

---

Lab 3 Questions: Value Function Iteration  
Investment Finance and Asset Prices ECON 5068

---

## 1 Value Function Iteration

Consider the problem of a value maximizing perfectly competitive firm whose operating profit function at time  $t$  is given by

$$\pi_t = K_t^\alpha; \quad \alpha > 0 \quad (1)$$

where  $K_t$  is the stock of capital at time  $t$  and  $\alpha$  is the elasticity of profit function w.r.t capital.

The firm faces a quadratic adjustment cost of capital given by

$$AC_t = \frac{\phi}{2} I_t^2$$

Dividends,  $D_t$ , are defined as operating profits net of adjustment costs and investment costs,

$$D_t = \pi_t - I_t - AC_t$$

Here we have normalized the price of capital to unity. Assume that the firm lives for infinite periods,  $t = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , and future period values are discounted using the factor  $0 < \beta < 1$ . Furthermore, the stock of capital evolves as follows

$$K_{t+1} = (1 - \delta)K_t + I_t$$

where  $0 < \delta < 1$  is the depreciation rate.

Write down the Bellman equation and solve for optimal investment policy using the method of Value Function Iteration.