Intermediation Frictions in Incomplete Markets ECON 810A - Project

Alex von Hafften

UW-Madison

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- Aggressive intervention by the Fed restored market liquidity.

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- Broker-dealers pointed to post-financial-crisis bank regulatory reform in particular, the Supplementary Leverage Ratio requirement - as the source of the disruption.
- **Research Question:** How does the intermediation of illiquid assets affect portfolio choice?

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- Optimal portfolio choices change with wealth and age (Brandsas 2020).
- The curse of dimensionality quickly hampers rich portfolio choice problems in Bewley-style model.
- GE with aggregate uncertainty and heterogenous households is difficult (Bhandari 2022).

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- Many HHs are optimally "wealthy hand-to-mouth" (i.e., hold very little liquid assets despite sizable amount of illiquid assets).
- Wealthy hand-to-mouth HHs have high MPC and rationalize empirical motivation.

Kaplan and Violante (2014) Household Value Function

• Household with age j. If $V_j^0(\mathbf{s}_j) \geq V_j^1(\mathbf{s}_j)$, the HH do not adjusted its illiquid assets:

$$\begin{split} V_j^0(\mathbf{s}_j) &= \max_{c_j, h_j, m_{j+1}} [(1-\beta)(c_j^\phi \mathbf{s}_j^{1-\phi})^{1-\sigma} + \beta \{C_j[V-j+1^{1-\gamma}]\}^{(1-\sigma)/(1-\gamma)}]^{1/(1-\sigma)} \\ \text{s.t. } (1+\tau^c)(c_j+h_j) + q^m(m_{j+1})m_{j+1} &= y_j + m_j - \tau(y_j, a_j, m_j) \\ &\qquad \qquad s_j = h_j + \zeta a_j \\ q^a a_{j+1} &= a_j \\ c_j &\geq 0, \\ h_j &\geq -\zeta a_j, \\ m_{j+1} &\geq -\underline{m}_{j+1}(y_j), \\ y_j &= \begin{cases} \exp(\xi_j + \alpha + z_j), & \text{if } j \geq J^w \\ p(\xi_{J^w}, \alpha, z_{J^w}), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{split}$$

where $\mathbf{s}_j = (m_j, a_j, \alpha, z_j)$ and z_j evolves according to a conditional cdf Γ_i^z .

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where κ is fixed cost of adjusting illiquid assets.

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- HHs pay a fixed cost to trade their house.

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 - Here, cash and a long-term bond with stochastic maturity.
- Instead of illiquidity of second asset coming from fixed transaction cost, I use random search for intermediary (i.e. broker-dealer).

Environment

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 - If an household and an intermediary meet, the household can sell long-term bonds.
 - Nash bargain over price with $\theta \in (0,1)$ being the bargaining power of the household.
 - Households can always buy long-term bonds (i.e. "on-the-run" Treasuries), but can only sell them through an intermediary (e.g. "off-the-run" Treasuries).

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- Value functions are evaluated.

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- They consume long-term bonds as they mature.
- Their value for buying b long-term bonds from a HH:

$$W(b) = \underbrace{\beta_I \delta b}_{\text{consumption one period after trade}} + \underbrace{\beta_I^2 (1-\delta) \delta b}_{\text{consumption two period after trade}} + \dots$$

$$\underbrace{\beta_I^3 (1-\delta)^2 \delta b}_{\text{consumption three periods after trade}} + \dots$$

$$=\frac{\beta_I\delta b}{1-\beta_I(1-\delta)}$$



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- The HHs value function is:

$$V_t(y, a, b) \equiv \gamma \underbrace{V_t^M(y, a, b)}_{\text{value if matched}} + (1 - \gamma) \underbrace{V_t^U(y, a, b)}_{\text{value if matched}}$$

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Unmatched Households Value Function

• A HH that is not matched with an intermediary choose consumption c, cash tomorrow a', and purchase new long-term bonds \tilde{b}' to maximize utility:

$$V_t^U(y, a, b) = \max_{c, a', \tilde{b}'} \left\{ \underbrace{u(c)}_{\text{instantaneous value}} + \underbrace{\beta E[V_{t+1}(y', a', b')]}_{\text{continuation value}} \right\}$$

subject to

$$c+a'+\underbrace{\tilde{b}'}_{\text{new LT bonds}} = y+a+\underbrace{\delta b(1+r)}_{\text{matured LT bonds}}$$

$$b'=\underbrace{\tilde{b}'}_{\text{new LT bonds}} +\underbrace{(1-\delta)b(1+r)}_{\text{unmatured LT bonds}}$$

$$a', \tilde{b}' \geq 0$$

Matched Households Value Function

 A HH that is matched with an intermediary can either buy LT bonds (same problem as unmatched) or sell LT bonds:

$$V_t^M(y,a,b) = \max \left\{ \underbrace{V_t^U(y,a,b)}_{\text{buying LT bonds}}, \\ \max_{c,a',\ell} \left\{ u(c) + \beta E[V_{t+1}(y',a'+P(\ell(1-\delta)b(1+r)),b')] \right\} \right\}$$

subject to

$$c+a'=y+a+\delta b(1+r)$$

$$b'=\underbrace{(1-\ell)(1-\delta)b(1+r)}_{\text{unsold, unmatured LT bonds}},\quad a'\geq 0, \ell\in[0,1]$$

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- The value to the household is $\beta E[V_{t+1}(y', a' + P, b')]$.
- The outside option for the household is the unmatched value function: $\beta E[V_{t+1}(y', a', b' + \hat{b}')]$.

Nash bargaining solves:

$$\max_{P} \left[\underbrace{\beta E[V_{t+1}(y', a' + P, b') - \beta E[V_{t+1}(y', a', b' + \hat{b}')]}_{\text{surplus of HH}} \right]^{\theta} \times \left[\underbrace{W(\hat{b}') - P}_{\text{surplus of intermediary}} \right]^{1-\theta}$$





$$\theta E[V_{a,t+1}(y', a' + P, b')] \left[W(\hat{b}') - P \right]$$

$$\underbrace{-(1-\theta) \left[E[V_{t+1}(y', a' + P, b') - E[V_{t+1}(y', a', b' + \hat{b}')] \right]}_{\equiv g(P)} = 0$$

We can solve this pricing condition numerically by:

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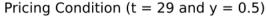
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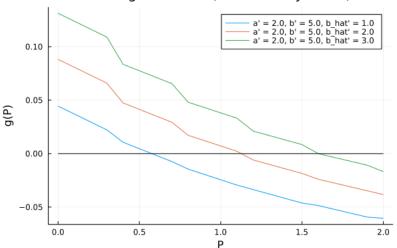
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- Use first-order Newton approximation around zero?

$$P \approx \frac{-g(0)}{g'(0)}$$

(needs 2d cubic interpolation instead of bilinear)

Pricing Condition





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- Coarse grid for solving the model; finer grid for simulating the model.

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- Two state Markov earnings process with $y_e=1.0$ and $y_u=0.5$ with $\pi_{ee}=0.9$ and $\pi_{uu}=0.5$ to match employment rate and employment duration.

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- Two state Markov earnings process with $y_e=1.0$ and $y_u=0.5$ with $\pi_{ee}=0.9$ and $\pi_{uu}=0.5$ to match employment rate and employment duration.
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- Average maturity of outstanding U.S. Treasury is 70 months, so $\delta = 0.17143$.
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- T = 30.
- $\beta = \beta_I = 0.99$

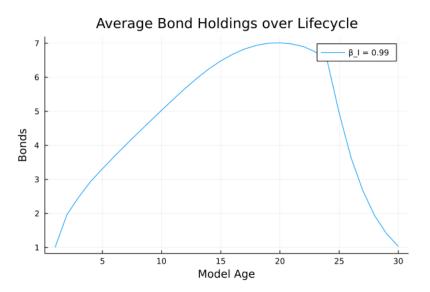


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- $\theta = 0.5$

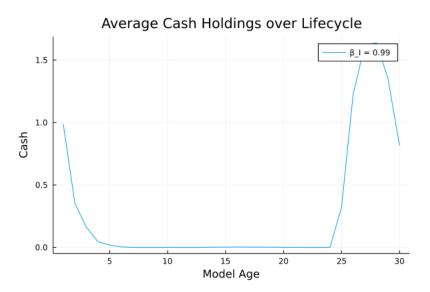
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- $\theta = 0.5$
- r = 0.1
- $\gamma = 0.2$

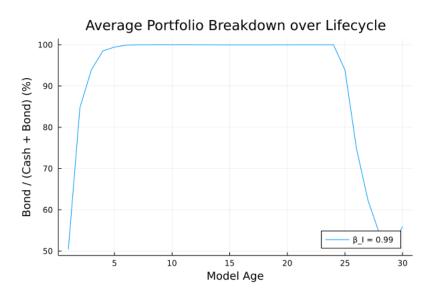
Baseline



Baseline



Baseline



Policy Experiments changing Intermediation Frictions

	Baseline	Policy Experiment $\#1$	Policy Experiment #2
β_I	0.99	0.9	0.99
γ	0.2	0.2	0.1

• Policy Experiment #1: Intermediaries are less patient \implies consuming b over time less \implies price drops

$$\frac{\partial W(b)}{\partial \beta_I} = \frac{\delta b}{[1 - \beta_I (1 - \delta)]^2} > 0$$

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Policy Experiment #2: HH is less likely to meet intermediate.

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First order condition:

$$\theta \left[\beta E[V_{t+1}(y', a' + P, b') - \beta E[V_{t+1}(y', a', b' + \hat{b}')] \right]^{\theta - 1}$$

$$\times \beta E[V_{a,t+1}(y', a' + P, b')] \left[W(\hat{b}') - P \right]^{1 - \theta}$$

$$= (1 - \theta) \left[W(\hat{b}') - P \right]^{-\theta}$$

$$\times \left[\beta E[V_{t+1}(y', a' + P, b') - \beta E[V_{t+1}(y', a', b' + \hat{b}')] \right]^{\theta}$$

Calibration δ

Average maturity of LT bond is:

$$\delta + 2(1 - \delta)\delta + 3(1 - \delta)^2\delta + \dots = \delta \sum_{t=1}^{\infty} t(1 - \delta)^{t-1}$$

For average maturity of $70/12 \approx 5.833 \implies \delta \approx 0.17143$

