

Topics in Heterogeneous Agent Macro: Sequence-Space Methods

Lecture 9

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Outline

1. Model
2. Sequence Space
3. Fake-News Algorithm

Model

Summary of Equilibrium Conditions

$$\left\{ c_t(a, z), V_t(a, z), g_t(a, z), Y_t, N_t, r_t, i_t, w_t, \pi_t, \pi_t^w \right\},$$

Micro block:

$$\rho V_t(a, z) = U(c_t, N_t) + \partial_t V_t(a, z) + \mathcal{A}_t V_t(a, z) \quad (1)$$

$$u'(c_t(a, z)) = \partial_a V_t(a, z) \quad (2)$$

$$\partial_t g_t(a, z) = \mathcal{A}_t^* g_t(a, z), \quad (3)$$

where, using $s_t(a, z) = r_t a + z w_t N_t - c_t(a, z)$:

$$\mathcal{A}_t f_t(a, z) = s_t(a, z) \partial_a f_t(a, z) + \mathcal{A}^z f_t(a, z)$$

$$\mathcal{A}_t^* g_t(a, z) = -\partial_a \left[s_t(a, z) g_t(a, z) \right] - \mathcal{A}^{z,*} g_t(a, z)$$

Macro block: given $g_0(a, z)$ and MIT shock $\{A_t\}_{t \geq 0}$

$$Y_t = A_t N_t \quad (4)$$

$$\dot{\pi}_t^w = \rho \pi_t^w + \frac{\epsilon}{\delta} \iint N_t \left(\frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon} (1 + \tau^L) w_t z u'(c_t(a, z)) - v'(N_t) \right) g_t(a, z) da dz \quad (5)$$

$$r_t = i_t - \pi_t \quad (6)$$

$$w_t = A_t \quad (7)$$

$$i_t = r_{ss} + \lambda_\pi \pi_t + \lambda_Y \frac{Y_t - Y_{ss}}{Y_{ss}} \quad (8)$$

$$\pi_t = \pi_t^w - \frac{\dot{A}_t}{A_t} \quad (9)$$

$$0 = \iint s_t(a, z) g_t(a, z) da dz \quad (10)$$

Drop goods market clearing condition by Walras' law

Lemma (Implementability). Sequences

$$\left\{ c_t(a, z), V_t(a, z), g_t(a, z), N_t, \pi_t^w \right\}$$

form part of a competitive equilibrium if and only if micro block conditions are satisfied, as well as

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\pi}_t^w &= \rho \pi_t^w + \frac{\epsilon}{\delta} \iint N_t \left(\frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon} (1 + \tau^L) A_t z u'(c_t(a, z)) - v'(N_t) \right) g_t(a, z) da dz \\ 0 &= \iint s_t(a, z) g_t(a, z) da dz \end{aligned}$$

Sequence Space

Finite-Difference Discretization

- Computational implementation of differential equations: finite-difference methods

Achdou et al. (2022), Schaab-Zhang (2022)

- Time grid with $N + 1$ discrete points: $t_0 = 0$ and $t_N = T$ (truncation horizon) with a step size $dt = \frac{T}{N-1}$, we have $t_n = dt(n - 1)$
- Discretize individual states with J points (2 for earnings and $J/2$ for wealth)
- Discretization: approximate $c_t(a, z)$ at discrete points in time and space by vector c_n
- $c_n = (c_{1,n}, \dots, c_{J,n})'$, with $c_{i,n} = c_{t_n}(a_i, z_i)$
- Associate $i = 1$ with low-earnings types at borrowing constraint

Lemma. Consistent finite-difference discretization of equilibrium conditions:

$$\rho \mathbf{V}_n = \frac{\mathbf{V}_{n+1} - \mathbf{V}_n}{dt} + u(\mathbf{c}_n) - v(N_n) - \frac{\delta}{2}(\pi_n^w)^2 + \mathbf{s}_n \cdot \frac{\mathbf{D}_a}{da} \mathbf{V}_n + \mathbf{A}^z \mathbf{V}_n \quad (\text{HJB})$$

$$u'(\mathbf{c}_{n,[2:J]}) = \left(\frac{\mathbf{D}_a}{da} \mathbf{V}_{n+1} \right)_{[2:J]} \quad (\text{FOC})$$

$$\frac{\mathbf{g}_{n+1} - \mathbf{g}_n}{dt} = (\mathbf{A}^z)' \mathbf{g}_n + \frac{\mathbf{D}'_a}{da} [\mathbf{s}_n \cdot \mathbf{g}_n] \quad (\text{KFE})$$

$$0 = \mathbf{s}'_n \mathbf{g}_n dx \quad (\text{BC})$$

$$\frac{\pi_{n+1}^w - \pi_n^w}{dt} = \rho \pi_n^w + \frac{\epsilon}{\delta} \left[\frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon} (1 + \tau^L) A_n (\mathbf{z} \cdot u'(\mathbf{c}_n))' \mathbf{g}_n dx - v'(N_n) \right] N_n \quad (\text{NKPC})$$

and we have already used $c_{n,1} = i_n a_1 - \pi_n^w a_1 + \frac{A_{n+1} - A_n}{dt A_n} a_1 + z_1 A_n N_n$.

Remarks.

- We *assume* shocks small enough so upwind scheme D_a does not change
- Directly encode boundary condition for HTM $i = 1$ (Achdou et al. 2022)

$$\mathbf{s}_n = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ i_n \mathbf{a}_{[2:J]} - \pi_n^w \mathbf{a}_{[2:J]} + \frac{A_{n+1} - A_n}{dt A_n} \mathbf{a}_{[2:J]} + \mathbf{z}_{[2:J]} A_n N_n - \mathbf{c}_{n,[2:J]} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Sequence Space: Overview

What is the “sequence space approach”? Boppart et al. (2018), Auclert et al. (2021)

- Denote $\mathbf{X} = \{N_n, \pi_n^w\}_{n=0}^N$ and $\mathbf{Z} = \{A_n\}_{n=0}^N$
- What HANK literature (without optimal policy) has been doing for years:

$$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}) = 0 \quad \implies \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{Z}) \quad (\text{Equilibrium Map})$$

- Linearized dynamics around steady state:

$$d\mathbf{X} = \underbrace{-\mathcal{H}_{\mathbf{X}}^{-1} \mathcal{H}_{\mathbf{Z}}}_{\text{Sequence Space Jacobians}} d\mathbf{Z}$$

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- Key: $\mathcal{H}(\cdot)$ incorporates all heterogeneity and SSJs are sufficient statistics for heterogeneity

Sequence Space: Equilibrium Map

$$\mathcal{H}(X, Z) = 0$$

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Finite-difference discretization of **micro block**:

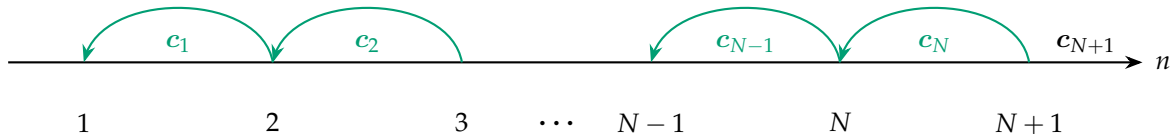
$$c_n = \mathcal{C}(c_{n+1}, X_n, Z_n)$$

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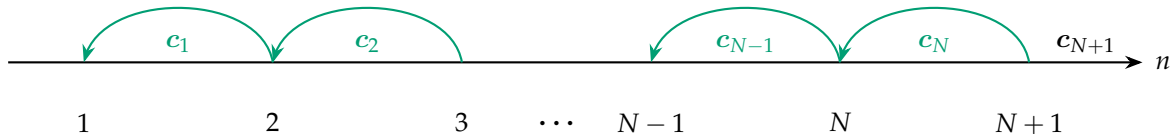
Sequence Space: Equilibrium Map

$$\mathcal{H}(X, Z) = 0$$

Finite-difference discretization of **micro block**:

$$c_n = \mathcal{C}(c_{n+1}, X_n, Z_n)$$

$$g_{n+1} = \Lambda(c_n, X_n, Z_n) g_n$$



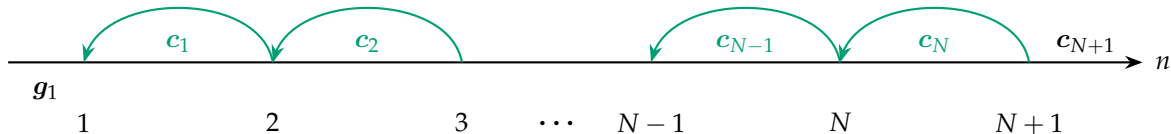
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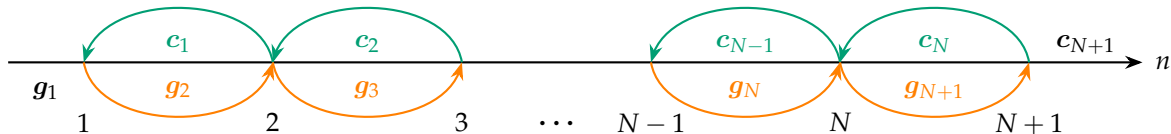
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Finite-difference discretization of **micro block**:

$$\mathbf{c}_n = \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{c}_{n+1}, X_n, Z_n)$$

$$\mathbf{g}_{n+1} = \Lambda(\mathbf{c}_n, X_n, Z_n) \mathbf{g}_n$$

Macro block:

$$\mathcal{H}_n(X, Z) = 0 = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{s}'_n \mathbf{g}_n \\ -\frac{\pi_{n+1}^w - \pi_n^w}{dt} + \rho_n \pi_n^w + \frac{\epsilon_n}{\delta} \left(\frac{\epsilon_n - 1}{\epsilon_n} (1 + \tau^L) A_n(\mathbf{z} \cdot \mathbf{u}'(\mathbf{c}_n))' \mathbf{g}_n - v'(N_n) \right) N_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Sequence Space: Equilibrium Map

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Finite-difference discretization of **micro block**:

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Macro block:

$$\mathcal{H}_n(X, Z) = 0 = \begin{pmatrix} s'_n g_n \\ -\frac{\pi_{n+1}^w - \pi_n^w}{dt} + \rho_n \pi_n^w + \frac{\epsilon_n}{\delta} \left(\frac{\epsilon_n - 1}{\epsilon_n} (1 + \tau^L) A_n(z \cdot u'(c_n))' g_n - v'(N_n) \right) N_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Algorithm: Take Z and $(c_{N+1}, \pi_{N+1}, g_1)$ as given, guess X , iterate until $H = [\mathcal{H}_n] = 0$

Sequence Space: Algorithm

- Compute stationary equilibrium denoted $_{ss}$
- Initialize: $(c_{N+1}, \pi_{N+1}, g_1) = (c_{ss}, \pi_{ss}, g_{ss})$
- Take as given Z and guess X^0
- Solve HJB and KFE (illustrated previous slide)
- Compute $\{\mathcal{H}_n\}_{n=1}^N$ and construct $2N \times 1$ vector $H = [\mathcal{H}_n]$
- Use “gap” in $H \neq 0$ to update X^1 and repeat

Sequence Space: Algorithm

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Linear:

$$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}) \approx \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{X}_{ss}, \mathbf{Z}_{ss}) + \mathcal{H}_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X}_{ss}) + \mathcal{H}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{Z}_{ss})$$

Sequence Space: Algorithm

How to do this in practice?

Two approaches: linear and non-linear (i.e., non-linear MIT shock transition)

Linear:

$$0 \approx \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{X}_{ss}, \mathbf{Z}_{ss}) + \mathcal{H}_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X}_{ss}) + \mathcal{H}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{Z}_{ss})$$

Sequence Space: Algorithm

How to do this in practice?

Two approaches: linear and non-linear (i.e., non-linear MIT shock transition)

Linear:

$$0 \approx 0 + \mathcal{H}_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X}_{ss}) + \mathcal{H}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{Z}_{ss})$$

Sequence Space: Algorithm

How to do this in practice?

Two approaches: linear and non-linear (i.e., non-linear MIT shock transition)

Linear:

$$\mathbf{X} \approx \mathbf{X}_{ss} - \underbrace{\mathcal{H}_{\mathbf{X}}^{-1} \mathcal{H}_{\mathbf{Z}}}_{\text{Sequence Space Jacobians of } \mathcal{H}} (\mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{Z}_{ss})$$

Sequence Space: First-Order Perturbation

- In other words, since $\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}) \implies \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{Z})$:

$$d\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X}_{ss} + \mathbf{X}_Z d\mathbf{Z},$$

- Here $d\mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{Z}_{ss}$ and key object to compute is \mathbf{X}_Z
- By the implicit function theorem, we have $H_{\mathbf{X}}\mathbf{X}_Z + H_{\mathbf{Z}} = 0$, or simply

$$\mathbf{X}_Z = -H_{\mathbf{X}}^{-1}H_{\mathbf{Z}},$$

- Let K be $N \cdot \#$ of macro guesses (here $K = 2N$)
- $H_{\mathbf{Z}}$ is a $K \times N$ and $H_{\mathbf{X}}$ a $K \times K$, whose ij th elements are $\frac{\partial H_i}{\partial Z_j}$ and $\frac{\partial H_i}{\partial X_j}$
- **Conclusion:** first-order perturbation requires Sequence-Space Jacobians $(H_{\mathbf{X}}, H_{\mathbf{Z}})$

Sequence Space: Non-Linear MIT Shock

- Alternatively, use **Newton** class of algorithms to solve $\mathcal{H}(X, Z) = 0$
- Most powerful approach in practice: quasi-Newton (Broyden)
- Why? Compute Jacobians **once**, then iterate recursively
- **Conclusion**: once H_X and H_Z are computed for first-order perturbation, non-linear MIT dynamics come for free via quasi-Newton
- Feel free to use my custom quasi-Newton algorithm! (SparseEcon)

Fake News Algorithm

Overview

- Computing \mathbf{H}_X requires $2N$ function evaluations of $\mathcal{H}(\cdot)$

$$\frac{\partial H_i}{\partial X_j} \approx \frac{\mathcal{H}_i(\mathbf{X} + \epsilon_j, \mathbf{Z}) - \mathcal{H}_i(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z})}{h}$$

- This is very costly: function eval of $\mathcal{H}(\cdot)$ requires solving HJB backwards (N linear systems) and KFE forwards (N linear systems)
- Fake-news algorithm: turns out 1 function evaluation is enough (per # of guesses $\frac{K}{N}$)
- No longer scales with $N!!$

Policy Functions

- Let $\theta_n \in \{N_n, \pi_n^w, A_n\}$
- Abuse notation for clarity: use t instead of n
- Recall: $c_t = \mathcal{C}(X_t, Z_t, c_{t+1})$

Lemma. Auclert et al. (2021)

$$\partial c_t^s = \frac{\partial c_t}{\partial \theta_s} = \frac{\partial c_{t-k}}{\partial \theta_{s-k}}.$$

- Why?
- **Remark:** Any (forward-looking) *backward* equation satisfies this property (not just backward equations that emerge from dynamic programming)

Policy Functions

Lemma. Suppose $t < s$, then to first order

$$\partial c_t^s = \frac{\partial c_t}{\partial \theta_s} = \mathcal{C}_c \frac{\partial c_{t+1}}{\partial \theta_s} = \mathcal{C}_c^{s-t} \mathcal{C}_\theta,$$

where \mathcal{C}_c and \mathcal{C}_θ are evaluated at steady state.

Distribution

- Letting $\Lambda_t = 1 + A'_t dt$, discretized KFE takes form: $g_{t+1} = \Lambda_t g_t$
- Differentiating, we have to first order around the steady state

$$\frac{\partial g_{t+1}}{\partial \theta_s} = \frac{\partial \Lambda_t}{\partial \theta_s} g_{ss} + \Lambda_{ss} \frac{\partial g_t}{\partial \theta_s}$$

Lemma. Sequence space derivatives of the KF matrix (adjoint) Λ_t satisfy

$$\frac{\partial \Lambda_t}{\partial \theta_s} = \frac{\partial \Lambda_0}{\partial \theta_{s-t}}$$

to first order around steady state. Implementation relevant representation is

$$\frac{\partial \Lambda_t}{\partial \theta_s} = \begin{cases} \frac{\partial \Lambda_{t+(N-s)}}{\partial \theta_N} & \text{if } s \geq t \\ 0 & \text{if } s < t \end{cases}$$

Distribution

Lemma. We have

(a)

$$\frac{\partial g_t}{\partial \theta_s} = \sum_{k=0}^{t-1} \Lambda_{ss}^k \frac{\partial \Lambda_{t-1-k}}{\partial \theta_s} g^{ss} + \Lambda_{ss}^{t-1} \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial \theta_s}$$

(b)

$$\frac{\partial g_t}{\partial \theta_s} = \sum_{k=1}^t \Lambda_{ss}^{k-1} \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial \theta_{s-t+k}}$$

(c)

$$\frac{\partial g_t}{\partial \theta_s} = \frac{\partial \Lambda_0}{\partial \theta_{s-(t-1)}} g^{ss} + \Lambda_{ss} \frac{\partial g_{t-1}}{\partial \theta_s}$$

Derivation

We have

$$\begin{aligned}dg_t^s &= d((1 + \mathbf{A}_{t-1})\mathbf{g}_{t-1}) \\&= (1 + d\mathbf{A}_{t-1}^s)\mathbf{g}_{t-1} + (1 + \mathbf{A}_{t-1})d\mathbf{g}_{t-1}^s \\&= (1 + d\mathbf{A}_{t-1}^s)\mathbf{g}_{t-1} + (1 + \mathbf{A}_{t-1})\left((1 + d\mathbf{A}_{t-2}^s)\mathbf{g}_{t-2} + (1 + \mathbf{A}_{t-2})d\mathbf{g}_{t-2}^s\right) \\&= (1 + d\mathbf{A}_{t-1}^s)\mathbf{g}_{t-1} + (1 + \mathbf{A}_{t-1})(1 + d\mathbf{A}_{t-2}^s)\mathbf{g}_{t-2} + (1 + \mathbf{A}_{t-1})(1 + \mathbf{A}_{t-2})\left((1 + d\mathbf{A}_{t-3}^s)\mathbf{g}_{t-3} + (1 + \mathbf{A}_{t-3})d\mathbf{g}_{t-3}^s\right)\end{aligned}$$

and so we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned}dg_t^s &= (1 + d\mathbf{A}_{t-1}^s)\mathbf{g}_{t-1} + (1 + \mathbf{A}_{t-1})(1 + d\mathbf{A}_{t-2}^s)\mathbf{g}_{t-2} \\&\quad + (1 + \mathbf{A}_{t-1})(1 + \mathbf{A}_{t-2})(1 + d\mathbf{A}_{t-3}^s)\mathbf{g}_{t-3} + (1 + \mathbf{A}_{t-1})(1 + \mathbf{A}_{t-2})(1 + \mathbf{A}_{t-3})d\mathbf{g}_{t-3}^s \\&= (1 + d\mathbf{A}_{t-1}^s)\mathbf{g}^{ss} + (1 + \mathbf{A}^{ss})(1 + d\mathbf{A}_{t-2}^s)\mathbf{g}^{ss} \\&\quad + (1 + \mathbf{A}^{ss})(1 + \mathbf{A}^{ss})(1 + d\mathbf{A}_{t-3}^s)\mathbf{g}_{t-3} + (1 + \mathbf{A}^{ss})(1 + \mathbf{A}^{ss})(1 + \mathbf{A}^{ss})d\mathbf{g}_{t-3}^s\end{aligned}$$

By induction, representation (a) follows.

Derivation

Representations (b) and (c) follow from the following derivation. We know that

$$\begin{aligned}dg_t^s &= (1 + dA_{t-1}^s)g^{\text{ss}} + (1 + A^{\text{ss}})dg_{t-1}^s \\&= (1 + dA_0^{s-(t-1)})g^{\text{ss}} + (1 + A^{\text{ss}})dg_{t-1}^s \\&= dg_1^{s-(t-1)} + (1 + A^{\text{ss}})dg_{t-1}^s \\&= dg_1^{s-(t-1)} + (1 + A^{\text{ss}})\left[dg_1^{s-(t-2)} + (1 + A^{\text{ss}})dg_{t-2}^s\right] \\&= \sum_{k=1}^t (1 + A^{\text{ss}})^{k-1} dg_1^{s-t+k}\end{aligned}$$

Adjoint

- KF matrix $\Lambda_t = 1 + dt A'_t$ has **special structure** in continuous time. Recall:

$$\frac{g_{t+1} - g_t}{dt} = (A^z)' g_t + \sum_{i \geq 2} \frac{D'_{a,[i,:]} }{da} \left[\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ r_t \mathbf{a}_{[2:J]} + \mathbf{z}_{[2:J]} w_t N_t - \mathbf{c}_{t,[2:J]} \end{pmatrix} \cdot g_t \right]$$

- Or simply:

$$g_{t+1} = g_t + dt \left[(A^z)' g_t + \frac{1}{da} D'_a(s_t \cdot g_t) \right].$$

Lemma. The adjoint operator of the Kolmogorov forward equation satisfies

$$\frac{\partial \Lambda_t}{\partial \theta_s} = \frac{dt}{da} \left(\frac{\partial s_t}{\partial \theta_s} \cdot D_a \right)',$$

Distribution

- Adjoint satisfies: $\frac{\partial \Lambda_t}{\partial \theta_s} = \frac{dt}{da} \left(\frac{\partial s_t}{\partial \theta_s} \cdot D_a \right)'$
- Using special structure of adjoint, we have

$$\frac{\partial g_{t+1}}{\partial \theta_s} = \Lambda_{ss} \frac{\partial g_t}{\partial \theta_s} + \frac{dt}{da} \left(\frac{\partial s_t}{\partial \theta_s} \cdot D_a \right)' g_{ss} = \Lambda_{ss} \frac{\partial g_t}{\partial \theta_s} + \frac{dt}{da} (g_{ss} \cdot D_a)' \frac{\partial s_t}{\partial \theta_s}$$

Lemma. Solving the recursion, we can express sequence space derivatives of the distribution entirely in terms of derivatives of policy functions:

$$\frac{\partial g_{t+1}}{\partial \theta_s} = \frac{dt}{da} \sum_{k=0}^t \Lambda_{ss}^k (g_{ss} \cdot D_a)' \frac{\partial s_{t-k}}{\partial \theta_s}$$

Sequence Space Jacobians of Equilibrium Map

- **We are done!** We can now compute H_X and H_Z
- Consider bond market clearing condition (similar for NKPC):

$$H_t = s'_t g_t,$$

- This implies:

$$\frac{\partial H_t}{\partial \theta_s} = s'_{ss} \frac{\partial g_t}{\partial \theta_s} + g'_{ss} \frac{\partial s_t}{\partial \theta_s}$$

- We have $\frac{\partial s_t}{\partial \theta_s}$ from a single function evaluation of $\mathcal{H}(\cdot)$ and we solve for $\frac{\partial g_t}{\partial \theta_s}$ entirely in terms of policy function derivatives!!!

Implementation

- In practice, macro block has structure given by

$$H(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{Z}) = 0,$$

where \mathbf{C} is a vector of micro block aggregates: $\mathbf{C}_t = \mathbf{c}'_t \mathbf{g}_t$

- Right way to think about it is that $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z})$ and:

$$H_{\mathbf{X}} d\mathbf{X} + H_{\mathbf{C}} \left(\mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{X}} d\mathbf{X} + \mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{Z}} d\mathbf{Z} \right) + H_{\mathbf{Z}} d\mathbf{Z} = 0,$$

- This implies: $d\mathbf{X} = -(\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{X}} + \mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{C}} \mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{X}})^{-1} (\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{C}} \mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{Z}} + \mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{Z}}) d\mathbf{Z}$
- And we obtain the only matrix that we don't have yet via:

$$(\mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{Z}})_{ts} = \mathbf{c}'_{ss} \frac{\partial \mathbf{g}_t}{\partial \mathbf{Z}_s} + \mathbf{g}'_{ss} \frac{\partial \mathbf{c}_t}{\partial \mathbf{Z}_s}$$