Macro II - Business cycle fluctuations, Lecture 1

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May 11, 2020

Outline: Second part of Macro II

• This part of the class is about Business Cycle Fluctuations and Policy:

- Business cycle facts. (DV)
- A simple Real Business Cycle / Classical Monetary model. (DV)
- Does money have real effects? (DV)
- Theoretical Models of Business Cycle Fluctuations with sticky prices. (DV)
 - Sticky prices The basic New Keynesian model
 - Monetary Policy Design in the New Keynesian model
 - Optimal policy Policy under Discretion and Commitment
- Extentions and applications (DV)
- Exercises. (MR 1L)
- Dynare Lab. (MR 1L)

- Introduction
 - Brief history of business cycle studies
- Empirical Evidence
 - What are the empirical facts we are trying to understand?
- The RBC model (almost the flex-price equilibrium of the New-Keynesian model)
- Log-linearization
- Monetary policy in a classical monetary model

- Solow growth model -> Solow residual variations in output beyond what can be explained by labor and capital
- 60-70: Large econometric models, core based on theory + ad hoc dynamics
- 70-80: Lucas critique, Rational expectations revolution
- 80 present: RBC microfounded calibrated rational expectations models
- Late 90 present: New-Keynesian model (RBC + nominal rigidities)

- Remove trend with HP-filter (classic RBC approach)
 - look at variances and correlations, lags
- Use structural VAR model to
 - identify IRFs to key shocks
- Use unadjusted data and explicitly model trend (typical in modern New-Keynesian empirical work)
- Plus: micro-data in the background. Lately, also at the center stage (HANK)

• HP-Filter (Hodrick and Prescott)

- Let x_t for t = 1, 2...T be the log of a time series which is composed of a trend (τ_t) and a cyclical component (c_t), i.e.: x_t = τ_t + c_t
- Given λ , τ_t , solves

$$\min\left[\sum_{t=1}^{T} (x_t - \tau_t)^2 + \lambda \sum_{t=2}^{T-1} \left[(\tau_{t+1} - \tau_t) - (\tau_t - \tau_{t-1}) \right]^2 \right]$$
(1)

- First term penalizes variations in c_t . Second term penalizes variations in the growth rate of τ_t scaled by a relative penalty parameter λ (usually $\lambda = 1600$ in quarterly data)
- Cyclical component is then the residual $x_t au_t$
- The HP-Filter is not uncontroversial, but often used. Many other ways to decompose a time series

- Definition: Procyclical (Countercyclical) variable: The variable is high (low) relative to the trend when output his high relative to the trend.
- What do the data say?

		US		International		Sweden	
		sd/rsd	corr	sd/rsd	corr	sd/rsd	corr
Production	Y	1.66	1	1.4-1.9	1	1.7	1
Private consumption	С	0.76	0.90	0.7-1.8	0.4-0.9	1.3	0.6
Private investment	I	2.99	0.89	2.2-3.5	0.4-0.9	4.1	0.6
Inflation rate	π	0.58	0.15			2.0	-0.2
Employment	N	0.84	0.81	0.5-1.3	0.4-0.7	0.7	0.3
Short interest rate	I	0.89	0.38			0.3	0
Real Wage	W/P	0.39	0.16	0.5-1.8	+/-	0.9	0.2

sd is standard deviation and rsd is standard deviation relative to standard deviation of GDP. corr is correlation with GDP.

Sources: US: Business fluctuations in US Macroeconomic Time series by Stock & Watson in Handbook of Macroeconomocs vol 1A eds Taylor & Woodford (1999),International: Danthine & Donaldson (EER 1993) and Sweden: Hassler, Lundvik, Persson & Söderlind (1994).

• Components of Demand

- Y S.D. \approx 1.7 percent of trend output
- C Strongly procyclical. Varies less than Y in the U.S. but this is less clear for other countries
- I Strongly Procyclical. Varies three times as much as Y
- Employment and Productivity
 - N Strongly Procyclical. Varies less than Y
 - Y/N Labor Productivity is strongly procyclical (as is TFP/Solow Residual). Varies less than Y

- Wages and Prices
 - W/P Mildly Procyclical in the U.S. but with no stable cyclical pattern internationally. Varies less than Y
 - $\pi(=\Delta P/P)$ Phillips curve estimates says that inflation is procyclical

Financial variables

- 1 Short interest rate is mildly procyclical (or for sweden not at all)
- *R* Real short interest rate is mildly countercyclical in the US and otherwise mildly procyclical
- Real long rate no clear cyclical pattern

- Moments above from long spans of data.
- Reduced volatility of business cycles since the mid 80s: "The Great Moderation" (see e.g. Stock and Watson, NBER Macroeconomics Annual 2002) - Luck or improved policy? But... financial crisis and Corona...

More Solid Evidence Needed

- Evidence is only suggestive: does not take account of the influence of other variables
- Does not take into account the endogeneity between money and output
 - Friedman and Schwartz (1963): $Corr(\Delta M, \Delta Y) > 0$ and argued: $\Delta M \to \Delta Y$
- But need to isolate how output responds to exogenous innovations to M
- So called Vector autoregressions is the most widely used tool that have been used for this purpose

Vector autoregressive models I

- Proposed by Christopher Sims ("Macroeconomics and Reality", 1980, Econometrica)
- Useful way to organize the data and do forecasting
- Model the dependent variables as functions of its own lags and other endogenous variables in the system
- Given some identifying assumptions, a VAR can be used to answer the question: "How does the economy respond to a monetary policy shock?"

Vector autoregressive models II

• A VAR with k variables in the vector Y_t is written in *structural form* as

$$A_0 Y_t = \alpha + A(L) Y_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$$
⁽²⁾

where

 $\varepsilon_{t} \sim N(0, D)$ where D is diagonal,

and where we normalize the diagonal terms in A_0 to unity.

• However, (2) is not estimated. What we estimate on data is the reduced-form

$$Y_t = \beta + B(L) Y_{t-1} + u_t, \qquad (3)$$

$$u_t \sim N(0, V).$$

Vector autoregressive models III

• From (2) and (3), it follows that the $k \times 1$ vector with "fundamental" economic shocks, ε_t , are related to the residuals u_t by the following relation:

$$A_0^{-1}\varepsilon_t = u_t, \tag{4}$$

and that $B(L) = A_0^{-1}A(L)$

• If we define $C = A_0^{-1}$, it follows from (3) and (4) that

$$V = \mathsf{E}\left[u_t u_t'\right] = \mathsf{E}\left[C\varepsilon_t \left(C\varepsilon_t\right)'\right] = CDC'. \tag{5}$$

- Let P be the unique lower-triangular Cholesky decomposition of V with positive diagonal elements, so that PP' = V
- If the variables in Y_t have been order so that A_0 is lower-triangular, then (5) implies that $P = A_0^{-1} D^{1/2}$ and in this case the *i*'th column in P measures the contemporaneous effects of the fundamental shock *i* in ε_t

Christiano, Eichenbaum and Evans seminal work

- The most recent prominent work that cemented the mainstream view on the monetary transmission mechanism is the seminal work of Christiano, Eichenbaum and Evans (2005, JPE).
- CEE used short-run restrictions on A_0 to identify a monetary policy rule $f(\Omega_t)$ and shocks ε_{Rt} to monetary policy:

$$R_{t}=f\left(\Omega_{t}\right)+\varepsilon_{Rt}$$

where R_t is the FFR and f is a linear of the information set in period t, Ω_t .

- CEE partitioned the variables in Y_t as $\begin{bmatrix} Y_{1t} & R_t & Y_{2t} \end{bmatrix}'$ and identified ε_{Rt} shocks by assuming that
 - Variables in Y_{1t} (GDP, PC, INV, INFL, RW, LP) do not react contemporaneously to ε_{Rt}
 - Variables in Y_{2t} (real profits and money growth) react to ε_{Rt} but their contemporaneous values do not belong to Ω_t (i.e. Fed only respond to lags of these variables)

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CEE: Cemented the Classical View on the Transmission Mechanism



Figure 1: Model and Data Impulse Responses



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Christiano, Eichenbaum and Evans Monetary Transmission Mechanism

Main Results:

- The interest rate falls for about 1 year
- ② Inflation is slow to react, peaks after 2 years⇒real rates fall
- Persistent and hump-shaped effects on real variables
- Output, consumption and investment peak after 1,5 years and return to pre-shock levels after about 3 years.
- Seal profit, real wages and labor productivity rise
- Money growth rises immediately
- Walsh: "We cannot design policy without a theory of how money or monetary policy in general affects the economy"

Program: Construct structural economic model consistent with stylized facts

- Model real side of the economy, understand *efficient* fluctuations (RBC model, Gali chap 2) + nominal flex-price side
- Add nominal rigidities, examine *inefficient* fluctuations (Gali chap 3)
- Study how conduct of monetary policy affect business cycle (Gali chap 4+5)
- Adding bells and whistles: more realistic dynamics

End product: Christiano, Eichenbaum and Evans + Smets and Wouters

Extensions in the aftermath of the financial crisis

- RBC idea: Explain business cycle fluctuations in a real model
 - Strong Implications for policy: No (nominal) frictions
 All adjustments (i.e. fluctuations) in real variables are efficient responses to real shocks (technology) Stabilization policy (including monetary policy) has no role
- Lets see how that works and if it fits the data

- Model blocks (Consumers, Production) and Equilibrium
- Study effects of shocks in a classical Real Business cycle model.
- Note: no capital though, typically a standard element of the RBC model (even in the Solow-model)
- Four steps to solve a model
 - Write down optimization problem for agents and take first-order conditions
 - Find steady state
 - Linearize foc around steady state
 - Solve resulting stochastic difference equations using an appropriate method

- Representative household
- Preferences represented by the following payoff function

$$E_0 \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t U(C_t, N_t)$$

where C_t is consumption in period t, P_t the price level , N_t hours of work, β the discount factor.

• Households face the following budget constraint in each period

$$P_t C_t + Q_t B_t \le B_{t-1} + W_t N_t + D_t$$

where P_t is the price of C_t , Q_t is the price of riskless bonds B_t , W_t is the wage rate and D_t are dividends paid by firms to households (who own the firms)

$$\lim_{T\to\infty} \mathbf{E}_t \Lambda_{t,T} B_T \geq 0$$

where

$$\Lambda_{t,T} = \beta^{T-t} \frac{U'(C_T)}{U'(C_t)} \frac{P_t}{P_T}$$

is the (nominal) stochastic discount factor.

• Here we assume additively separable utility

$$U(C_t, N_t) = \frac{C_t^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma} - \frac{N_t^{1+\varphi}}{1+\varphi}$$
(6)

Note that in the limit when $\sigma \rightarrow 1$ the first term converges to $\log (C_t)$.

• To find optimal consumption, hours of work and bond holdings, the consumer then solves the following problem

$$\max_{\{C_T, N_T, B_T\}_{T=t}^{\infty}} E_t \Sigma_{T=t}^{\infty} U(C_T, N_T)$$

s.t. $P_T C_T + Q_T B_T \leq B_{T-1} + W_T N_T + D_T$

subject to the constraints above. The Lagrangian is

$$L = E_t \Sigma_{T=t}^{\infty} U(C_T, N_T)$$

$$-\lambda_T \left[P_T C_T + Q_T B_T - (B_{T-1} + W_T N_T + D_T) \right]$$
(7)

• The first-order conditions are then

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial C_t} = U_{c,t} - \lambda_t P_t = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial N_t} = U_{n,t} + \lambda_t W_t = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial B_t} = -\lambda_t Q_t + \beta E_t \lambda_{t+1} = 0$$

• Combining the equations, we we can rewrite this as

$$-\frac{U_{n,t}}{U_{c,t}} = \frac{W_t}{P_t}$$

$$Q_t = E_t \left[\beta \frac{U_{c,t+1}}{U_{c,t}} \frac{P_t}{P_{t+1}} \right]$$
(8)
(9)

Using the functional form above,

$$C_t^{\sigma} N_t^{\varphi} = \frac{W_t}{P_t}$$

$$\frac{1}{I_t} = E_t \left[\beta \left(\frac{C_{t+1}}{C_t} \right)^{-\sigma} \frac{P_t}{P_{t+1}} \right]$$

where we have used that $\frac{1}{I_t} \equiv Q_t$, where I_t is the gross interest rate.

Production

Technology

$$Y_t = A_t N_t^{1-\alpha}$$

- Note: No capital
- Firms maximize profits, trearing P_t and W_t as given (we assume perfect competition!)

$$\max_{N_t} P_t Y_t - W_t N_t$$

$$s.t.Y_t = A_t N_t^{1-\alpha}$$

FOC:

$$P_t (1-\alpha) A_t N_t^{-\alpha} - W_t = 0$$

Model summary

$$C_{t}^{\sigma} N_{t}^{\varphi} = \frac{W_{t}}{P_{t}}$$

$$\frac{1}{I_{t}} = E_{t} \left[\beta \left(\frac{C_{t+1}}{C_{t}} \right)^{-\sigma} \frac{P_{t}}{P_{t+1}} \right]$$

$$(1 - \alpha) A_{t} N_{t}^{-\alpha} = \frac{W_{t}}{P_{t}}$$

$$Y_{t} = A_{t} N_{t}^{1-\alpha}$$

$$Y_{t} = C_{t}$$

$$I_{t} = I \left(\frac{P_{t}}{\Pi^{*}} \right)^{\gamma} \exp \varepsilon_{t}^{i}$$

$$(10)$$

• Endogenous variables: C_t , N_t , Y_t , W_t , P_t , I_t . 6 variables, 6 equations, looks promising!

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Compressed real model

$$\begin{array}{lll} \mathcal{N}_t^{\alpha+\varphi+\sigma(1-\alpha)} & = & (1-\alpha) \, \mathcal{A}_t^{1-\sigma} \\ \mathcal{Y}_t & = & \mathcal{A}_t \, \mathcal{N}_t^{1-a} \end{array}$$

$$N_t = (1-lpha)^{rac{1}{lpha+arphi+\sigma(1-lpha)}} A_t^{rac{1-\sigma}{lpha+\sigma(1-lpha)}}$$

$$\log N_{t} = \frac{\log 1 - \alpha}{\alpha + \varphi + \sigma \left(1 - \alpha\right)} + \frac{1 - \sigma}{\alpha + \varphi + \sigma \left(1 - \alpha\right)} \log A_{t}$$

- *Y_t* now follows from production function and real wage can be recovered from (10).
- Note: this constitues a solution of the real side of the model, completely independent from monetary policy
- Monetary neutrality

A common method used is to loglinearize the model around a steady state value. We define x_t = log X_t. Then (8) with the payoff function (6) can be written as

$$\sigma c_t + \varphi n_t = w_t - p_t.$$

• For the Euler equation (9) we proceed as follows. Use a first-order Taylor approximation of (9) at the perfect foresight steady state. Rewrite the Euler equation (9) as,

$$1 = E_t \left[\beta \left(\frac{C_{t+1}}{C_t} \right)^{-\sigma} \frac{P_t}{P_{t+1}} \frac{1}{Q_t} \right] = E_t \left[e^{\log \beta - \sigma \Delta c_{t+1} - \pi_{t+1} - q_t} \right]$$
(11)

where $\Delta c_{t+1} = c_{t+1} - c_t$ and $\pi_{t+1} = p_{t+1} - p_t$.

Taylors Theorem: A first-order approximation is

$$f(x_1,\ldots,x_n) \approx f(x_1^*,\ldots,x_n^*) + \sum_{i=1}^k \underbrace{\frac{\partial f(x_1^*,\ldots,x_n^*)}{\partial x_i}}_{\text{first-order partials}} (x_i - x_i^*).$$

• In terms of the model:

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = e^{\log \beta - \sigma \Delta c_{t+1} - \pi_{t+1} - q_t}$$

$$f(x_1^*, \dots, x_n^*) = e^{\log \beta - \sigma \gamma - \pi - q}$$

Also

$$\frac{\partial f(x_1,\ldots,x_n)}{\partial \Delta c_{t+1}} = -\sigma e^{\log \beta - \sigma \Delta c_{t+1} - \pi_{t+1} - q_t}$$

and computing the difference $(x_i - x_i^*)$ for consumption,

$$=\Delta c_{t+1}-\gamma$$

• A first-order Taylor approximation around a steady state with growth rate γ and inflation π gives

$$e^{\log \beta - \sigma(c_{t+1} - c_t) + p_{t+1} - p_t - q_t} pprox 1 - \sigma \left(\Delta c_{t+1} - \gamma\right) - (\pi_{t+1} - \pi) - (q_t - q_t)$$

In a perfect foresight steady state, we have

$$1 = e^{\log \beta - \sigma \Delta c - \pi - q} = e^{\log \beta - \sigma \gamma - \pi - q} \iff \log \beta = \sigma \gamma + \pi + q$$

Hence

$$e^{\log \beta - \sigma(c_{t+1} - c_t) + p_{t+1} - p_t - q_t} \approx 1 - \sigma \Delta c_{t+1} - \pi_{t+1} - q_t + \log \beta$$
 (12)

• Note that Q_t is the price of bonds. In terms of the gross interest rate I_t we can write

$$Q_t = rac{1}{I_t} \iff Q_t I_t = 1 \iff 1 = e^{q_t + i_t}$$

In steady state, we thus have q = -i.

• Using a first-order approximation gives

$$e^{q_t + i_t} \approx e^{q+i} + e^{q+i} (q_t - q) + e^{q+i} (i_t - i) = 1 + q_t + i_t$$

and hence

$$q_t = -i_t$$
.

• Then substituting in (12) and using (11) we get

$$1 \approx E_t \left[1 - \sigma \Delta c_{t+1} - \pi_{t+1} + i_t + \log \beta \right]$$

or, solving for c_t and letting $ho = -\logeta$ (Household's discount rate)

$$c_t = E_t c_{t+1} - \frac{1}{\sigma} \left(i_t - E_t \pi_{t+1} - \rho \right)$$

Fact

From consumers

$$\sigma c_{t} + \varphi n_{t} = w_{t} - p_{t},$$

$$c_{t} = E_{t} c_{t+1} - \frac{1}{\sigma} \left(i_{t} - E_{t} \pi_{t+1} - \rho \right).$$

Profit maximization

$$w_t - p_t = a_t - \alpha n_t + \log\left(1 - \alpha\right)$$

Fact

(continued) Technology

$$y_t = a_t + (1 - \alpha) n_t$$

Goods market clearing

$$y_t = c_t$$

Labor market clearing

$$\sigma c_t + \varphi n_t = w_t - p_t = a_t - \alpha n_t + \log(1 - \alpha)$$

together with goods market clearing and technology gives solution for y_t and n_t as a function of constants and the exogenous disturbance a_t :

$$\left(\begin{array}{cc} \sigma & \phi + \alpha \\ 1 & -(1 - \alpha) \end{array}\right) \left(\begin{array}{c} y_t \\ n_t \end{array}\right) = \left(\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \end{array}\right) \mathsf{a}_t + \left(\begin{array}{c} \log\left(1 - \alpha\right) \\ 0 \end{array}\right)$$

Solution

We get

$$egin{array}{rcl} y_t &=& \psi_{ya} a_t + artheta_y \ n_t &=& \psi_{na} a_t + artheta_n \end{array}$$

with

$$\begin{split} \psi_{ya} &= \frac{1+\varphi}{\sigma+\varphi+\alpha\,(1-\sigma)} \text{ and } \vartheta_y = \frac{(1-\alpha)\log\,(1-\alpha)}{(1-\alpha)}\\ \psi_{na} &= \frac{1-\sigma}{\sigma+\varphi+\alpha\,(1-\sigma)} \text{ and } \vartheta_n = \frac{1}{1-\alpha}\vartheta_y \end{split}$$

From this we can solve for all real variables.

• IMPORTANT: Can solve without money - Money can't drive output!





May 11, 2020 42 / 56



May 11, 2020 43 / 56



May 11, 2020 44 / 56









May 11, 2020 48 / 56

- In the first case there is no relationship between ouput and employment - this simple model would thus generate zero correlation betweeen Y and N
- Second case better
- Positive correlation between Y and $\frac{W}{P}$
- Both the real wage and employment responds less to the shock as in the data.
- Very simple model a larger model would give more reasonable results.

- Above only determines relative prices need monetary policy to determine price level
- Inflation based interest rate rule "Taylor rule"
- Other (not covered here): Exogenous path for interest rate and exogeneous money supply rule.

• Interest rate determined by

$$i_t =
ho + \phi_\pi \pi_t, \ \phi_\pi \geq 0$$

• Using Fisher identity $r_t \equiv i_t - E_t \pi_{t+1}$ gives

$$r_t - \rho = \phi_\pi \pi_t - E_t \pi_{t+1} \iff E_t \pi_{t+1} = \phi_\pi \pi_t - (r_t - \rho) \quad (13)$$

 Can think of above expression in general terms as (ignoring constants and r_t)

$$x_t = a_x x_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t \tag{14}$$

where we can think of ε_t as an expectational error. In terms of (13) we have $\varepsilon_t \equiv \pi_{t+1} - E_t \pi_{t+1}$, $\phi_{\pi} = a_x$ and $(r_t - \rho) = 0$.

• We can rewrite (13) as

$$\pi_t = \frac{1}{\phi_{\pi}} E_t \pi_{t+1} + \frac{1}{\phi_{\pi}} \underbrace{(r_t - \rho)}_{\hat{r}_t}$$

• Substituting rule in period t + 1 and so on gives

$$\pi_{t} = \left(\frac{1}{\phi_{\pi}}\right)^{T+1} E_{t} \pi_{t+T+1} + E_{t} \sum_{k=0}^{T} \left(\frac{1}{\phi_{\pi}}\right)^{(k+1)} \underbrace{(r_{t+k} - \rho)}_{\hat{r}_{t+k}}$$

• Suppose $\phi_{\pi} > 1$. Ruling out hyperinflationary equilibria implies that the first term goes to zero as $T \to \infty$.

Solution

We have

$$\pi_t = E_t \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{\phi_{\pi}}\right)^{(k+1)} (r_{t+k} - \rho)$$

This is well defined!

• If $\phi_\pi < 1$ this does not work. Since

$$E_t \pi_{t+1} = \phi_\pi \pi_t - (r_t - \rho)$$

Any process π_t such that

$$\pi_{t+1} = \phi_{\pi}\pi_t - (r_t - \rho) + \xi_{t+1}$$

Now indeterminacy

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Add shock to interest rate rule

$$i_t =
ho + \phi_\pi \pi_t + v_t$$

• The shock v_t follows an AR(1) process where

$$v_t = \rho_v v_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t^v$$

- Calibration: $\phi_{\pi}=$ 1.5, $\sigma=$ 1, $\varphi=$ 1, $\alpha=$ 1/3 and $\rho_{v}=$ 0.5 with 0.25 percent shock
- Interest rate and inflation moves in the same direction



• Exogenous path for i_t :

 $\{i_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$

given

• Here: simple case. Just set $i_t = \text{constant}$. Similar to taylor rule above with $\phi_{\pi} = 0$ - no unique solution.