

Solution of RBC Model with Government Spending

Garey Ramey

University of California, San Diego

April 2019

1 Equilibrium conditions

$$\begin{aligned}\chi C_t L_t^{1/\eta} &= (1 - \alpha) \frac{Y_t}{L_t} = W_t, \\ \frac{1}{C_t} &= \mathbb{E}_t \beta (1 + R_{t+1}) \frac{1}{C_{t+1}}, \\ \mathbb{E}_t \frac{1}{1 + R_{t+1}} \left(\alpha \frac{Y_{t+1}}{K_t} + 1 - \delta \right) &= 1, \\ Y_t &= Z_t K_{t-1}^\alpha L_t^{1-\alpha} = C_t + I_t + G_t, \\ K_t &= (1 - \delta) K_{t-1} + I_t, \\ Z_t &= Z^{1-\rho} Z_{t-1}^\rho e^{\varepsilon_t}, \\ G_t &= G^{1-\gamma} G_{t-1}^\gamma e^{\nu_t}.\end{aligned}$$

The parameters satisfy

$$\chi, \eta, Z, G > 0, \quad 0 < \alpha, \beta, \delta, \rho, \gamma < 1.$$

$\{\varepsilon_t\}$ and $\{\nu_t\}$ are uncorrelated white noise processes.

2 Nonstochastic steady state

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{K}{L} = \kappa &= \left(\frac{1/\beta - (1 - \delta)}{\alpha Z} \right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha-1}}, \\ Z \kappa^\alpha L &= \frac{(1 - \alpha) Z \kappa^\alpha}{\chi} L^{-1/\eta} + \delta \kappa L + G,\end{aligned}$$

$$C = \frac{(1 - \alpha) Z \kappa^\alpha}{\chi} L^{-1/\eta},$$

$$I = \delta \kappa L,$$

$$Y = Z \kappa^\alpha L = C + I + G,$$

$$R = \alpha Z \kappa^{\alpha-1} - \delta.$$

Also:

$$\beta = (\alpha Z \kappa^{\alpha-1} + 1 - \delta)^{-1}.$$

3 Log-linearized equilibrium conditions

$$\hat{y}_t = \frac{C}{Y} \hat{c}_t + \frac{I}{Y} \hat{i}_t + \frac{G}{Y} \hat{g}_t,$$

$$\hat{k}_t = (1 - \delta) \hat{k}_{t-1} + \delta \hat{i}_t,$$

$$\hat{c}_t + \frac{1}{\eta} \hat{l}_t = \hat{y}_t - \hat{l}_t = \hat{w}_t,$$

$$\mathbb{E}_t \hat{c}_{t+1} - \hat{c}_t = \beta \alpha \frac{Y}{K} (\mathbb{E}_t \hat{y}_{t+1} - \hat{k}_t) = (1 - \beta) \mathbb{E}_t \hat{r}_{t+1},$$

$$\hat{y}_t = \hat{z}_t + \alpha \hat{k}_{t-1} + (1 - \alpha) \hat{l}_t,$$

$$\hat{z}_{t+1} = \rho \hat{z}_t + \varepsilon_{t+1},$$

$$\hat{g}_{t+1} = \gamma \hat{g}_t + \nu_{t+1}.$$

Resource constraint:

$$\begin{aligned} & \hat{z}_t + \alpha \hat{k}_{t-1} + (1 - \alpha) \hat{l}_t \\ &= \frac{C}{Y} \hat{c}_t + \frac{I}{Y} \frac{1}{\delta} \left(\hat{k}_t - (1 - \delta) \hat{k}_{t-1} \right) + \frac{G}{Y} \hat{g}_t \\ &= \frac{C}{Z \kappa^\alpha L} \hat{c}_t + \kappa^{1-\alpha} \hat{k}_t - (1 - \delta) \kappa^{1-\alpha} \hat{k}_{t-1} + \frac{G}{Z \kappa^\alpha L} \hat{g}_t, \end{aligned}$$

$$\hat{z}_t + (\alpha + (1 - \delta) \kappa^{1-\alpha}) \hat{k}_{t-1} + (1 - \alpha) \hat{l}_t = \frac{C}{Z \kappa^\alpha L} \hat{c}_t + \kappa^{1-\alpha} \hat{k}_t + \frac{G}{Z \kappa^\alpha L} \hat{g}_t.$$

Five-variable system:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{c}_t + \left(\alpha + \frac{1}{\eta}\right)\hat{l}_t &= \hat{z}_t + \alpha\hat{k}_{t-1}, \\ \mathbb{E}_t\hat{c}_{t+1} - \hat{c}_t &= \beta\alpha\kappa^{\alpha-1} \left(\mathbb{E}_t\hat{z}_{t+1} + \alpha\hat{k}_t + (1-\alpha)\mathbb{E}_t\hat{l}_{t+1} - \hat{k}_t\right), \\ \hat{z}_t + (\alpha + (1-\delta)\kappa^{1-\alpha})\hat{k}_{t-1} + (1-\alpha)\hat{l}_t &= \frac{C}{Z\kappa^\alpha L}\hat{c}_t + \kappa^{1-\alpha}\hat{k}_t + \frac{G}{Z\kappa^\alpha L}\hat{g}_t,\end{aligned}$$

plus the $\hat{z}_{t+1}$ and $\hat{g}_{t+1}$ equations. This system determines $\hat{c}_t$, $\hat{l}_t$, $\hat{k}_t$, $\hat{z}_t$ and $\hat{g}_t$ given ε_t and ν_t .

Auxiliary variables:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{l}_t &= \frac{1}{\psi_1}\hat{z}_t + \frac{\alpha}{\psi_1}\hat{k}_{t-1} - \frac{1}{\psi_1}\hat{c}_t, \\ \hat{y}_t &= \hat{z}_t + \alpha\hat{k}_{t-1} + (1-\alpha)\hat{l}_t, \\ \hat{i}_t &= \frac{1}{\delta} \left(\hat{k}_t - (1-\delta)\hat{k}_{t-1}\right), \\ \hat{w}_t &= \hat{c}_t + \frac{1}{\eta}\hat{l}_t = \hat{y}_t - \hat{l}_t = \hat{p}_t.\end{aligned}$$

4 Reduced-form system

Define

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_1 &= \alpha + \frac{1}{\eta}, \quad \psi_2 = \beta\alpha\kappa^{\alpha-1}, \\ \psi_3 &= \alpha + (1-\delta)\kappa^{1-\alpha}, \quad \psi_4 = \frac{C}{Z\kappa^\alpha L}, \quad \psi_5 = \frac{G}{Z\kappa^\alpha L}.\end{aligned}$$

The system maybe written as

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{c}_t + \psi_1\hat{l}_t &= \hat{z}_t + \alpha\hat{k}_{t-1}, \\ \mathbb{E}_t\hat{c}_{t+1} - \hat{c}_t &= \psi_2 \left(\mathbb{E}_t\hat{z}_{t+1} + \alpha\hat{k}_t + (1-\alpha)\mathbb{E}_t\hat{l}_{t+1} - \hat{k}_t\right), \\ \hat{z}_t + \psi_3\hat{k}_{t-1} + (1-\alpha)\hat{l}_t &= \psi_4\hat{c}_t + \kappa^{1-\alpha}\hat{k}_t + \psi_5\hat{g}_t,\end{aligned}$$

plus the $\hat{z}_{t+1}$ and $\hat{g}_{t+1}$ equations. Eliminate $\hat{l}_t$:

$$\hat{l}_t = \frac{1}{\psi_1}\hat{z}_t + \frac{\alpha}{\psi_1}\hat{k}_{t-1} - \frac{1}{\psi_1}\hat{c}_t,$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}_t \hat{c}_{t+1} - \hat{c}_t &= \psi_2 \left(\mathbb{E}_t \hat{z}_{t+1} - (1 - \alpha) \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{\psi_1} \right) \hat{k}_t + \frac{1 - \alpha}{\psi_1} \mathbb{E}_t \hat{z}_{t+1} - \frac{1 - \alpha}{\psi_1} \mathbb{E}_t \hat{c}_{t+1} \right), \\ \left(1 + \frac{1 - \alpha}{\psi_1} \right) \hat{z}_t + \left(\psi_3 + \frac{(1 - \alpha)\alpha}{\psi_1} \right) \hat{k}_{t-1} - \frac{1 - \alpha}{\psi_1} \hat{c}_t &= \psi_4 \hat{c}_t + \kappa^{1-\alpha} \hat{k}_t + \psi_5 \hat{g}_t.\end{aligned}$$

Substitute $\mathbb{E}_t \hat{z}_{t+1} = \rho \hat{z}_t$, and express the system as a first-order expectational difference system:

$$\begin{aligned}\left(1 + \frac{(1 - \alpha)\psi_2}{\psi_1} \right) \mathbb{E}_t \hat{c}_{t+1} + (1 - \alpha)\psi_2 \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{\psi_1} \right) \hat{k}_t &= \hat{c}_t + \rho\psi_2 \left(1 + \frac{1 - \alpha}{\psi_1} \right) \hat{z}_t, \\ \kappa^{1-\alpha} \hat{k}_t &= - \left(\psi_4 + \frac{1 - \alpha}{\psi_1} \right) \hat{c}_t + \left(\psi_3 + \frac{(1 - \alpha)\alpha}{\psi_1} \right) \hat{k}_{t-1} + \left(1 + \frac{1 - \alpha}{\psi_1} \right) \hat{z}_t - \psi_5 \hat{g}_t, \\ \hat{z}_{t+1} &= \rho \hat{z}_t + \varepsilon_{t+1}, \\ \hat{g}_{t+1} &= \gamma \hat{g}_t + \nu_{t+1}.\end{aligned}$$

In terms of matrices and vectors:

$$\begin{aligned}& \begin{bmatrix} 1 + \frac{(1-\alpha)\psi_2}{\psi_1} & (1-\alpha)\psi_2 \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{\psi_1} \right) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \kappa^{1-\alpha} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{E}_t \hat{c}_{t+1} \\ \hat{k}_t \\ \hat{z}_{t+1} \\ \hat{g}_{t+1} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \rho\psi_2 \left(1 + \frac{1-\alpha}{\psi_1} \right) & 0 \\ - \left(\psi_4 + \frac{1-\alpha}{\psi_1} \right) & \psi_3 + \frac{(1-\alpha)\alpha}{\psi_1} & 1 + \frac{1-\alpha}{\psi_1} & -\psi_5 \\ 0 & 0 & \rho & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \gamma \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{c}_t \\ \hat{k}_{t-1} \\ \hat{z}_t \\ \hat{g}_t \end{bmatrix} \\ &+ \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_{t+1} \\ \nu_{t+1} \end{bmatrix}.\end{aligned}$$

5 REE Solution

The solution takes the form

$$\hat{c}_t = \Phi_U \begin{bmatrix} \hat{k}_{t-1} \\ \hat{z}_t \\ \hat{g}_t \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{k}_t \\ \hat{z}_{t+1} \\ \hat{g}_{t+1} \end{bmatrix} = \Phi_S \begin{bmatrix} \hat{k}_{t-1} \\ \hat{z}_t \\ \hat{g}_t \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_{t+1} \\ \nu_{t+1} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let the numerical parameter values be

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} \alpha & \beta & \delta & \eta & \rho & \sigma_\varepsilon \\ .34 & 1.04^{-1/4} & .02 & .25 & .95 & .007 \end{array}.$$

Also:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \chi & Z & G & \gamma & \sigma_\nu \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array}.$$

Then the solution is given by

$$\Phi_U = \begin{bmatrix} .592 & .311 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Phi_S = \begin{bmatrix} .966 & .076 & 0 \\ 0 & .95 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$