

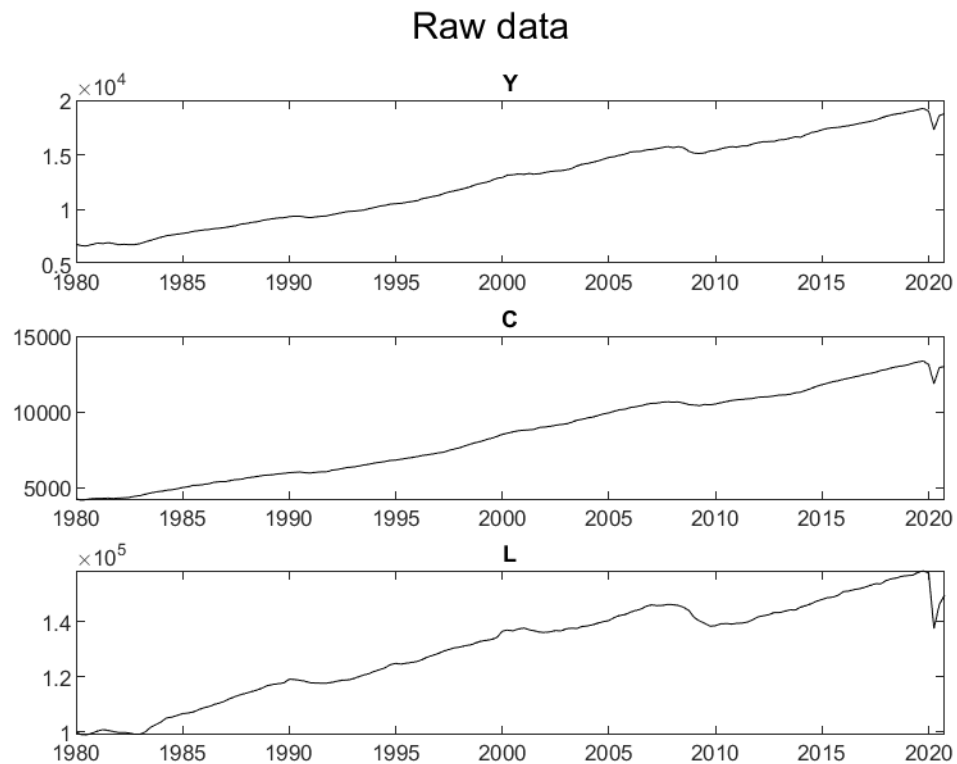
Macro PS3

Michael B. Nattinger*

February 12, 2021

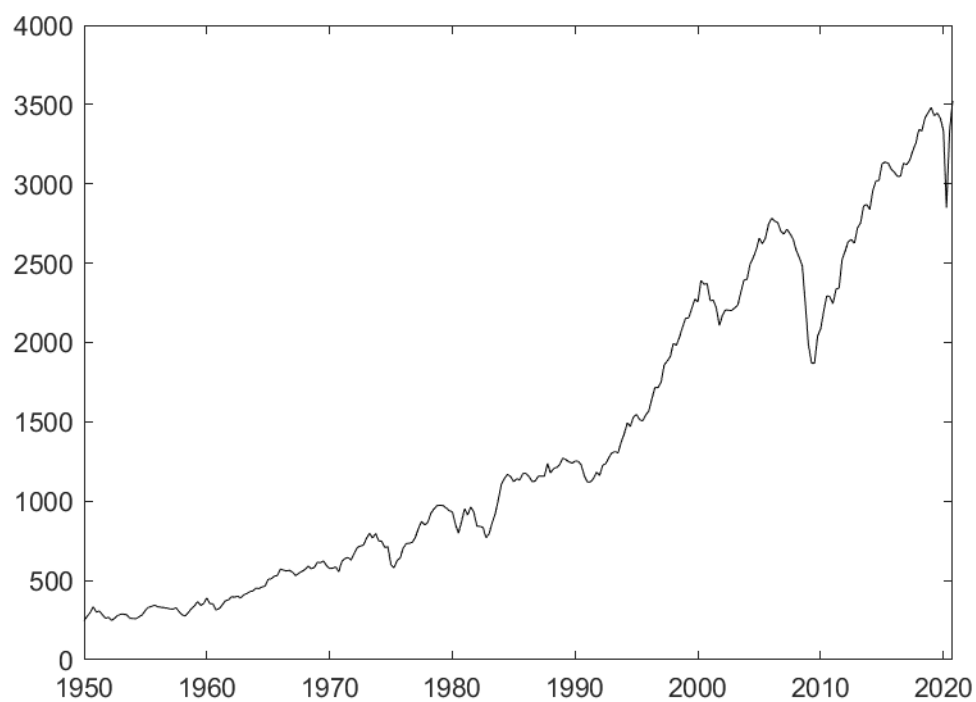
1 Question 1

I have pulled the relevant data off of FRED. Data series are plotted below. Note that Employment data is listed on FRED at a monthly frequency, so I converted to quarterly by averaging within the quarter (as opposed to using end-of-quarter employment numbers).



*I worked on this assignment with my study group: Alex von Hafften, Andrew Smith, and Ryan Mather. I have also discussed problem(s) with Emily Case, Sarah Bass, Katherine Kwok, and Danny Edgel.

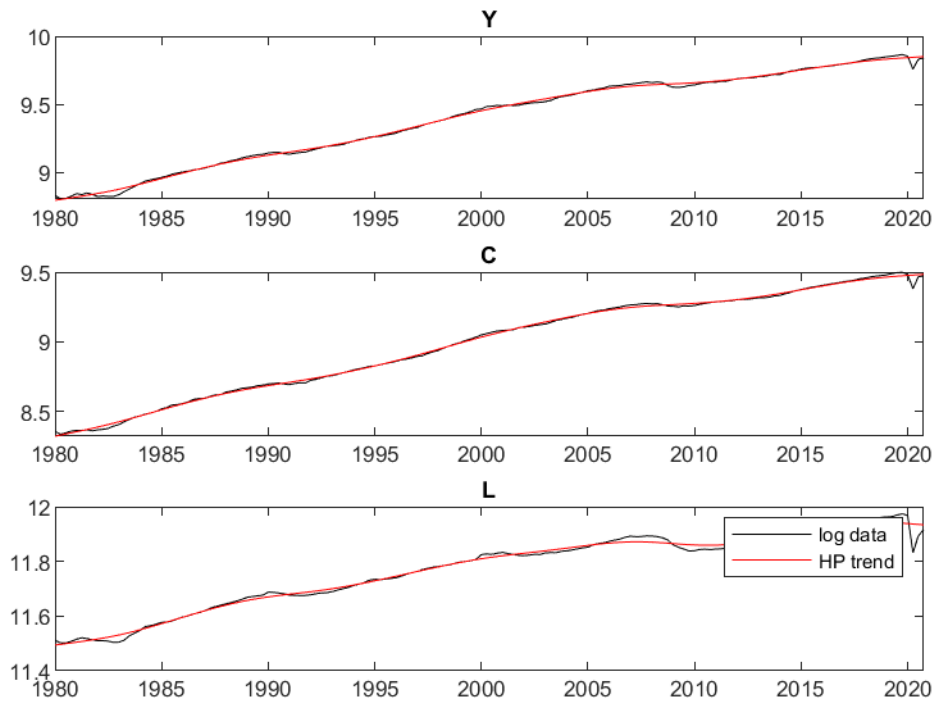
Raw investment data



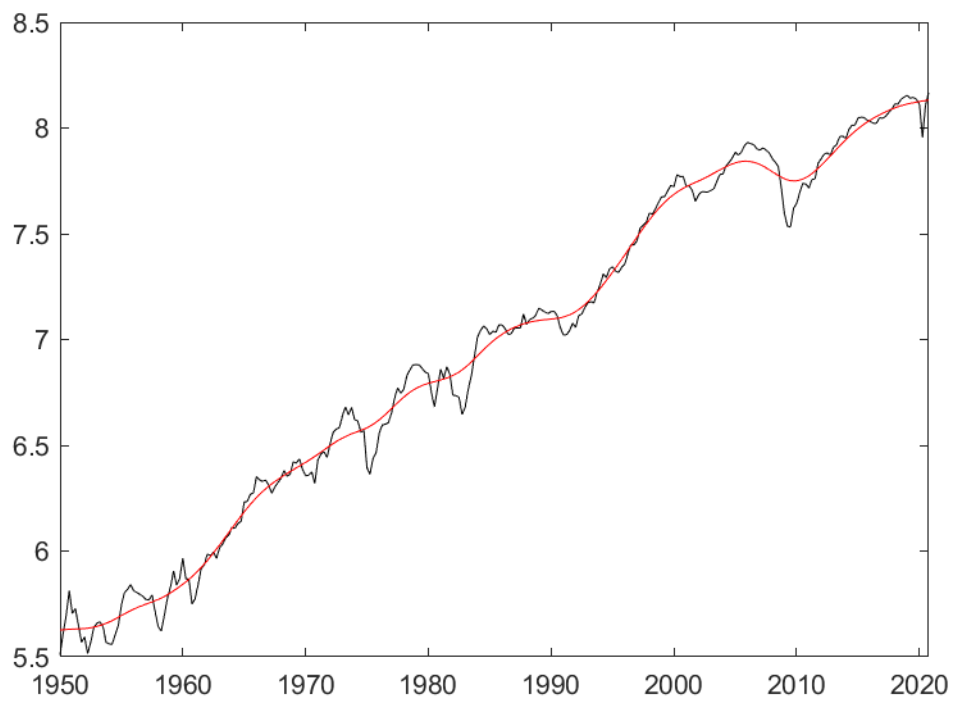
2 Question 2

We next log the data, and extract an HP filter (smoothing parameter 1600) from the logged data. We plot below.

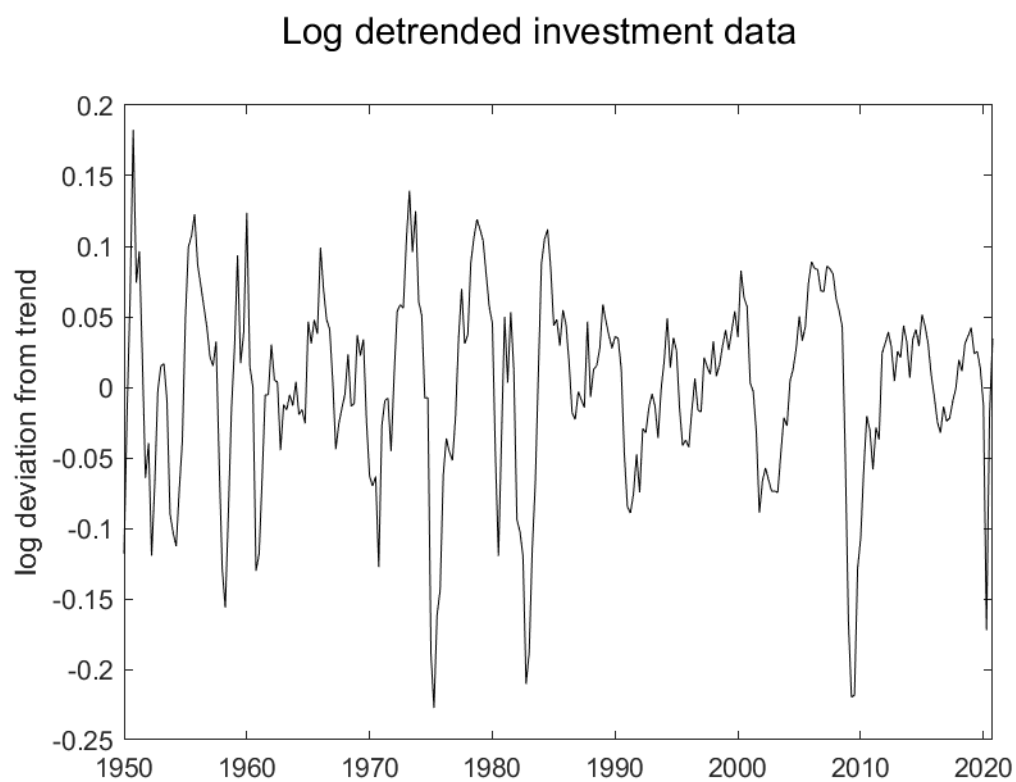
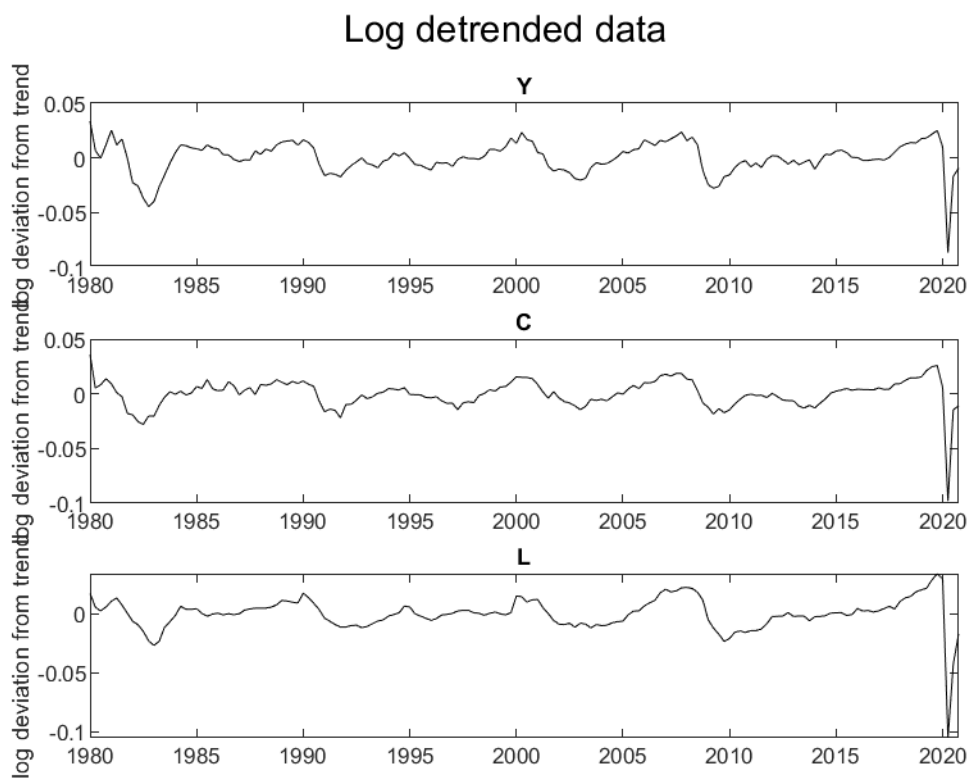
Log data with trend



Log investment data with trend



The detrended data is below.



3 Question 3

Our capital law of motion can be log linearized as such:

$$\begin{aligned}
K_{t+1} &= (1 - \delta)K_t + I_t \\
\bar{I} &= \delta \bar{K} \\
\bar{K}(1 + k_{t+1}) &= \bar{K}(1 - \delta)(1 + k_t) + \bar{I}(1 + i_t) \\
\bar{K}k_{t+1} &= \bar{K}(1 - \delta)k_t + \bar{I}i_t \\
k_{t+1} &= (1 - \delta)k_t + \delta i_t.
\end{aligned}$$

We can iteratively decompose the law of motion as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
k_{t+1} &= (1 - \delta)k_t + \delta i_t \\
&= \delta i_t + (1 - \delta)((1 - \delta)k_{t-1} + \delta i_{t-1}) \\
&= \delta(i_t + (1 - \delta)i_{t-1}) + (1 - \delta)^2((1 - \delta)k_{t-2} + \delta i_{t-2}) \\
&= \delta \sum_{j=0}^J (1 - \delta)^j i_{t-j} + (1 - \delta)^{J+1} k_{t-J}
\end{aligned}$$

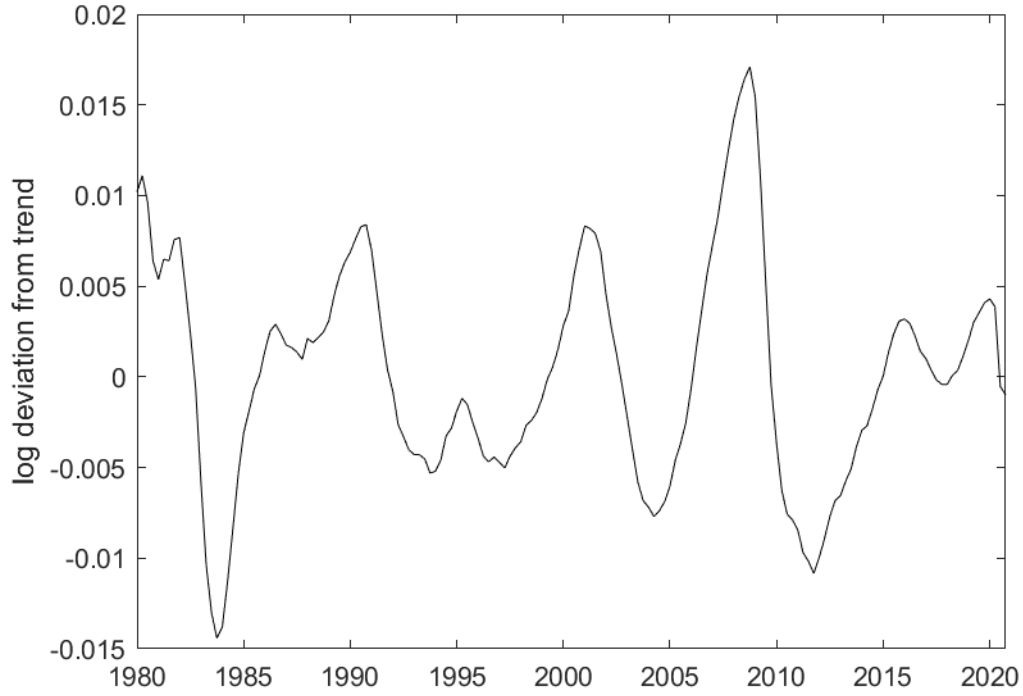
We have 30 years of quarterly investment data before our capital series starts, so 120 observations. We do not know our capital deviation from trend in 1950, but notice that this term has very little impact on our capital deviation from trend in 1980:

$$k_{1980Q1} = \delta \sum_{j=0}^{119} (1 - \delta)^j i_{1979Q4-j} + (1 - \delta)^{120} k_{1950Q1}$$

Our capital deviations from steady state are already very small to begin with, and the k_{1950Q1} term above is multiplied by $(1 - \delta)^{120}$. Given our parameterization of δ , 0.025, $(1 - \delta)^{120} = 0.048$. This means that our capital level in the first quarter of 1950 accounts for less than 5 percent of our capital level at the beginning of 1980, and even less so as we get later in the sample. As we were already approximating cross-terms in the log linearization as being approximately zero, this term is on the same order of magnitude and can, therefore, be safely approximated to zero.

I implemented the perpetual inventory method to estimate the capital stock over 1980 - 2020. Results are below:

Capital approximation



4 Question 4

Our equilibrium consists of the following equations:

$$Y_t = A_t K_t^\alpha L_t^{1-\alpha} \quad (1)$$

$$Y_t = C_t + I_t + G_t \quad (2)$$

$$L_t^\phi C_t^\sigma = (1 - \tau_{L,t}) A_t (1 - \alpha) K_t^\alpha L_t^{-\alpha} \quad (3)$$

$$C_t^{-\sigma} (1 + \tau_{I,t}) = \beta E_t [C_{t+1}^{-\sigma} [A_{t+1} \alpha K_{t+1}^{\alpha-1} L_{t+1}^{1-\alpha} + (1 - \delta)(1 + \tau_{I,t+1})]] \quad (4)$$

We will proceed by linearizing our conditions. First, the production function (1):

$$y_t = a_t + \alpha k_t + (1 - \alpha) l_t. \quad (5)$$

Next, our market clearing condition (2):

$$y_t = \frac{\bar{C}}{\bar{Y}} c_t + \frac{\bar{I}}{\bar{Y}} i_t + \frac{\bar{G}}{\bar{Y}} g_t. \quad (6)$$

Then, our labor supply equation (3) (note that $\bar{\tau}_I, \bar{\tau}_L$ equal 0 so $\tau_{I,t}, \tau_{L,t}$ are linearized and not log linearized):

$$\bar{L}^\phi \bar{C}^\sigma (1 + \sigma c_t + \phi l_t) = \bar{X} \bar{A} (1 - \alpha) \bar{K}^\alpha \bar{L}^{-\alpha} (1 + x_t + a_t + \alpha k_t - \alpha l_t)$$

$$\sigma c_t + \phi l_t = x_t + a_t + \alpha k_t - \alpha l_t$$

$$\bar{X} (1 + x_t) = 1 - \hat{\tau}_{L,t}$$

$$x_t = \hat{\tau}_{L,t}$$

$$\phi l_t + \sigma c_t = -\hat{\tau}_{L,t} + \alpha k_t - \alpha l_t. \quad (7)$$

Finally, we linearize our Euler equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{C}(1 - \sigma c_t) \bar{Y}(1 + y_t) &= \beta E_t[\bar{C}(1 - \sigma c_{t+1}) \bar{X}(1 + x_{t+1})] \\ \sigma(E_t[c_{t+1}] - c_t) + y_t &= E_t[x_{t+1}], \\ Y_t &= 1 + \tau_{I,t} \\ \bar{Y}(1 + y_t) &= 1 + \hat{\tau}_{I,t} \\ y_t &= \hat{\tau}_{I,t} \\ \bar{X}(1 + x_t) &= \bar{A}(1 + a_t) \alpha \bar{K}^{\alpha-1} (1 + (\alpha - 1)k_t) \bar{L}^{1-\alpha} (1 + (1 - \alpha)l_t) + (1 - \delta) \bar{Y}(1 + y_t) \\ \bar{X}x_t &= \bar{A} \alpha \bar{K}^{\alpha-1} \bar{L}^{1-\alpha} (a_t + (1 - \alpha)(l_t - k_t)) + (1 - \delta) \bar{Y}y_t \\ x_t &= (\bar{A} \alpha \bar{K}^{\alpha-1} \bar{L}^{1-\alpha} (a_t + (1 - \alpha)(l_t - k_t)) + (1 - \delta) \bar{Y}y_t) / \bar{X} \\ \sigma(E_t[c_{t+1}] - c_t) + \hat{\tau}_{I,t} &= E_t[(\bar{A} \alpha \bar{K}^{\alpha-1} \bar{L}^{1-\alpha} (a_{t+1} + (1 - \alpha)(l_{t+1} - k_{t+1})) + (1 - \delta) \bar{Y}y_{t+1}) / \bar{X}] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{X} &= \beta^{-1} \\ \sigma(E_t[c_{t+1}] - c_t) + \hat{\tau}_{I,t} &= \beta E_t[(\bar{A} \alpha \bar{K}^{\alpha-1} \bar{L}^{1-\alpha} (a_{t+1} + (1 - \alpha)(l_{t+1} - k_{t+1})) + (1 - \delta) \bar{Y}y_{t+1})] \end{aligned}$$

$$\sigma(E_t[c_{t+1}] - c_t) + \hat{\tau}_{I,t} = \beta E_t [\alpha \bar{A} \bar{K}^{\alpha-1} \bar{L}^{1-\alpha} (a_{t+1} + (1 - \alpha)(-k_{t+1} + l_{t+1})) + (1 - \delta) \hat{\tau}_{I,t+1}] \quad (8)$$

Given our data for y_t, k_t, l_t, i_t we can easily back out exactly $a_t, g_t, \hat{\tau}_{L,t}$. Note that, first and foremost, we will need to solve a system of the following equations for certain steady state values:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{Y} &= \bar{A} \bar{K}^{\alpha} \bar{L}^{1-\alpha} \\ \bar{Y} &= \bar{C} + \bar{I} + \bar{G} \\ \bar{L}^{\phi} \bar{C}^{\sigma} &= (1 - \bar{\tau}_L) \bar{A} (1 - \alpha) \bar{K}^{\alpha} \bar{L}^{-\alpha} \\ (1 + \bar{\tau}_I) &= \beta [\bar{A} \alpha \bar{K}^{\alpha-1} \bar{L}^{1-\alpha} + (1 - \delta)(1 + \bar{\tau}_I)] \end{aligned}$$

I solve this system in Matlab via the symbolic toolbox. Alternatively, one could use a numerical solver, or solve analytically.

I estimated the following shock persistences:

	rho
a	0.72622
g	0.85589
tau L	0.57029
tau I	0.45171

5 Questions 5,6,7, and 8

We now know what we need to reduce the question to a fixed point problem. We proceed with the Blanchard-Kahn method. First we solve for labor in terms of consumption, capital, and $\hat{\tau}$ via equation (7):

$$l_t = \frac{-\sigma}{\phi + \alpha} c_t + \frac{\alpha}{\phi + \alpha} k_t + \frac{-\bar{\tau}_L}{(\alpha + \phi)(1 - \bar{\tau}_L)} \hat{\tau}_{L,t}$$

We next solve for investment in terms of consumption, capital, and labor:

$$i_t = (\bar{Y}/\bar{I})(a_t + \alpha k_t + (1 - \alpha)l_t - (\bar{C}/\bar{Y})c_t - (\bar{G}/\bar{Y})g_t)$$

With these in hand, we can proceed:

$$k_{t+1} = (1 - \delta)k_t + \delta(\bar{Y}/\bar{I})(a_t + \alpha k_t + (1 - \alpha)l_t - (\bar{C}/\bar{Y})c_t - (\bar{G}/\bar{Y})g_t).$$

We can, moreover, solve analytically for $E_t c_{t+1}$ via the Euler equation. However, this is rather bulky and unhelpful, and since this is a computational assignment I leave the solution to Matlab.

With that solution, we can write our log linearized law of motion as the following:

$$E_t X_{t+1} = E_t \begin{pmatrix} k_{t+1} \\ c_{t+1} \end{pmatrix} = A X_t + B Z_t = A \begin{pmatrix} k_t \\ c_t \end{pmatrix} + B \begin{pmatrix} a_t \\ g_t \\ \hat{\tau}_{L,t} \\ \hat{\tau}_{I,t} \end{pmatrix}$$

We decompose A :

$$\begin{aligned} E_t X_{t+1} &= Q \Lambda Q^{-1} X_t + B Z_t \\ E_t Y_{t+1} &= E_t Q^{-1} X_{t+1} = \Lambda Y_t + C Z_t = \Lambda Q^{-1} X_t + Q^{-1} B Z_t \end{aligned}$$

One of the eigenvalues is greater than one, as can be easily shown computationally. WLOG call it λ_1 . We iterate Y_1 forward:

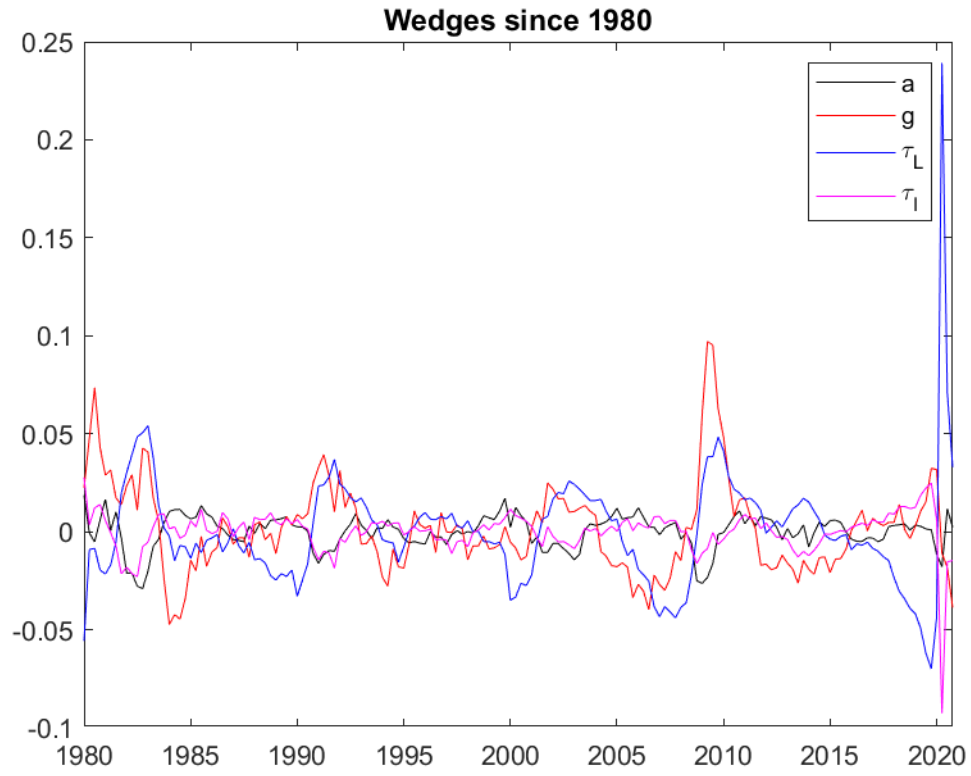
$$\begin{aligned} Y_{1,t} &= -\lambda_1^{-1} C_1 Z_t + \lambda_1^{-1} E_t Y_{1,t+1} \\ &= -\lambda_1^{-1} C_1 \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \lambda_1^{-j} E_t Z_{t+j} + \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_1^{-j} y_{t+j}^1 \\ &= -\lambda_1^{-1} C_1 \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \lambda_1^{-j} \rho^j Z_t \\ &= -\lambda_1^{-1} C_1 (I_4 - \lambda_1^{-1} \rho)^{-1} Z_t \\ &= \Theta Z_t. \end{aligned}$$

where ρ is a 4×4 matrix with the shock persistences on the main diagonal and zeroes elsewhere. Now, if we denote $Q^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} q_{1,1} & q_{1,2} \\ q_{2,1} & q_{2,2} \end{pmatrix}$, the following holds:

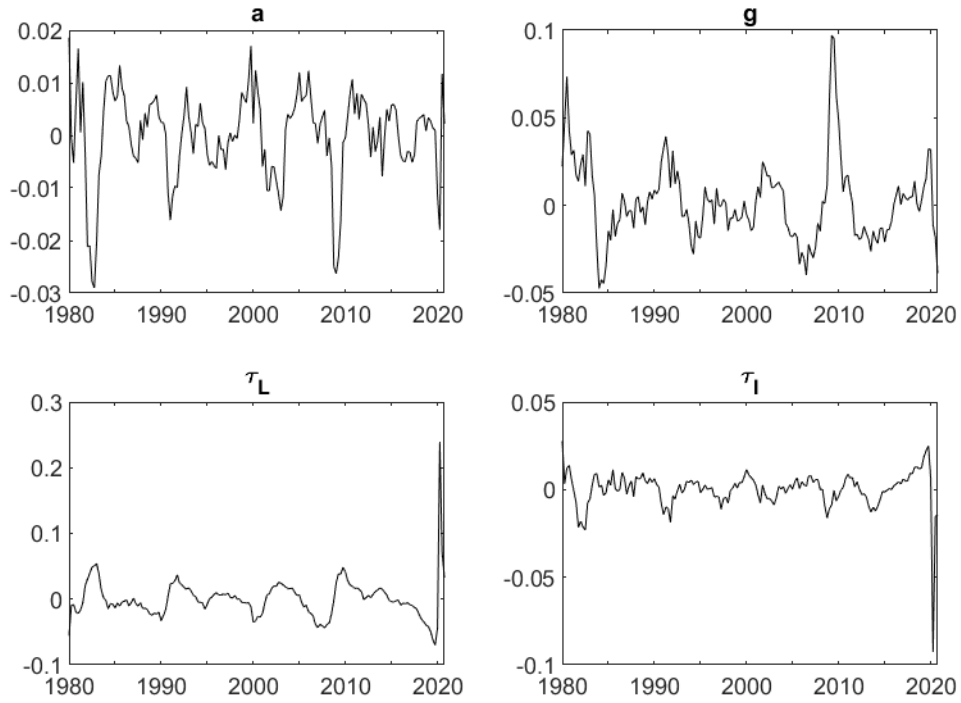
$$\begin{aligned} q_{1,1} k_t + q_{1,2} c_t &= \Theta_1 a_t + \Theta_2 g_t + \Theta_3 \hat{\tau}_{L,t} + \Theta_4 \hat{\tau}_{I,t} \\ \Rightarrow \hat{\tau}_{I,t} &= \frac{q_{1,1} k_t + q_{1,2} c_t - (\Theta_1 a_t + \Theta_2 g_t + \Theta_3 \hat{\tau}_{L,t})}{\Theta_4}. \end{aligned}$$

This yields a formula for $\hat{\tau}_{I,t}$.

With this formula, I can now calculate all of the wedges. I plot these below.



Wedges

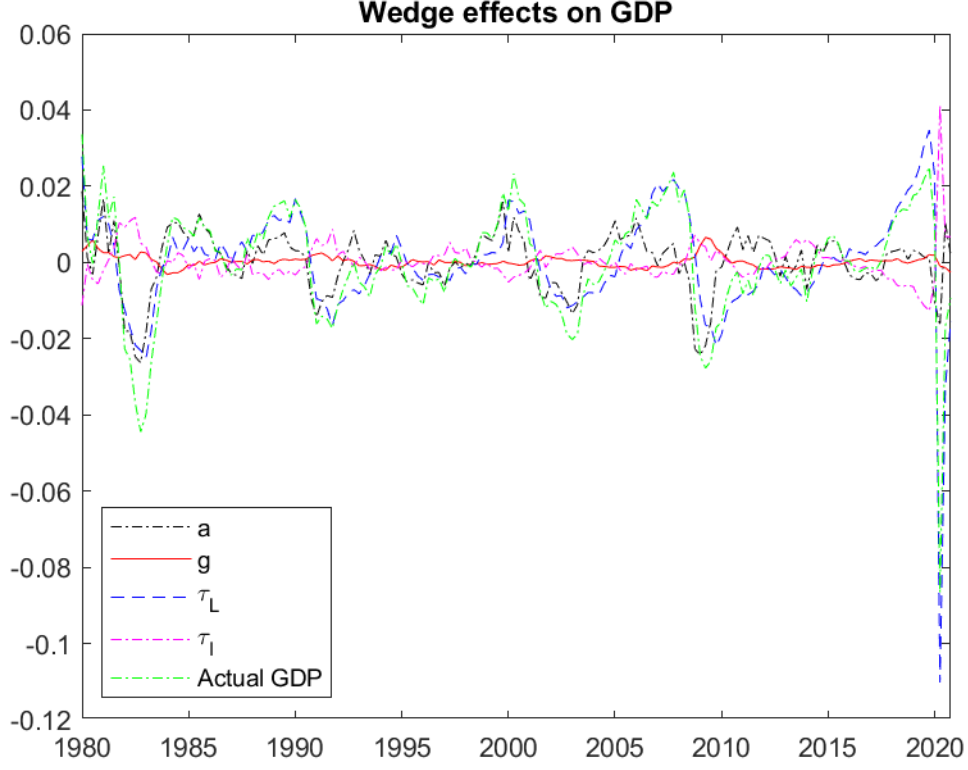


We can now solve each model separately for each wedge and calculate GDP implied by these

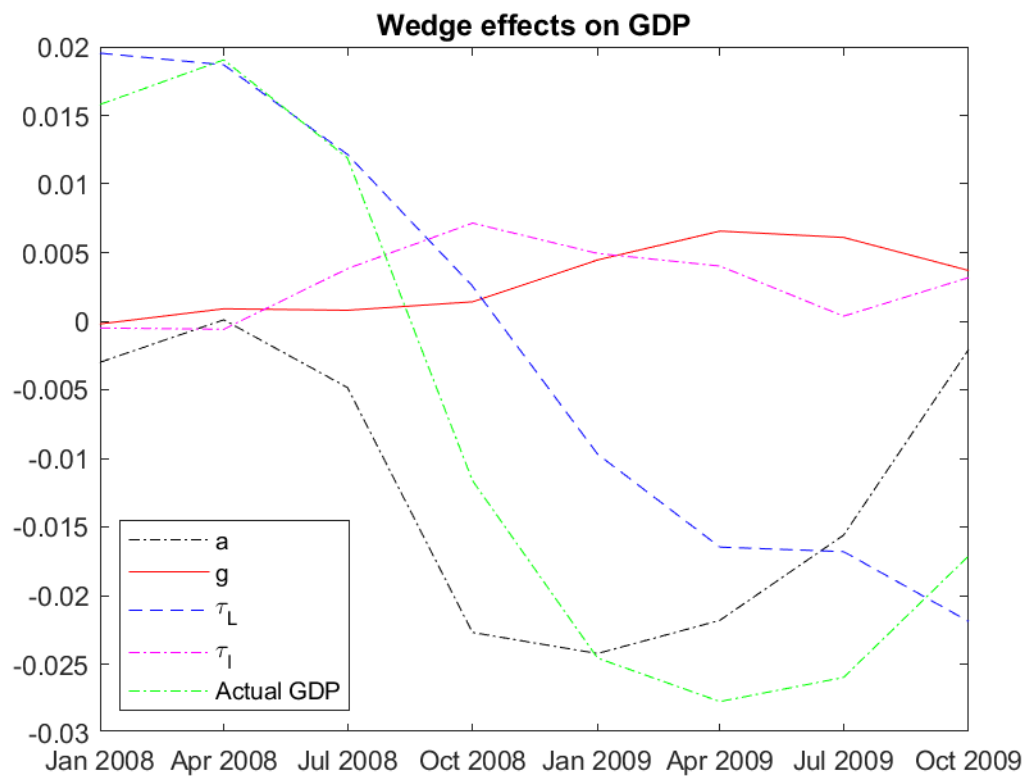
models. To do so, we can take advantage of the following relationship which we derived earlier:

$$\begin{aligned} q_{1,1}k_t + q_{1,2}c_t &= \Theta_1 a_t + \Theta_2 g_t + \Theta_3 \hat{\tau}_{L,t} + \Theta_4 \hat{\tau}_{I,t} \\ \Rightarrow c_t &= \frac{-q_{1,1}k_t + \Theta Z_t}{q_{1,2}}. \end{aligned}$$

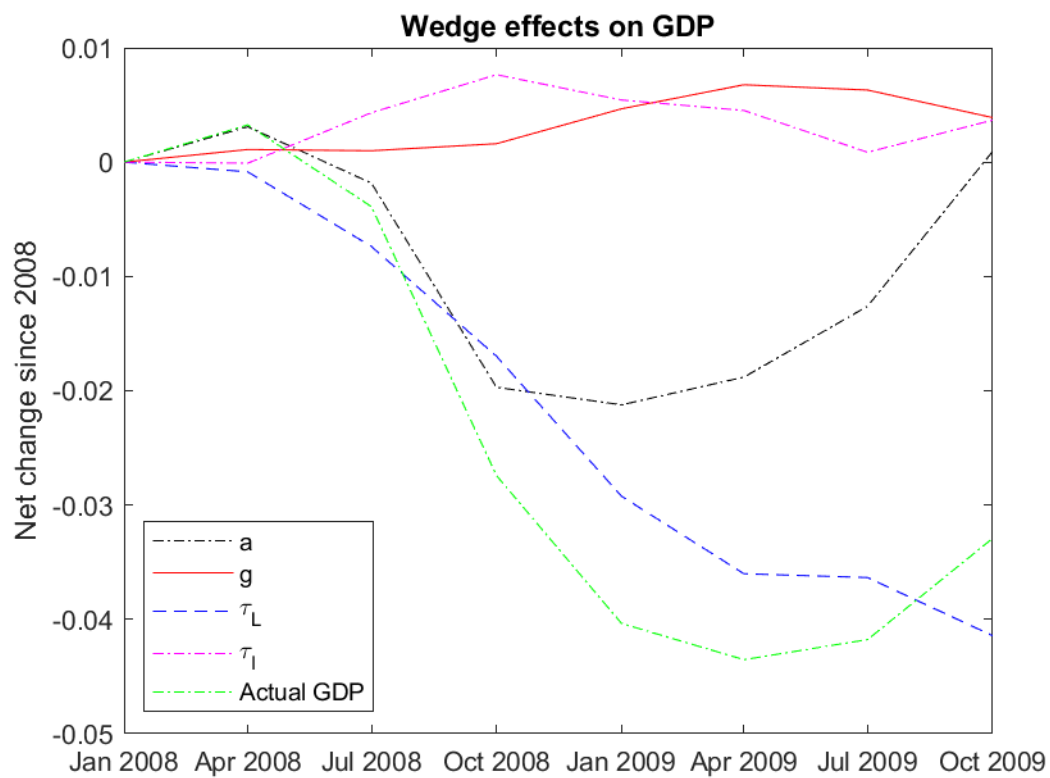
We calculate each period's capital by iterating forward from the law of motion of capital.



The above figure shows the output series counterfactuals calculated using only one shock at a time. In my opinion it appears that τ_L tracks GDP the best overall, with a also tracking well pre-2005. However, a 's relationship to GDP seems to be less consistent post-2005. g , τ_I appear to be flat and counter-cyclical. In the figures to come, we will zoom in to the financial crisis of 2008 and the recent Covid pandemic.

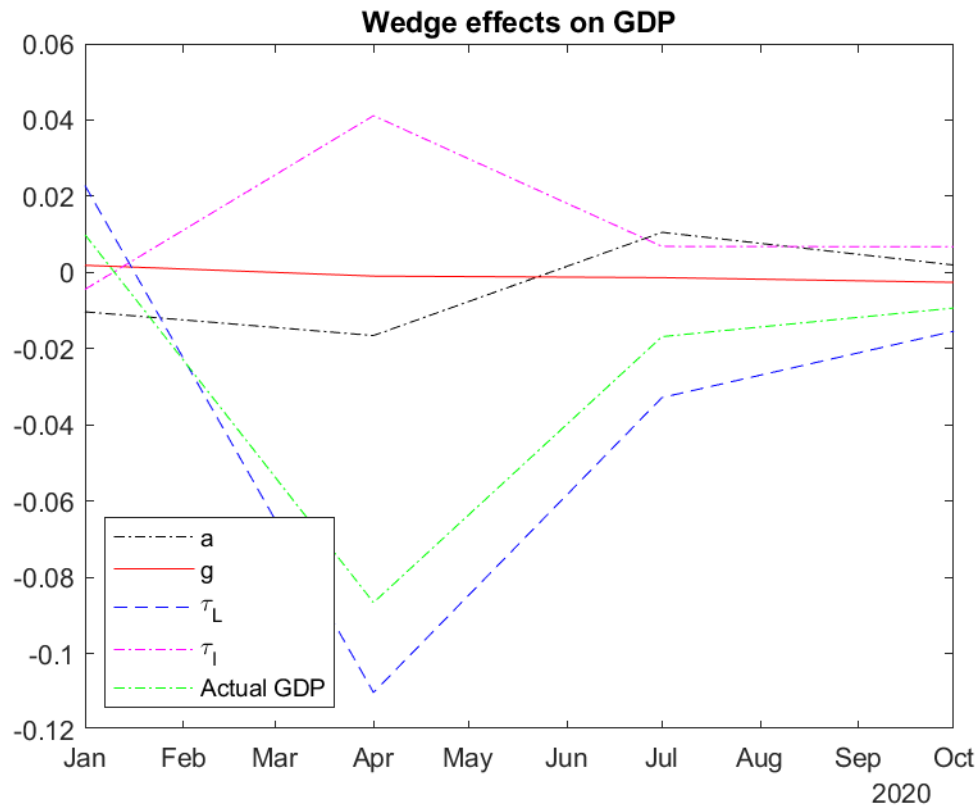


The above figure shows the zoomed-in movements in the GDP implied by the various shocks surrounding the global financial crisis. What follows is a similar figure detailing the change in GDP from all shocks in the same time frame.

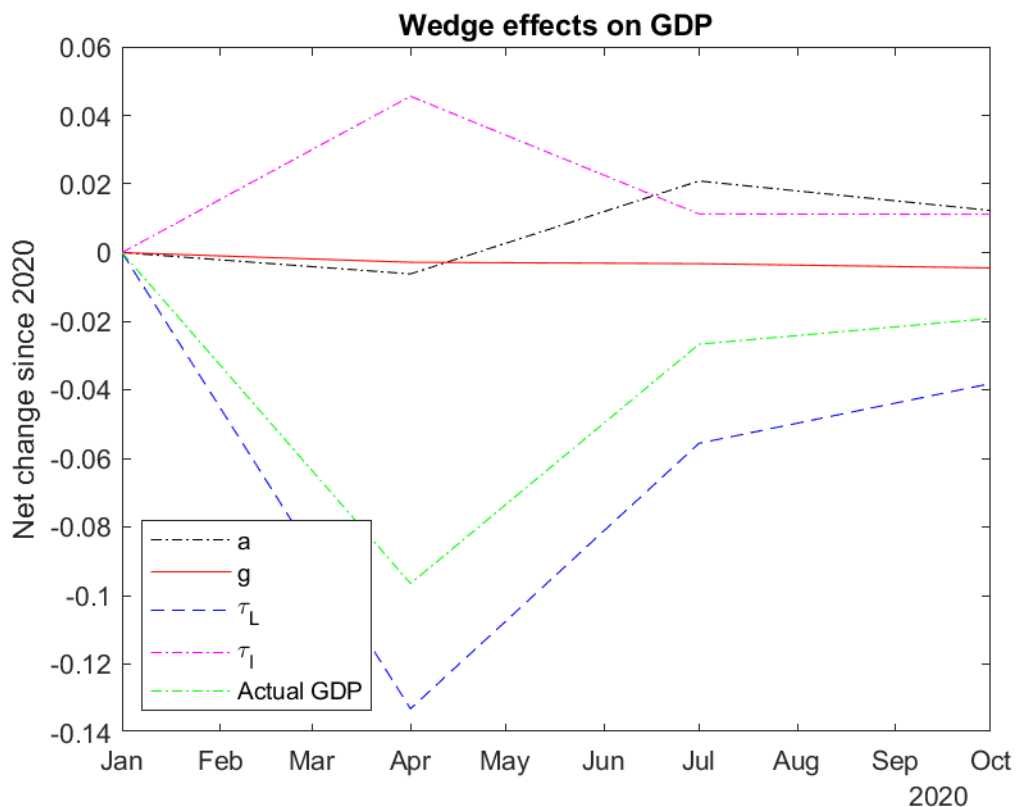


In the above figure we can see the change from the beginning of 2008 of GDP from all of

the models. τ_L appears to closely track GDP over this period, and a also accounts for some of the variation in GDP. We will now move on to the Covid pandemic.



In the above figure, we can observe the zoomed-in movements in the GDP implied by the various shocks surrounding the covid pandemic. What follows is a similar figure detailing the change in GDP from all shocks in the same time frame.



In the above figure we can see the change from the beginning of 2020 of GDP from all of the models. τ_L appears to be the main driver during the Great Lockdown, which matches closely with intuition. Covid is clearly exogenous to the model, and caused mass unemployment over this period.

Overall, to summarize, during both recent crises it is apparent that most of the variation came from the labor wedge. The productivity wedge also appears to have played an important role during the financial crisis, but not during the great lockdown.