
Open economy HANK

Ludwig Straub

NBER Heterogeneous-Agent Workshop, 2025

Monetary policy in open economy HANK

- ❖ So far, focus on *closed* economy models of fiscal & monetary policy
- ❖ **Next:** *Open* economy. What changes?
 - ❖ Exports & imports are new **source** and **destination** for demand
 - ❖ Extent to which is controlled by the **exchange rate**
- ❖ Material here based on Gali Monacelli (2005) and Auclert, Rognlie, Souchier, Straub (2024)

Exciting other work in this area: de Ferra et al (2020), Cugat (2019), Giagheddu (2020), Zhou (2022), Kekre Lenel (2020), Guo Ottonello Perez (2021), Aggarwal et al (2022), Sundry (2024)

Proceed in three steps

1. Introduce model that nests RA & HA
 - ❖ RA model almost literally = Gali Monacelli (2005)
 - ❖ HA model: no bonds, but capitalized profits
 - ❖ Key parameter: **trade elasticity** χ
2. Effects of **exchange rate shocks** (e.g. due to capital flows or UIP shocks)
3. Paper: Effects of **monetary policy**

HANK meets Gali-Monacelli

Model overview

- ❖ Small open economy (SOE) model
- ❖ Two goods
 - ❖ “Home”: H , produced at home, P_{Ht} at home, P_{Ht}^* abroad
 - ❖ “Foreign”: F , produced abroad, P_{Ft} at home, $P_{Ft}^* \equiv 1$ abroad
 - ❖ Consumed in bundles. CPI P_t at home, P_t^* abroad
- ❖ Two kinds of agents:
 - ❖ Large mass of foreign households
 - ❖ mass 1 of **HA domestic households**

Households' consumption behavior

- ❖ Foreigners consume fixed real C^* . Home HA solve **intertemporal problem**:

$$\max_{c_{it}} \mathbb{E}_0 \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta_{it} \left(u(c_{it}) - v(N_t) \right) \quad c_{it} + a_{it} \leq (1 + r_t^p) a_{it-1} + \underbrace{Z_t e_{it}}_{\text{real labor income}} \quad a_{it} \geq 0$$

- ❖ Domestic & foreign consume CES bundle, solve **intratemporal problem**:

$$C_{Ht} = (1 - \alpha) \left(\frac{P_{Ht}}{P_t} \right)^{-\eta} C_t \quad C_{Ht}^* = \alpha \left(\frac{P_{Ht}^*}{P^*} \right)^{-\gamma} C^*$$

- ❖ Domestic production and market clearing: $Y_t = N_t = C_{Ht} + C_{Ht}^*$

Prices and nominal rigidities

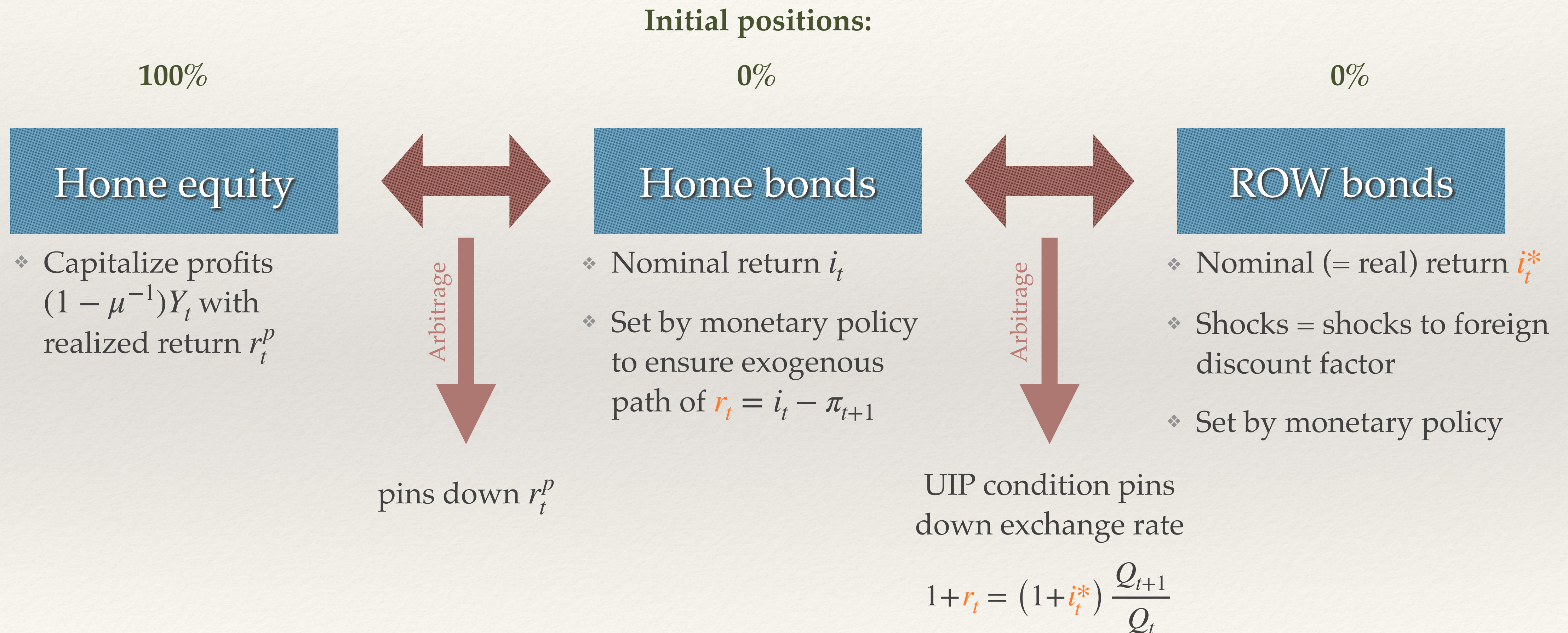
- ❖ Exchange rates: nominal \mathcal{E}_t , real $Q_t \equiv \mathcal{E}_t/P_t$, \uparrow is depreciation
- ❖ Same wage rigidity as before

$$\pi_{wt} = \kappa_w \left(v'(N_t) - \frac{\epsilon - 1}{\epsilon} \frac{W_t}{P_t} u'(C_t) \right) + \beta \pi_{wt+1}$$

- ❖ Flexible prices everywhere else:

$$P_{Ft} = \mathcal{E}_t \quad P_{Ht} = W_t \quad P_{Ht}^* = \frac{P_{Ht}}{\mathcal{E}_t} \longleftarrow \text{“Producer currency pricing”}$$

Monetary policy and assets



Baseline calibration

- ❖ Calibrate openness $\alpha = 0.40$ & balanced trade in steady state
- ❖ Same HA block as before
- ❖ Normalize all prices to 1 in steady state.
- ❖ *Note:* HA model already stationary, no need for debt-elastic interest rate
- ❖ Next: i_t^* shocks, then (briefly) r_t shocks.

Capital flows and exchange rates

Shock

- ❖ Temporary shock i_t^* \uparrow
 - ❖ Real depreciation! Iterate UIP forward:

$$dQ_t = \frac{1}{1+r} \sum_{s \geq 0} di_{t+s}^*$$

- ❖ $Q_t \uparrow$ $\frac{P_{Ht}}{P_t} \downarrow$ $\frac{P_{Ht}}{\mathcal{E}_t} \downarrow$
- ❖ Demand for home goods?
- ❖ First **RA**, then **HA**

What happens to aggregate demand?

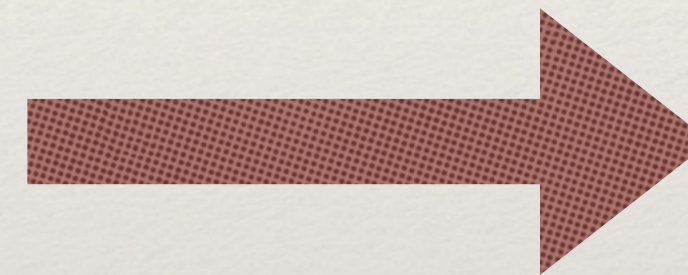
$$Y_t = (1 - \alpha) \left(\frac{P_{Ht}}{P_t} \right)^{-\eta} C_t + \alpha \left(\frac{P_{Ht}}{\mathcal{E}_t} \right)^{-\gamma} C^*$$

RA: $C_t = C = \text{const}!$

↑ with elasticity $\eta \frac{\alpha}{1 - \alpha}$

↑ with elasticity $\gamma \frac{1}{1 - \alpha}$

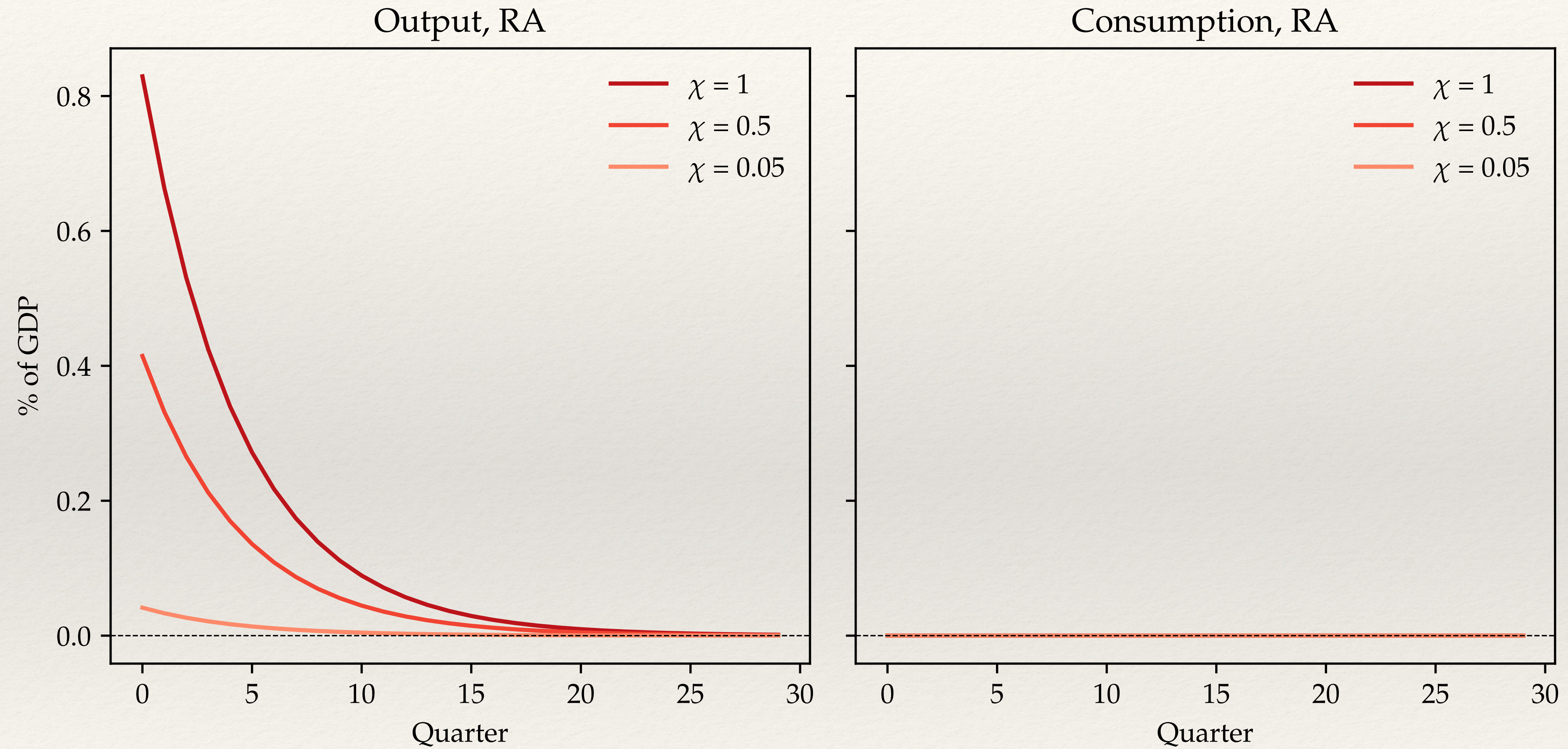
“Expenditure switching”



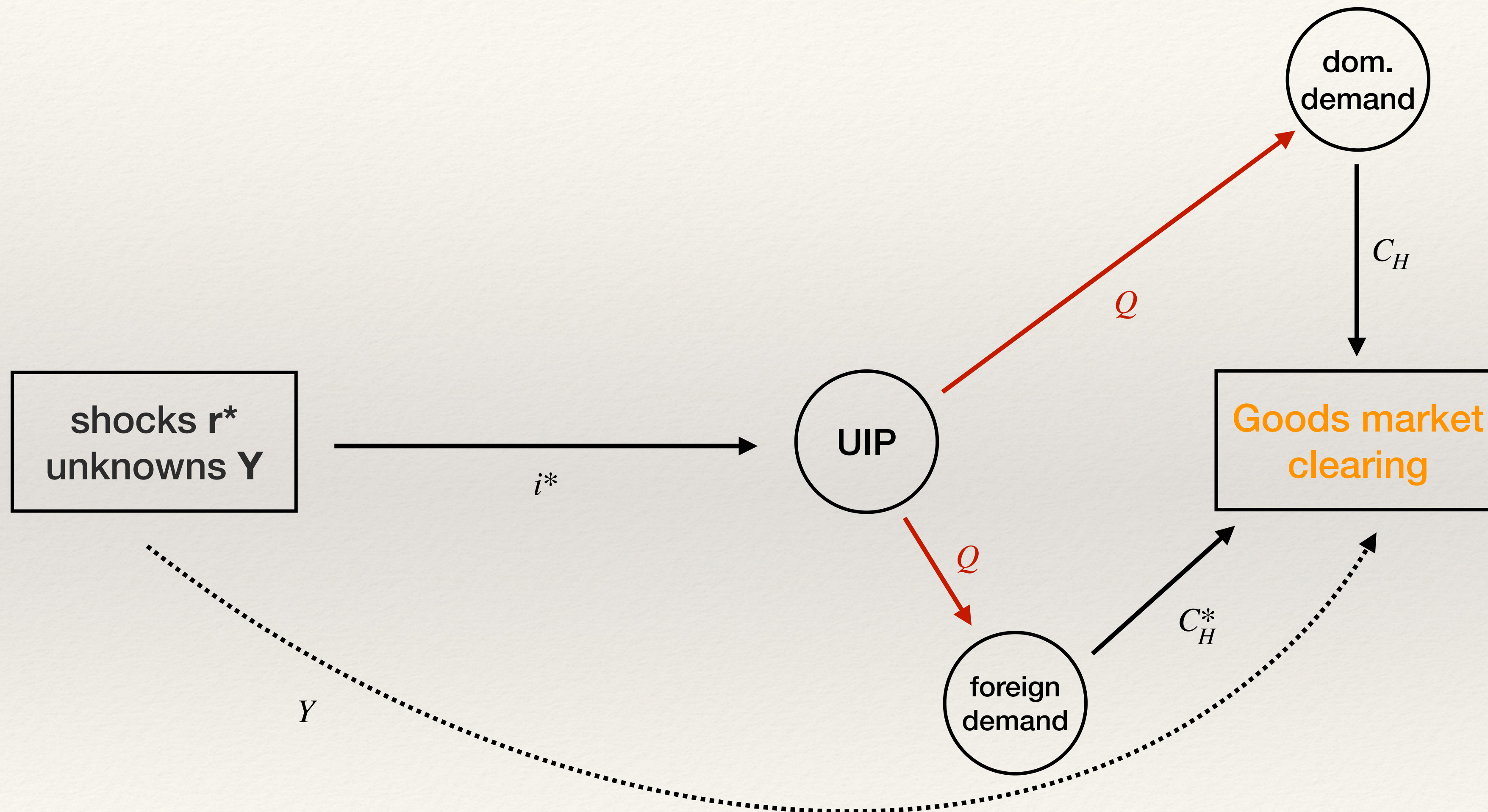
$$dY = \frac{\alpha}{1 - \alpha} \chi dQ$$

trade elasticity: $\chi \equiv \eta(1 - \alpha) + \gamma$

Representative agent: Exchange rate shock



DAG




```

@sj.solved(unknowns={'Q': (0.01, 300.)}, targets=['uip'])
def UIP(Q, r, rstar, eta, alpha, gamma):
    # recursive equation for UIP to pin down RER Q
    uip = 1 + r - (1 + rstar) * Q(1) / Q

    # price of H goods abroad in terms of Q
    PHstar = ((Q ** (eta - 1) - alpha) / (1 - alpha)) ** (1 / (1 - eta))

    # price of H goods at home in terms of Q
    PH_P = ((1 - alpha * Q ** (1 - eta)) / (1 - alpha)) ** (1 / (1 - eta))

    # price of F goods at home in terms of Q
    PF_P = Q # LOOP

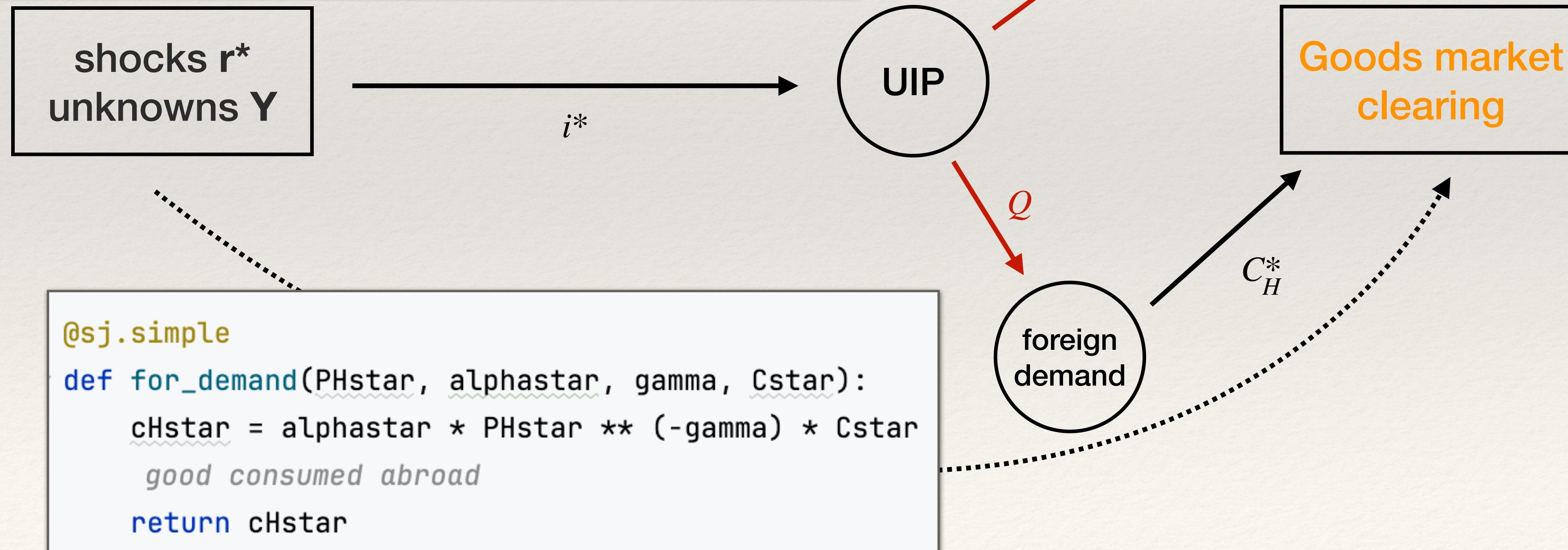
    # let's also compute chi, as an important object in the theory
    chi = eta * (1 - alpha) + gamma
    return uip, PHstar, PH_P, PF_P, chi

```

```

@sj.simple
def dom_demand(C, PF_P, PH_P, eta, alpha):
    cH = (1 - alpha) * PH_P ** (-eta) * C
    # domestically
    cF = alpha * PF_P ** (-eta) * C # PF_
    # domestically
    return cH, cF

```



```

@sj.simple
def for_demand(PHstar, alphastar, gamma, Cstar):
    cHstar = alphastar * PHstar ** (-gamma) * Cstar
    # good consumed abroad
    return cHstar

```


What changes with heterogeneous agents?

$$\text{HA: } C_t = \mathcal{C}_t \left(r_0^p, \{Z_s\} \right)! \Rightarrow dC = \bar{M} d \left(\frac{P_{Ht}}{P_t} Y_t \right) = -\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \bar{M} dQ + \bar{M} dY$$

$$Y_t = (1-\alpha) \left(\frac{P_{Ht}}{P_t} \right)^{-\eta} C_t + \alpha \left(\frac{P_{Ht}}{\mathcal{E}_t} \right)^{-\gamma} C^*$$

↑ with elasticity $\eta(1-\alpha)$
↑ with elasticity γ

Real income channel
Multiplier

$$dY = \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \chi dQ - \alpha \bar{M} dQ + (1-\alpha) \bar{M} dY$$

Expenditure switching

What changes with heterogeneous agents?

$$\text{HA: } C_t = \mathcal{C}_t \left(r_0^p, \{Z_s\} \right) ! \quad \Rightarrow \quad dC = \bar{M} d \left(\frac{P_{Ht}}{P_t} Y_t \right) = -\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \bar{M} dQ + \bar{M} dY$$

THE FREEPRESS

NEWSLETTERS SIGN IN SUBSCRIBE

Larry Summers Thinks Trump's Tariffs Are a Disaster

These policies are a major penalty to U.S. consumers that reduce the real income of middle-class families. They are a pro-inflation impulse and, ironically, they help exporters to the United States at the expense of

Real income channel

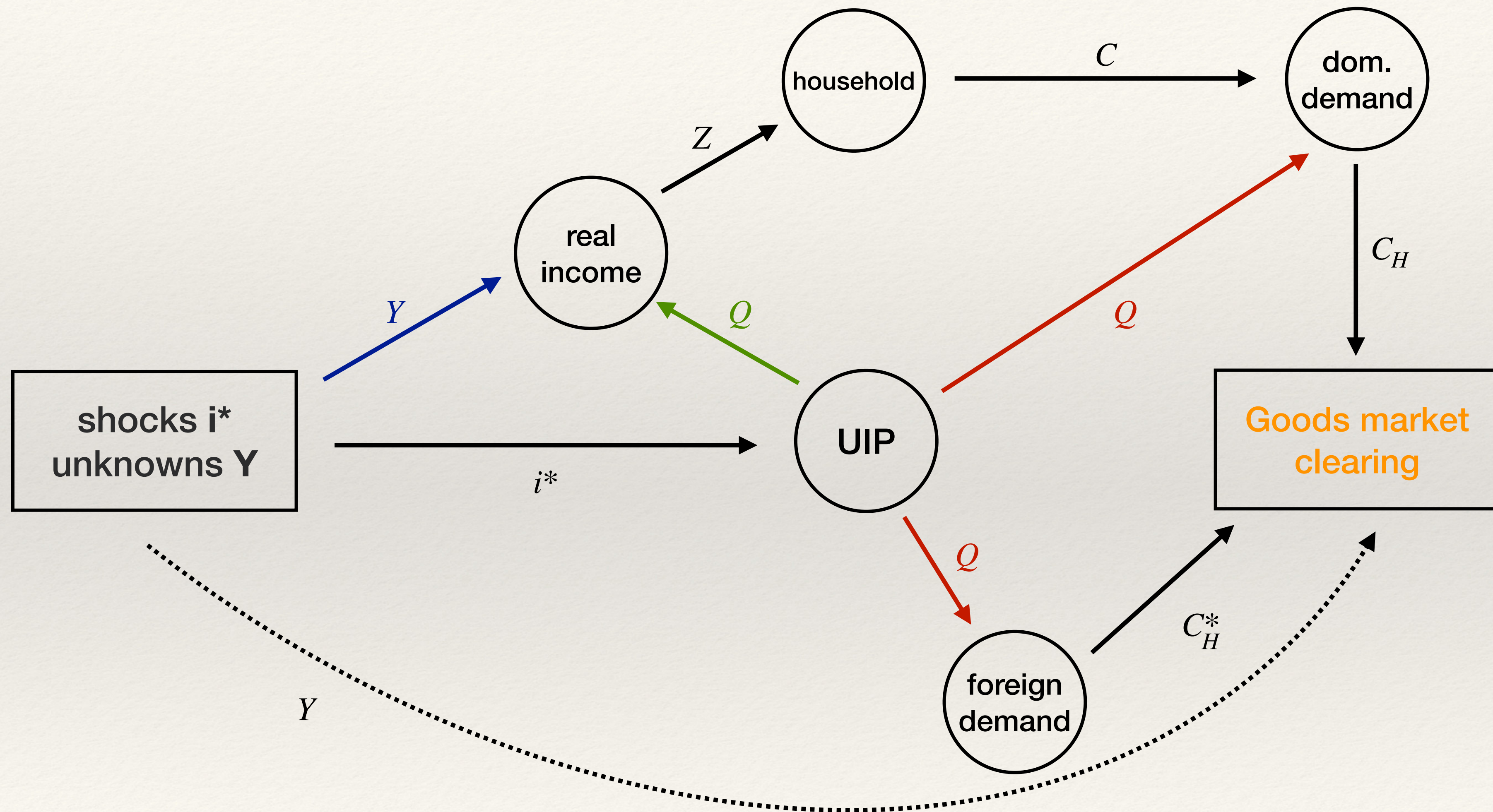
Multiplier

$$dY = \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \chi dQ - \alpha \bar{M} dQ + (1-\alpha) \bar{M} dY$$

Expenditure switching

$$Y_t = (1 -$$

DAG




```
@sj.solved(unknowns={'J': (0.001, 100.)}, targets=['valuation_cond'])
def income(Y, PH_P, J, r, markup_ss):
    # real labor income
    Z = 1 / markup_ss * PH_P * Y

    # real dividend
    div = (1 - 1 / markup_ss) * PH_P * Y

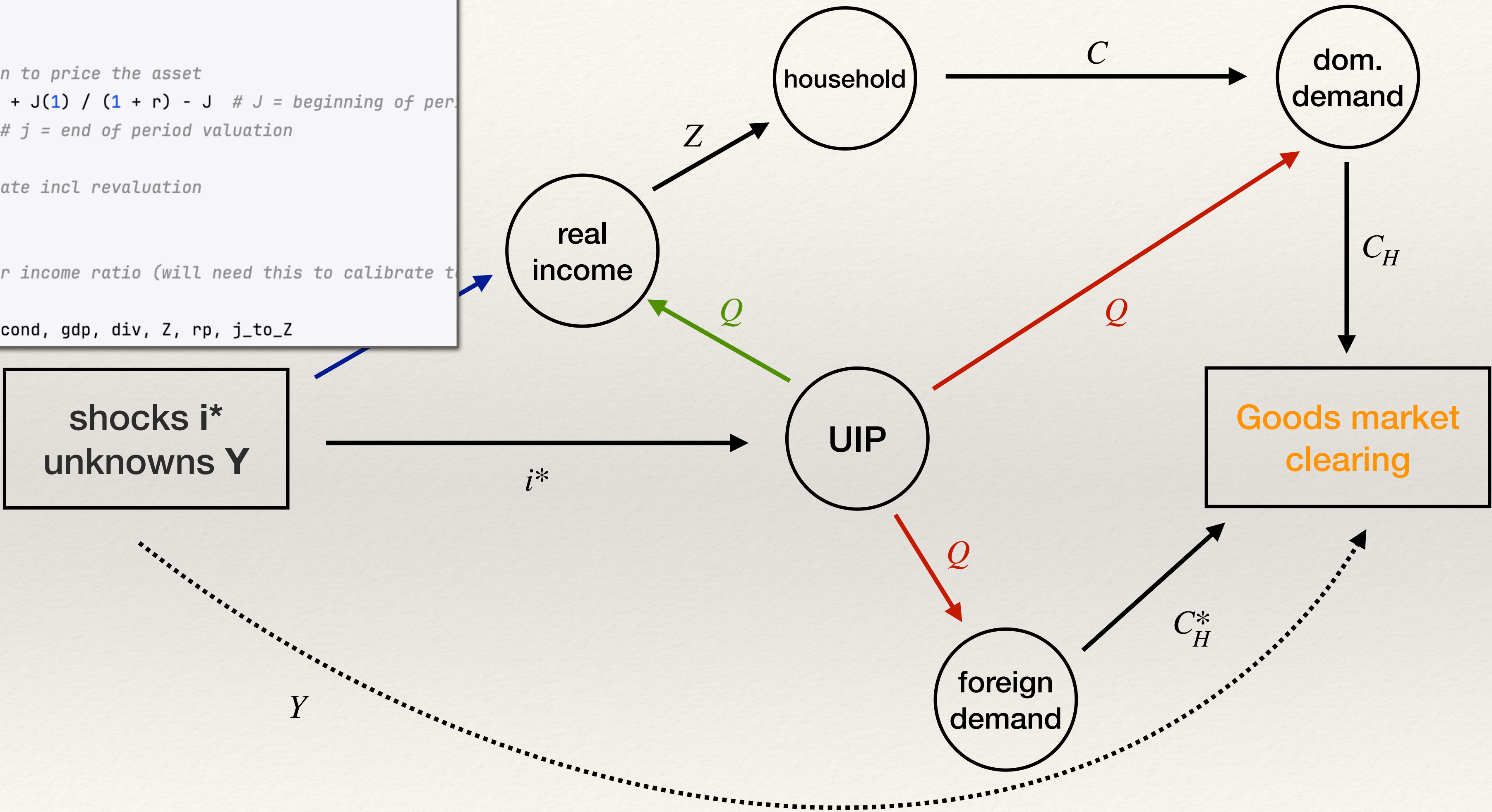
    # nominal PPP adjusted GDP
    gdp = PH_P * Y

    # valuation condition to price the asset
    valuation_cond = div + J(1) / (1 + r) - J # J = beginning of period
    j = J(1) / (1 + r) # j = end of period valuation

    # ex post interest rate incl revaluation
    rp = J / j(-1) - 1

    # get assets to labor income ratio (will need this to calibrate to data)
    j_to_Z = j / Z
    return j, valuation_cond, gdp, div, Z, rp, j_to_Z
```

DAG



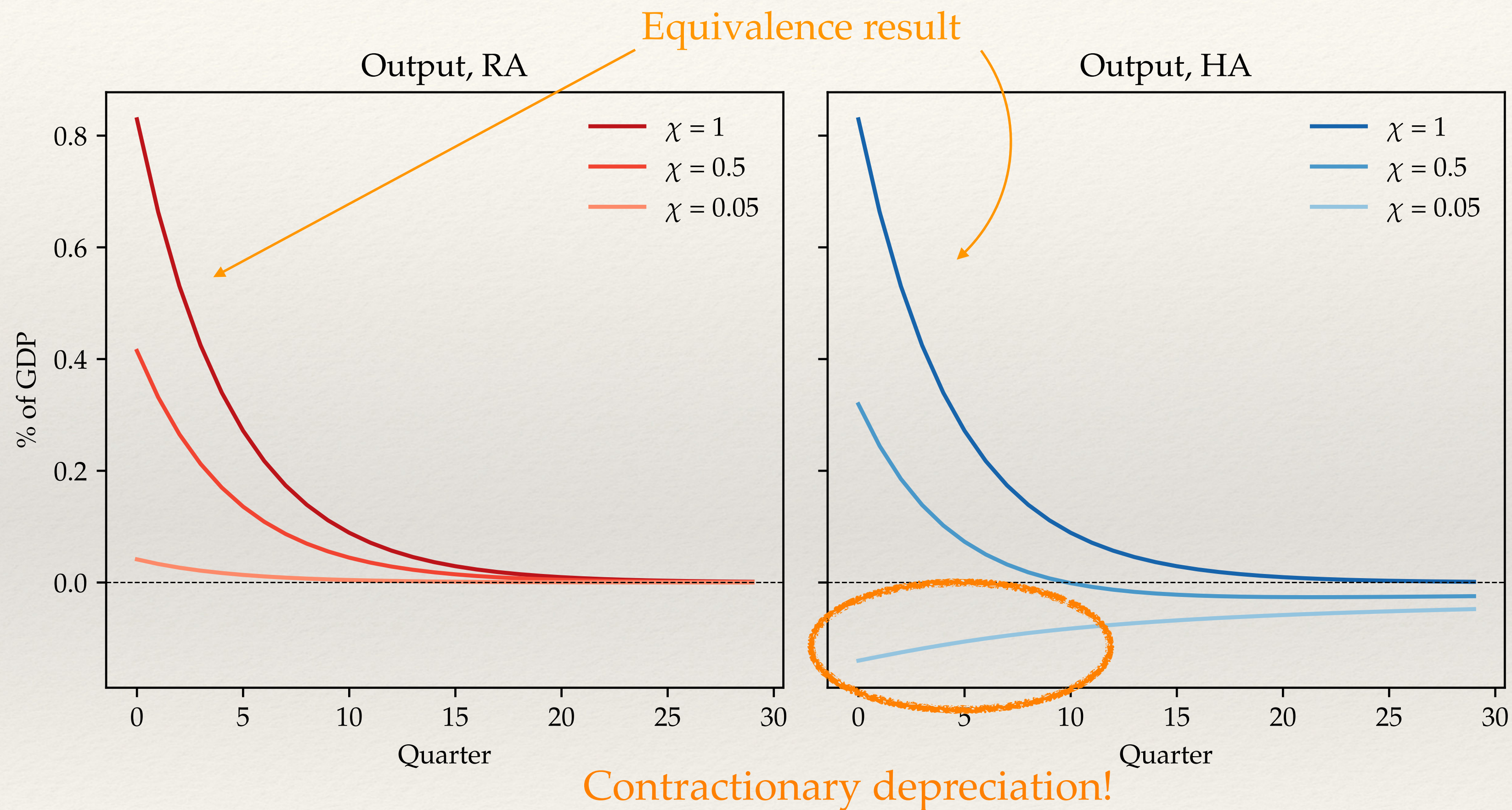
How do RA and HA compare?

- ❖ Assume $\chi = 1$. Then: $d\mathbf{Y}^{HA} = d\mathbf{Y}^{RA} = \frac{\alpha}{1 - \alpha} d\mathbf{Q}$
- ❖ HA and RA are identical in this case! What about the two new terms? **Cancel!**

$$\alpha \mathbf{M} d\mathbf{Q} = (1 - \alpha) \mathbf{M} d\mathbf{Y}$$

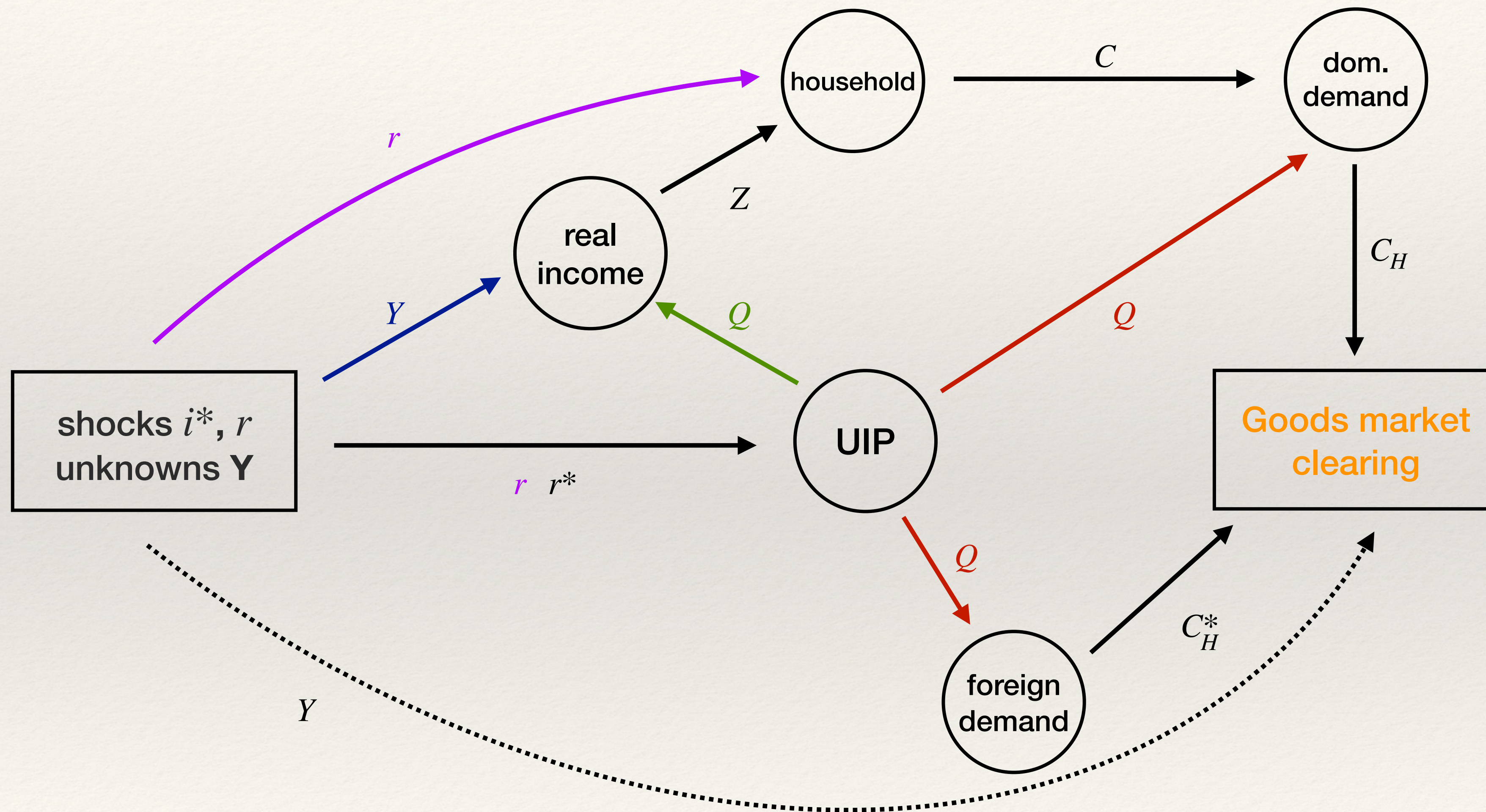
- ❖ **Intuition:** Depreciation causes just enough of a boom that the loss in real income due to depreciation is offset. [geeky comment: this is a little like the balanced budget multiplier]
- ❖ What if $\chi \neq 1$?

Contractionary depreciations for low χ



- ❖ This is more likely when substitution away from imports is hard (e.g. energy, food)

What about monetary policy?



Summary

- ❖ Merged HANK with Gali-Monacelli.
 - ❖ Maybe the most natural way to apply HANK to open economies?
- ❖ Learned:
 - ❖ New channels: **Real income**, **Keynesian Multiplier**
 - ❖ Can generate contractionary depreciations for low trade elasticities
- ❖ Lots more in paper: Taylor rules, non-trivial gross positions, slow trade adjustments (J curve), non-homothetic demand, DCP, slow pass-through, ...