

- Purpose:
  - Estimate the empirical significance of learning.
  - Determine what features of U.S. data learning can explain.
- Learning suggested to deliver features:
  - Orphanides and Williams (2005): Inflation scares.
  - Milani (2005): Macroeconomic persistence.
  - Milani (2007): Time varying volatility.
- Estimate a NK model with learning and RE by MLE.
- Examine forecast errors, evolution of shocks, and evolution of expectations.

**Utility function:**

$$U_0 = E_0^* \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t \left[ \frac{1}{1-\sigma} \xi_t (c_t(i) - \eta c_{t-1}(i))^{1-\sigma} - \frac{1}{1+\mu} n_t(i)^{1+\mu} \right]$$

- $E_t^*$ : possibly non-rational expectations operator.
- $c_t(i)$ : consumption at time  $t$ .
- $n_t(i)$ : labor supply at time  $t$ .
- $\xi_t$ : common preference shock.
- $\beta$ : discount factor.
- $\sigma \in (0, \infty)$ : related to the intertemporal elasticity of substitution.
- $\eta \in [0, 1)$ : degree of habit formation.

**Final good production:**

$$y_t = \left[ \int_0^1 y_t(i)^{\frac{\theta-1}{\theta}} di \right]^{\frac{\theta}{\theta-1}}$$

- $y_t$  output of final good,  $y_t(i)$  output of intermediate good  $i$ .

- $\theta \in (1, \infty)$ : elasticity of substitution in production.

**Intermediate goods production:**

Model with capital:  $y_t(i) = z_t k_t(i)^\alpha (\nu^t n_t(i))^{1-\alpha}$

Model without capital:  $y_t(i) = z_t n_t(i)$

- $z_t$ : common technology shock.
- $k_t(i)$ : firm-specific capital good.
- $\nu$ : growth rate of labor productivity (growth rate of real output per capita).

- Follow Calvo (1983) pricing: fraction  $1 - \omega$  firms re-optimize their price each period.
- Inflation indexation: Those who cannot re-optimize may adjust according to:

$$\ln(p_t(i)) = \ln(p_{t-1}(i)) + \gamma \pi_{t-1}$$

- With firm-specific capital (Woodford, 2005), leads to Phillips curve:

$$\pi_t = \frac{\gamma}{1 + \beta\gamma} \pi_{t-1} + \frac{\beta}{1 + \beta\gamma} E_t \pi_{t+1} + \kappa \hat{s}_t$$

- $\hat{s}_t$ : average marginal cost in the economy (percentage deviation from steady state).
- $\kappa$ : function of many parameters.

- Final good is converted to a firm-specific capital good.
- Investment of  $I_t(i)$  leads to capital stock next period:

$$k_{t+1}(i) = (1 - \delta)k_t(i) + \mu_t I_t(i) - \frac{\phi}{2} \left[ \frac{k_{t+1}(i)}{k_t(i)} - 1 \right]^2 k_t(i)$$

- $\mu_t$ : common investment technology shock.
- $\delta$ : depreciation rate.
- $\phi$ : capital adjustment cost parameter.

- Profit maximizing marginal cost:

$$\hat{s}_t = \frac{\mu + \alpha}{1 - \alpha} \hat{y}_t - \frac{\alpha(\mu + 1)}{1 - \alpha} \hat{k}_t - \hat{\lambda}_t - \frac{\mu + 1}{1 - \alpha} \hat{z}_t,$$

- Market clearing condition:

$$\text{Model with capital: } y_t = c_t + I_t + g_t$$

$$\text{Model without capital: } y_t = c_t$$

- $g_t$ : Exogenous demand shocks such as changes in government spending and net exports.

- Model *without* capital: interest rate responds to *output gap*:

$$\hat{r}_t = \rho_r \hat{r}_{t-1} + (1 - \rho_r) (\psi_\pi \pi_t + \psi_y \tilde{y}_t) + \epsilon_{r,t}$$

- $\psi_\pi \in (0, \infty)$ : feedback on inflation.
- $\psi_y \in (0, \infty)$ : feedback on output.
- $\rho_r \in (0, 1)$ : smoothing parameter.

- Model *with* capital: interest rate responds to the deviation of output from steady state:

$$\hat{r}_t = \rho_r \hat{r}_{t-1} + (1 - \rho_r) (\psi_\pi \pi_t + \psi_y \hat{y}_t) + \epsilon_{r,t}$$

- Non-policy shocks (percentage deviations from steady state) are AR(1):

- Preference shock:  $\hat{\xi}_t = \rho_\xi \hat{\xi}_{t-1} + \epsilon_{\xi,t}$
- Technology shock:  $\hat{z}_t = \rho_z \hat{z}_{t-1} + \epsilon_{z,t}$
- Investment shock:  $\hat{\mu}_t = \rho_\mu \hat{\mu}_{t-1} + \epsilon_{\mu,t}$
- Demand shock:  $\hat{g}_t = \rho_g \hat{g}_{t-1} + \epsilon_{g,t}$

- $\epsilon_{\xi,t}, \epsilon_{z,t}, \epsilon_{\mu,t}, \epsilon_{g,t}, \epsilon_{r,t}$  are independently normally distributed with mean zero.

- Re-write the model without capital in terms of the output gap.
- Notation:
  - Tilde denotes (percentage) deviation from fully flexible outcome.
  - Superscript  $f$  denotes fully flexible outcome.
  - Superscript  $*$  denotes steady state value.

- Natural rate of interest:

$$r_t^n = r_t^f - E_t \pi_{t+1}^f$$

$$r_t^n = (1 - \rho_{r^n}) r^* + \rho_n r_{t-1}^n + \epsilon_t^{r^n}$$

- Consumer first order conditions + market clearing:

$$\tilde{\lambda}_t = E_t \tilde{\lambda}_{t+1} + (r_t - r_t^n - E_t \pi_{t+1})$$

$$\tilde{\lambda}_t = \frac{1}{(1 - \beta\eta)(1 - \eta)} [\beta\eta\sigma E_t \tilde{y}_{t+1} - \sigma(1 + \beta\eta^2) \tilde{y}_t + \sigma\eta \tilde{y}_{t-1}]$$

- Phillips curve:

$$\pi_t = \beta E_t \pi_{t+1} + \kappa (\mu \tilde{y}_t - \tilde{\lambda}_t) + u_t$$

- Cost push shock:

$$u_t = \rho_u u_{t-1} + \epsilon_t^u$$

- The New Keynesian model has the form:

$$\Omega_0 x_t = \Omega_1 x_{t-1} + \Omega_2 E_t x_{t+1} + \Psi z_t$$

$$z_t = A z_{t-1} + \epsilon_t$$

- $x_t$  vector of time  $t$  variables, observable to agents at following time period.
- $z_t$ : vector of time  $t$  shocks, observable to agents in current period.

- Rational expectations solution:

$$x_t = G x_{t-1} + M z_t$$

- Agents estimate elements of  $G$  and  $M$  by least squares.
- $X_t$ : vector of regressors:  $X_t' = [1 \ x_{t-1}' \ z_t']$ .
- $Y_t$ : vector of dependent variables:  $Y_t = x_t$ .
- $\hat{\phi}_t$ : least squares estimate of the coefficients in  $G$  and  $M$ .
- Information at available at time  $t$ :  $x_{t-1}, z_t$ .
- Evolution of  $\hat{\phi}_t$  in recursive form:

$$\hat{\phi}_t = \hat{\phi}_{t-1} + gR_t^{-1}X_{t-1} \left( Y_t - X_{t-1}'\hat{\phi}_{t-1} \right)$$

$$R_t = R_{t-1} + g(X_{t-1}X_{t-1}' - R_{t-1})$$

- where  $g$  is the constant learning gain.

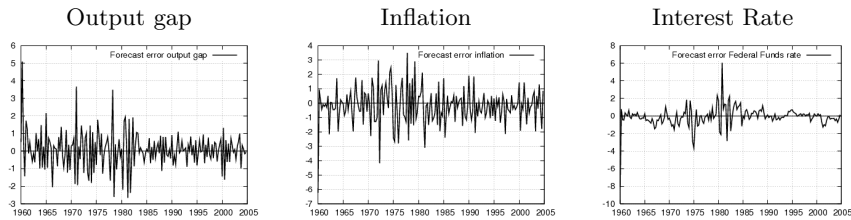
- Method: Maximum likelihood estimation.
- Data: Quarterly data for 1960 through 2005.
- Model with no capital:
  - CBO measure of the output gap.
  - Annualized quarterly inflation rate of the GDP deflator.
  - Annualized quarterly Federal funds rate.
- Model with endogenous capital:
  - Real GDP per capita.
  - Real private consumption per capita.
  - Real gross private domestic investment per capita.
  - Annualized quarterly inflation rate of the GDP deflator.
  - Annualized quarterly Federal funds rate.
- Calibrated parameters:
  - Model without capital:  $\beta = 0.99, \mu = 0$  (perfectly inelasticity labor supply).
  - Model with capital:  $\beta = 0.99, \delta = 0.025, \alpha = 0.33, \nu = 1.00533$ .

- $\hat{\phi}_t$  and  $R_t$  must be initialized for estimation.
- MSV solution, expected outer product of the state vector under RE.
  - Much of learning theory valid for the neighborhood of the MSV solution.
  - Initial conditions are supported by the microfoundations.
  - Problem: Learning dynamics smallest when near MSV solution.
- Joint estimation:
  - Problems: As many as 40 additional parameters (endogenous capital estimation).
  - Motivation: illustrates how estimates for structural parameters depend on initial conditions.
- Alternative approach: Use a VAR(1) from pre-sample data
  - Problem: latent variables are regressors - capital stock, structural shocks.

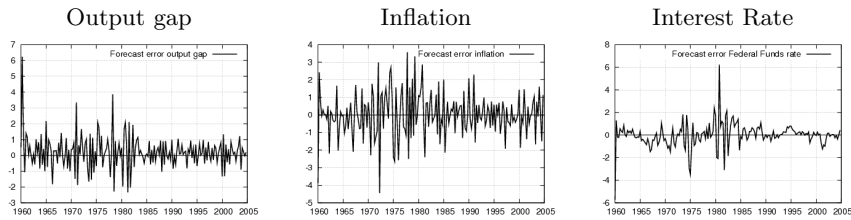
Description	Parameter	RE	Std. dev.	Learning	Std. dev.
Learning gain	$g$	.	.	0.0104	0.0048
Habit formation	$\eta$	0.9953	0.0105	0.9470	0.0214
Inverse elasticity sub.	$\sigma$	0.0830	0.0724	0.5057	0.4069
Phillips curve slope	$\kappa$	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Price indexation	$\gamma$	0.9686	0.0458	0.9730	0.0172
Interest rate smoothing	$\rho_r$	0.8449	0.0269	0.8943	0.0178
Policy feedback on output	$\psi_y$	0.2073	0.0778	0.3346	0.0931
Policy feedback on inflation	$\psi_\pi$	1.2812	0.2230	1.5895	0.3079
Persistence nat. int. rate	$\rho_n$	0.9944	0.0081	0.9016	0.0273
Persistence cost push	$\rho_u$	1.50E-6	0.0684	0.0000	0.0224
Std. dev. nat. int. rate	$s_n$	0.0009	0.0005	0.1150	0.1065
Std. dev. cost push	$s_u$	2.45E-6	3.40E-6	2.49E-6	3.00E-7
Std. dev. policy shock	$s_r$	5.48E-6	3.40E-6	5.31E-6	3.30E-7
Steady state inflation	$\pi^*$	7.9795	2.8442	5.6139	1.0109

- Learning gain statistically significantly different from zero.
- Habit formation and indexation remain significant sources of persistence.
- Most parameters are very similar.

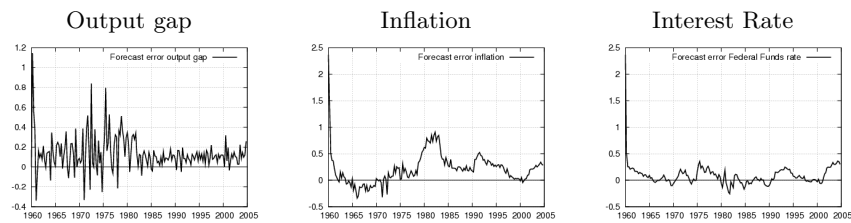
## Rational Expectations



## Learning (RE initial conditions)



## Differences in Forecast Errors



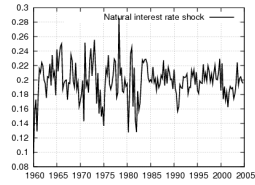
## Correlation of Forecast Errors

Output gap	Inflation	Interest Rate
0.9858	0.9707	0.9833

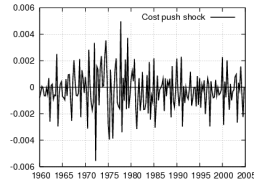
- Forecast errors essentially the same.
- Forecast errors are largest for 1970s.
  - Neither model explains monetary policy in 1979-1982 period.
  - Neither model explains changes in volatility.

### Rational Expectations

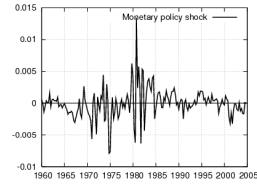
Natural Rate Shock



Cost Push Shock

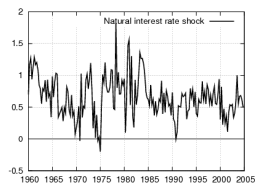


Policy Shock

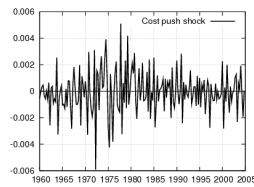


### Learning (RE initial conditions)

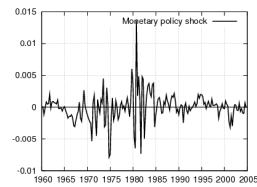
Natural Rate Shock



Cost Push Shock

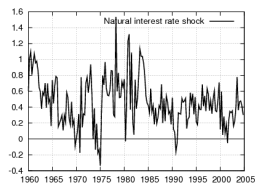


Policy Shock



### Difference in Smoothed Shocks

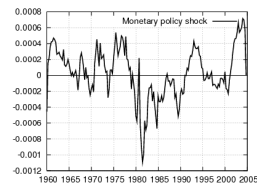
Natural Rate Shock



Cost Push Shock



Policy Shock



### Correlation of Smoothed Shocks

Natural Rate Shock

0.7150

Cost Push Shock

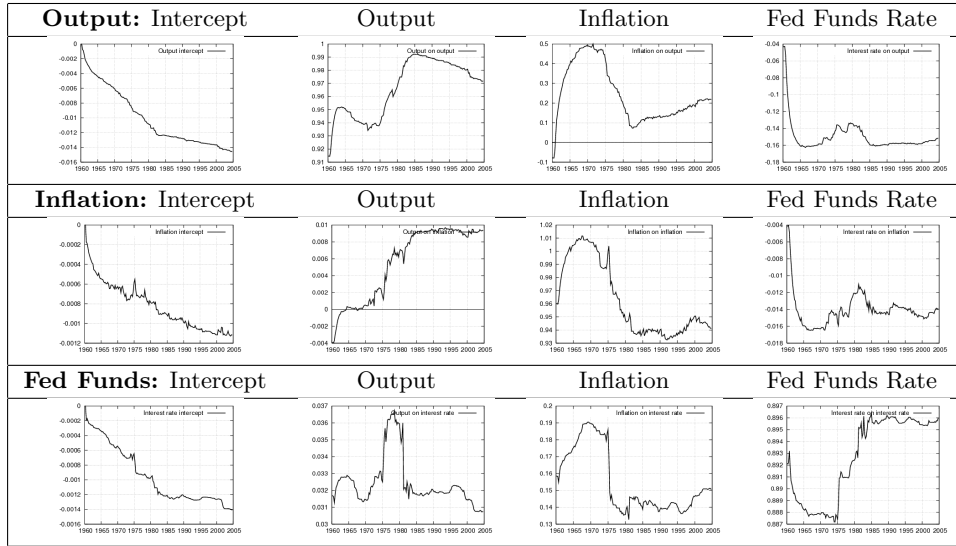
0.9799

Policy Shock

0.9907

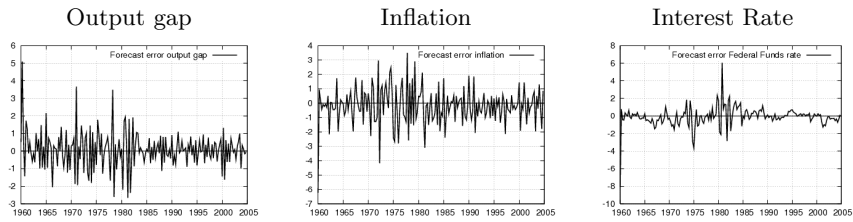


Description	Parameter	Estimate	Std. dev.
Learning gain	$g$	0.0116	0.0072
Habit formation	$\eta$	0.0436	0.0404
Inverse elasticity sub.	$\sigma$	2.4018	2.8262
Phillips curve slope	$\kappa$	0.0001	0.0003
Price indexation	$\gamma$	0.9940	1.1123
Interest rate smoothing	$\rho_r$	0.8940	0.0279
Policy feedback on output	$\psi_y$	0.2973	0.1329
Policy feedback on inflation	$\psi_\pi$	1.0576	0.1989
Persistence nat. int. rate	$\rho_n$	0.9987	1.00E-8
Persistence cost push	$\rho_u$	0.0002	0.0823
Std. dev. nat. int. rate	$s_n$	0.0007	0.0080
Std. dev. cost push	$s_u$	1.5E-05	6.06E-06
Std. dev. policy shock	$s_r$	5.4E-06	4.6E-07
Steady state inflation	$\pi^*$	1.6478	0.8418

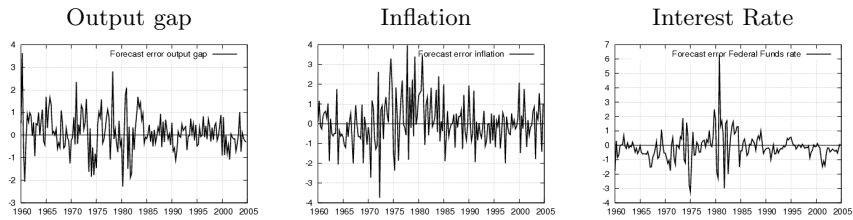


- Learning gain statistically significantly different from zero.
- Degree of habit formation is close to zero.
- Point estimate of price indexation still high, still significant.

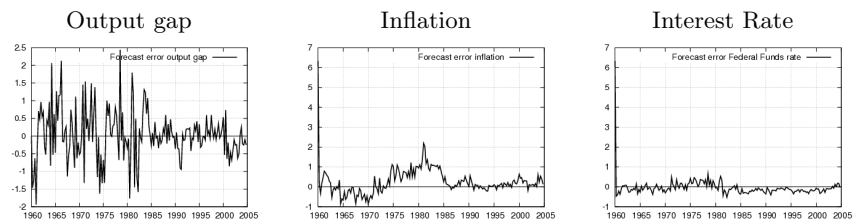
### Rational Expectations



### Learning (Estimated initial conditions)



### Differences in Forecast Errors

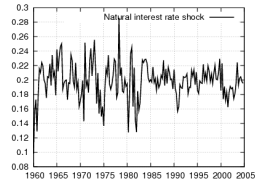


### Correlation of Forecast Errors

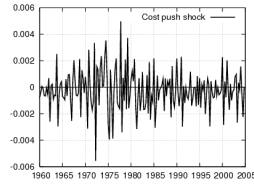
Output gap	Inflation	Interest Rate
0.7333	0.8472	0.8861

### Rational Expectations

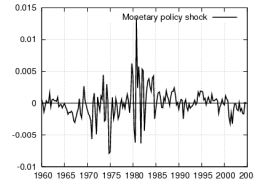
Natural Rate Shock



Cost Push Shock

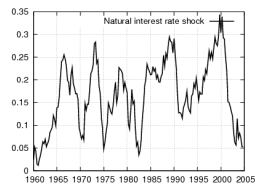


Policy Shock

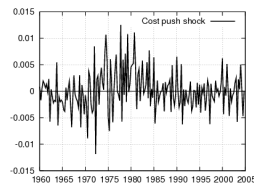


### Learning (Estimated initial conditions)

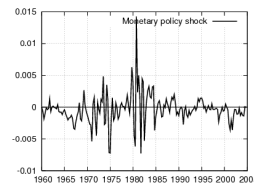
Natural Rate Shock



Cost Push Shock

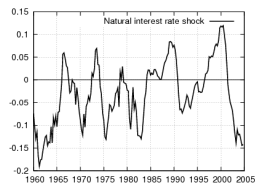


Policy Shock

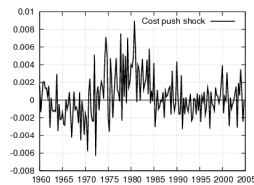


### Difference in Smoothed Shocks

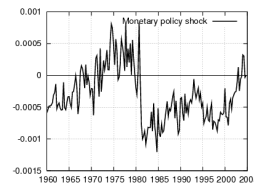
Natural Rate Shock



Cost Push Shock



Policy Shock



### Correlation of Smoothed Shocks

Natural Rate Shock

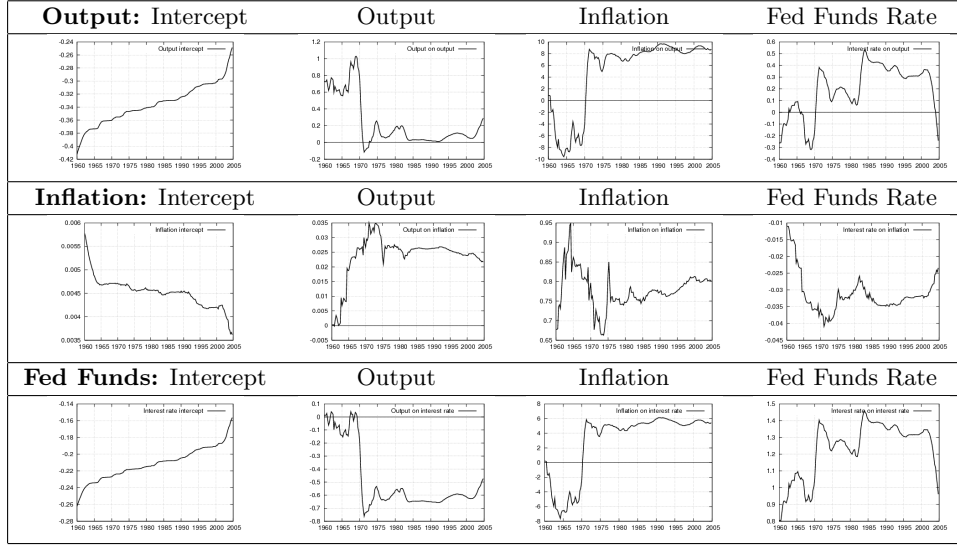
0.7150

Cost Push Shock

0.9799

Policy Shock

0.9907



	RE	Learning (RE init.)	Learning (Est. init.)
MSE Output	1.0920	1.1041	0.7303
MSE Inflation	1.6613	1.5781	1.4175
MSE Fed Funds	1.2594	1.0879	0.9435
Log-likelihood	-303.8	-291.9	-241.6

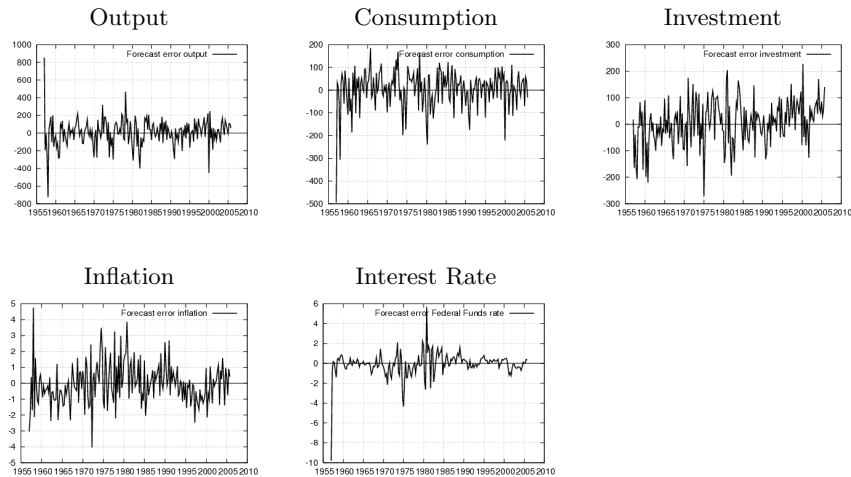
Description	Parameter	RE	Std. dev.	Learning	Std. dev.
Learning gain	$g$	.	.	3.51E-6	7.01E-6
Habit formation	$\eta$	0.0855	0.0846	0.1078	0.0805
Inverse elasticity sub.	$\sigma$	16.5056	13.8189	16.8358	14.5459
Capital / output ratio	$k_y$	4.4799	0.2129	4.5061	0.2129
Consumption / output ratio	$c_y$	0.7141	0.0547	0.7234	0.0516
Inverse elasticity labor	$\mu$	1.53E-5	0.3944	1.00E-5	0.4396
Capital adjustment cost	$\phi$	27.9001	5.4801	27.4460	5.9845
Phillips curve slope	$\kappa$	0.0116	0.0034	0.0119	0.0037
Price indexation	$\gamma$	0.9999	0.0000	0.9999	0.0000
Interest rate smoothing	$\rho_r$	0.8147	0.0196	0.8103	0.0203
Policy feedback on output	$\psi_y$	0.0326	0.0116	0.0356	0.0122
Policy feedback on inflation	$\psi_\pi$	1.5401	0.1504	1.4735	0.1405
Persistence in tech. shock	$\rho_z$	1.40E-5	0.0888	1.00E-5	0.0902
Persistence in pref. shock	$\rho_\xi$	0.9793	0.0176	0.9800	0.0167
Persistence in inv. shock	$\rho_\mu$	0.9295	0.0235	0.9282	0.0253
Persistence in AD shock	$\rho_g$	0.9989	0.0042	0.9993	0.0035
Std. dev. tech. shock	$s_z$	0.2399	0.1262	0.2326	0.1325
Std. dev. inv. shock	$s_\mu$	0.1996	0.1219	0.1900	0.1251
Std. dev. pref. shock	$s_\xi$	0.1722	0.1447	0.1857	0.1626
Std. dev. policy shock	$s_r$	0.0025	0.0001	0.0024	0.0001
Std. dev. AD shock	$s_g$	0.0222	0.0091	0.0238	0.0098
Steady state inflation	$\pi^*$	8.6918	2.3997	10.3678	3.0793
Steady state output	$y^*$	1.2521	0.1033	1.2355	0.0984

- Learning gain essentially zero.
- All parameter estimates are very similar.
- Habit formation close to zero under *both* RE and Learning.
- Inflation indexation very close to one.

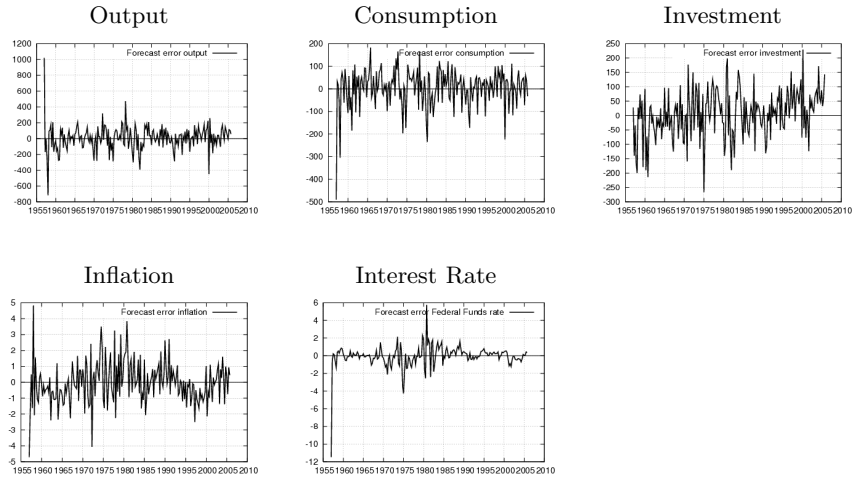
Description	Parameter	Estimate	Std. dev.
Learning gain	$g$	0.0288	0.0077
Habit formation	$\eta$	0.0772	0.1031
Inverse elasticity sub.	$\sigma$	16.6941	14.4002
Capital / output ratio	$k_y$	4.5086	1.5187
Consumption / output ratio	$c_y$	0.7213	0.0842
Inverse elasticity labor	$\mu$	0.0132	1.3992
Capital adjustment cost	$\phi$	28.1764	38.5551
Phillips curve slope	$\kappa$	0.0120	0.0154
Price indexation	$\gamma$	0.9999	0.0000
Interest rate smoothing	$\rho_r$	0.8776	0.0351
Policy feedback on output	$\psi_y$	0.0374	0.0661
Policy feedback on inflation	$\psi_\pi$	1.5654	0.4185
Persistence in tech. shock	$\rho_z$	0.0000	0.0124
Persistence in pref. shock	$\rho_\xi$	0.9611	0.0234
Persistence in inv. shock	$\rho_\mu$	0.9364	0.0405
Persistence in AD shock	$\rho_g$	0.9999	0.0001
Std. dev. tech. shock	$s_z$	0.2569	0.5566
Std. dev. inv. shock	$s_\mu$	0.1830	0.1692
Std. dev. pref. shock	$s_\xi$	0.1707	0.1461
Std. dev. policy shock	$s_r$	0.0024	0.0001
Std. dev. AD shock	$s_g$	0.0255	0.0154
Steady state inflation	$\pi^*$	9.5185	6.1255
Steady state output	$y^*$	1.2396	0.1424

- Learning gain parameter significantly greater than zero.
- All parameter estimates are very similar.
- Habit formation close to zero under *both* RE and Learning.
- Inflation indexation very close to one.

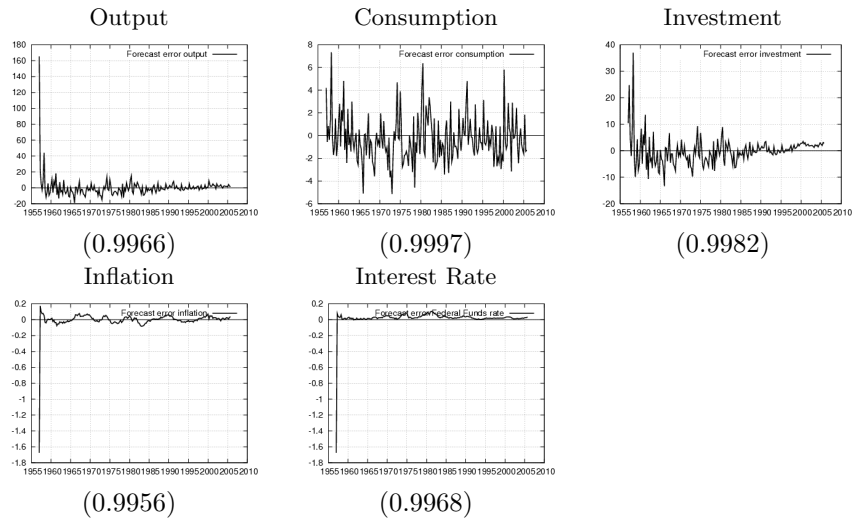
### Rational Expectations



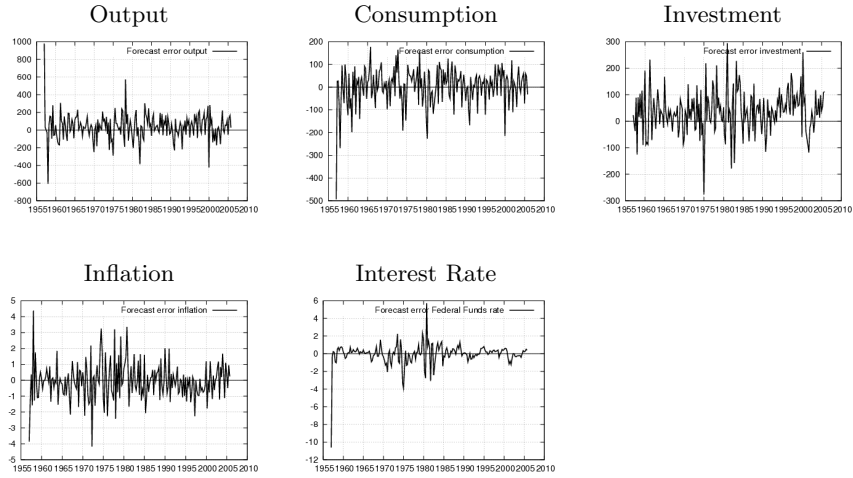
## Learning (RE initial conditions)



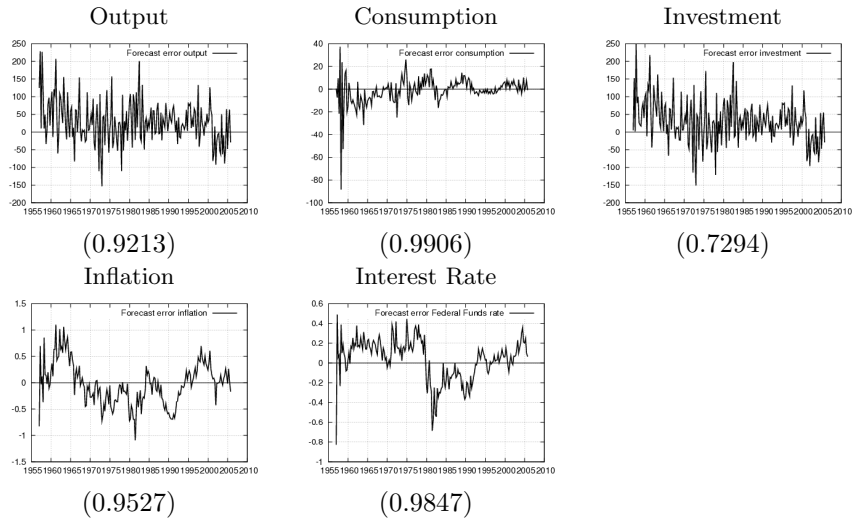
## Differences in Forecast Errors (Correlations)



## Learning (Estimated initial conditions)



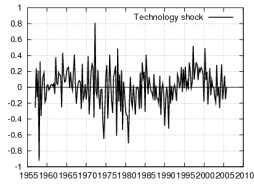
## Differences in Forecast Errors (Correlations)





## Rational Expectations

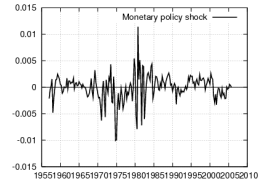
Technology shock



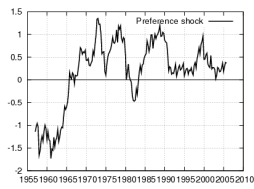
Investment shock



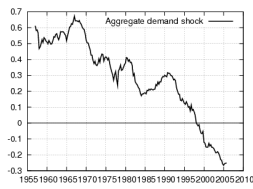
Monetary policy shock



Preference shock

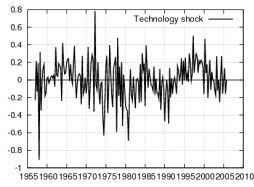


Aggregate demand shock

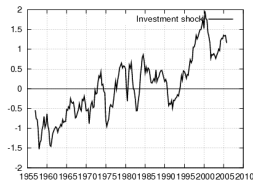


## Learning (RE initial conditions)

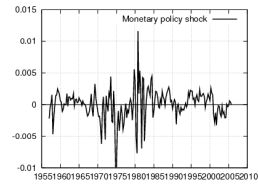
Technology shock



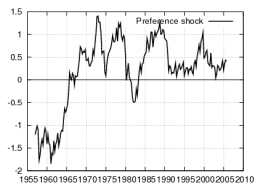
Investment shock



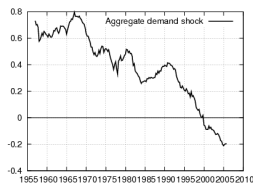
Monetary policy shock



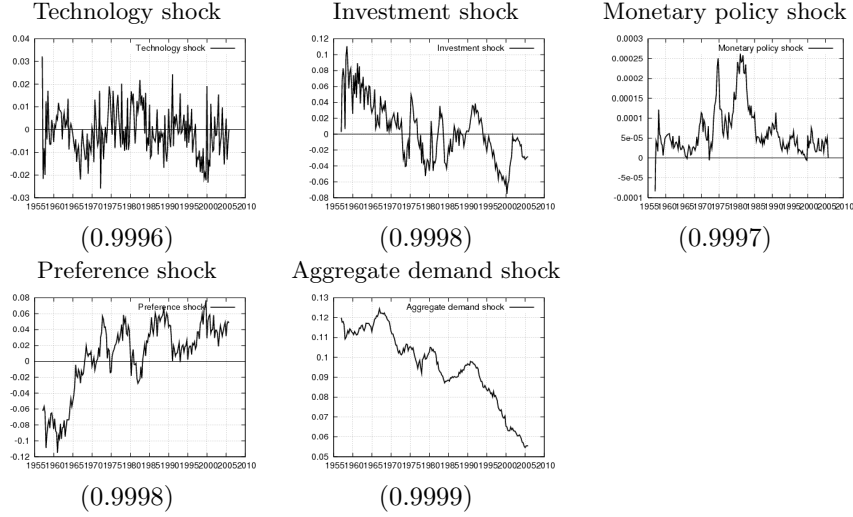
Preference shock



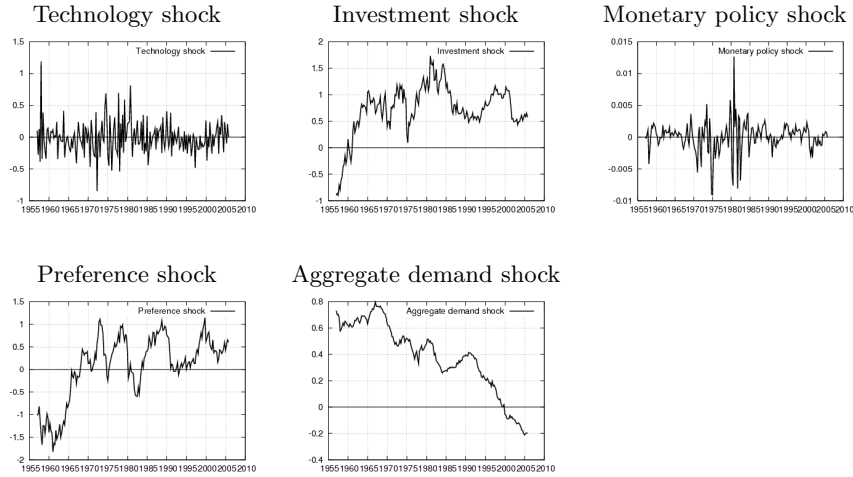
Aggregate demand shock



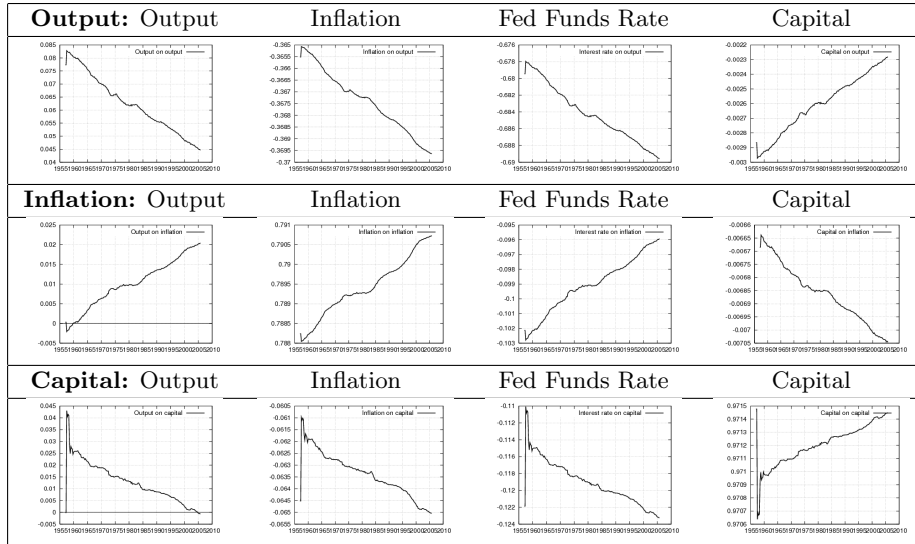
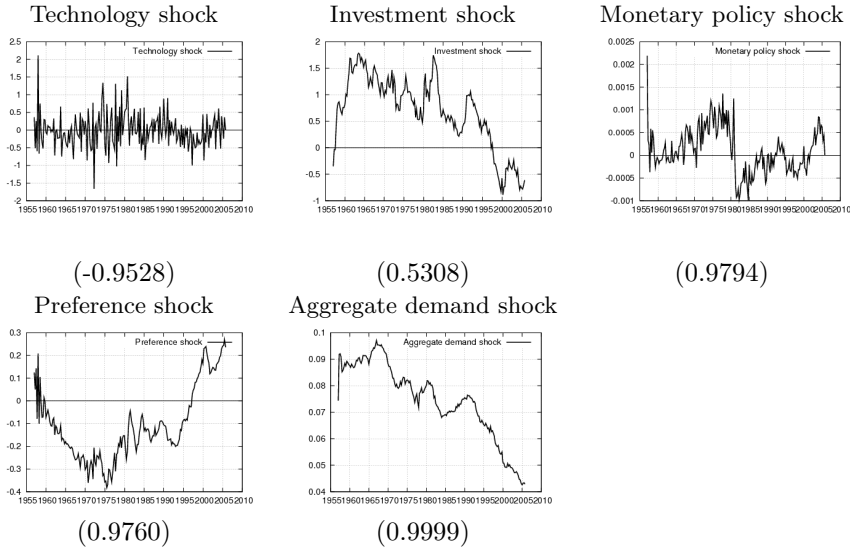
### Differences in smoothed shocks (Correlations)



### Learning (Estimated initial conditions)

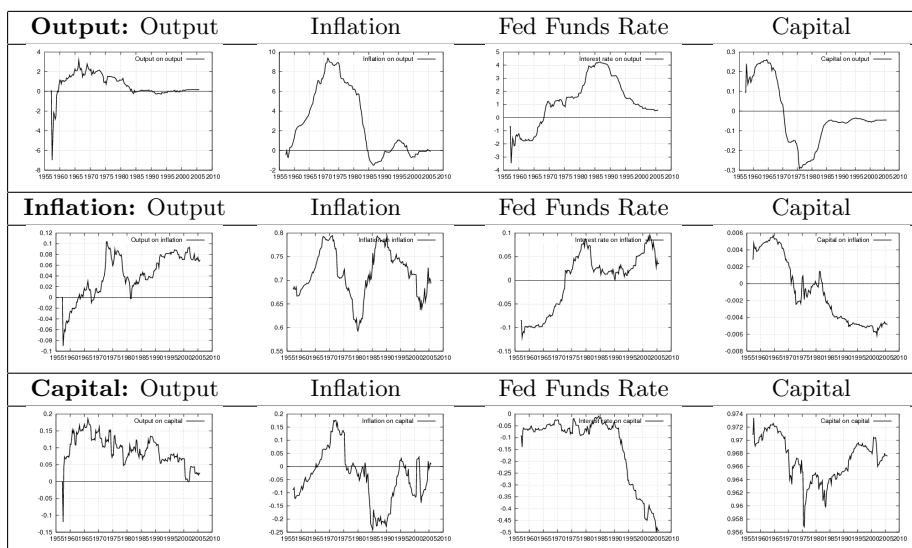


## Differences in smoothed shocks (Correlations)



- Recall estimated gain:  $g = 3.51(10^{-6})$
- Tiny changes in coefficients.

- Very slow to adjust.



	RE	Learning (RE init.)	Learning (Est. init.)
MSE Output	23558.2	24868.6	24652.0
MSE Consumption	7129.3	7105.1	6883.4
MSE Investment	7118.3	6930.3	7656.7
MSE Inflation	1.6727	1.7508	1.3893
MSE Fed Funds	1.4116	1.5910	1.4483
Log-likelihood	-3042.2	-3041.6	-241.6