A Macroeconomic Model of Equities and Real, Nominal, and Defaultable Debt

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Motivation

Goal: Show that a simple macroeconomic model (with Epstein-Zin preferences) is consistent with a wide variety of asset pricing facts

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- long-term bond premium puzzle (nominal and real)
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- uncertainty: Weitzman (2007), Barillas-Hansen-Sargent (2010), et al.
- rare disasters: Rietz (1988), Barro (2006), et al.
- long-run risks: Bansal-Yaron (2004) et al.

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- long-run risks: Bansal-Yaron (2004) et al.
- heterogeneous agents: Mankiw-Zeldes (1991), Guvenen (2009), Schmidt (2015), et al.
- financial intermediaries: Adrian-Etula-Muir (2013)

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Two key ingredients:

- Epstein-Zin preferences
- nominal rigidities

Households

Period utility function:

$$u(c_t, l_t) \equiv \log c_t - \eta \frac{l_t^{1+\chi}}{1+\chi}$$

- additive separability between c and l
- SDF comparable to finance literature
- log preferences for balanced growth, simplicity

Flow budget constraint:

$$a_{t+1} = e^{i_t} a_t + w_t l_t + d_t - c_t$$

Calibration: (IES $= 1$), $\chi = 3$, $l = 1$ ($\eta = .54$)

Generalized Recursive Preferences

Household chooses state-contingent $\{(c_t, l_t)\}$ to maximize

$$V(a_t;\theta_t) \;=\; \max_{(c_t,l_t)} u(c_t,l_t) - \beta\alpha^{-1}\log\left[E_t \exp(-\alpha V(a_{t+1};\theta_{t+1}))\right]$$

Calibration: $\beta = .992$, RRA (R^c) $= 60$ $\quad$ ($\alpha = 59.15$)

Firms

Firms are very standard:

- continuum of monopolistic firms (gross markup λ)
- Calvo price setting (probability $1 - \xi$)
- Cobb-Douglas production functions, $y_t(f) = A_t k^{1-\theta} l_t(f)^\theta$
- fixed firm-specific capital stocks k

Random walk technology: $\log A_t = \log A_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$

- simplicity
- comparability to finance literature
- helps match equity premium

Calibration: $\lambda = 1.1$, $\xi = 0.8$, $\theta = 0.6$, $\sigma_A = .007$, $(\rho_A = 1)$, $\frac{k}{4Y} = 2.5$

Fiscal and Monetary Policy

No government purchases or investment:

$$Y_t = C_t$$

Taylor-type monetary policy rule:

$$i_t = r + \pi_t + \phi_\pi(\pi_t - \overline{\pi}) + \phi_y(y_t - \overline{y}_t)$$

"Output gap" $(y_t - \overline{y}_t)$ defined relative to moving average:

$$\overline{y}_t \equiv \rho_{\bar{y}}\overline{y}_{t-1} + (1 - \rho_{\bar{y}})y_t$$

Rule has no inertia:

- simplicity
- Rudebusch (2002, 2006)

Calibration: $\phi_\pi = 0.5, \ \phi_y = 0.75, \ \overline{\pi} = .008, \ \rho_{\bar{y}} = 0.9$

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- second-order: risk premia are constant
- third-order: time-varying risk premia
- higher-order: more accurate over larger region

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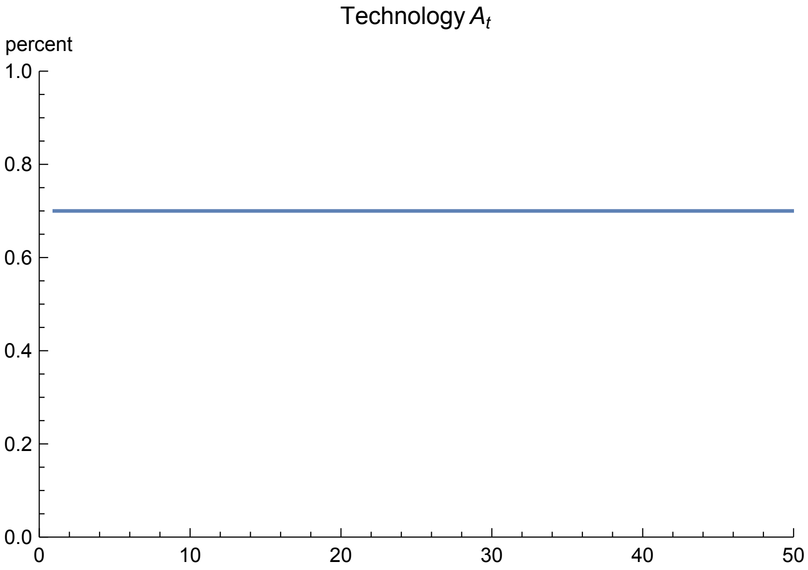
Model has 2 state variables ($\bar{y}_t$, Δ_t), one shock (ε_t)

Impulse Responses



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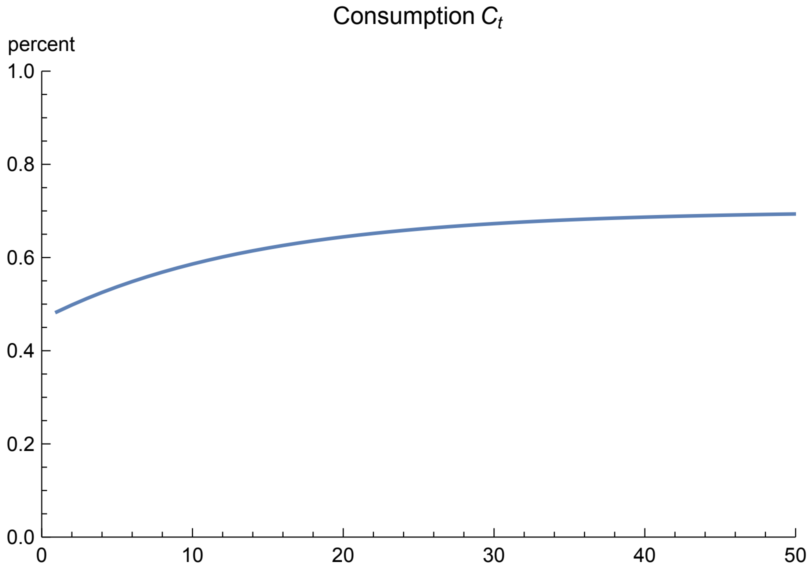

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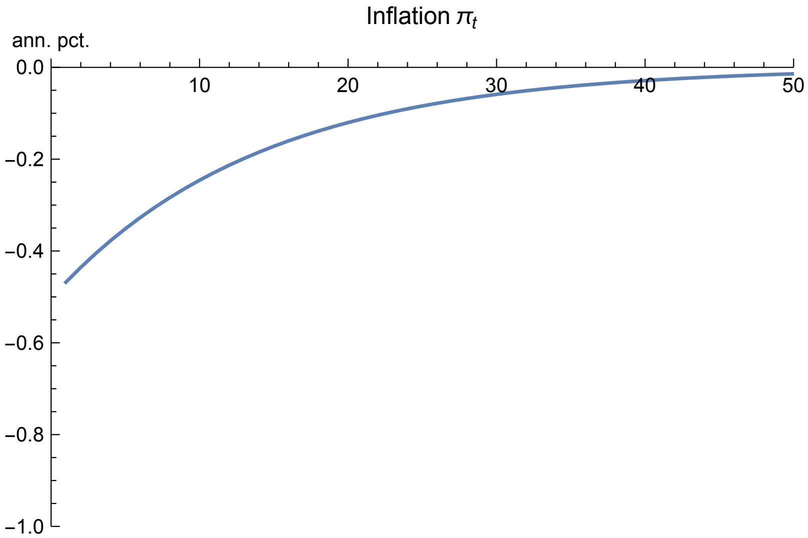

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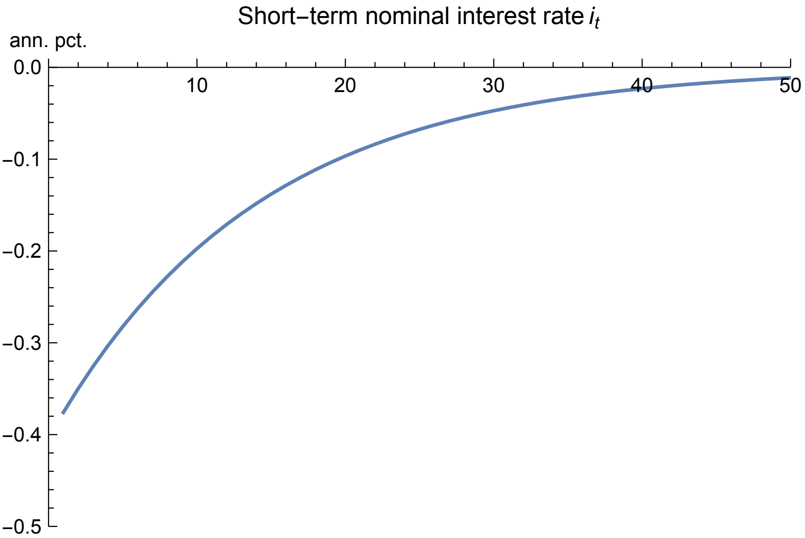

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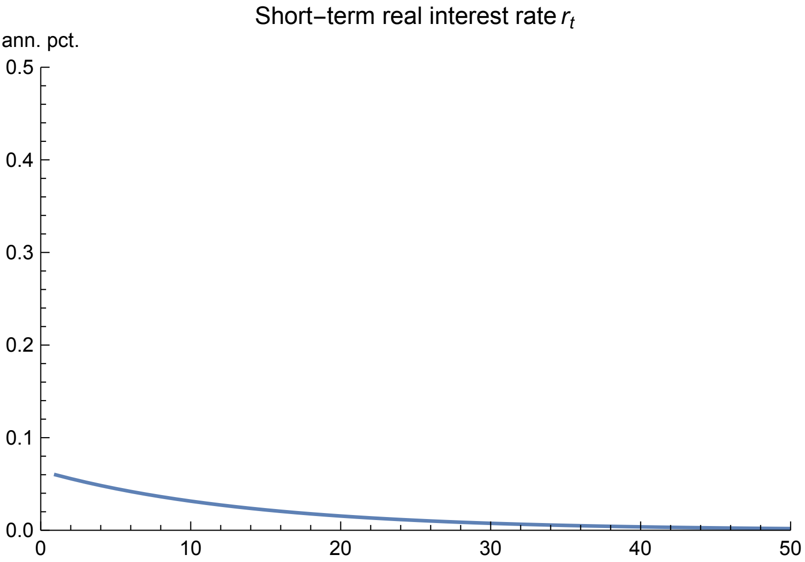

Equity: Levered Consumption Claim

Equity price

$$p_t^e = E_t m_{t+1} (C_{t+1}^{\nu} + p_{t+1}^e)$$

where ν is degree of leverage

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Calibration: $\nu = 3$

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60	.98	0.53
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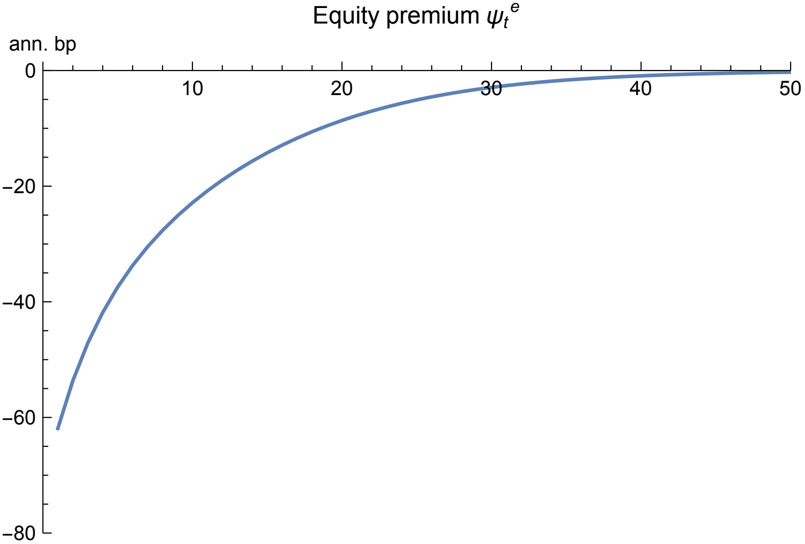

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Real Yield Curve

Table 3: Real Zero-Coupon Bond Yields

	2-yr.	3-yr.	5-yr.	7-yr.	10-yr.	(10y)−(3y)
US TIPS, 1999–2014[a]			1.37	1.63	1.90	
US TIPS, 2004–2014[a]	0.19	0.32	0.65	0.95	1.28	0.96
US TIPS, 2004–2007[a]	1.39	1.52	1.74	1.91	2.09	0.57
UK indexed gilts, 1983–1995[b]	6.12	5.29	4.34		4.12	−1.17
UK indexed gilts, 1985–2014[c]		2.02	2.16	2.26	2.35	0.33
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macroeconomic model	1.94	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93	0.00

[a] Gürkaynak, Sack, and Wright (2010) online dataset
[b] Evans (1999)
[c] Bank of England web site

Nominal Yield Curve

Table 4: Nominal Zero-Coupon Bond Yields

	1-yr.	2-yr.	3-yr.	5-yr.	7-yr.	10-yr.	(10y)−(1y)
US Treasuries, 1961–2014[a]	5.36	5.59	5.77	6.05	6.26		
US Treasuries, 1971–2014[a]	5.53	5.77	5.97	6.29	6.54	6.81	1.28
US Treasuries, 1990–2007[a]	4.56	4.84	5.06	5.41	5.68	5.98	1.42
UK gilts, 1970–2014[b]	7.07	7.25	7.41	7.65	7.84	8.02	0.95
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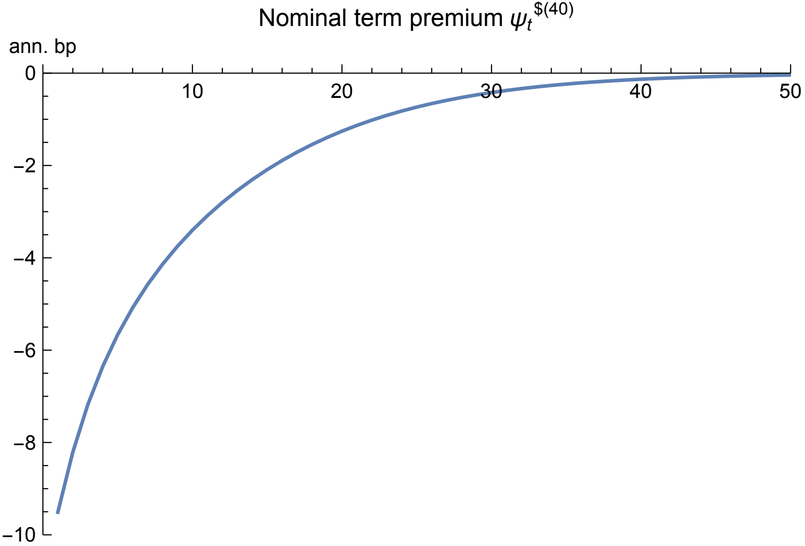
Supply shocks make nominal long-term bonds risky: inflation risk

Nominal Term Premium



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The credit spread is $i_t^d - i_t^c$

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average ann. default prob.	cyclicality of default prob.	average recovery rate	cyclicality of recovery rate	credit spread (bp)
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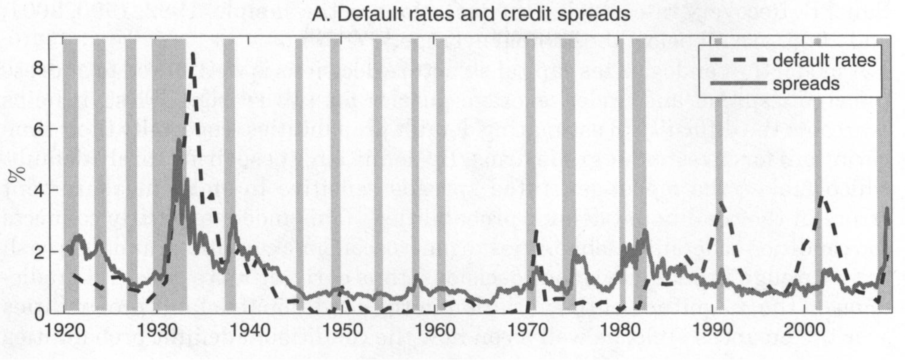
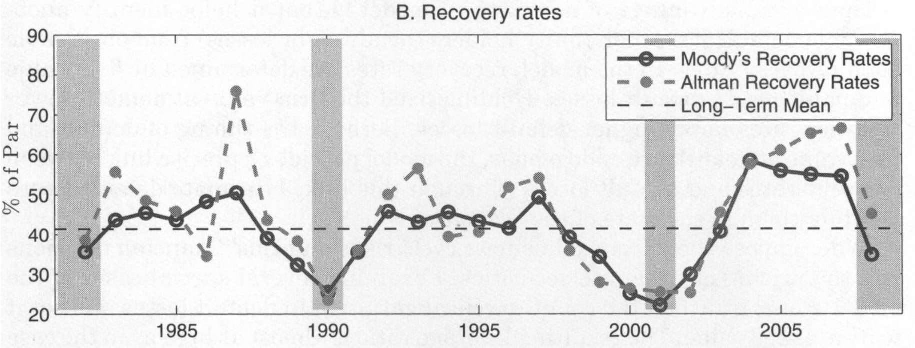
If default isn't cyclical, then it's not risky

Default Rate is Countercyclical



source: Chen (2010)

Recovery Rate is Procyclical



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.006	-0.3	.42	0	130.9
.006	-0.3	.42	2.5	143.1

Discussion

1. Endogenous conditional heteroskedasticity
2. IES ≤ 1 vs. IES > 1
3. Volatility shocks
4. Monetary and fiscal policy shocks
5. Financial accelerator

Monetary and Fiscal Policy Shocks

Rudebusch and Swanson (2012) consider similar model with

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All three shocks help the model fit macroeconomic variables

But technology shock is most important (by far) for fitting asset prices:

- technology shock is more persistent
- technology shock makes nominal assets risky

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...but not in this paper

Conclusions

1. The standard textbook New Keynesian model (with Epstein-Zin preferences) is consistent with a wide variety of asset pricing facts/puzzles
2. Unifies asset pricing puzzles into a single puzzle—Why does risk aversion in macro models need to be so high?
(Literature provides good answers to this question)
3. Provides a structural framework for intuition about risk premia
4. Suggests a way to model feedback from risk premia to macroeconomy