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Andrew B. Abel; Olivier J. Blanchard

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## AN INTERTEMPORAL MODEL OF SAVING AND INVESTMENT

BY ANDREW B. ABEL AND OLIVIER J. BLANCHARD<sup>1</sup>

This paper characterizes a market economy with infinitely long-lived consumers, and value-maximizing firms which face costs of adjustment for capital.

The temporary equilibrium of this economy is similar to the short-run equilibrium of standard macroeconomic models. Consumption is a function of wealth, investment is related to the value of firms; equilibrium between aggregate demand and aggregate supply is achieved by the endogenous adjustment of the sequence of current and future interest rates.

The dynamic behavior of output, consumption, and investment in this economy is the same as in an optimal growth model with adjustment costs. The paper shows this equivalence and then uses it, together with the equivalence of taxes to technological shocks, to study the dynamic effects of fiscal policy.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

THE STANDARD MODEL of optimal growth, interpreted as a model of a market economy with infinitely long-lived agents does not allow separation of the savings decisions of agents from the investment decisions of firms. Investment is essentially passive: the "one good" assumption leads to a perfectly elastic investment supply; the absence of installation costs for investment leads to a perfectly elastic investment demand.

On the other hand, the standard model of temporary equilibrium used in macroeconomics, such as the Metzler [6] model for example, characterizes both the savings-consumption decision and the investment decision, or, equivalently, derives a well-behaved aggregate demand which, in equilibrium, must be equal to aggregate supply.

Often, however, we want to study the movement of the temporary equilibrium over time in response to a particular shock or policy. The discrepancy between the treatment of investment in the two models makes imbedding the temporary equilibrium model in the growth model difficult. This is a particularly serious problem if the assumption of rational expectations is made, as in this case expected future events affect the current equilibrium and it becomes impossible to characterize the current equilibrium without using an intertemporal model.

The obvious solution is to modify the optimal growth model by relaxing one of the two assumptions which imply passive investment behavior. This can be done either by introducing a two-sector technology which generates a well-defined investment supply function (Srinivasan [7], Uzawa [9]), or it can be done by introducing installation or adjustment costs which generate a well-defined investment demand function. The purpose of this paper is to characterize the dynamic

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behavior of the optimal growth model with adjustment costs, to show the similarity between the temporary equilibrium of the corresponding market economy and the temporary equilibrium of standard short-run macroeconomic models, and finally to show how easily this model can be used to study the dynamic effects of shocks or policies. The paper is organized as follows:

Section 2 sets up and solves the optimal growth problem of an economy with adjustment costs.

Section 3 characterizes the behavior of agents and firms in a market economy which replicates the centralized economy described in Section 2. Consumption decisions are made by intertemporally optimizing households; at any point of time consumption is an increasing function of total wealth, including human capital, evaluated at market interest rates. Investment decisions are made by value-maximizing firms; at any point in time investment is an increasing function of the shadow price of capital, in a manner similar to Tobin's [8]  $q$ . The equality of saving and investment is maintained at every point in time by the endogenous adjustment of current and future market interest rates. The temporary equilibrium in this model is similar to the standard IS relation of many short-run macro models.

Section 4 formally proves the equivalence of the centralized and market economies.

Sections 5 and 6 use this equivalence to study the effects of various fiscal policies. To do this, we use the equivalence of these fiscal policies in the market economy to technology shifts in the centralized economy. We consider five different policies, lump-sum taxes, proportional taxes on gross output, profit or consumption, and investment tax credits. The proceeds of these taxes are either used for government spending or redistributed in lump-sum rebates. Section 5 shows equivalence and steady-state effects. Section 6 studies the dynamic effects of lump-sum and consumption taxes, depending on whether they are anticipated or unanticipated, and whether the economy is in or out of steady state.

## 2. THE CENTRALIZED ECONOMY

The central planning problem is the following:

$$(2.1) \quad \max_{c_t} \int_0^{\infty} U(c_t) e^{-\beta t} dt \quad \text{subject to:}$$

$$(2.2) \quad f(k_t) = c_t + i_t(1 + h(i_t/k_t)),$$

$$(2.3) \quad \dot{k}_t = i_t - \delta k_t, \quad k_0 = \bar{k}_0,$$

$$U'(\cdot) > 0, \quad U''(\cdot) < 0, \quad U'(0) = \infty,$$

$$f'(\cdot) > 0, \quad f''(\cdot) < 0, \quad f'(0) = \infty,$$

$$h(0) = 0, \quad h'(\cdot) > 0, \quad 2h'(\cdot) + \frac{i}{k} h''(\cdot) > 0.$$

All variables are in per capita terms, with standard interpretations. This problem differs from the standard optimal growth problem only because of the presence of costs of installation  $h(\cdot)$ . In order to undertake gross investment of  $i$  units of capital,  $i$  units of output must be set aside to be installed as capital, together with  $ih(i/k)$  units which are used during installation. Thus gross investment per capita at rate  $i$  has an opportunity cost of  $i(1 + h(i/k))$  units of output.<sup>2</sup> The properties of  $h(\cdot)$  make the total installation cost  $ih(i/k)$  nonnegative, convex with a minimum value of zero which is attained when gross investment is zero. An alternative formulation, which is as plausible, would make installation costs a function of net investment; the net investment formulation is sometimes technically more attractive, as it simplifies the characterization of the steady state and of local dynamics.

The Hamiltonian for this problem is

$$(2.4) \quad e^{-\beta t} [U(f(k_t) - i_t(1 + h(i_t/k_t))) + y_t(i_t - \delta k_t)]$$

where  $y_t$  is the shadow price, measured in units of utility, of an additional unit of installed capital at time  $t$ .

The optimality conditions,<sup>3</sup> defining  $x_t \equiv (i_t/k_t)$  and  $H(x_t) \equiv 1 + h(x_t) + x_t h'(x_t)$ , are:

$$(2.5) \quad U'(c_t)H(x_t) = y_t,$$

$$(2.6) \quad \dot{y}_t = (\beta + \delta)y_t - U'(c_t)[f'(k_t) + x_t^2 h'(x_t)],$$

$$(2.7) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{-\beta t} y_t k_t = 0.$$

Consider (2.5) first.  $H(x_t)$  is the marginal opportunity cost of investment. Thus the condition states that this marginal cost measured in units of utility must be equal to  $y$ .

Consider (2.6).  $x_t^2 h'(x_t)$  is the reduction in the opportunity cost of installation  $i_t h(i_t/k_t)$  made possible by an additional unit of capital. Therefore  $f'(k_t) + x_t^2 h'(x_t)$  is the total marginal product of capital. Solving (2.6) subject to the transversality condition (2.7) gives:

$$(2.8) \quad y_t = \int_t^\infty U'(c_s) [x_s^2 h'(x_s) + f'(k_s)] e^{-(\beta + \delta)(s-t)} ds.$$

This states that  $y_t$  in turn must be equal to the present discounted value of marginal products, also measured in units of utility.

<sup>2</sup>This formalization of adjustment costs is based on Eisner and Strotz [1] and Lucas [5].

<sup>3</sup>This problem satisfies the conditions of Weitzman's theorem [10], so that these conditions are necessary and sufficient.

*Steady State and Dynamics*

If  $\dot{y} = \dot{k} = 0$ ,  $x_{ss} = \delta$  and the steady-state capital stock is given by a modified "modified golden rule":  $f'(k_{ss}) + \delta^2 h'(\delta) = (\beta + \delta)(1 + h(\delta) + \delta h'(\delta))$ . This implies  $f'(k_{ss}) > (\beta + \delta)$ . This comes from installation costs which make the opportunity cost larger than in the standard optimal growth model.

The system (2.3), (2.5), (2.6) is a dynamic system in  $(k, y, x)$  where either  $y$  or  $x$  can be eliminated. Although  $y$  plays an important conceptual role, it is more useful to characterize the dynamics in terms of  $(k, x)$  as the movement of  $k$ ,  $x$ , and  $c$  can be directly obtained from the phase diagram.

Eliminating  $c_t$  in (2.5) using (2.2), differentiating (2.5) with respect to time and eliminating  $\dot{y}_t$  using (2.6) gives

$$(2.9) \quad \left[ H'(x) - \frac{U''(c)}{U'(c)} (H(x))^2 k \right] \dot{x} \\ = [(\beta + \delta)H(x) - x^2 h'(x) - f'(k)] \\ - \frac{U''(c)}{U'(c)} H(x) [f'(k) - x(1 + h(x))] \dot{k}.$$

This equation, together with  $\dot{k} = k(x - \delta)$ , characterizes the equations of motion.

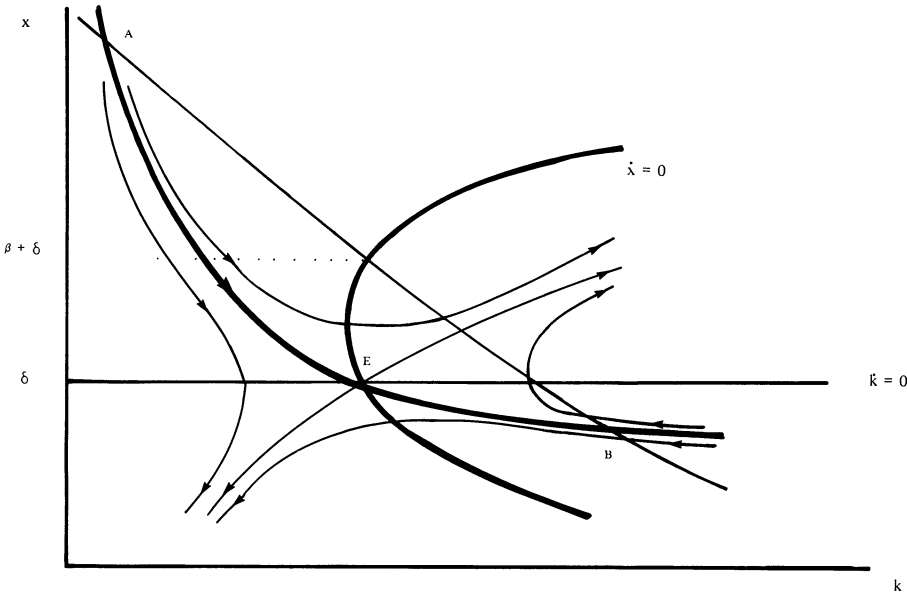


FIGURE 1.

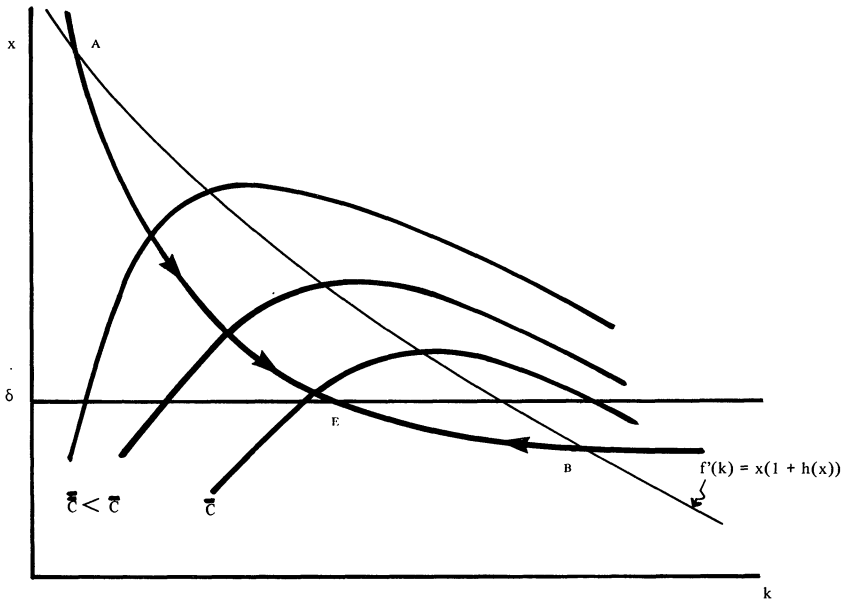


FIGURE 2.

The complete characterization is done in the Appendix; the results are displayed in Figures 1 and 2.

The steady state is a saddle point equilibrium. The transversality condition requires the system to be on the unique stable path. Convergence of  $x$  and  $k$  to their equilibrium values is monotonic. Figure 2 draws iso-consumption loci. Iso-consumption loci satisfy:  $f(k) - kx(1 + h(x)) = \text{constant}$  and for a given  $x$ , reach their maximum at  $k$  such that  $f'(k) = x(1 + h(x))$ . This allows us to characterize the behavior of consumption in Figure 1, at least between points A and B. Consumption is monotonically increasing when the steady state is approached from the northwest, monotonically decreasing when the steady state is approached from the southeast.

### 3. THE MARKET ECONOMY

We now consider an economy in which agents have the same utility function and firms the same technology as in the previous section. We characterize the maximization problem of firms and agents and show the role of the sequence of interest rates in clearing the goods market.

#### *Value Maximization by Firms*

Production is carried out by many identical competitive firms. For notational simplicity, the number of firms is equal to the number of agents so that the same symbol denotes the ratio of a variable per capita or per firm.

Each firm faces a time path of interest rates  $\{r_t\}_{t=[0,\infty)}$ . The discount factor  $\rho_t \equiv e^{-\int_0^t r_v dv}$  gives the rate at which output at time  $t$  can be traded for output at time zero.

For simplicity, we do not explicitly model the labor market. As labor is in fixed supply, labor market equilibrium and the above normalization imply that there will be one worker per firm, each firm facing a time path of wage bills  $\{w_t\}_{t=[0,\infty)}$ . Thus the decision problem of the representative firm is to choose a time path of investment which maximizes the present value of its cash flow:

$$V = \int_0^\infty [f(k_t) - i_t(1 + h(i_t/k_t)) - w_t] \rho_t dt \quad \text{subject to:}$$

$$\dot{k}_t = i_t - \delta k_t.$$

The Hamiltonian for this problem is:

$$\rho_t [f(k_t) - i_t(1 + h(i_t/k_t)) - w_t + q_t(i_t - \delta k_t)].$$

The optimality conditions,<sup>3</sup> recalling the definitions of  $x_t$  and  $H(x_t)$ , are

$$(3.1) \quad H(x_t) = q_t,$$

$$(3.2) \quad \dot{q}_t = (r_t + \delta)q_t - [f'(k_t) + x_t^2 h'(x_t)],$$

$$(3.3) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \rho_t q_t k_t = 0.$$

Consider (3.1) first. It states that investment takes place until the marginal cost of investing equals the shadow value of installed capital. As  $H'(\cdot) > 0$  the equation can be inverted to give  $i/k$  as an increasing function of  $q$ , in a manner similar to Tobin's  $q$  theory of investment.

Condition (3.2) can be solved subject to the transversality condition (3.3) to give:

$$(3.4) \quad q_t = \int_t^\infty [x_s^2 h'(x_s) + f'(k_s)] e^{-\int_t^s (r_v + \delta) dv} ds.$$

The shadow price  $q$  is the present value of marginal products. Note the similarities and dissimilarities with equation (2.8) in the centralized economy: returns are measured in units of output, not in units of utility, and the discount rate depends on the market-determined interest rate.

After having paid wages to workers, the firm has to decide how to distribute profit and finance investment. It may finance investment by retaining earnings or by issuing shares or bonds. All financing schemes are equivalent in the sense that they lead to the same path of consumption and investment; they differ, however, in terms of institutional arrangements.

A notationally and conceptually simple financing scheme is that firms finance investment by retaining earnings and never issue new shares or bonds. In this case, equilibrium personal savings would be zero at every point in time. Note also that in the absence of a bond market, interest rates would not be directly observable.

We adopt a slightly different scheme, in which firms finance themselves both by retaining earnings and by issuing new bonds. Specifically, replacement investment is financed out of retained earnings and net investment is financed by bonds. Let  $B_t$  be the number of bonds per capita outstanding at time  $t$ , each paying  $r_t$  units of output at time  $t$ . The net-of-interest cash flow of the firm is

$$f(k_t) - k_t x_t(1 + h(x_t)) - w_t - r_t B_t.$$

The dividend  $\pi_t$  distributed by the firm is output less depreciation, wages, and interest:

$$(3.5) \quad \pi_t = f(k_t) - k_t \delta(1 + h(\delta)) - w_t - r_t B_t.$$

The excess of dividends over net-of-interest cash flow must be financed by issuing new bonds:

$$(3.6) \quad \dot{B}_t = k_t [x_t(1 + h(x_t)) - \delta(1 + h(\delta))].$$

There is a simple relation between the value of the owners' equity, the value of the firm's liabilities, the shadow value  $q$ , and the capital stock:

$$(3.7) \quad q_t k_t = V_t = B_t + \rho_t^{-1} \int_t^\infty \pi_s \rho_s ds.$$

The second equality simply reflects the fact that the value of the firm is equal to the sum of its liabilities and owners' equity and that it is independent of the method of financing. The first equality is more interesting; it says that "average  $q$ " and "marginal  $q$ " are equal, implying therefore a simple relation between investment and the observable average value. This equality depends on the production and investment installation functions being linearly homogeneous in labor, capital, and investment. The proof is a special case of Hayashi [3].

### *Utility Maximization by Consumers*

Each consumer supplies one unit of labor inelastically and receives a wage  $w_t$ . His only decision problem is to choose a sequence of consumption which maximizes the present value of utility:

$$\int_0^\infty U(c_t) e^{-\beta t} dt.$$

The wealth constraint can be expressed as:

$$\dot{B}_t = \pi_t + w_t + r_t B_t - c_t; \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \rho_t B_t = 0.$$

Income is the sum of wages, interest on bond holdings, and dividends. It must be allocated either to consumption or to savings in the form of bonds,  $\dot{B}_t$ . The Hamiltonian for this problem is:

$$e^{-\beta t} [U(c_t) + \lambda_t (\pi_t + w_t + r_t B_t - c_t)].$$

The optimality conditions are:<sup>3</sup>

$$(3.8) \quad U'(c_t) = \lambda_t,$$

$$(3.9) \quad \dot{\lambda}_t = (\beta - r_t)\lambda_t,$$

$$(3.10) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{-\beta t} \lambda_t = 0.$$

Equations (3.8) and (3.9) determine the path of the rate of change of marginal utility. The level of this path is determined by the wealth constraint, which can be written as

$$\int_0^\infty c_t \rho_t dt = V + V^*; \quad V = qk, \quad V^* \equiv \int_0^\infty w_t \rho_t dt.$$

This shows that consumption depends on both nonhuman and human wealth. It also shows how  $q$  enters both the investment decision of firms and the consumption decision of consumers.

The condition for equilibrium in the goods market is that output equals spending:

$$(3.11) \quad f(k_t) = c_t + k_t x_t (1 + h(x_t)).$$

This condition, together with the anticipation that this condition will hold at all future times, determines at any instant the complete term structure of interest rates. The temporary equilibrium of this economy is similar to the IS relation of closed-economy macroeconomic models. Aggregate demand is the sum of consumption and investment. Consumption is an increasing function of total wealth in the spirit of Metzler. Investment is an increasing function of the ratio of market value to capital in the spirit of Tobin. Aggregate demand is brought into equality with aggregate supply, in this full employment model, by the endogenous adjustment of the term structure of interest rates.

#### 4. EQUIVALENCE OF THE TWO ECONOMIES

To show equivalence, we must first show that the equations of motion of the market economy replicate those of the centralized one. Consider the two shadow prices of the market economy,  $\lambda_t$ , associated with consumption and  $q_t$ , associated with investment. Define  $y_t \equiv q_t \lambda_t$ . From (3.1) and (3.8),

$$(4.1) \quad y_t = U'(c_t)H(x_t).$$

This is identical to (2.5). Differentiating with respect to time,

$$(4.2) \quad \dot{y}_t = \dot{\lambda}_t q_t + \lambda_t \dot{q}_t.$$

Substituting (3.2) for  $\dot{q}_t$ , (3.9) for  $\dot{\lambda}_t$ , we obtain

$$(4.3) \quad \dot{y}_t = (\beta + \delta)\lambda_t q_t - \lambda_t [f'(k_t) + x_t^2 h'(x_t)].$$

This gives an expression in which interest rates do not appear. Using (3.8) and the definition of  $y$  gives:

$$(4.4) \quad \dot{y}_t = (\beta + \delta)y_t - U'(c_t)[f'(k_t) + x_t^2 h'(x_t)].$$

This is identical to (2.6) in the centralized economy. The shadow price  $y_t$  is therefore the product of the consumption and investment shadow prices.

We must now show that the transversality conditions of the market economy imply the transversality condition of the centralized economy. Equations (3.3) for  $q_t$  and (3.9) for  $\lambda_t$  imply respectively

$$(4.5a) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\dot{q}_t}{q_t} + \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\dot{k}_t}{k_t} < \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} r_t, \quad \text{as} \quad \frac{\dot{\rho}_t}{\rho_t} = -r_t,$$

$$(4.5b) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\dot{\lambda}_t}{\lambda_t} = \beta - \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} r_t.$$

Note that both transversality conditions depend on the market-determined interest rate. Differentiate logarithmically  $y_t k_t = q_t \lambda_t k_t$  with respect to time:

$$(4.6) \quad \frac{\dot{y}_t}{y_t} + \frac{\dot{k}_t}{k_t} = \frac{\dot{q}_t}{q_t} + \frac{\dot{\lambda}_t}{\lambda_t} + \frac{\dot{k}_t}{k_t}$$

which implies

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{\dot{y}_t}{y_t} + \frac{\dot{k}_t}{k_t} \right) < \beta$$

from the two conditions above. This is the transversality condition (2.7) of the centralized economy.

The equivalence between the two economies is hardly surprising. It is nevertheless very useful as it allows, when studying the effects of various shocks or policies, to use the equations of motion of the centralized economy with its unique shadow price rather than the equations of motion of the market economy with the two shadow prices which themselves depend on market-determined interest rates. This is what we do now, using this equivalence to study the effects of various fiscal policies.

## 5. FISCAL POLICIES AND TECHNOLOGICAL SHIFTS

Extending Hall's [2] analysis from the standard optimal growth model, we study the following fiscal policies: a head tax—or lump-sum tax—in amount  $\theta_0$  per agent; a proportional tax on gross output  $f(k)$ , at rate  $\theta_1$ ; a proportional tax on profit<sup>4</sup>  $(f(k) - w)$ , at rate  $\theta_2$ ; a proportional tax on net output  $(f(k) -$

<sup>4</sup>Hall does not have labor explicitly as a factor of production, so that he does not distinguish between the gross output and profit taxes.

$kx(1 + h(x))$ ), at rate  $\theta_3$ , which can also be interpreted as a tax on consumption; finally an investment tax credit, which we treat as a proportional subsidy to investment spending  $kx(1 + h(x))$ , at rate  $\theta_4$ . All these policies are balanced budget policies and are either refunded as lump-sum taxes or used for government spending in a way which does not affect private investment or consumption decisions.

We now consider three types of technological shifts,  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $\sigma$  which affect the production and installation functions. These functions become  $(1 - a)f(k) - \sigma$  and  $(1 - b)kx(1 + h(x))$  respectively.

It is now straightforward to show the equivalence of each fiscal policy to a combination of these technological shifts. This is done in Appendix B and these equivalences are given in Table I. If, as in the third column of the table, the government uses tax revenue to purchase current output, then the output available to the private sector declines by the amount of the tax revenue. Alternatively, if the government redistributes tax revenue via lump-sum rebates, as in column two, then output available to the private sector is unchanged by the imposition of taxes. To study the effect of a policy in the decentralized economy, we may instead study the effects of the equivalent combination of technological shifts in the centralized economy. Once the behavior of consumption, investment, and output is characterized, it is relatively easy to deduce the market clearing sequence of interest rates in the market economy.

The relevant equations, including the equations of motion, of the centralized economy are direct extensions of (2.2) to (2.9):

$$(5.1) \quad (1 - a)f(k) - (1 - b)kx(1 + h(x)) - \sigma = c,$$

$$(5.2) \quad U'(c)H(x)(1 - b) = y,$$

$$(5.3) \quad \dot{y} = (\beta + \delta)y - U'(c)[(1 - a)f'(k) + (1 - b)x^2h'(x)],$$

$$(5.4) \quad \dot{k} = k(x - \delta),$$

$$(5.5) \quad \left[ H'(x) - \frac{U''(c)}{U'(c)}(1 - b)(H(x))^2k \right] \dot{x} \\ = \left[ (\beta + \delta)H(x) - x^2h'(x) - \frac{(1 - a)}{(1 - b)}f'(k) \right] \\ - \frac{U''(c)}{U'(c)}H(x)[(1 - a)f'(k) - (1 - b)x(1 + h(x))]\dot{k}.$$

Consider first the steady-state effects of these policies. Setting  $\dot{x} = \dot{k} = 0$  gives, from (5.4) and (5.5),

$$f'(k_{ss}) = \frac{(1 - b)}{(1 - a)} [(\beta + \delta)H(\delta) - \delta^2h'(\delta)].$$

TABLE I  
EQUIVALENCE OF FISCAL POLICIES AND TECHNOLOGICAL SHIFTS

Tax	in combination with:	Lump-sum Rebates	Government Spending
Head tax, $\theta_0$		—	$\sigma = \theta_0$
Gross output tax, rate $\theta_1$		$a = \theta_1 ; \sigma = -\theta_1 f(k)$	$a = \theta_1$
Profit tax, rate $\theta_2$		$a = \theta_2 ; \sigma = -\theta_2 f(k)$	$a = \theta_2 ; \sigma = -\theta_2(f(k) - kf'(k))$
Net output tax, rate $\theta_3$ (consumption tax)		$a = b = \theta_3$ $\sigma = -\theta_3(f(k) - kx(1 + h(x)))$	$a = b = \theta_3$
Investment subsidy, rate $\theta_4$		$b = \theta_4$ $\sigma = \theta_4 kx(1 + h(x))$	$b = \theta_4$

Two of the policies, the head tax ( $a = b = 0$ ) and the net output tax ( $a = b = \theta_3$ ), have no effect on the steady-state capital stock; their full effect is on consumption which decreases by the amount of tax. The investment subsidy ( $a = 0, b = \theta_4$ ) increases the capital stock while both the gross output and profit taxes ( $a = \theta_1$  or  $\theta_2$ ;  $b = 0$ ) decrease it.

The more interesting effects are the dynamic effects. Going through all dynamic effects for all policies would exhaust the reader's patience. In the next section we consider two simple policies—a head tax and a consumption tax—both used to finance government spending.

## 6. DYNAMIC EFFECTS OF LUMP-SUM AND CONSUMPTION TAXES

### *Lump-Sum Taxes*

As shown in the previous section, the steady-state capital stock is independent of changes in lump-sum taxes. Thus, if the economy is in steady state when there occurs a permanent unanticipated increase in lump-sum taxes of  $\Delta\sigma$ , consumption immediately and permanently decreases by  $\Delta\sigma$ . There is no effect on investment, or the capital stock at any point of time.

Now consider an economy which is *outside of steady state*, for example at point A in Figure 3, when there is an unanticipated permanent increase in  $\sigma$ . Whether the equations of motion (5.4) and (5.5) of  $(x, k)$  are affected depends on whether  $-U''(c)/U'(c)$ , the coefficient of absolute curvature—or absolute risk aversion in a different context—which we denote by  $\alpha(c)$ , is affected by a change in  $c$ .

Suppose  $\alpha(c)$  is constant, i.e.  $\alpha'(c) \equiv 0$ . The time path of marginal rates of substitution ( $U'(c_t)/U'(c_t)$ )  $\forall s, t$  is unaffected by an equal absolute decrease in consumption of  $\Delta\sigma$  at every point in time. Thus, if  $\alpha'(c) \equiv 0$ , the effect of a permanent change in  $\sigma$  is to crowd out private consumption immediately and permanently by 100 per cent, with no effect on capital accumulation.

Suppose now  $\alpha'(c) > 0 \forall c$ , so that an equal absolute decline in consumption increases the marginal utility of consumption by more when consumption is high. Consider the case in which the steady state is approached from the northwest, such as point A in Figure 3 and consumption is increasing over time. An equal

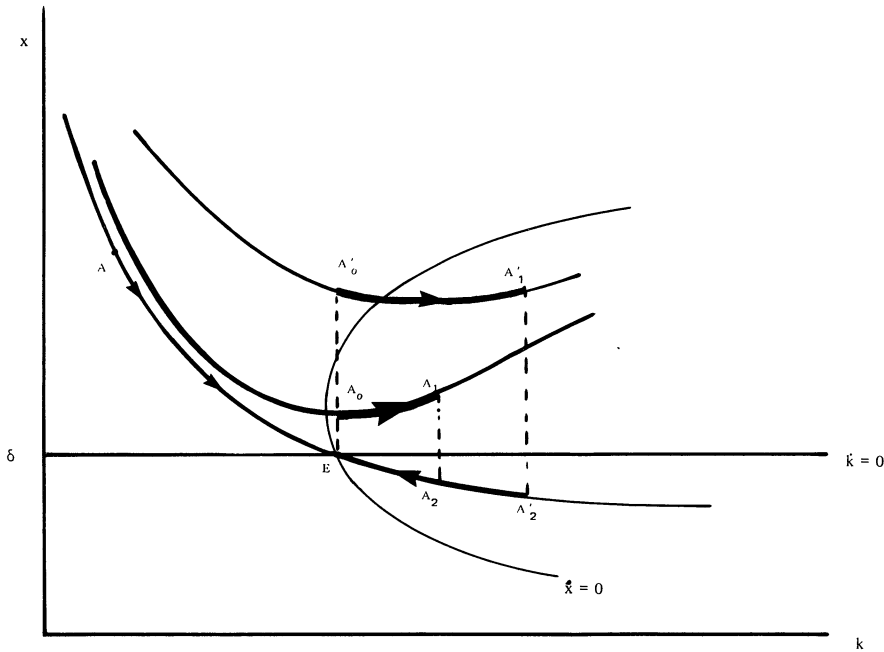


FIGURE 3.

absolute decline in consumption would therefore increase future marginal utility more than present marginal utility; this in turn would lead consumers to increase future consumption. This suggests that in this case, the increase  $\Delta\sigma$  will initially crowd out consumption by more than 100 per cent and therefore increase investment. A proof is given in Appendix C.

Let us refer to the path which would have been followed in the absence of the fiscal change as the "original" path. As the steady-state capital stock is unaffected, investment must decrease below its original path during some time. At the time when investment has the same value as on the original path, capital and output are higher and thus consumption plus taxes must be higher than on the original path. Thus, consumption must before that time have increased faster than on the original path, and must increase more slowly after that time. In the decentralized economy, this is accomplished by a twist in the term structure of interest rates, with an increase in  $r_t$  in the short run and a decrease in  $r_t$  in the long run.

The opposite argument holds if the steady state is approached from the southeast, with decreasing consumption. The argument and conclusions are reversed if  $\alpha'(c) < 0$ , i.e. if the utility has decreasing absolute curvature (risk aversion).

We now consider the effects of an *anticipated increase in lump-sum taxes*. For convenience, we assume that the economy is initially in steady state, that

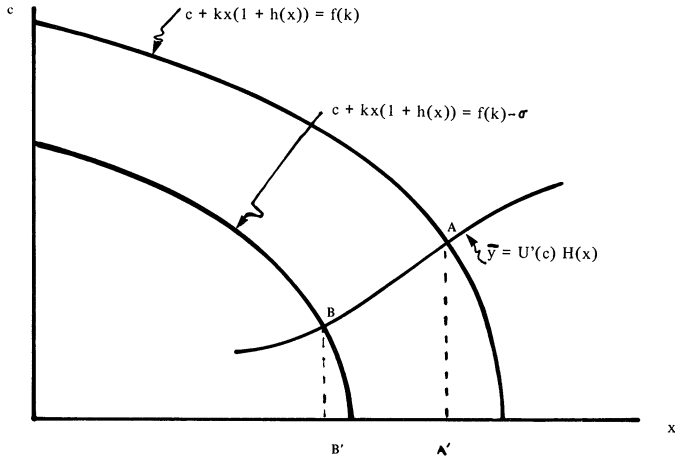


FIGURE 4.

$a = b = 0$  and that  $\alpha'(c) \equiv 0$ . Relaxing these restrictions complicates the exposition but changes nothing of substance.

It is easier to understand the effects by working backward in time. Suppose that the increase is implemented at time  $t^*$  but known as of time  $t_0 < t^*$ . At time  $t^*$ ,  $y$ , the costate variable cannot have an anticipated discontinuity;<sup>5</sup> therefore  $c$  and  $x$  have to satisfy the following two relations:

$$y_{t^*} = U'(c_{t^*})H(x_{t^*}),$$

$$c_{t^*} + k_{t^*}x_{t^*}(1 + h(x_{t^*})) = f(k_{t^*}) - \sigma.$$

These two loci are drawn in Figure 4. An increase in  $\sigma$  causes a downward jump in both  $c$  and  $x$ . The relative size of jumps in  $c$  and  $x$  depends on the ratio of convexities  $H'(x)/U''(c)$ . If there are no adjustment costs, the adjustment will come entirely from investment. If utility is nearly linear, most of the adjustment will be in consumption.

Given the assumption that  $\alpha'(c) \equiv 0$ , the equations of motion in the  $(k, x)$  plane are not affected by the change in policy. Two possible paths, corresponding to two different jumps in  $x$  at time  $t^*$ , are characterized in Figure 3. They are  $EA_0A_1A_2E$  and  $EA'_0A'_1A'_2E$ .

Unless utility is linear, the anticipation of the tax increase will reduce consumption and increase investment. When the tax increase takes place, it does not fall entirely on consumption but falls also on investment. Net investment is negative and capital is decumulated back to its steady state level. Consumption keeps decreasing after the increase in taxes until it reaches its lower steady state value.

<sup>5</sup>This follows from Theorem 2 in Kemp and Long [4].

The temporary accumulation of capital smooths the effects of the tax on consumption. Because of adjustment costs, the smoothing is not complete and there is a discontinuous fall in consumption at the time of the tax increase. In the absence of adjustment costs, there would be no such fall and consumption would decrease continuously from the time of the announcement.

What is the associated sequence of rates which will replicate this path of consumption and investment? The interest rate at time  $t^*$  must be infinitely negative for an instant in order to generate the discontinuous decreases in consumption and investment. (This unappealing feature is due to the discontinuity in  $\sigma$  and could be eliminated either by moving to discrete time as in Hall [2] or by making  $\sigma(t)$  continuous.) From Figure 3 and equation (3.9), as consumption may be increasing or decreasing between  $t_0$  and  $t^*$ , and is decreasing after  $t^*$ , short rates may be either above or below their initial value of  $\beta$  between  $t_0$  and  $t^*$ , and are lower than  $\beta$  after  $t^*$ .

In summary, a permanent increase in lump-sum taxes has no steady-state effect, except on consumption which it crowds out completely. If the increase is unanticipated, it crowds out consumption instantaneously by 100 per cent if the economy is initially in steady state; if the capital stock is below steady state, the immediate effect is to decrease consumption by more than, less than, or exactly 100 per cent—and increase, decrease, or leave unchanged investment—depending on whether  $-U''(c)/U'(c)$  is an increasing, decreasing, or constant function of  $c$ . If the increase in taxes is anticipated, the anticipation itself increases investment and decreases consumption; the implementation decreases both investment and consumption. This reflects the desire of consumers to smooth the path of anticipated consumption.

### *Consumption Taxes*

The effects of a permanent net output, or consumption, tax are very similar to the effects of a lump-sum tax. They will be stated with only a sketch of a proof given in Appendix D. Some of the results below assume that  $\sigma = 0$ .

An unanticipated permanent increase in the tax rate completely crowds out consumption and has no effect on investment and the capital stock if the economy is initially in steady state. If the economy is not initially in steady state, the dynamic behavior depends on the coefficient of relative curvature  $\xi(c) \equiv -U''(c)c/U'(c)$ . If the capital stock is lower than its steady-state value, a permanent unanticipated increase in the tax will crowd out private consumption initially by more than, less than, or exactly 100 per cent depending on whether  $\xi'(c)$  is positive, negative, or zero.

The effects of an anticipated increase in the tax rate depend on the value of  $\xi(c)$ . If  $\xi(c)$  is identically equal to unity, i.e. the utility function is logarithmic, there is no anticipation effect: consumption does not change before the change in the tax and falls when the tax is imposed. This paradoxical result was noted by Hall and we borrow his explanation. If we view the tax as a consumption tax, the announcement has two effects, a substitution effect in favor of consumption

before the tax increase and an income effect which tends to decrease current consumption. If  $\xi = 1$ , the two effects cancel each other. In general, consumption decreases, increases, or remains unchanged, depending on whether  $\xi(c)$  is greater than, less than, or equal to unity.

## 7. CONCLUSION

We have developed a dynamic model of saving and investment based on competitive optimizing consumers and firms. In the short-run equilibrium of this model, consumption is an increasing function of total wealth and investment is an increasing function of the shadow price of installed capital relative to the price of output. The determination of these two components of aggregate demand is consistent with many short-run macro models. Put differently, this paper provides a consistent intertemporal framework in which to embed standard IS relations, and thus to characterize more fully the dynamic effects of shocks or policies.

*Harvard University*

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## APPENDIX A: DYNAMICS IN THE $(k, x)$ SPACE

The equations of motion are given by (2.3) and (2.9):

$$\dot{k} = k(x - \delta) \quad \text{and}$$

$$A_1 \dot{x} = A_2 + A_3 \dot{k}, \quad \text{where}$$

$$A_1 \equiv H'(x) - \frac{U''(c)}{U'(c)} (H(x))^2 k > 0,$$

$$A_2 \equiv (\beta + \delta)H(x) - x^2 h'(x) - f'(k),$$

$$A_3 \equiv -\frac{U''(c)}{U'(c)} H(x) [f'(k) - x(1 + h(x))].$$

Consider the locus  $A_2 = 0$ . It is such that

$$\left. \frac{dk}{dx} \right|_{A_2=0} = \frac{(\beta + \delta - x)H'(x)}{f''(k)} \geq 0 \quad \text{as } x \geq \beta + \delta.$$

Consider the locus  $A_3 = 0$ . It is such that

$$\left. \frac{dx}{dk} \right|_{A_3=0} = \frac{f''(k)}{H(x)} < 0.$$

We can draw in Figure 5, the loci  $\dot{k} = 0$ ,  $A_2 = 0$ , and  $A_3 = 0$ . Note that  $(A_2 = 0)$  and  $(A_3 = 0)$  have the same value of  $k$  for  $x = \beta + \delta$ , and that  $(A_2 = 0)$  and  $(\dot{k} = 0)$  intersect at the steady state  $E$ . The three loci divide the  $(k, x)$  plane into seven regions. Table II gives the signs of the components of  $\dot{x}$ ,  $(A_2, A_3, k)$  for each region. It follows from Table II that  $\dot{x} = 0$  lies in regions II, III, and VI and passes through  $B$ . It also follows that the equilibrium is a saddle point equilibrium as drawn in Figures 1 and 2 in the text.



The optimality conditions for the consumer problem are unchanged from Section 3:

$$\begin{aligned} U'(c) &= \lambda, \\ \dot{\lambda} &= (\beta - r)\lambda, \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{-\beta t} \lambda_t &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Following Section 4, define  $y$  as

$$(B1) \quad y = U'(c)H(x)(1 + \theta_4)(1 - \theta_3).$$

Then, from the above equations, this implies

$$(B2) \quad \dot{y} = (\beta + \delta)y - U'(c)[(1 - \theta_3)(1 - \theta_2)(1 - \theta_1)f'(k) - (1 + \theta_4)(1 - \theta_3)x^2h'(x)].$$

The goods market equilibrium condition, together with the government budget constraint, gives

$$(B3) \quad f(k) = c + kx(1 + h(x)) + \theta_0 + (\theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3)f(k) - \theta_2w + (\theta_4 - \theta_3)kx(1 + h(x)).$$

*The Centralized Economy, with Technological Shocks  $a, b, \sigma$*

Following Section 2, define  $y$  as

$$(B4) \quad y = U'(c)H(x)(1 - b).$$

Then, following Section 2, the equation of motion of  $y$  is

$$(B5) \quad \dot{y} = (\beta + \delta)y - U'(c)[(1 - a)f'(k) + (1 - b)x^2h'(x)].$$

The goods market allocation satisfies

$$(B6) \quad f(k) = c + kx(1 + h(x)) = af(k) + \sigma.$$

Thus, from (B1) to (B6), the two economies will be identical if and only if (the equivalence of transversality conditions is the same as without taxes):

$$\begin{aligned} (1 - \theta_3)(1 - \theta_2)(1 - \theta_1) &= (1 - a), \\ (1 + \theta_4)(1 - \theta_3) &= (1 - b), \\ \theta_0 + (\theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3)f(k) - \theta_2w + (\theta_4 - \theta_3)kx(1 + h(x)) &= af(k) + \sigma. \end{aligned}$$

Table 1 follows from this set of equalities.

#### APPENDIX C: EFFECTS OF AN UNANTICIPATED PERMANENT HEAD TAX OUTSIDE OF STEADY STATE

We consider the case in which  $\alpha'(c) > 0$  and the steady state is reached from the northwest so that consumption is increasing. This case corresponds to region III in Figure 5.

We first show that for any  $(k, x)$  point in region III, including the stable arm,  $\dot{x}$  is now more negative than before the increase in  $\sigma$ ,  $d\sigma$ . From (5.5) in the text:

$$\begin{aligned} d\dot{x}|_{k,x} &= [H'(x) + \alpha(c)(1 - b)(H(x))^2k]^{-1} \\ &\times \{ -\alpha'(c)H(x)[(1 - a)f'(k) - (1 - b)x(1 + h(x))]k(x - \delta) \\ &\quad + \alpha'(c)(1 - b)(H(x))^2k\dot{x} \} d\sigma. \end{aligned}$$

From Table II,  $d\dot{x}|_{k,x} < 0$  for any  $\dot{x} < 0$  in region III.

For any point in region III below the original stable arm,  $x$  falls too rapidly to reach  $E$  under the

original laws of motion. Since  $x$  falls even more rapidly under the new laws of motion, the new stable path to  $E$  cannot lie below the original stable path. Therefore the new stable path lies above the original stable path.

The case in which the steady state is approached from the southeast and the cases associated with  $\alpha'(c) < 0$  can be analyzed in a similar way.

#### APPENDIX D: DYNAMIC EFFECTS OF A PERMANENT CONSUMPTION TAX

If  $\sigma = 0$  and  $a = b$ , (5.5) can be rewritten as:

$$\begin{aligned} & [H'(x) + (f(k) - kx(1 + h(x)))^{-1}(H(x))^2 k \xi(c)] \dot{x} \\ & = [(\beta + \delta)H(x) - x^2 h'(x) - f'(k)] \\ & \quad + [f(k) - kx(1 + h(x))]^{-1}(f'(k) - x(1 + h(x)))H(x)\xi(c)k, \\ \xi(c) & \equiv -\frac{cU''(c)}{U'(c)}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus if  $\xi'(c) \equiv 0$ , the equations of motion of  $k$  and  $x$  are unaffected by a change in the consumption tax. If  $\xi'(c) \neq 0$ , an analysis similar to the one used in Appendix C can be used to characterize the shift in the stable arm.

To characterize the effects of an anticipated increase in the tax at time  $t^*$  say, consider the movements of  $c$  and  $x$  at time  $t^*$ .  $c$  and  $x$  satisfy (5.1) and (5.2), with  $\sigma = 0$ ,  $a = b$ . Differentiating with respect to  $c$ ,  $x$ , and  $a$  gives:

$$\begin{aligned} dx &= \Delta^{-1}U'(c)H(x)[1 - \xi(c)], \\ dc &= \Delta^{-1}[-U'(c)H'(x)c - (1 - a)k(H(x))^2 U'(c)] < 0, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Delta \equiv U'(c)H'(x)(1 - a) - U''(c)(H(x))^2(1 - a)^2 k > 0$ .

If  $\xi(c) = 1$ , then  $dx = 0$ . If  $\xi(c) \equiv 1$ , then  $\xi'(c) \equiv 0$  and the equations of motion are unchanged; thus if  $x$  does not jump at time  $t^*$ , it remains constant for all  $t$ . If  $\xi(c) \neq 1$ , then  $dx \neq 0$  and the results given in the text follow from the phase diagram.

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