text{with } \hat{Q}_0 = r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})T + r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T).
 \end{aligned}$$

where the discounting becomes $\rho + \nu > \rho$ after \hat{T}^{HOFG} , which is itself endogenous. The loss function in (D.1) can be written then as

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \min_{\sigma_1^{q,L}, \sigma_2^{q,L}, \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} \mathbb{E}_0 \int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_t^2 dt + \mathbb{E}_0 \int_{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}^{\infty} e^{-\rho t} \cdot e^{-\nu(t-\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})} \cdot \hat{Q}_t^2 dt \\
 & = \min_{\hat{T}, \sigma_1^{q,L}, \sigma_2^{q,L}} \underbrace{\int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})^2 dt}_{\text{From deterministic fluctuation}} + \underbrace{\left(\sigma_1^{q,L}\right)^2 \left[\frac{1 - e^{-\rho T}}{\rho^2} - \frac{T e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho} \left(\frac{\nu}{\rho + \nu} \right) \right]}_{\text{From stochastic fluctuation}} \\
 & \quad + \underbrace{\left(\sigma_2^{q,L}\right)^2 \left[\left(\frac{e^{-\rho T} - e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho^2} \right) - \left(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T \right) e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} \frac{\nu}{\rho(\rho + \nu)} \right]}_{\text{From stochastic fluctuation}} \quad (\text{D.2})
 \end{aligned}$$

where $\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})$ is defined in (II.2): we observe new terms appear compared with the baseline case of $\nu = 0$. Now, notice that if the central bank is allowed to maximize with respect to ν , then we obtain a corner solution with $\nu \rightarrow +\infty$. This means that the most efficient would be to immediately return to perfect stabilization, with a very small probability of no adjustment.

The central bank has control over $\sigma_1^{q,L}$, $\sigma_2^{q,L}$, and \hat{T}^{HOFG} , in addition to its conventional

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monetary policy tool $\{i_t\}$. We derive the first-order condition for \hat{T}^{HOFG} as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 2 \cdot \underbrace{r_2^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})}_{>0} \int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) dt + \underbrace{\left(\sigma_1^{q,L}\right)^2 e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} \left(\frac{\nu}{\rho + \nu}\right) T}_{>0} \\
 & + \underbrace{\left(\sigma_2^{q,L}\right)^2 \left[\frac{e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho + \nu} + \left(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T\right) e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} \left(\frac{\nu}{\rho + \nu}\right) \right]}_{>0} = 0
 \end{aligned} \tag{D.3}$$

from which we obtain

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) dt = \int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} \| \sigma_1^{q,L} < 0, \sigma_2^{q,L} < 0) dt < 0 . \tag{D.4}$$

The first-order condition for \hat{T}^{HOFG} indicates that, at the optimum, the central bank reduces the value of \hat{T}^{HOFG} compared to \hat{T}^{TFG} (traditional forward guidance). This is because when the central bank utilizes traditional forward guidance and achieves perfect stabilization for $t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}$, the expression above becomes

$$\int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T} \| \sigma_1^{q,L} = \sigma_1^{q,n} = 0, \sigma_2^{q,L} = \sigma_2^{q,n} = 0) dt = 0 , \tag{D.5}$$

which is derived by plugging $\sigma_1^{q,L} = 0$ and $\sigma_2^{q,L} = 0$ into equation (D.3).

Given that at the optimum, $\sigma_1^{q,L} < 0$ and $\sigma_2^{q,L} < 0$ (which we will demonstrate),

$$\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} \| \sigma_1^{q,L} = 0, \sigma_2^{q,L} = 0) < \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} \| \sigma_1^{q,L} < 0, \sigma_2^{q,L} < 0) .$$

Therefore, we deduce from equation (D.1) that at the optimum, $\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} < \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}$, as evidenced by comparing (D.4) with (D.5).

To characterize the optimal values of $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ and $\sigma_2^{q,L}$, a **variational argument** is required. This is because $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ and $\sigma_2^{q,L}$ influence the levels of $r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})$, $r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})$, and $\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})$.

Specifically, we can derive:

$$\frac{\partial r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})}{\partial \sigma_1^{q,L}} = -(\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_1^{q,L}) < 0, \quad \frac{\partial r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})}{\partial \sigma_2^{q,L}} = -(\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L}) < 0.$$

Determining $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ An increase in $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ leads to a decrease in $r_1^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})$, which alters the trajectory of $\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})$. This change is illustrated in Figure D.1, as depicted by the transition from the thick blue line to the dashed red line.

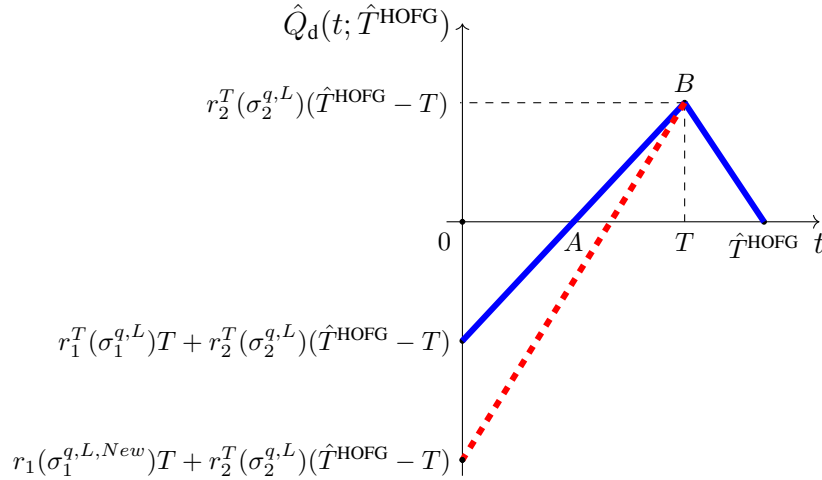


Figure D.1: Variation along $\sigma_1^{q,L}$. Increase to $\sigma_1^{q,L,New} > \sigma_1^{q,L}$.

Differentiating $\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) = \int_t^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} r_s^T ds$ with respect to $\sigma_1^{q,L}$, we obtain:

$$\frac{\partial \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})}{\partial \sigma_1^{q,L}} = \int_t^T -(\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_1^{q,L}) ds = -(\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_1^{q,L})(T - t), \quad \forall t \leq T.$$

To find optimal $\sigma_1^{q,L}$, we differentiate the objective function in (D.2) by $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ and obtain the following condition:

$$(\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_1^{q,L}) \int_0^T e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})(T - t) dt = (\sigma_1^{q,L}) \left\{ \frac{1 - e^{-\rho T}}{\rho^2} - \frac{e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho} \left[1 - \frac{\rho}{\rho + \nu} \right] \cdot T \right\}. \quad (\text{D.6})$$

First, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) (T-t) dt &= \underbrace{\int_0^t e^{-\rho s} \hat{Q}_d(s; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) ds \cdot (T-t)}_{=0} \Big|_0^T \\ &+ \int_0^T \underbrace{\int_0^t e^{-\rho s} \hat{Q}_d(s; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) ds}_{<0} dt < 0, \end{aligned}$$

where $\int_0^t e^{-\rho s} \hat{Q}_d(s; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) ds < 0$ for $t \leq T$, as derived in equation (D.4). Also, as we know

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1 - e^{-\rho T}}{\rho^2} - \frac{e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho} \left[1 - \frac{\rho}{\rho + \nu} \right] T &\geq \frac{1 - e^{-\rho T}}{\rho^2} - \frac{e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho} T \\ &= \underbrace{\int_0^T t e^{-\rho t} dt}_{>0} + \underbrace{\frac{T}{\rho} e^{-\rho T} - \frac{T}{\rho} e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}_{\geq 0} > 0, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{D.7})$$

from (D.6), we obtain that $\sigma_1^{q,L} < \sigma_1^{q,n} = 0$ at optimum.³

Determining $\sigma_2^{q,L}$ An increase in $\sigma_2^{q,L}$ leads to a decrease in $r_2^T(\sigma_2^{q,L})$, which alters the shape of $\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})$. This effect is illustrated in Figure D.2 by the transition from the thick blue line to the dashed red line. To further analyze this, we differentiate $\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})$ with respect to $\sigma_2^{q,L}$ and obtain:

$$\frac{\partial \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})}{\partial \sigma_2^{q,L}} = \begin{cases} \int_T^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} -(\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L}) ds = -(\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L}) (\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T), & t < T, \\ \int_t^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} -(\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L}) ds = -(\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L}) (\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - t), & T \leq t \leq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}. \end{cases}$$

³Note that in (D.6), due to the additional term

$$\frac{e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho} \left[1 - \frac{\rho}{\rho + \nu} \right] \cdot T,$$

$\sigma_1^{q,L}$ becomes more negative at optimum taking \hat{T}^{HOFG} and $\sigma_2^{q,L}$ as given, compared with our benchmark case in which $\nu = 0$.

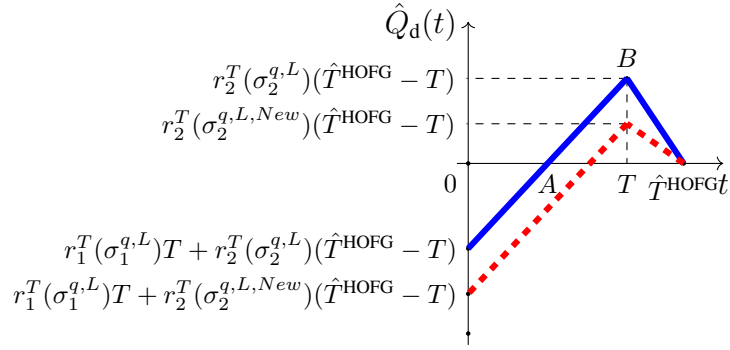


Figure D.2: Variation along $\sigma_2^{q,L}$. Increase to $\sigma_2^{q,L,New} > \sigma_2^{q,L}$.

To find the optimal $\sigma_2^{q,L}$, we differentiate the objective function in (D.2) by $\sigma_2^{q,L}$ and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{q,L} \right) \left(\int_0^T e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{HOFG}) (\hat{T}^{HOFG} - T) dt + \int_T^{\hat{T}^{HOFG}} e^{-\rho t} \underbrace{\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{HOFG})}_{>0} (\hat{T}^{HOFG} - t) dt \right) \\ &= (\sigma_2^{q,L}) \left\{ \frac{e^{-\rho T} - e^{-\rho \hat{T}}}{\rho^2} - \frac{e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{HOFG}}}{\rho} \left[1 - \frac{\rho}{\rho + \nu} \right] (\hat{T}^{HOFG} - T) \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (D.8)$$

from which we can demonstrate that at the optimum, $\sigma_2^{q,L} < 0$ must be satisfied, given that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^T e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{HOFG}) (\hat{T}^{HOFG} - T) dt + \int_T^{\hat{T}^{HOFG}} e^{-\rho t} \underbrace{\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{HOFG})}_{>0} (\hat{T}^{HOFG} - t) dt \\ & < \int_0^T e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{HOFG}) (\hat{T}^{HOFG} - T) dt + \int_T^{\hat{T}^{HOFG}} e^{-\rho t} \underbrace{\hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{HOFG})}_{>0} (\hat{T}^{HOFG} - T) dt \\ &= (\hat{T}^{HOFG} - T) \underbrace{\int_0^{\hat{T}^{HOFG}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{HOFG}) dt}_{<0} < 0, \end{aligned}$$

where the final inequality is derived from equation (D.4), and

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{e^{-\rho T} - e^{-\rho \hat{T}}}{\rho^2} - \frac{e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{HOFG}}}{\rho} \left[1 - \frac{\rho}{\rho + \nu} \right] (\hat{T}^{HOFG} - T) &\geq \frac{e^{-\rho T} - e^{-\rho \hat{T}}}{\rho^2} - \frac{e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{HOFG}}}{\rho} (\hat{T}^{HOFG} - T) \\ &= \int_T^{\hat{T}^{HOFG}} e^{-\rho t} (t - T) dt > 0. \end{aligned} \quad (D.9)$$

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Equation (D.8) proves that $\sigma_2^{q,L} < 0$ at optimum.⁴ Therefore, we have proven that during periods of high TFP volatility (i.e., $t < T$) and low TFP volatility with forward guidance (i.e., $T \leq t \leq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$), a central bank aims to target financial volatility levels below those in a flexible price economy: $\sigma_1^{q,L} < \sigma_1^{q,n} = 0$ and $\sigma_2^{q,L} < \sigma_2^{q,n} = 0$. Such intervention reduces the required risk premium and raises the asset price level \hat{Q}_t , thereby increasing output.

■

Proof of Corollary 1. Note that $\nu = \infty$ implies that full stabilization immediately follows after \hat{T}^{HOFG} when the zero policy rate regime is over. It corresponds to the traditional forward guidance case of Section 4.1, so when $\nu = \infty$, the only feasible $(\sigma_1^{q,L}, \sigma_2^{q,L}, \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})$ would be $(0, 0, \hat{T})$ in this case. Since for every ν , $(\sigma_1^{q,L}, \sigma_2^{q,L}, \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) = (0, 0, \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}})$ is feasible, we obtain

$$\lim_{\nu \rightarrow +\infty^-} \mathbb{L}^{Q,*}(\{\hat{Q}_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \nu) \leq \mathbb{L}^{Q,*}(\{\hat{Q}_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \nu = \infty).$$

To obtain the strict inequality between the two sides, we compare the first-order conditions for \hat{T}^{HOFG} when $\nu = \infty$ and $\nu \rightarrow \infty$. When $\nu = \infty$, the optimality is given by (15), which can be written as

$$\int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) dt = 0, \quad (\text{D.10})$$

where \hat{Q}_d is defined in (II.2). In contrast, when $\nu \rightarrow \infty$, the first-order condition of \hat{T}^{HOFG} in (D.3) becomes

$$2 \cdot \underbrace{r_2^T(\sigma_1^{q,L})}_{>0} \int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \hat{Q}_d(t; \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}) dt + \underbrace{(\sigma_1^{q,L})^2}_{>0} e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} T + \underbrace{(\sigma_2^{q,L})^2}_{>0} \left[(\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T) e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} \right] = 0$$

⁴Note that in (D.8), due to the additional term

$$\frac{e^{-\rho \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}}{\rho} \left[1 - \frac{\rho}{\rho + \nu} \right] \cdot (\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T),$$

$\sigma_2^{q,L}$ becomes more negative at optimum taking \hat{T}^{HOFG} and $\sigma_1^{q,L}$ as given, compared with our benchmark case in which $\nu = 0$.

which is different from the above (D.10). Therefore, we obtain

$$\lim_{\nu \rightarrow +\infty^-} \mathbb{L}^{Q,*}(\{\hat{Q}_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \nu) < \mathbb{L}^{Q,*}(\{\hat{Q}_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \nu = \infty) .$$

■

E Stochastic T in Section 3 and Section 4.1

Here we prove the result of Section 3 and Section 4.1 that $\sigma_t^q = \sigma_t^{q,n} \equiv 0$ still holds even when the mandatory ZLB duration T is stochastic. First, we do not consider the traditional forward guidance policy.

For illustration purposes, we assume that T follows a discrete distribution: T_1 , T_2 , and T_3 with probabilities p_1 , p_2 , and p_3 with $p_1 + p_2 + p_3 = 1$. The same logic can be applied to more general cases where T has a continuous distribution. We keep assuming that after T is realized, i.e., the ZLB ends, the monetary authority achieves perfect stabilization based on a rule in (11). We similarly rely on the backward induction. First, we know certainly that after T_3 , the economy is fully stabilized, implying $\sigma_t^q = 0$ for $t \geq T_3$. For $t \in [T_2, T_3)$,

1. If the ZLB already ended at T_1 or T_2 , then $\sigma_t^q = 0$.
2. The ZLB has not ended: then it is certain that $T = T_3$ and $\hat{Q}_t = 0$ for $t \geq T_3$, which means that $\sigma_t^q = 0$ for $t \in (T_2, T_3)$. In that case, $\hat{Q}_{T_2} = \underline{r}(T_3 - T_2) < 0$ is determined.

For $t \in [T_1, T_2)$, we know that

1. If the ZLB already ended at T_1 , then $\sigma_t^q = 0$.
2. The ZLB has not ended: then it is for sure that $T = T_2$ or $T = T_3$. At $t = T_2 - dt$ for small $dt > 0$, \hat{Q}_{T_2-dt} is determined by a conditional probability-weighted linear combination of 0 (when $T = T_2$) and $\underline{r}(T_3 - T_2)$ (when $T = T_3$), so that

$$\hat{Q}_{T_2-dt} = \underline{r}dt + \frac{p_2}{1-p_1} \cdot 0 + \frac{p_3}{1-p_1} \cdot \underline{r}(T_3 - T_2).$$

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Since \hat{Q}_{T_2-dt} is determined, $\sigma_t^q = 0$ for $t \in [T_1, T_2)$.

For $t < T_1$, we know that

1. $T = T_1$ or T_2 or T_3 . At $t = T_1 - dt$ for small $dt > 0$, \hat{Q}_{T_1-dt} is determined by a conditional probability-weighted linear combination of 0 (when $T = T_1$), $\underline{r}(T_2 - T_1)$ (when $T = T_2$) and $\underline{r}(T_3 - T_1)$ (when $T = T_3$), so that

$$\hat{Q}_{T_1-dt} = \underline{r}dt + p_1 \cdot 0 + p_2 \cdot \underline{r}(T_2 - T_1) + p_3 \cdot \underline{r}(T_3 - T_1).$$

Since \hat{Q}_{T_1-dt} is determined, $\sigma_t^q = 0$ for $t < T_1$.

Therefore, $\sigma_t^q = \sigma_t^{q,n} = 0$ for all t even if ZLB duration T is stochastic.

Traditional forward guidance When T is stochastic, the zero rate duration under traditional forward guidance, i.e., \hat{T} in Section 4.1, becomes stochastic as well and dependent on T . The above logic can be applied in this case, and we can similarly prove that if the monetary authority commits to perfectly stabilizing the economy after any realized \hat{T} , then $\sigma_t^q = \sigma_t^{q,n} = 0$ for $t \leq \hat{T}$.

F Standard New Keynesian Models and the Higher-Order Forward Guidance

We now illustrate that the higher-order forward guidance policy of Section 4.2 can be implemented in a standard non-linear New Keynesian model,⁵ instead of the Two-Agent New Keynesian (TANK) model of Section 2.

⁵For a treatment of non-linearity in a standard New Keynesian model, see our companion paper, i.e., [Lee and Dordal i Carreras \(2024\)](#).

F.1 Setting

The representative household owns the entire firms and receives their profits through lump-sum transfers. As in Section 2, we assume a perfectly rigid price that allows an analytical tractability: $p_t = \bar{p}$, $\forall t$. The household solves

$$\max_{\{B_t, C_t, L_t\}_{t \geq 0}} \mathbb{E}_0 \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \left[\log C_t - \frac{L_t^{1+\frac{1}{\eta}}}{1+\frac{1}{\eta}} \right] dt, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \dot{B}_t = i_t B_t - \bar{p} C_t + w_t L_t + D_t, \quad (\text{F.1})$$

where C_t and L_t are her consumption and labor supply, respectively, η is the Frisch elasticity of labor supply, B_t is her nominal holding of bonds, and D_t are the entire firms' profits and fiscal transfers from the government. w_t is the wage level, and i_t is the policy rate set by the central bank. The bond market is in zero net supply in equilibrium, i.e., in equilibrium $B_t = 0$. Finally, ρ is the time discount rate.

As we prove in [Lee and Dordal i Carreras \(2024\)](#), we obtain

$$-i_t dt = \mathbb{E}_t \left(\frac{d\xi_t^N}{\xi_t^N} \right), \quad \text{where} \quad \xi_t^N = e^{-\rho t} \frac{1}{\bar{p}} \frac{1}{C_t}, \quad (\text{F.2})$$

as the intertemporal optimality condition of problem (F.1), where $\frac{d\xi_t^N}{\xi_t^N}$ is the instantaneous (nominal) stochastic discount factor, and its expected value equals the (minus) nominal risk-free rate $-i_t dt$. Due to the rigid price assumption, the real and nominal risk-free rates of the economy are equal, i.e., $r_t = i_t$, where r_t is the real interest rate.

We can rewrite equation (F.2) as

$$\mathbb{E}_t \left(\frac{dC_t}{C_t} \right) = (i_t - \rho) dt + \underbrace{\text{Var}_t \left(\frac{dC_t}{C_t} \right)}_{\text{Endogenous precautionary savings}}, \quad (\text{F.3})$$

where the last term $\text{Var}_t(\frac{dC_t}{C_t})$ arises from the endogenous volatility of the aggregate consumption process $\{C_t\}$. Note that this term is a second-order term and is typically dropped out in log-linearized models. In contrast, equation (F.3) properly accounts for consump-

tion volatility and allows it to affect the drift of the aggregate consumption process, where the volatility as well as the drift is an endogenous object. This additional term reflects the usual *precautionary savings channel*, in which a more volatile business cycle leads to an increased demand for riskless savings, which in turn leads to a drop in current consumption and a higher expected growth for the consumption process, so $\mathbb{E}_t \left(\frac{dC_t}{C_t} \right)$ is increasing in $\text{Var}_t \left(\frac{dC_t}{C_t} \right)$.

Firms We assume the usual Dixit-Stiglitz monopolistic competition among firms, where the demand each firm i faces is given by

$$D_t(p_t^i, p_t) = \left(\frac{p_t^i}{p_t} \right)^{-\varepsilon} Y_t,$$

with

$$p_t = \left(\int_0^1 (p_t^i)^{1-\varepsilon} di \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\varepsilon}},$$

where p_t^i is an individual firm i 's price, p_t is the price aggregator, and Y_t is the aggregate output. With rigid prices, firms never change their prices so $p_t^i = p_t = \bar{p}$ and $D_t(p_t^i, p_t) = D_t(\bar{p}, \bar{p}) = Y_t$ for all $i \in [0, 1]$ and $\forall t$. Therefore, each firm i equally produces to meet the aggregate demand Y_t .

A firm i produces with the production function: $Y_t^i = A_t L_t^i$, where L_t^i is firm i 's labor hiring, and A_t is the total factor productivity (TFP) assumed to be exogenous and follow a geometric Brownian motion with drift:

$$\frac{dA_t}{A_t} = gdt + \sigma dZ_t, \tag{F.4}$$

where g is its expected growth rate and σ is what we call ‘fundamental’ volatility, assumed to be constant over time.⁶ It follows that firms’ profits to be rebated can be written as $D_t = \bar{p}Y_t - w_t L_t$. We assume that all the aggregate variables are adapted to the filtration $(\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$ generated by the process in (F.4) in a given *filtered* probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, (\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}}, \mathbb{P})$.

⁶As in Section 4, we assume in Appendix F.2 that σ jumps up to bring the economy into a ZLB recession.

Flexible price equilibrium as benchmark With the assumed Dixit-Stiglitz monopolistic competition among firms, we can characterize the counterfactual flexible price equilibrium where firms can freely choose their prices. The flexible price equilibrium outcomes are called ‘natural’ as central banks in the presence of price rigidities target these outcomes with monetary tools. As proven in [Lee and Dordal i Carreras \(2024\)](#), the natural output Y_t^n follows

$$\frac{dY_t^n}{Y_t^n} = \left(\underbrace{r^n}_{\text{Natural rate}} - \rho + \sigma^2 \right) dt + \underbrace{\sigma}_{\text{Natural volatility}} dZ_t, \quad (\text{F.5})$$

where $r^n = \rho + g - \sigma^2$ is defined as the natural interest rate. Note that the natural rate r^n here equals its level in our Two-Agent New Keynesian model of Section 2. From the monetary authority’s perspective, the process in (F.5) is an exogenous process that monetary policy cannot affect nor control. Note that natural output Y_t^n follows a geometric Brownian motion with the volatility σ , which equals the volatility of A_t process in (F.4).

Rigid price equilibrium and the ‘gap’ economy Going back to the ‘rigid’ price economy, we introduce σ_t^s as the *excess* volatility of the growth rate of the output process $\{Y_t\}$, compared with the benchmark flexible price economy output in (F.5). Then:

$$\text{Var}_t \left(\frac{dY_t}{Y_t} \right) = (\sigma + \sigma_t^s)^2 dt \quad (\text{F.6})$$

holds by definition. Note that σ_t^s is an *endogenous* volatility to be determined in equilibrium. It will play a similar role to asset price volatility σ_t^q of Section 2. By plugging (F.6) into the nonlinear Euler equation (F.3), we obtain

$$\frac{dY_t}{Y_t} = \left(i_t - \rho + (\sigma + \sigma_t^s)^2 \right) dt + (\sigma + \sigma_t^s) dZ_t. \quad (\text{F.7})$$

With the usual definition of output gap $\hat{Y}_t = \ln \left(\frac{Y_t}{Y_t^n} \right)$, we obtain

$$d\hat{Y}_t = \left(i_t - \left(r^n - \frac{1}{2}(\sigma + \sigma_t^s)^2 + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 \right) \right) dt + \sigma_t^s dZ_t, \quad (\text{F.8})$$

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which has an isomorphic mathematical form to equation (10) of Section 2, with the following *risk-adjusted* natural rate defined as

$$r_t^T = r^n - \frac{1}{2}(\sigma + \sigma_t^s)^2 + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2. \quad (\text{F.9})$$

The above equation (F.7) features a similarly interesting feedback effect that is omitted in log-linearized models:⁷ given the policy rate i_t , a rise in the endogenous volatility σ_t^s pushes up the drift of (F.8) and lowers output gap \hat{Y}_t . The intuition follows from the households' precautionary behavior we see in (F.3): households respond to a higher economic volatility with increased savings and lower consumption, thereby inducing a recession. In a similar manner to Section 2, we define precautionary premium $\text{pp}_t \equiv (\sigma + \sigma_t^s)^2$ and its gap $\hat{p}p_t \equiv \text{pp}_t - \text{pp}_t^n = (\sigma + \sigma_t^s)^2 - \sigma^2$, so that (F.9) becomes

$$r_t^T \equiv r^n - \frac{1}{2}\hat{p}p_t. \quad (\text{F.10})$$

This precautionary premium $\hat{p}p_t$ will serve a similar role to risk-premium in Section 2. With (F.9), equation (F.8) can be written as

$$d\hat{Y}_t = (i_t - r_t^T) dt + \sigma_t^s dZ_t. \quad (\text{F.11})$$

Due to the isomorphic mathematical form of \hat{Y}_t process in equation (F.11) to equation (10), we know immediately that the policy rule following

$$i_t = r_t^T + \phi_y \hat{Y}_t \quad (\text{F.12})$$

with $\phi_y > 0$ will achieve perfect stabilization, i.e., $\hat{Y}_t = 0$, as a unique equilibrium.

⁷For illustrative purposes, compare (F.8) with the conventional IS equation given by $d\hat{Y}_t = (i_t - r^n) dt + \sigma_t^s dZ_t$ where the endogenous aggregate volatility σ_t^s has no first-order effect on the drift.

F.2 The Zero Lower Bound and Traditional Forward Guidance

ZLB Recession Following Section 3 and given that the natural rate r^n is of the same form as in Section 2, we consider a scenario where $\sigma_t = \bar{\sigma}$ for $0 \leq t \leq T$ and $\sigma_t = \underline{\sigma} < \bar{\sigma}$ for $t \geq T$. More specifically, we assume that TFP volatilities during these periods are such that the natural rate r_t^n satisfies: $\underline{r} \equiv r^n(\bar{\sigma}) = \rho + g - \bar{\sigma}^2 < 0$ and $\bar{r} \equiv r^n(\underline{\sigma}) = \rho + g - \underline{\sigma}^2 > 0$, resulting in the ZLB binding in the first period.

Recovery Without Guidance First, as in Section 3, after period T , we assume that the monetary authority follows the Taylor rule presented in (F.12), achieving perfect economic stabilization defined by $\hat{Y}_t = 0$ for $t \geq T$. We infer by backward induction from equation (F.8) that perfect stabilization with certainty at T necessarily implies the absence of volatility in output gap \hat{Y}_t process in the preceding periods, $t < T$.⁸ Therefore, it follows that $\sigma_t^s = 0$ and $r_t^T = \underline{r} < 0$ for $t < T$ whenever the monetary authority can credibly commit to follow the policy rule in equation (F.12) for $t \geq T$. In this scenario, the dynamics of \hat{Y}_t according to (F.8) simplify to:

$$d\hat{Y}_t = -\underline{r} dt, \quad \text{for } t < T, \quad (\text{F.13})$$

with associated boundary condition $\hat{Y}_T = 0$ and initial output gap given by $Y_0 = \underline{r} T$. The trajectory of $\{\hat{Y}_t\}$ following equation (F.13) is illustrated in Figure F.3.

The initial increase in σ_t from $\underline{\sigma}$ to $\bar{\sigma}$ raises the precautionary premium defined in Appendix F.1 from $\text{pp}_2^n = (\underline{\sigma})^2$ to $\text{pp}_1^n = \bar{\sigma}^2$. This leads to a decline in output \hat{Y}_t because the ZLB prevents the risk-free rate from falling into negative territory, as would be necessary for complete stabilization. As a result, the heightened degree of precautionary savings, in conjunction with the ZLB, leads to a reduction in consumption demand. The equilibrium output gap path is again consistent with the dynamics described in Werning (2012) and

⁸For instance, at $T - \Delta$, where Δ is an infinitesimally small time interval, $\sigma_{T-\Delta}^s = 0$ is the only rational solution to equation (F.8) consistent with $\hat{Y}_T = 0$ for any possible realization of the stochastic component of the TFP process, $dZ_{T-\Delta}$. This result deterministically pins down the output gap of the preceding period, $\hat{Y}_{T-\Delta}$, leading by backward induction to $\sigma_t^s = 0$ for $t \leq T$.

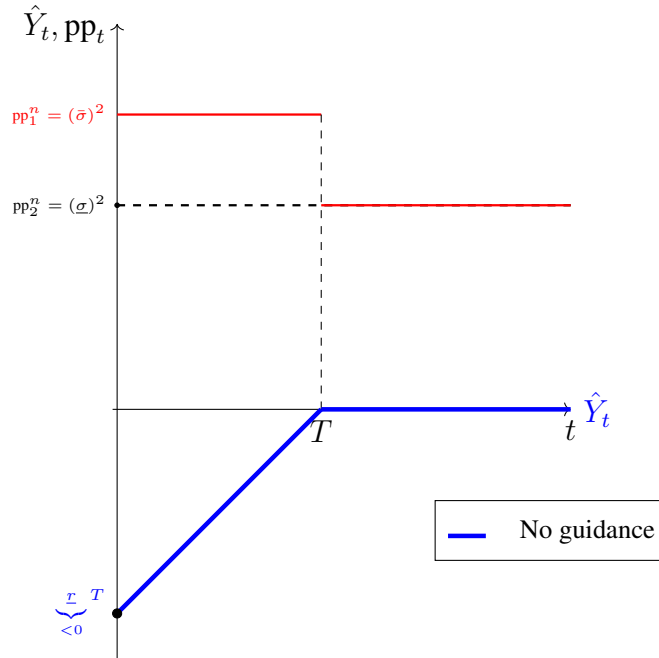


Figure F.3: ZLB dynamics, economic recovery without guidance (Benchmark).

Cochrane (2017), despite our model featuring a distinct IS equation (F.8) with endogenous excess volatility σ_t^s influencing the drift in the \hat{Y}_t process, a departure from traditional New-Keynesian models. This result arises because ensuring future stabilization for $t \geq T$ effectively eliminates any excess endogenous volatility σ_t^s during a ZLB episode.

Remarks Again, central banks can prevent the emergence of endogenous excess volatility σ_t^s at the ZLB through a ‘credible’ commitment to stabilize the business cycle by a predetermined future date $T < +\infty$. Even if the monetary authority is constrained by the ZLB and thus unable to adhere to the policy rule in (F.12), which directly targets aggregate volatility, the additional stability costs resulting from policy inaction can be effectively mitigated by pledging to stabilize upon exiting the ZLB. One implication of this result is that the impact of the ZLB could vary significantly between countries: those with monetary authorities committed to stabilization after the ZLB period may only face the demand-driven recession from the level effect: the ZLB is higher than the natural rate $r_t^n = \underline{r} < 0$. In contrast, countries lacking the capacity or willingness to stabilize in the future might incur

additional costs due to potential increases in σ_t^s during a ZLB episode.

Traditional Forward Guidance We define traditional forward guidance as the communication strategy where the central bank credibly commits to maintaining a zero policy rate for a duration of time $\hat{T}^{\text{TFG}} > T$ exceeding the initial period of high fundamental volatility. We further assume that the central bank reverts to the policy rule defined in equation (F.12) after the forward guidance period ends, resulting in a perfect stabilization for $t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}$. Following from the same backward induction rationale presented above, stabilization with certainty after \hat{T}^{TFG} results in the absence of endogenous excess volatility, i.e., $\sigma_t^s = 0$, for $t < \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}$. The dynamics of \hat{Y}_t is thus described by

$$d\hat{Y}_t = \begin{cases} -\underline{r} dt, & \text{for } t < T, \\ -\bar{r} dt, & \text{for } T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}, \end{cases} \quad (\text{F.14})$$

with associated boundary condition $\hat{Y}_{\hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}} = 0$, resulting in an initial output gap of $\hat{Y}_0 = \underline{r}T + \bar{r}(\hat{T}^{\text{TFG}} - T)$.

The dynamics of $\{\hat{Y}_t\}$ governed by equation (F.14) are depicted in Figure F.4. Traditional forward guidance induces an artificial economic boom between T and \hat{T}^{TFG} , thereby alleviating recessionary pressures within the interval $0 \leq t < T$. Specifically, traditional forward guidance increases output gap between T and \hat{T}^{TFG} , which results in a narrower initial output gap \hat{Y}_0 due to the forward-looking nature of consumption dynamics.

Optimal Traditional Forward Guidance As in Section 4, we can determine the optimal forward guidance duration \hat{T}^{TFG} by minimizing the quadratic loss function represented by:⁹

$$\mathbb{L}^Y \left(\{\hat{Y}_t\}_{t \geq 0} \right) = \mathbb{E}_0 \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \left(\hat{Y}_t \right)^2 dt, \quad (\text{F.15})$$

⁹Deriving the quadratic loss function in equation (14) is standard: see e.g., [Woodford \(2003\)](#).

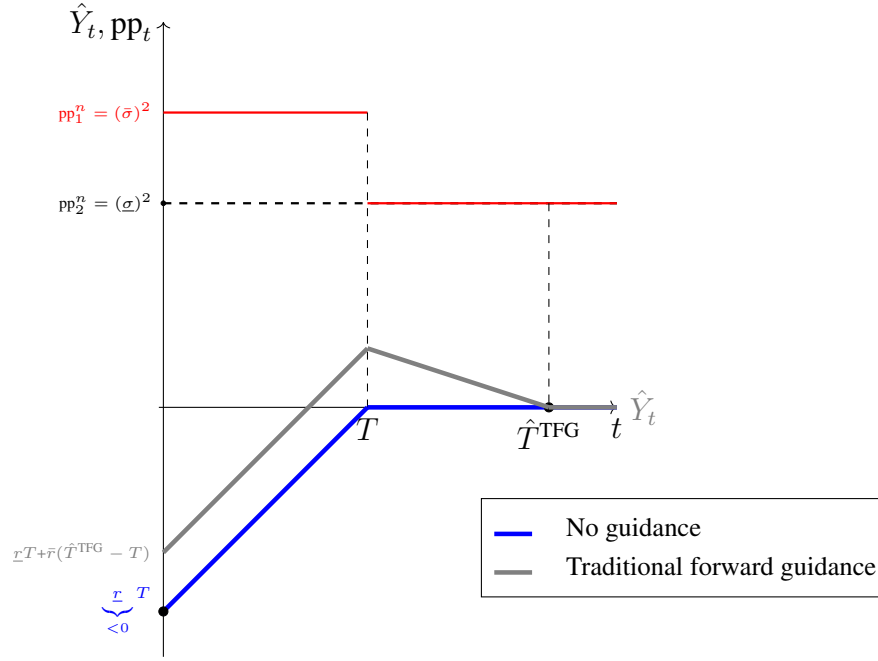


Figure F.4: ZLB dynamics under traditional forward guidance.

subject to the dynamics outlined in equation (13). The first-order condition with respect to \hat{T}^{TFG} results in:

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \left(\hat{Y}_t \right) dt = 0. \quad (\text{F.16})$$

F.3 Higher-Order Forward Guidance

The principal cause of ZLB recessions in the standard model of Appendix F is an excessively high precautionary premium pp_t that leads to a higher precautionary savings demand and depressed consumption demand, driven by increased fundamental volatility σ_t . As a result, central banks might alternatively consider focusing on mitigating aggregate volatility by steering agents' actions toward a favorable trajectory for the excess volatility $\{\sigma_t^s\}$ during the ZLB period, aiming to support consumption demand.¹⁰

¹⁰The precautionary premium, pp_t , is given by $pp_t = (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_t^s)^2$ for $t < T$ and $pp_t = (\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_t^s)^2$ for $T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}$. Therefore, a negative σ_t^s can reduce the precautionary premium pp_t below its natural level, thereby improving aggregate demand at the ZLB.

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Context Due to the isomorphic structure of dynamics between our two-agent New Keynesian (TANK) model of Section 2 and the standard New Keynesian model of Appendix F, we can implement a similar higher-order forward guidance provided in Section 4.2. In the traditional forward guidance policy previously discussed, the central bank’s commitment to perfect stabilization (with certainty) at \hat{T}^{TFG} facilitates a smoother transition toward economic recovery. However, this approach prevents any deviation of σ_t^s from zero, its natural level, during the ZLB period, as depicted in Figure F.5. This suggests that to sustain alternative equilibria where σ_t^s deviates from zero, the central bank must refrain from promising perfect stabilization upon exiting the ZLB at \hat{T}^{TFG} , as illustrated in Figure F.6.

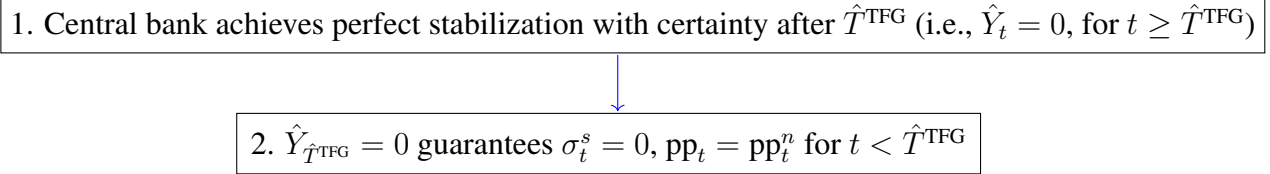


Figure F.5: Mechanism under traditional forward guidance.

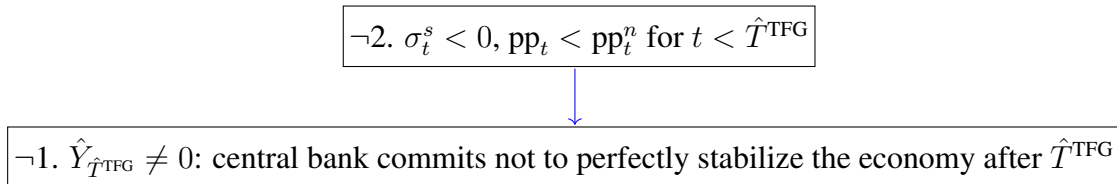


Figure F.6: Mechanism under higher-order forward guidance.

Implementation We define \hat{T}^{HOFG} as the duration of zero policy rate under our ‘higher-order’ policy. We model the commitment constraint described in Figure F.6 by assuming that after the forward guidance regime with i_t equal to zero ends at \hat{T}^{HOFG} , the monetary authority implements a *passive policy rule* with i_t fixed at $\bar{r} > 0$, which allows for the existence of multiple equilibria. The central bank then coordinates the economy’s agents into an optimal path within the admissible solutions set, subject to the constraints: $\sigma_t^s = 0$ for $t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$ and $\mathbb{E}_0 \hat{Y}_\infty = 0$. The latter is necessary to meet the economy’s transversality condition, while the former simplifies the optimization problem by assuming the central

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bank ends its influence on the excess business cycle volatility σ_t^s at the conclusion of the forward guidance period. Together with the dynamic IS equation in (F.11), these constraints indicate that the output gap is initially expected to close, $\mathbb{E}_0 \hat{Y}_{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} = 0$, by the end of the forward guidance period at \hat{T}^{HOFG} . In Section F.4, we will additionally assume that the central bank permanently reverts to the active Taylor rule in equation (F.12) with a constant probability less than one after \hat{T}^{HOFG} .

Formalism We denote the natural precautionary premiums as $\text{pp}_1^n \equiv \bar{\sigma}^2$ for $t < T$ (high fundamental volatility region), $\text{pp}_2^n \equiv \underline{\sigma}^2$ for $T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$ (low fundamental volatility region), and $\text{pp}_3^n \equiv \underline{\sigma}^2$ for $t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$ (low fundamental volatility region post-forward guidance period).¹¹

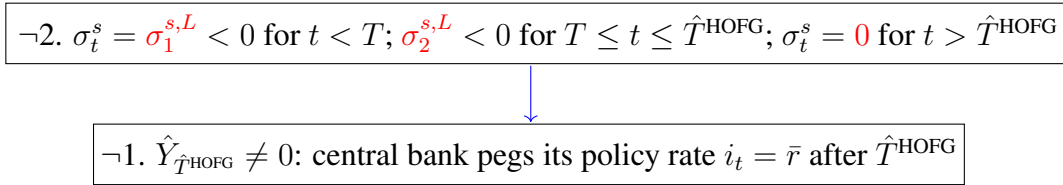


Figure F.7: Simplified higher-order forward guidance.

We can simplify the optimization problem by assuming that the central bank maintains consistent excess volatility and precautionary premium levels within each regime. Specifically, the excess volatility σ_t^s is set to be $\sigma_1^{s,L}$ for $t < T$, $\sigma_2^{s,L}$ for $T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$, and zero for $t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$. The precautionary premia associated with each period are $\text{pp}_1 \equiv (\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_1^{s,L})^2 < \text{pp}_1^n$ for $t < T$, $\text{pp}_2 \equiv (\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{s,L})^2 < \text{pp}_2^n$ for $T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$, and $\text{pp}_3 \equiv (\underline{\sigma})^2$ for $t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$.¹² This simplified problem is represented in Figure F.7. Finally, the risk-adjusted natural rate in (F.10) is expressed as r_1^T for $t < T$ and r_2^T for $T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}$, each

¹¹The precautionary premium is defined as $\text{pp}_t = (\sigma_t + \sigma_t^s)^2$, and the expression for the natural level pp_t^n stems from no excess volatility in a flexible price economy, i.e., our benchmark economy.

¹²Proposition F.2 later proves that $\sigma_1^{s,L} < 0$ and $\sigma_2^{s,L} < 0$ at the optimum. For illustration purposes, we assume these conditions are satisfied in the rest of the argument of Appendix F.

being a function of $\sigma_1^{s,L}$ and $\sigma_2^{s,L}$, respectively. This is represented by:

$$\begin{aligned} r_1^T(\sigma_1^{s,L}) &\equiv \rho + g - \frac{\bar{\sigma}^2}{2} - \frac{(\bar{\sigma} + \sigma_1^{s,L})^2}{2} > \underline{r} \equiv r_1^T(0) \quad \text{when } \sigma_1^{s,L} < 0, \\ r_2^T(\sigma_2^{s,L}) &\equiv \rho + g - \frac{\underline{\sigma}^2}{2} - \frac{(\underline{\sigma} + \sigma_2^{s,L})^2}{2} > \bar{r} \equiv r_2^T(0) \quad \text{when } \sigma_2^{s,L} < 0. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{F.17})$$

From equation (F.17), we observe that lower precautionary premia during the forward guidance period up to \hat{T}^{HOFG} lead to increased risk-adjusted rates and, consequently, higher values of output gap $\{\hat{Y}_t\}$ along the expected equilibrium path (in comparison to a traditional forward guidance policy of the same duration). This results in reduction of the expected quadratic loss function in (F.15). However, as indicated by our IS equation (F.11), a σ_t^s different from zero introduces stochastic fluctuations in the trajectory of \hat{Y}_t , resulting in potential additional stabilization costs in the future. The green line in Figure F.8 illustrates the expected trajectory (or deterministic component) of $\{\hat{Y}_t\}$ under a higher-order forward guidance policy as detailed in this section. The dashed lines alongside the expected path depict two possible sample paths that stem from stochastic variations in $\{\hat{Y}_t\}$, which are caused by σ_t^s different from zero until \hat{T}^{HOFG} .

In summary, central banks operating under our higher-order guidance with commitment face a trade-off between achieving lower precautionary premiums and higher output levels prior to \hat{T}^{HOFG} , and the subsequent costs of de-stabilization caused by $\sigma_t^s \neq 0$. This balancing act involves a careful choice of $\sigma_1^{s,L}$, $\sigma_2^{s,L}$, and \hat{T}^{HOFG} , as we discuss next. It will turn out that due to the additional stabilization effects coming from negative $\sigma_1^{s,L}$ and $\sigma_2^{s,L}$, the duration of zero policy rate \hat{T}^{HOFG} falls from \hat{T}^{TFG} that satisfies equation (F.16).

Optimal Higher-Order Forward Guidance The initial output gap \hat{Y}_0 is determined by the condition $\mathbb{E}_0 \hat{Y}_{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} = 0$ previously discussed and the dynamic IS equation in (F.11) as follows:

$$\hat{Y}_0 = r_1^T(\sigma_1^{s,L}) T + r_2^T(\sigma_2^{s,L}) (\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} - T). \quad (\text{F.18})$$

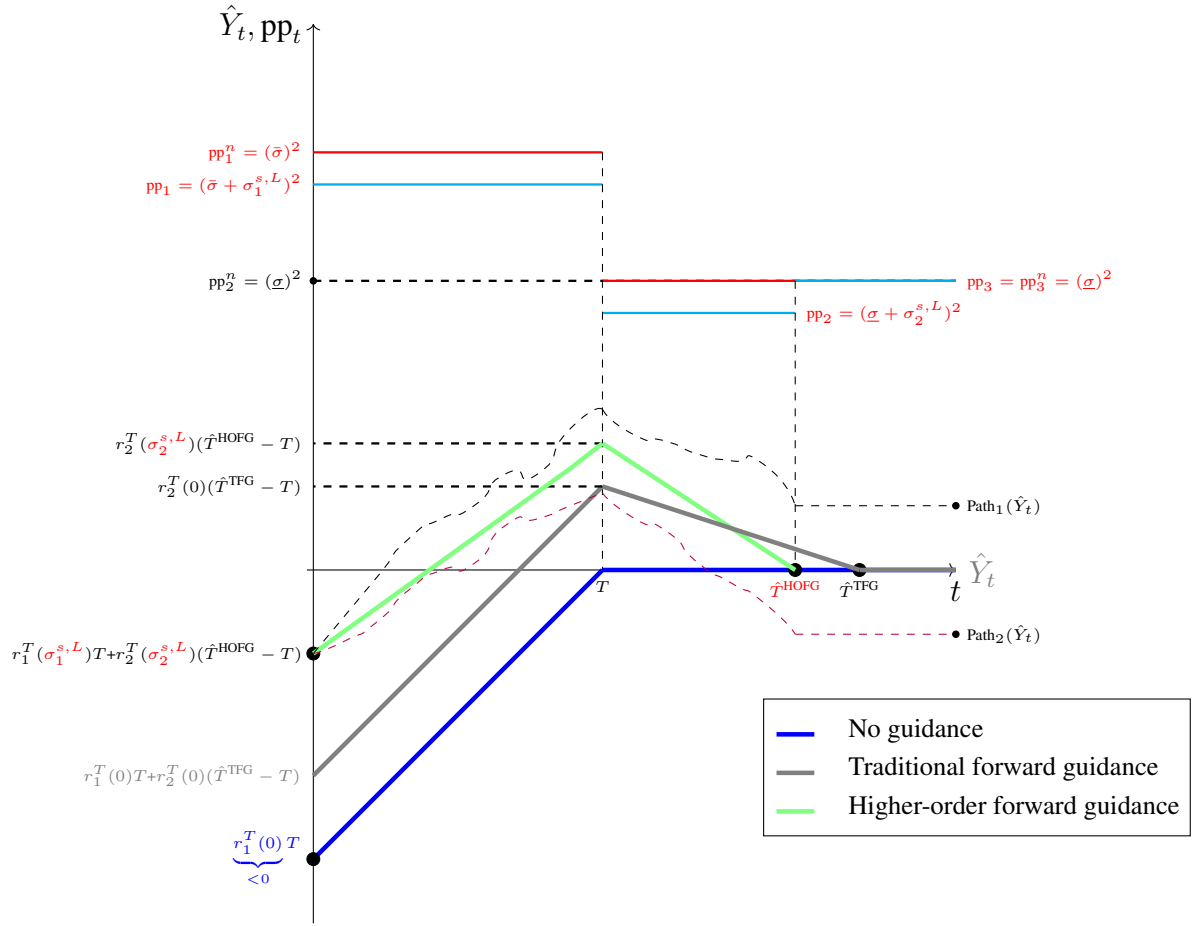


Figure F.8: Intervention dynamics of $\{\hat{Y}_t\}$ with $\sigma_1^{s,L} < 0$, $\sigma_2^{s,L} < 0$, and $\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} < \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}$.

The central bank minimizes the loss function given by (F.15) by selecting the optimal values for $\sigma_1^{s,L}$, $\sigma_2^{s,L}$, and \hat{T}^{HOFG} . The formulation of the optimization problem is:

$$\min_{\sigma_1^{s,L}, \sigma_2^{s,L}, \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} \mathbb{E}_0 \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \left(\hat{Y}_t \right)^2 dt, \text{ s.t. } d\hat{Y}_t = \begin{cases} -r_1^T(\sigma_1^{s,L})dt + \sigma_1^{s,L}dZ_t, & \text{for } t < T, \\ -r_2^T(\sigma_2^{s,L})dt + \sigma_2^{s,L}dZ_t, & \text{for } T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \\ 0, & \text{for } t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \end{cases} \quad (\text{F.19})$$

with initial output gap \hat{Y}_0 determined by equation (F.18). The following Proposition F.2, which is the same as Proposition 2 in Section 4.2, summarizes the resulting optimal commitment path for the central bank under higher-order forward guidance.

Proposition F.2 (Optimal Commitment Path) *The solution to the central bank's higher-order forward guidance optimization problem in (F.19) results in an optimal commitment path characterized by $\sigma_1^{s,L} < 0$, $\sigma_2^{s,L} < 0$, and $\hat{T}^{HOFG} < \hat{T}^{TFG}$. In addition, optimal higher-order forward guidance always results in an equal or lower expected quadratic loss than the traditional forward guidance discussed in Appendix F.2.*

Proof. Identical to Proposition 2 in Section 4.2.

■

F.4 Higher Order Forward Guidance *with* Stochastic Stabilization

In the previous section, we assumed that following the end of the forward guidance regime at \hat{T}^{HOFG} , the monetary authority would passively peg the policy rate i_t to the natural rate \bar{r} and set σ_t^s to zero indefinitely. This setup allows for σ_t^s to deviate from zero during the ZLB period, as illustrated in Figure F.8. We now relax these assumptions while maintaining the support for the existence of multiple equilibria provided by the earlier framework. In specific, we assume that after forward guidance ends, the central bank not only follows the outlined passive rule but also commits to a stochastic return to the perfect stabilization rule in equation (F.12). This commitment is represented as a constant probability outcome determined by a Poisson process. Accordingly, the output gap \hat{Y}_t after \hat{T}^{HOFG} follows the process given by:

$$d\hat{Y}_t = -\hat{Y}_t d\Pi_t, \quad \text{s.t.} \quad d\Pi_t = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{with probability } \nu dt, \\ 0, & \text{with probability } 1 - \nu dt, \end{cases}$$

where $d\Pi_t$ is a Poisson random variable, with rate parameter $\nu \geq 0$.

The central bank's optimization problem can thus be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \min_{\sigma_1^{s,L}, \sigma_2^{s,L}, \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} \mathbb{E}_0 \int_0^{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}} e^{-\rho t} \left(\hat{Y}_t \right)^2 dt + \int_{\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}}^{\infty} e^{-\rho t} \cdot e^{-\nu(t-\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}})} \cdot \left(\hat{Y}_t \right)^2 dt, \\
 \text{s.t. } d\hat{Y}_t = & \begin{cases} -r_1^T(\sigma_1^{s,L})dt + \sigma_1^{s,L}dZ_t, & \text{for } t < T, \\ -r_2^T(\sigma_2^{s,L})dt + \sigma_2^{s,L}dZ_t, & \text{for } T \leq t < \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \\ 0, & \text{for } t \geq \hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}}, \end{cases}
 \end{aligned} \tag{F.20}$$

with \hat{Y}_0 determined by equation (F.18). Proposition F.3 outlines the optimal commitment path for the central bank under higher-order forward guidance with stochastic stabilization.

Proposition F.3 (Optimal Commitment Path with Stochastic Stabilization) *The solution to the central bank's forward guidance optimization problem in (F.20) results in an optimal commitment path characterized by $\sigma_1^{s,L} < 0$, $\sigma_2^{s,L} < 0$, and $\hat{T}^{\text{HOFG}} < \hat{T}^{\text{TFG}}$. In addition, optimal higher-order forward guidance with a stochastic stabilization probability always results in an equal or lower expected quadratic loss than the traditional forward guidance discussed in Appendix F.2.*

Furthermore, an increased probability of stabilization, indicated by higher values of ν , leads to a reduction in the optimal values of $\sigma_1^{s,L}$ and $\sigma_2^{s,L}$, resulting in a decrease in precautionary premia at the ZLB.

Proof. Identical to Proposition 3 in Section 4.3.

■

Finally, Corollary F.3 asserts that introducing a minimal degree of uncertainty about the timing of future stabilization in its communications is always optimal for the central bank. This approach facilitates the application of higher-order forward guidance, resulting in equilibrium paths that are strictly superior from a quadratic loss perspective, compared to those under traditional forward guidance.

Corollary F.3 (Discontinuity at the Limit) *The limit case where stabilization parameter ν equals $+\infty$ corresponds to the traditional forward guidance problem described in Appendix F.2. As ν approaches $+\infty$ from the left, the central bank's expected quadratic loss function exhibits a discontinuity. Specifically, the expected quadratic loss is always lower when there's a minimal probability of stabilization. Formally:*

$$\lim_{\nu \rightarrow +\infty^-} \mathbb{L}^{Y,*} \left(\{\hat{Y}_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \nu \right) < \mathbb{L}^{Y,*} \left(\{\hat{Y}_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \nu = \infty \right) ,$$

where $\mathbb{L}^{Y,*} \left(\{\hat{Y}_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \nu \right)$ represents the quadratic loss function defined in equation (F.15), evaluated at its optimum for an economy characterized by a Poisson rate ν .

Proof. Identical to Corollary 1 in Section 4.3.

■

G Welfare Derivation

In this section, we derive the quadratic welfare function in equation (14), in a similar way to Woodford (2003) with a key difference: as there are two types of agents in the economy, we need to consider some welfare weights attached to each type.

G.1 Efficient steady state with a production subsidy

G.1.1 First-Best Allocation

A first-best allocation must be the solution of the following optimization problem.

$$\max_{C_t, N_{W,t}, C_{W,t}} \omega_1 \log \frac{C_t}{A_t} + \omega_2 \left(\frac{\left(\frac{C_{W,t}}{A_t} \right)^{1-\varphi}}{1-\varphi} - \frac{(N_{W,t})^{1+\chi_0}}{1+\chi_0} \right) \quad \text{s.t. } C_t + C_{W,t} = A_t N_{W,t}, \quad (\text{G.1})$$

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where $\omega_1 > 0$ and $\omega_2 > 0$ are welfare weights attached to capitalists and workers, respectively. For expositional purposes, we define $x_t \equiv N_{W,t}$ and $y_t \equiv \frac{C_{W,t}}{A_t}$: then the first-order conditions for (G.1) can be written as

$$y_t^{-\varphi} = x_t^{\chi_0}, \quad \frac{\omega_1}{\omega_2} = x_t^{\chi_0} (x_t - y_t). \quad (\text{G.2})$$

G.1.2 Optimization for workers and firms

Following Woodford (2003), we introduce a production subsidy $\tau > 0$ offered to the firms, financed through a lump-sum tax on workers. The production subsidy ensures that our flexible price equilibrium (or steady-state) allocation $\left(N_{W,t}^n, \frac{C_{W,t}^n}{A_t}, \frac{C_t^n}{A_t}\right)$ is efficient and satisfies equation (G.2). With the subsidy τ , workers solve

$$\max_{C_{W,t}, N_{W,t}} \frac{\left(\frac{C_{W,t}}{A_t}\right)^{1-\varphi}}{1-\varphi} - \frac{(N_{W,t})^{1+\chi_0}}{1+\chi_0} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad p_t C_{W,t} = w_t N_{W,t} - p_t T_t, \quad (\text{G.3})$$

where $T_t = \tau y_t$ is the (real) lump-sum tax imposed on workers. Equation (G.3)'s first-order condition is written as:

$$(N_{W,t})^{\chi_0+\varphi} \left(\frac{w_t}{p_t A_t} - \tau\right)^\varphi = \frac{w_t}{p_t A_t}. \quad (\text{G.4})$$

We can express $N_{W,t}$ that satisfies equation (G.4) as a function of the normalized real wage $\frac{w_t}{p_t A_t}$, i.e., $N_{W,t} \equiv f_N\left(\frac{w_t}{p_t A_t}\right)$. Under the flexible price equilibrium, each firm's optimization is changed from (A.3) with the introduction of τ as follows, with $E_t = (N_{W,t})^\alpha$:

$$\max_{p_t(i)} (1+\tau) p_t(i) \left(\frac{p_t(i)}{p_t}\right)^{-\epsilon} y_t - w_t \left(\frac{y_t}{A_t E_t}\right)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}} \left(\frac{p_t(i)}{p_t}\right)^{\frac{-\epsilon}{1-\alpha}}, \quad (\text{G.5})$$

which at the optimum leads to

$$\frac{w_t^n}{p_t^n A_t} = \frac{(1+\tau)(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon}. \quad (\text{G.6})$$

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Based on equation (G.4) and equation (G.6), we can obtain

$$\begin{aligned} N_{W,t}^n &= f_N \left(\frac{w_t^n}{p_t^n A_t} \right) = f_N \left(\frac{(1+\tau)(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon} \right), \\ \frac{C_{W,t}^n}{A_t} &= \left[\frac{(1+\tau)(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon} - \tau \right] f_N \left(\frac{(1+\tau)(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{G.7})$$

Since our goal is to align the allocation implied by equation (G.7) with the first-best allocation implied by equation (G.2), $N_{W,t}^n$ and $\frac{C_{W,t}^n}{A_t}$ in equation (G.7) must satisfy (G.2):

$$\frac{(1+\tau)(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon} - \tau = f_N \left(\frac{(1+\tau)(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon} \right)^{-\frac{\chi_0+\varphi}{\varphi}}. \quad (\text{G.8})$$

Plugging equation (G.6) into equation (G.4), we obtain

$$(N_{W,t}^n)^{\chi_0+\varphi} \left(\frac{(1+\tau)(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon} - \tau \right)^\varphi = \frac{(1+\tau)(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon}. \quad (\text{G.9})$$

Solving jointly equation (G.8) and equation (G.9), we conclude the optimal τ^* must satisfies

$$\frac{(1+\tau^*)(\epsilon-1)(1-\alpha)}{\epsilon} = 1. \text{¹³} \quad (\text{G.10})$$

This optimal τ^* in equation (G.10) eliminates the mark-up of firms and restores efficiency. With $\tau = \tau^*$, the normalized real wage $\frac{w_t^n}{p_t^n A_t}$ in (G.6) becomes 1 and we obtain the following benchmark efficient allocation from equation (G.7):

$$N_{W,t}^n \equiv \bar{x} = (1 - \tau^*)^{-\frac{\varphi}{\chi_0+\varphi}}, \quad \frac{C_{W,t}^n}{A_t} \equiv \bar{y} = (1 - \tau^*)^{\frac{\chi_0}{\chi_0+\varphi}}, \quad (\text{G.11})$$

and

$$\frac{C_t^n}{A_t} = \bar{x} - \bar{y} = (1 - \tau^*)^{-\frac{\varphi}{\chi_0+\varphi}} \cdot \tau^*. \quad (\text{G.12})$$

¹³As in Woodford (2003), τ^* is a function of primitive parameters ϵ and α .

The last step is to ensure that the welfare weights ω_1 and ω_2 in (G.1) satisfy equation (G.2).¹⁴ By plugging equation (G.11) into the second condition of equation (G.2), we obtain

$$\frac{\omega_1}{\omega_2} = (N_{W,t}^n)^{\chi_0} \left(N_{W,t}^n - \frac{C_{W,t}^n}{A_t} \right) = (1 - \tau^*)^{-\frac{(\chi_0+1)\varphi}{\chi_0+\varphi}} \cdot \tau^*. \quad (\text{G.13})$$

Thus, with $\omega_1 > 0$ and $\omega_2 > 0$ satisfying equation (G.13), our allocation with $\tau = \tau^*$ is efficient. We now approximate a joint welfare in equation (G.1) with ω_1 and ω_2 satisfying (G.13) up to a second-order.

G.1.3 Derivation of a quadratic loss function

The steady-state values \bar{x} and \bar{y} (or the flexible price equilibrium values) of x_t and y_t are provided in equation (G.11). From the economy-wide resource constraint and given our assumption of perfectly rigid prices, we express

$$\frac{C_t}{A_t} = N_{W,t} - \frac{C_{W,t}}{A_t} = x_t - y_t, \quad (\text{G.14})$$

With (G.14), we express our social welfare in (G.1) with ω_1 and ω_2 satisfying equation (G.13) as

$$U(x_t, y_t, \Delta_t) \equiv \omega_1 \log(x_t - y_t) + \omega_2 \left(\frac{y_t^{1-\varphi}}{1-\varphi} - \frac{x_t^{1+\chi_0}}{1+\chi_0} \right), \quad (\text{G.15})$$

which achieves its maximum value \bar{U} when $x_t = \bar{x}$, and $y_t = \bar{y}$.¹⁵ A second-order approximation of equation (G.15) around the efficient benchmark allocation (\bar{x}, \bar{y}) in equation (G.11) results in:

$$U_t - \bar{U} = \frac{1}{2} U_{xx} \cdot \bar{x}^2 \cdot (\hat{x}_t)^2 + \frac{1}{2} U_{yy} \cdot \bar{y}^2 \cdot (\hat{y}_t)^2 + U_{xy} \cdot \bar{x} \cdot \bar{y} \cdot \hat{x}_t \cdot \hat{y}_t + h.o.t., \quad (\text{G.16})$$

where all the second-order partial derivatives (U_{xx}, U_{yy}, U_{xy}) are evaluated at the bench-

¹⁴Since ω_1 and ω_2 are chosen arbitrarily, we make sure that our allocation with a production subsidy can be on the efficient frontier, which is generated by a varying set of $\{\omega_1, \omega_2\}$.

¹⁵We have $U_x = U_y = 0$ at $x_t = \bar{x}$ and $y_t = \bar{y}$ where U_x and U_y are the partial derivatives with respect to x_t and y_t , respectively and \bar{x} and \bar{y} are defined in (G.11).

mark point (\bar{x}, \bar{y}) and given by

$$\begin{aligned} U_{xx} &= -\omega_2(1 - \tau^*)^{\frac{-(\chi_0-1)\varphi}{\chi_0+\varphi}} \left(\frac{1}{\tau^*} + \chi_0 \right), \\ U_{yy} &= -\omega_2(1 - \tau^*)^{\frac{-(\chi_0-1)\varphi}{\chi_0+\varphi}} \left(\frac{1}{\tau^*} + \frac{\varphi}{1 - \tau^*} \right), \\ U_{xy} &= \omega_2(1 - \tau^*)^{\frac{-(\chi_0-1)\varphi}{\chi_0+\varphi}} \frac{1}{\tau^*}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{G.17})$$

where we use the relation between ω_1 and ω_2 in equation (G.13) in the process of derivation. Since ω_2 can be regarded a free parameter, we set $\omega_2 \equiv 1$ from now on.

Log-linearization Log-linearizing the worker's optimization condition (G.4), with τ^* given by (G.10), results in

$$\widehat{N}_{W,t} = \frac{1 - \frac{\varphi}{1-\tau^*}}{\chi_0 + \varphi} \widehat{\left(\frac{w_t}{p_t} \right)}. \quad (\text{G.18})$$

Log-linearizing the budget constraint of workers in (G.1) results in

$$\widehat{C}_{W,t} = \frac{1 + \frac{\chi_0}{1-\tau^*}}{\chi_0 + \varphi} \widehat{\left(\frac{w_t}{p_t} \right)}. \quad (\text{G.19})$$

Linearizing the economy-wide resource constraint (G.14) with $\hat{Q}_t = \hat{C}_t$ and solving jointly with equations (G.18) and (G.19), we can obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\left(\frac{w_t}{p_t} \right)} &= \frac{\tau^*(\chi_0 + \varphi)}{\tau^* - \left(\chi_0 + \frac{\varphi}{1-\tau^*} \right)} \hat{Q}_t \\ \hat{x}_t \equiv \widehat{N}_{W,t} &= \frac{\tau^* \left(1 - \frac{\varphi}{1-\tau^*} \right)}{\tau^* - \left(\chi_0 + \frac{\varphi}{1-\tau^*} \right)} \hat{Q}_t, \\ \hat{y}_t \equiv \widehat{C}_{W,t} &= \frac{\tau^* \left(1 + \frac{\chi_0}{1-\tau^*} \right)}{\tau^* - \left(\chi_0 + \frac{\varphi}{1-\tau^*} \right)} \hat{Q}_t. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{G.20})$$

Plugging equation (G.17) into the second-order approximation to the welfare function, i.e.,

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