

THE FINANCIAL ACCELERATOR (CONTINUED)

APRIL 29, 2009

Introduction

OUTLINE OF FRAMEWORK

Major ideas underlying Financial Accelerator Framework

1. Firms' **financial** assets (i.e., stocks and bonds) matter for their ability to purchase **physical** assets (i.e., machines and equipment)
2. Market **prices** of financial assets matter for **firm financing constraints**
3. Government regulation affects the linkage between financial markets and real (i.e., goods and physical capital) markets *through* financing constraints

FINANCIAL ACCELERATOR FRAMEWORK

□ Four Building Blocks of the Financial Accelerator Framework

1. Firm Profit Function

$$P_1 f(k_1, n_1) + P_1 k_1 + (S_1 + D_1) a_0 - P_1 w_1 n_1 - P_1 k_2 - S_1 a_1 + \frac{P_2 f(k_2, n_2)}{1+i} + \frac{P_2 k_2}{1+i} + \frac{(S_2 + D_2) a_1}{1+i} - \frac{P_2 w_2 n_2}{1+i} - \frac{P_2 k_3}{1+i} - \frac{S_2 a_2}{1+i}$$

2. Financing Constraint

$$P_1 \cdot (k_2 - k_1) = S_1 \cdot a_1$$

3. Government Regulation of Financial Relationships (imposition of **R** on financing constraint)

$$P_1 \cdot (k_2 - k_1) = R \cdot S_1 \cdot a_1$$

4. Relationship between firm profits and dividends

NEXT TIME

FIRM PROFIT MAXIMIZATION

Maximize two-period profits

$$P_1 f(k_1, n_1) + P_1 k_1 + (S_1 + D_1) a_0 - P_1 w_1 n_1 - P_1 k_2 - S_1 a_1 + \frac{P_2 f(k_2, n_2)}{1+i} + \frac{P_2 k_2}{1+i} + \frac{(S_2 + D_2) a_1}{1+i} - \frac{P_2 w_2 n_2}{1+i} - \frac{P_2 k_3}{1+i} - \frac{S_2 a_2}{1+i}$$

Subject to financing constraint

$$P_1 \cdot (k_2 - k_1) = R \cdot S_1 \cdot a_1$$

Construct Lagrangian

$$P_1 f(k_1, n_1) + P_1 k_1 + (S_1 + D_1) a_0 - P_1 w_1 n_1 - P_1 k_2 - S_1 a_1 + \frac{P_2 f(k_2, n_2)}{1+i} + \frac{P_2 k_2}{1+i} + \frac{(S_2 + D_2) a_1}{1+i} - \frac{P_2 w_2 n_2}{1+i} + \lambda [R \cdot S_1 \cdot a_1 - P_1 \cdot (k_2 - k_1)]$$

Lagrange multiplier on financing constraint

CRUCIAL OBSERVATION: in basic firm theory (i.e., Chapter 6), value of this multiplier was...

$\lambda = 0$ i.e., there was no financing constraint!

KEY QUESTION: What regulatory and/or market features make the financing constraint effectively "disappear" (i.e., cause $\lambda = 0$)?

FIRM PROFIT MAXIMIZATION

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□ **FOCs with respect to n_1, n_2**

Identical except for time subscripts

→ with respect to n_1 : $\cancel{P_1} f_n(k_1, n_1) - \cancel{P_1} w_1 = 0$ Equation 1

→ with respect to n_2 : $\frac{\cancel{P_2} f_n(k_2, n_2)}{1+i} - \frac{\cancel{P_2} w_2}{1+i} = 0$ Equation 2

- Financing constraint does not affect profit-maximizing choices of labor hiring...
- ...thus same analysis from Chapter 6 of labor demand curve, etc, applies

□ **FOCs with respect to k_2, a_1**

FIRM PROFIT MAXIMIZATION

$$P_1 f(k_1, n_1) + P_1 k_1 + (S_1 + D_1) a_0 - P_1 w_1 n_1 - P_1 k_2 - S_1 a_1 + \frac{P_2 f(k_2, n_2)}{1+i} + \frac{P_2 k_2}{1+i} + \frac{(S_2 + D_2) a_1}{1+i} - \frac{P_2 w_2 n_2}{1+i} + \lambda [R \cdot S_1 \cdot a_1 - P_1 \cdot (k_2 - k_1)]$$

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□ **FOCs with respect to k_2, a_1**

- The interesting aspects of this framework
- **The heart of the financial accelerator framework**

FIRM PROFIT MAXIMIZATION

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with respect to k_2 :

with respect to a_1 :

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□ **FOCs with respect to k_2, a_1**

with respect to k_2 : $-P_1 + \frac{P_2 f_k(k_2, n_2)}{1+i} + \frac{P_2}{1+i} - \lambda P_1 = 0$ Equation 3

with respect to a_1 : $-S_1 + \frac{S_2 + D_2}{1+i} + \lambda \cdot R \cdot S_1 = 0$ Equation 4

□ **Analysis of Equation 4 in isolation**

- **Answers the central question: under what conditions does $\lambda = 0$?**
- Reveals how stock market returns affect financing constraints
- Reveals how government regulation affects financing constraints

□ **Analysis of Equation 3 and Equation 4 jointly**

- **Demonstrates how/why financial market prices (i.e., stock prices/returns) matter for macroeconomic activity**
- **The financial accelerator effect**

WHY IS FINANCING A *CONSTRAINT*?

$$-S_1 + \frac{S_2 + D_2}{1+i} + \lambda \cdot R \cdot S_1 = 0 \quad \text{Equation 4}$$

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↓ Solve for λ

$$\lambda = \left[S_1 - \frac{S_2 + D_2}{1+i} \right] \cdot \frac{1}{R \cdot S_1}$$

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↓ Pull $1/S_1$ term inside

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↓ Multiply and divide second term in parentheses by P_1 and P_2

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↓ Use definition of inflation, $1 + \pi_2 = P_2 / P_1$, and regroup terms

$$\lambda = \left[1 - \frac{S_2 + D_2}{S_1} \cdot \frac{P_1}{P_2} \cdot \frac{1 + \pi_2}{1+i} \right] \cdot \frac{1}{R}$$

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↓ Use definition of "nominal interest rate on stock", $1 + i^{STOCK} = (S_2 + D_2) / S_1$
Use definition of inflation, $1 + \pi_2 = P_2 / P_1$

$$\lambda = \left[1 - \frac{1 + i^{STOCK}}{1 + \pi_2} \cdot \frac{1 + \pi_2}{1+i} \right] \cdot \frac{1}{R}$$

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Use definition of "nominal interest rate on stock", $1 + r^{STOCK} = (S_2 + D_2) / S_1$
 Use definition of inflation, $1 + \pi_2 = P_2 / P_1$

$$\lambda = \left[1 - \frac{1 + i^{STOCK}}{1 + \pi_2} \cdot \frac{1 + \pi_2}{1 + i} \right] \cdot \frac{1}{R}$$

Fisher equation for stock: $1 + r^{STOCK} = (1 + \beta^{STOCK}) / (1 + n_2)$
 Fisher equation for bonds: $1 + r = (1 + i) / (1 + n_2)$

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Final rewrite!

$$\lambda = \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{1 + r} \right] \cdot \frac{1}{R} \quad \text{The Lagrange multiplier on firm's financing constraint}$$

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- Basic firm theory (Chapter 6)
 - No financing constraint

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- Basic firm theory (Chapter 6)
 - No financing constraint
 - Can interpret basic firm theory analysis as featuring $\lambda = 0$
 - Interpretation: under "normal market conditions," financing constraints don't matter (much...)

$$P_1 f(k_1, n_1) + P_1 k_1 + (S_1 + D_1) a_0 - P_1 w_1 n_1 - P_1 k_2 - S_1 a_1 + \frac{P_2 f(k_2, n_2)}{1+i} + \frac{P_2 k_2}{1+i} + \frac{(S_2 + D_2) a_1}{1+i} - \frac{P_2 w_2 n_2}{1+i} + \lambda [R \cdot S_1 \cdot a_1 - P_1 \cdot (k_2 - k_1)] = 0$$

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- **Basic firm theory (Chapter 6)**
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- **If $\lambda = 0$ (i.e., "normal market conditions")**
 - **Labor demand decisions unaffected by financial market conditions**
 - **Capital demand decisions unaffected by financial market conditions**
- **Key question: what causes $\lambda = 0$?**

WHY IS FINANCING A CONSTRAINT?

$$\lambda = \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{1 + r} \right] \cdot \frac{1}{R} \quad \text{The Lagrange multiplier on firm's financing constraint}$$

- **Two conditions for $\lambda = 0$**
 - **Market returns on risky assets equal returns on safe assets**
 - **Risky assets: stocks**
 - **Safe assets**
 - **Bonds (financial)**

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The Lagrange multiplier on firm's financing constraint

Two conditions for $\lambda = 0$

- Market returns on risky assets equal returns on safe assets
 - Risky assets: stocks
 - Safe assets
 - Bonds (financial)
 - Machines and equipment (physical) – most directly relevant for firms' production and sales activity!
 - Basic firm theory prediction: $r = mpk$

Can think of both government bonds (financial assets) and machines & equipment (physical assets) as "safe": you (pretty much...) know what you're going to get from them.

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Interpretation: if returns on financial assets match up with returns on physical assets, financing constraints "don't matter"

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- Government oversight of borrowing/lending relationships very lax

 - The larger is R , the lower is λ

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 - The larger is R , the lower is λ
 - Financing constraint: $P_1 \cdot (k_2 - k_1) = R \cdot S_1 \cdot a_1$

 - Market value of financial assets

 - Holding constant market value of financial assets, higher R allows higher k_2

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Holding constant market value of financial assets, higher R allows higher k_2

$$R = \infty \longrightarrow \lambda = 0$$

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Government oversight of borrowing/lending relationships very lax

The larger is R , the lower is λ

Financing constraint: $P_1 \cdot (k_2 - k_1) = R \cdot S_1 \cdot a_1$

Holding constant market value of financial assets, higher R allows higher k_2

In practice, not literally infinity...

$$R = \infty \longrightarrow \lambda = 0$$

Interpretation: if government regulations allow high borrowing with little assets, financing constraints "don't matter"

FINANCING CONSTRAINT AND CAPITAL DEMAND

- Assume $R = 1$ under "normal conditions" (but keep R in rest of analysis)
 - $R > 1$ is "lax regulation" (because it lowers λ , all else constant)
 - $R < 1$ is "tight regulation" (because it increases λ , all else constant)
 - → Whether or not financing constraint matters (i.e., whether or not $\lambda = 0$) all depends on whether or not $r^{STOCK} = r$ or not

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$$-P_1 + \frac{P_2 f_k(k_2, n_2)}{1+i} + \frac{P_2}{1+i} - \lambda P_1 = 0 \quad \text{Equation 3 (FOC on } k_2)$$

$$\lambda = \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{1+r} \right] \cdot \frac{1}{R} \quad \text{Equation 4 (FOC on } a_1)$$

- Basic firm theory (Chapter 6)
 - Capital demand function derived from Equation 3
 - Idea still the same...but now complicated by the financing constraint

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↓ Substitute λ from Equation 4 into Equation 3

$$-P_1 + \frac{P_2 f_k(k_2, n_2)}{1+i} + \frac{P_2}{1+i} - \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{1+r} \right] \frac{1}{R} P_1 = 0$$

↓ Rearrange

FINANCING CONSTRAINT AND CAPITAL DEMAND

$$-P_1 + \frac{P_2 f_k(k_2, n_2)}{1+i} + \frac{P_2}{1+i} - \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{1+r} \right] \frac{1}{R} P_1 = 0 \quad (\text{from previous page})$$

↓ Divide by P_1

$$\frac{P_2 f_k(k_2, n_2)}{P_1(1+i)} + \frac{P_2}{P_1(1+i)} - \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{1+r} \right] \frac{1}{R} = 1$$

FINANCING CONSTRAINT AND CAPITAL DEMAND

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↓ Use definition of inflation, $1 + \pi_2 = P_2 / P_1$

$$\left(\frac{1 + \pi_2}{1+i} \right) f_k(k_2, n_2) + \frac{1 + \pi_2}{1+i} - \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{1+r} \right] \frac{1}{R} = 1$$

FINANCING CONSTRAINT AND CAPITAL DEMAND

$$-P_1 + \frac{P_2 f_k(k_2, n_2)}{1+i} + \frac{P_2}{1+i} - \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{1+r} \right] \frac{1}{R} P_1 = 0 \quad (\text{from previous page})$$

↓ Divide by P_1

$$\frac{P_2 f_k(k_2, n_2)}{P_1(1+i)} + \frac{P_2}{P_1(1+i)} - \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{1+r} \right] \frac{1}{R} = 1$$

↓ Use definition of inflation, $1 + n_2 = P_2 / P_1$

$$\left(\frac{1 + \pi_2}{1+i} \right) f_k(k_2, n_2) + \frac{1 + \pi_2}{1+i} - \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{1+r} \right] \frac{1}{R} = 1$$

↓ Apply Fisher relation for "safe" assets

$$\frac{f_k(k_2, n_2)}{1+r} + \frac{1}{1+r} - \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{1+r} \right] \frac{1}{R} = 1$$

FINANCING CONSTRAINT AND CAPITAL DEMAND

$$-P_1 + \frac{P_2 f_k(k_2, n_2)}{1+i} + \frac{P_2}{1+i} - \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{1+r} \right] \frac{1}{R} P_1 = 0 \quad (\text{from previous page})$$

↓ Divide by P_1

$$\frac{P_2 f_k(k_2, n_2)}{P_1(1+i)} + \frac{P_2}{P_1(1+i)} - \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{1+r} \right] \frac{1}{R} = 1$$

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↓ Multiply by $(1+r)$

$$f_k(k_2, n_2) + 1 - \frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{R} = 1 + r$$

FINANCING CONSTRAINT AND CAPITAL DEMAND

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$$-P_1 + \frac{P_2 f_k(k_2, n_2)}{1+i} + \frac{P_2}{1+i} - \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{1+r} \right] \frac{1}{R} P_1 = 0 \quad (\text{from previous page})$$

Divide by P_1

$$\frac{P_2 f_k(k_2, n_2)}{P_1(1+i)} + \frac{P_2}{P_1(1+i)} - \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{1+r} \right] \frac{1}{R} = 1$$

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Multiply by $(1+r)$

$$f_k(k_2, n_2) + 1 - \frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{R} = 1 + r$$

Marginal product of capital, mpk

Assuming $R = 1$ under "normal conditions," but keeping R in the analysis

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COBB-DOUGLAS PRODUCTION FUNCTION

- A commonly-used functional form in modern quantitative macroeconomic models

$$f(k, n) = k^\alpha n^{1-\alpha}$$
- Describes the empirical relationship between aggregate GDP, aggregate capital, and aggregate labor quite well
- $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ measures **capital's share of output**
 - Hence $(1-\alpha) \in (0, 1)$ measures **labor's share of output**
 - **Interpretation**
 - The relative importance of (either) capital (or labor) in the production process
 - Estimates for U.S. economy: $\alpha \approx 0.3$
 - Estimates for Chinese economy: $\alpha \approx 0.15$ (not (yet) a very capital-rich economy)
- **Cobb-Douglas form useful for illustrating factor demands**
 - $mpn = f_n(k, n) = (1-\alpha)k^\alpha n^{-\alpha}$
 - $mpk = f_k(k, n) = \alpha k^{\alpha-1} n^{1-\alpha}$

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FINANCING CONSTRAINT AND CAPITAL DEMAND

- Firm-level demand for capital **defined** by the relation

$$r = \alpha k^{\alpha-1} n^{1-\alpha} - \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{R} \right] \left(= mpk - \left[\frac{r - r^{STOCK}}{R} \right] \right)$$

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FINANCING CONSTRAINT AND CAPITAL DEMAND

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$$r = \alpha k^{\alpha-1} n^{1-\alpha} - \frac{r}{R} + \frac{r^{STOCK}}{R}$$

$$\left[1 + \frac{1}{R} \right] r = \alpha k^{\alpha-1} n^{1-\alpha} + \frac{r^{STOCK}}{R}$$

$$\left[\frac{R+1}{R} \right] r = \alpha k^{\alpha-1} n^{1-\alpha} + \frac{r^{STOCK}}{R}$$

$$r = \left(\frac{R}{R+1} \right) \alpha k^{\alpha-1} n^{1-\alpha} + \frac{r^{STOCK}}{R+1}$$

Solve for r (return on "safe" physical assets)

FINANCING CONSTRAINT AND CAPITAL DEMAND

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$$r = \left(\frac{R}{R+1} \right) \alpha k^{\alpha-1} n^{1-\alpha} + \frac{r^{STOCK}}{R+1}$$

FINANCING CONSTRAINT AND CAPITAL DEMAND

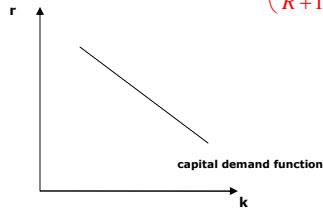
- Firm-level demand for capital **defined** by the relation

$$r = \left(\frac{R}{R+1} \right) \alpha k^{\alpha-1} n^{1-\alpha} + \frac{r^{STOCK}}{R+1}$$

↓ Because exponent $(\alpha - 1)$ is a negative number, can move to denominator

$$r = \left(\frac{R}{R+1} \right) \alpha \left(\frac{n_t}{k_t} \right)^{1-\alpha} + \frac{r^{STOCK}}{R+1}$$

CHAPTER 6: NEGATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN r AND k



FINANCING CONSTRAINT AND CAPITAL DEMAND

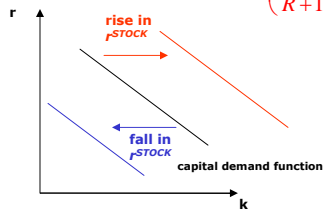
- Firm-level demand for capital **defined** by the relation

$$r = \left(\frac{R}{R+1} \right) \alpha k^{\alpha-1} n^{1-\alpha} + \frac{r^{STOCK}}{R+1}$$

↓ Because exponent $(\alpha - 1)$ is a negative number, can move to denominator

$$r = \left(\frac{R}{R+1} \right) \alpha \left(\frac{n_t}{k_t} \right)^{1-\alpha} + \frac{r^{STOCK}}{R+1}$$

Rise (fall) in return on stock leads to shift out (in) of capital demand function



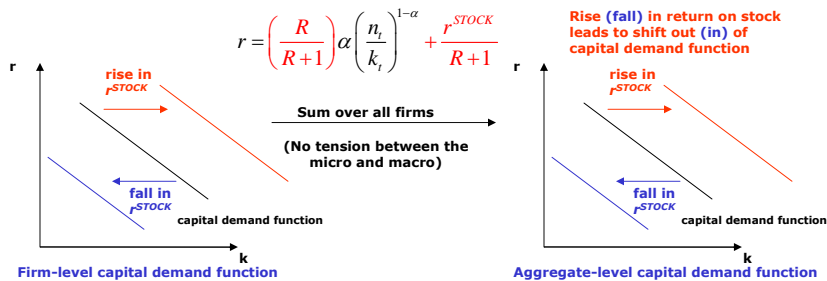
FINANCING CONSTRAINT AND CAPITAL DEMAND

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- **IMPORTANT:** changes in financial market returns shift capital demand (and hence investment demand – recall $inv_t = k_{t+1} - k_t$)

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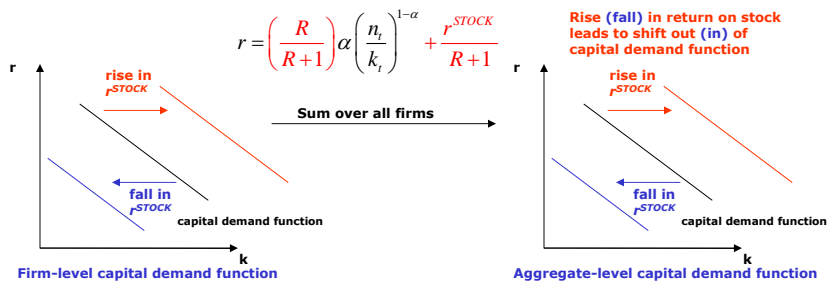
FINANCING CONSTRAINT AND CAPITAL DEMAND

- Firm-level demand for capital **defined** by the relation

$$r = \left(\frac{R}{R+1} \right) \alpha k^{\alpha-1} n^{1-\alpha} + \frac{r^{STOCK}}{R+1}$$

↓ Because exponent $(\alpha - 1)$ is a negative number, can move to denominator

$$r = \left(\frac{R}{R+1} \right) \alpha \left(\frac{n_t}{k_t} \right)^{1-\alpha} + \frac{r^{STOCK}}{R+1}$$



- Next: the financial accelerator
- Next: the role of financial oversight

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