

LINEARIZING AND APPROXIMATING THE RBC MODEL

SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

The Basics

LINEARIZATION

- For $f(x, y, z) = 0$, multivariable Taylor linear expansion around $(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z})$
$$f(x, y, z) \approx f(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z}) + f_x(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z})(x - \bar{x}) + f_y(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z})(y - \bar{y}) + f_z(\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z})(z - \bar{z})$$

LINEARIZATION OF THE RBC MODEL

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- Four equations describe the dynamic solution to RBC model

- Consumption-leisure efficiency condition

$$-\frac{u_n(c_t, n_t)}{u_c(c_t, n_t)} = z_t m_n(k_t, n_t)$$

- Consumption-investment efficiency condition

$$u_c(c_t, n_t) = \beta E_t [u_c(c_{t+1}, n_{t+1})(1 - \delta + z_{t+1} m_k(k_{t+1}, n_{t+1}))]$$

- Aggregate resource constraint

$$c_t + k_{t+1} - (1 - \delta)k_t = z_t m(k_t, n_t)$$

- Law of motion for TFP

$$\ln z_{t+1} = (1 - \rho_z) \ln \bar{z} + \rho_z \ln z_t + \varepsilon_{t+1}^z$$

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STEADY STATE

- Deterministic steady state the natural local point of approximation
- Shut down all shocks and set exogenous variables at their means
- The Idea:** Let economy run for many (infinite) periods
 - Time eventually “doesn’t matter” any more
 - Drop all time indices

$$-\frac{u_n(\bar{c}, \bar{n})}{u_c(\bar{c}, \bar{n})} = \bar{z} m_n(\bar{k}, \bar{n})$$

$$u_c(\bar{c}, \bar{n}) = \beta u_c(\bar{c}, \bar{n}) [m_k(\bar{k}, \bar{n}) + 1 - \delta]$$

$$\bar{c} + \delta \bar{k} = \bar{z} f(\bar{k}, \bar{n})$$

$$\ln \bar{z} = (1 - \rho_z) \ln \bar{z} + \rho_z \ln \bar{z} \Rightarrow \bar{z} = \bar{z} \quad (\text{a parameter of the model})$$

- Given functions and parameter values (next...), solve for (c, n, k)
 - The steady-state of the model
 - Taylor expansion around this point

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LINEARIZATION ALGORITHMS

- Schmitt-Grohe and Uribe (2004 *JEDC*)
 - A **perturbation** algorithm
 - A class of methods used to find an **approximate** solution to a problem that cannot be solved exactly, **by starting from the exact solution of a related problem.**
 - Applicable if the problem can be formulated by adding a “small” term to the description of the exactly-solvable problem.
 - Matlab code available through Duke economics web site

- Uhlig (1999, chapter in *Computational Methods for the Study of Dynamic Economies*)
 - Uses a generalized eigen-decomposition
 - Typically implemented with Schur decomposition (Sims algorithm)
 - Matlab code available at
<http://www2.wiwi.hu-berlin.de/institute/wpol/html/toolkit.htm>

LINEARIZATION OF THE RBC MODEL

Define **co-state** vector and **state** vector

$$y_t = \begin{bmatrix} c_t \\ n_t \end{bmatrix} \quad x_t = \begin{bmatrix} k_t \\ z_t \end{bmatrix}$$

LINEARIZATION OF THE RBC MODEL

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Order model's dynamic equations in a **vector** $\equiv f(y_{t+1}, y_t, x_{t+1}, x_t) = 0$

Consumption-leisure efficiency condition	$\left[\begin{array}{c c} \text{---} & \text{---} \\ \text{---} & \text{---} \\ \text{---} & \text{---} \\ \text{---} & \text{---} \end{array} \right]$
Consumption-investment efficiency condition	
Aggregate resource constraint	
Law of motion for TFP	

LINEARIZATION OF THE RBC MODEL

Need four **matrices** of derivatives

1. Differentiate $f(y_{t+1}, y_t, x_{t+1}, x_t)$ with respect to (elements of) y_{t+1}

First derivatives with respect to:

	c_{t+1}	n_{t+1}	
Consumption-leisure efficiency condition	$\left[\begin{array}{c c} \text{---} & \text{---} \\ \text{---} & \text{---} \\ \text{---} & \text{---} \\ \text{---} & \text{---} \end{array} \right]$		$= f_{y_{t+1}}$
Consumption-investment efficiency condition			
Aggregate resource constraint			
Law of motion for TFP			

LINEARIZATION OF THE RBC MODEL

Need four **matrices** of derivatives

2. Differentiate $f(y_{t+1}, y_t, x_{t+1}, x_t)$ with respect to (elements of) y_t

	First derivatives with respect to:		
	c_t	n_t	
Consumption-leisure efficiency condition			= f_{y_t}
Consumption-investment efficiency condition			
Aggregate resource constraint			
Law of motion for TFP			

LINEARIZATION OF THE RBC MODEL

Need four **matrices** of derivatives

3. Differentiate $f(y_{t+1}, y_t, x_{t+1}, x_t)$ with respect to (elements of) x_{t+1}

	First derivatives with respect to:		
	k_{t+1}	z_{t+1}	
Consumption-leisure efficiency condition			= $f_{x_{t+1}}$
Consumption-investment efficiency condition			
Aggregate resource constraint			
Law of motion for TFP			

LINEARIZATION OF THE RBC MODEL

Need four **matrices** of derivatives

4. Differentiate $f(y_{t+1}, y_t, x_{t+1}, x_t)$ with respect to (elements of) x_t

	First derivatives with respect to:		
	k_t	z_t	
Consumption-leisure efficiency condition			$= f_{x_t}$
Consumption-investment efficiency condition			
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Law of motion for TFP			

LINEARIZATION OF THE RBC MODEL

The model's dynamic **expectational** equations

$$E_t [f(y_{t+1}, y_t, x_{t+1}, x_t)] = E_t \begin{bmatrix} f^1(y_{t+1}, y_t, x_{t+1}, x_t) \\ f^2(y_{t+1}, y_t, x_{t+1}, x_t) \\ f^3(y_{t+1}, y_t, x_{t+1}, x_t) \\ f^4(y_{t+1}, y_t, x_{t+1}, x_t) \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{l} \text{Consumption-leisure efficiency condition} \\ \text{Consumption-investment efficiency condition} \\ \text{Aggregate resource constraint} \\ \text{Law of motion for TFP} \end{array}$$

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Consumption-leisure efficiency condition
 Consumption-investment efficiency condition
 Aggregate resource constraint
 Law of motion for TFP

Conjecture equilibrium decision rules

$$y_t = g(x_t, \sigma)$$

$$x_{t+1} = h(x_t, \sigma) + \eta \sigma \varepsilon_{t+1}$$

“Perturbation parameter”:
governs size of shocks

Matrix of standard
deviations of state
variables

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Substitute decision rules
into dynamic equations

LINEARIZATION OF THE RBC MODEL

The model's dynamic **expectational** equations

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_t [f(y_{t+1}, y_t, x_{t+1}, x_t)] &= 0 \\
 &= E_t [f(g(x_{t+1}, \sigma), g(x_t, \sigma), h(x_t, \sigma) + \eta\sigma\varepsilon_{t+1}, x_t)] \\
 &= E_t [f(g(h(x_t, \sigma), \sigma), g(x_t, \sigma), h(x_t, \sigma) + \eta\sigma\varepsilon_{t+1}, x_t)] \\
 &\equiv F(x_t, \sigma)
 \end{aligned}$$

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$$F_x(x_t, \sigma) = 0 \quad F_\sigma(x_t, \sigma) = 0$$

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 &= E_t[f(g(h(x_t, \sigma), \sigma), g(x_t, \sigma), h(x_t, \sigma) + \eta\sigma\varepsilon_{t+1}, x_t)] \\
 &\equiv F(x_t, \sigma)
 \end{aligned}$$

↓ Using chain rule and suppressing arguments

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_x(x_t, \sigma) &= f_{y_{t+1}} \cdot g_x \cdot h_x + f_{y_t} \cdot g_x + f_{x_{t+1}} \cdot h_x + f_{x_t} \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

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LINEARIZATION OF THE RBC MODEL

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 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

Holds, in particular, at the deterministic steady state $(\bar{x}, 0)$

$$F_x(\bar{x}, 0) = f_{y_{t+1}} \cdot g_x \cdot h_x + f_{y_t} \cdot g_x + f_{x_{t+1}} \cdot h_x + f_{x_t} = 0$$

Setting $\sigma = 0$ shuts down shocks

Each term is evaluated at the steady state – just as Taylor theorem requires

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LINEARIZATION OF THE RBC MODEL

- A **quadratic** equation in the elements of g_x and h_x

$$F_x(\bar{x}, 0) = f_{y_{t+1}} \cdot g_x \cdot h_x + f_{y_t} \cdot g_x + f_{x_{t+1}} \cdot h_x + f_{x_t} = 0$$

- Solve numerically for the elements of g_x and h_x (use `fsolve` in Matlab)
- Recall conjectured equilibrium decision rules

$$y_t = g(x_t, \sigma)$$

$$x_{t+1} = h(x_t, \sigma) + \eta\sigma\varepsilon_{t+1}$$

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- First-order approximation is

$$y_t = g(x_t, \sigma) \approx g(\bar{x}, 0) + g_x(\bar{x}, 0)(x_t - \bar{x}) + g_\sigma(\bar{x}, 0)\sigma$$

$$x_{t+1} = h(x_t, \sigma) \approx h(\bar{x}, 0) + h_x(\bar{x}, 0)(x_t - \bar{x}) + h_\sigma(\bar{x}, 0)\sigma$$

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$$x_{t+1} = h(x_t, \sigma) \approx h(\bar{x}, 0) + h_x(\bar{x}, 0)(x_t - \bar{x}) + \underset{= 0}{h'_\sigma(\bar{x}, 0)\sigma} \quad g_\sigma = 0 \text{ and } h_\sigma = 0$$

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$$F_x(\bar{x}, 0) = f_{y_{t+1}} \cdot g_x \cdot h_x + f_{y_t} \cdot g_x + f_{x_{t+1}} \cdot h_x + f_{x_t} = 0$$

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- DONE!!!**

- Now conduct impulse responses, run simulations, tabulate moments, write paper

CERTAINTY EQUIVALENCE

- Displayed by a model if decision rules do **not** depend on the standard deviation (i.e., the “size”) of the exogenous shocks
- For **stochastic** problems with **quadratic objective function** and **linear constraints**, the decision rules are identical to those of the nonstochastic problem (Ljungqvist and Sargent (2004, p. 113))

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- Here, we have

$$y_t = g(x_t, \sigma) \approx g(\bar{x}, 0) + g_x(\bar{x}, 0)(x_t - \bar{x}) + \overset{= 0}{g_\sigma(\bar{x}, 0)}\sigma$$

$$x_{t+1} = h(x_t, \sigma) \approx h(\bar{x}, 0) + h_x(\bar{x}, 0)(x_t - \bar{x}) + \underset{= 0}{h_\sigma(\bar{x}, 0)}\sigma$$

- **SGU Theorem 1:** $g_\sigma = 0$ and $h_\sigma = 0$
 - First-order approximated decision rules do not depend on the size of the shocks, which is governed by σ
 - Not quite the same thing as CE, but we'll loosely refer to it as CE

SECOND-ORDER APPROXIMATION

- Use computed g_x and h_x to construct linear system of equations needed to solve for coefficients of *second-order approximation* (SGU p. 762-763)

$$\begin{aligned}
 [F_{xx}(\bar{x}, 0)]_{jk} &= [f_{xy}']_{xy} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} + [f_{xy}']_{xy} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} \\
 &+ [f_{xy}']_{\delta\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} + [f_{xy}']_{\delta k} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} \\
 &+ [f_{xy}']_{\delta\delta} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} \\
 &+ [f_{xy}']_{\delta\delta} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} \\
 &+ ([f_{yy}']_{xy} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} + [f_{yy}']_{xy} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} + [f_{yx}']_{\delta\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} + [f_{yx}']_{\delta k} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta}) \\
 &+ [f_{xy}']_{\delta\delta} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} \\
 &+ ([f_{xy}']_{\delta\delta} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} + [f_{xy}']_{\delta\delta} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} + [f_{xy}']_{\delta\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} + [f_{xy}']_{\delta k} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta}) \\
 &+ [f_{xy}']_{\delta\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} \\
 &+ [f_{xy}']_{\delta\delta} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} + [f_{xy}']_{\delta\delta} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} + [f_{xy}']_{\delta\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} + [f_{xy}']_{\delta k} \\
 &= 0; \quad i = 1, \dots, n; \quad j, k, \beta, \delta = 1, \dots, n_x; \quad \alpha, \gamma = 1, \dots, n_y.
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 [F_{xx}(\bar{x}, 0)]^i &= [f_{xy}']_{xy} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [h_{xx}]^{\delta} \\
 &+ [f_{xy}']_{xy} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [U]_{\delta}^{\delta} \\
 &+ [f_{xy}']_{\delta\delta} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [U]_{\delta}^{\delta} \\
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 &+ [f_{xy}']_{\delta\delta} [g_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [U]_{\delta}^{\delta} \\
 &+ [f_{xy}']_{\delta\delta} [h_x]_{\delta}^{\delta} [U]_{\delta}^{\delta} \\
 &= 0; \quad i = 1, \dots, n; \quad \alpha, \gamma = 1, \dots, n_y; \quad \beta, \delta = 1, \dots, n_x; \\
 &\quad \phi, \xi = 1, \dots, n_x.
 \end{aligned}$$

- SGU Theorem 1: $g_{xx} = 0$ and $h_{xx} = 0$; but “certainty equivalence” does not hold because $g_{\sigma\sigma} \neq 0, h_{\sigma\sigma} \neq 0$

LINEARIZING THE RBC MODEL

- Assume $u(c_t, n_t) = \ln c_t - \psi \ln n_t$ and $m(k_t, n_t) = k_t^\alpha n_t^{1-\alpha}$
- \therefore consumption-leisure efficiency condition is $\frac{\psi c_t}{n_t} = (1 - \alpha) z_t k_t^\alpha n_t^{-\alpha}$

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- \therefore consumption-leisure efficiency condition is $\frac{\psi c_t}{n_t} = (1 - \alpha) z_t k_t^\alpha n_t^{-\alpha}$
- Let $f^1(y_{t+1}, y_t, x_{t+1}, x_t) = \frac{\psi c_t}{n_t} - (1 - \alpha) z_t k_t^\alpha n_t^{-\alpha} = 0$ (and recall $y_t = \begin{bmatrix} c_t \\ n_t \end{bmatrix}$ $x_t = \begin{bmatrix} k_t \\ z_t \end{bmatrix}$)

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- Compute first row of matrix $f_{y_{t+1}}$

	c_{t+1}	n_{t+1}
Consumption-leisure efficiency condition	0	0
Consumption-investment efficiency condition	-----	-----
Aggregate resource constraint	-----	-----
Law of motion for TFP	-----	-----

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- Let $f^1(y_{t+1}, y_t, x_{t+1}, x_t) = \frac{\psi c_t}{n_t} - (1 - \alpha) z_t k_t^\alpha n_t^{-\alpha} = 0$ (and recall $y_t = \begin{bmatrix} c_t \\ n_t \end{bmatrix}$ $x_t = \begin{bmatrix} k_t \\ z_t \end{bmatrix}$)
- Compute first row of matrix f_{yt}

	c_t	n_t
Consumption-leisure efficiency condition	$\frac{\psi}{n_t}$	$-\frac{\psi c_t}{n_t^2} + \alpha (1 - \alpha) z_t k_t^\alpha n_t^{-\alpha - 1}$
Consumption-investment efficiency condition	-----	-----
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Law of motion for TFP	-----	-----

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- Compute first row of matrix f_{xt+1}

	k_{t+1}	z_{t+1}
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- \therefore consumption-leisure efficiency condition is $\frac{\psi c_t}{n_t} = (1 - \alpha) z_t k_t^\alpha n_t^{-\alpha}$
- Let $f^1(y_{t+1}, y_t, x_{t+1}, x_t) = \frac{\psi c_t}{n_t} - (1 - \alpha) z_t k_t^\alpha n_t^{-\alpha} = 0$ (and recall $y_t = \begin{bmatrix} c_t \\ n_t \end{bmatrix}$ $x_t = \begin{bmatrix} k_t \\ z_t \end{bmatrix}$)
- Compute first row of matrix f_{xt}

	k_t	z_t
Consumption-leisure efficiency condition	$-\alpha (1 - \alpha) z_t \frac{k_t^{\alpha-1}}{n_t^\alpha}$	$-(1 - \alpha) \frac{k_t^\alpha}{n_t^{\alpha+1}}$
Consumption-investment efficiency condition	-----	-----
Aggregate resource constraint	-----	-----
Law of motion for TFP	-----	-----

LINEARIZING THE RBC MODEL

- In deterministic steady state, the first rows of $f_{yt+1}, f_{yt}, f_{xt+1}, f_{xt}$ are

f_{yt+1}	0	0
f_{yt}	$\frac{\psi}{\bar{n}}$	$-\frac{\psi \bar{c}}{\bar{n}^2} + \alpha(1 - \alpha) \bar{z} \bar{k}^\alpha \bar{n}^{-\alpha-1}$
f_{xt+1}	0	0
f_{xt}	$-\alpha(1 - \alpha) \bar{z} \frac{\bar{k}^{\alpha-1}}{\bar{n}^\alpha}$	$-(1 - \alpha) \frac{\bar{k}^\alpha}{\bar{n}^{\alpha+1}}$

LINEARIZING THE RBC MODEL

- In deterministic steady state, the first rows of $f_{y_{t+1}}, f_{y_t}, f_{x_{t+1}}, f_{x_t}$ are

$f_{y_{t+1}}$	0	0
f_{y_t}	$\frac{\psi}{\bar{n}}$	$-\frac{\psi \bar{c}}{\bar{n}^2} + \alpha(1-\alpha)\bar{z}\bar{k}^\alpha \bar{n}^{-\alpha-1}$
$f_{x_{t+1}}$	0	0
f_{x_t}	$-\alpha(1-\alpha)\bar{z}\frac{\bar{k}^{\alpha-1}}{\bar{n}^\alpha}$	$-(1-\alpha)\frac{\bar{k}^\alpha}{\bar{n}^{\alpha+1}}$

- How to compute derivatives?
 - By hand (feasible for small models)
 - Schmitt-Grohe and Uribe Matlab analytical routines
 - Your own Maple or Mathematica programs
 - Dynare package