

Bank Runs, Fragility, and Credit Easing

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The views expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis or the Federal Reserve System.

Motivation

- Financial crises typically involve bank runs
- Short-term debt can make a bank vulnerable to a self-fulfilling run
- Empirically, runs more likely with weak aggregate fundamentals
 - General equilibrium feedbacks potentially important

★ Macroeconomic model essential to understand feedbacks

Q: What are the implications for government policy?

A Macroeconomic Model of Bank Runs

- Dynamic portfolio and equity decisions for banks
 - Depend on asset prices, determined in equilibrium
- Limited commitment and endogenous strategic default
 - Defaults triggered by fundamentals or runs
- Fragility linked to fundamentals, as in Gertler-Kiyotaki model, but and Maturity critical for fragility
 - Runs on individual banks
 - Maturity critical for fragility
- Normative analysis

Preview of Main Normative Results

- Desirability of **credit easing** depends on source of the crisis
 - Welfare *reducing* if driven by fundamentals, but welfare *improving* if driven by runs

- Repaying banks are **net sellers** in a crisis driven by runs
 - ⇒ Benefit from increase in asset prices

...but are **net buyers** if a crisis is driven by fundamentals

- ⇒ Lose from increase in asset prices

Outline of the Talk

1. Environment without runs
2. Model with bank runs
3. Policy analysis

Environment

- Discrete time, infinite horizon, no aggregate risk
- Continuum of banks, preferences $\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t \log(c_t)$.
- Creditors have linear utility, discount rate R
- Technology
 - Production of consumption good: $y = zk$
 - Capital in fixed supply \bar{K}
- Competitive market for assets and deposits

Banks' Budget Constraints

All banks start at $t = 0$ with portfolio (b_0, \bar{K})

- If repay at time t :

$$c = (\bar{z} + p_t)k - Rb + q_t(b', k')b' - p_t k'.$$

- q_t price schedule of deposits
- p_t price of capital
- Deposits are one-period non-state contingent claims
 - Without loss for now, but will matter with runs

Banks' Budget Constraints

- If **default** at time t :

$$c = (\underline{z} + p_t)k - p_t k'$$

- Permanent financial exclusion $b' = 0$
 - Restriction on saving w/o loss
- Productivity loss $y = \underline{z}k$
 - Evidence on losses of firms exposed to defaulting banks

Strategic Bank Default

$$V_t^R(b, k) = \max_{k', b', c} \log(c) + \beta V_{t+1}(b', k')$$

s.t. $c = (\bar{z} + p_t)k - Rb + q_t(b', k')b' - p_t k'$

No-Ponzi

$$V_t^D(k) = \max_{k', c} \log(c) + \beta V_{t+1}^D(k')$$

s.t. $c = \underline{z}k + p_t(k - k')$

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Repayment decision:

- If $V_t^R(b, k) > V_t^D(k)$: repay

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Repayment decision:

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Repayment decision:

- If $V_t^R(b, k) = V_t^D(k)$: indifferent

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Repayment decision:

- If $V_t^R(b, k) = V_t^D(k)$: indifferent
 - Repay for $t > 0$
 - **Default with probability ϕ for $t = 0$**

Equilibrium Consistent Borrowing Limit

- Equilibrium default only at $t = 0$

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Otherwise, $q = 0$.

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- Bank at time t faces $q_t = 1$ if

$$V_{t+1}^R(b', k') \geq V_{t+1}^D(k')$$

Otherwise, $q = 0$.

- Guess and verify borrowing constraint

$$b_{t+1} \leq \gamma_t p_{t+1} k_{t+1}$$

where $\{\gamma_t\}$ is an eqm. object to be determined

The Value of Default

$$V_t^D(k) = A + \frac{1}{1-\beta} \log(k(\underline{z} + p_t)) + \frac{\beta}{1-\beta} \sum_{\tau \geq t} \beta^{\tau-t} \log(R_{\tau+1}^D),$$

where the return on capital under default

$$R_{t+1}^D = \frac{\underline{z} + p_{t+1}}{p_t}$$

and $A \equiv \frac{1}{1-\beta} \left[\log(1-\beta) + \frac{\beta}{1-\beta} \log(\beta) \right]$

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Policies:

$$C_t^D(k) = (1-\beta)(\underline{z} + p_t)k, \quad \mathcal{K}_{t+1}^D(k) = \beta \frac{(\underline{z} + p_t)k}{p_t}$$

The Value of Repayment

Denote $n = k(\bar{z} + p) - bR$

$$V_t^R(n) = A + \frac{1}{1-\beta} \log(n) + \frac{\beta}{1-\beta} \sum_{\tau \geq t} \beta^{\tau-t} \log(R_{\tau+1}^e),$$

where returns are

$$R_{t+1}^e = R_{t+1}^k + (R_{t+1}^k - R) \frac{\gamma_t p_{t+1}}{p_t - \gamma_t p_{t+1}} \quad R_{t+1}^k \equiv \frac{\bar{z} + p_{t+1}}{p_t},$$

Policies:

$$C_t^R(n) = (1 - \beta)n$$

$$B_{t+1}^R(n) = \gamma_t p_{t+1} K_{t+1}^R(n), \quad K_{t+1}^R(n) = \frac{\beta n}{p_t - \gamma_t p_{t+1}} \quad \text{if } R_{t+1}^k > R$$

Equilibrium Consistent Borrowing Limit

- Given a sequence of prices, a bank is indifferent between repaying and defaulting at $t + 1$ if

$$\frac{\bar{z} + p_{t+1}(1 - \gamma_t R)}{\underline{z} + p_{t+1}} = \left(1 - \gamma_{t+1} \frac{p_{t+2}}{p_{t+1}}\right)^\beta$$

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- Potentially many solutions, but only one consistent with No-Ponzi

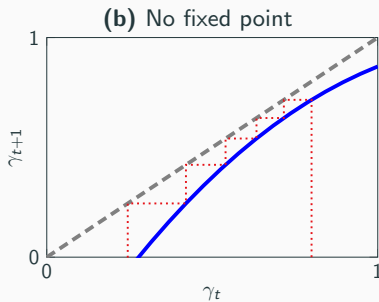
Solving for γ_t for Constant Price

$$\gamma_{t+1} = 1 - \left(\frac{R^k(p)/R - \gamma_t}{R^D(p)/R} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta}} \equiv H(\gamma_t)$$

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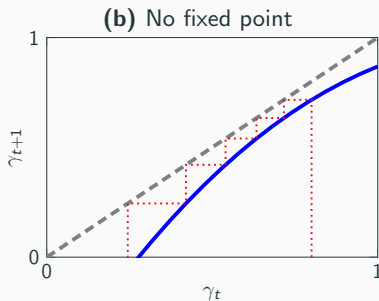
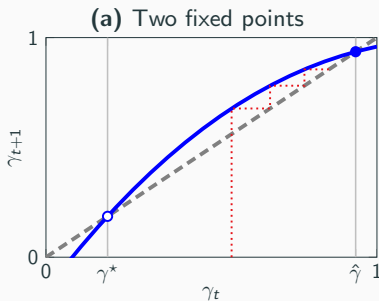
- Partial eqm. does not exist if return on capital is too high
 - No borrowing limit



Solving for γ_t for Constant Price

$$\gamma_{t+1} = 1 - \left(\frac{R^k(p)/R - \gamma_t}{R^D(p)/R} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta}} \equiv H(\gamma_t)$$

- If eqm \exists , two fixed points but only smallest satisfies No-Ponzi
 - First fixed point unstable $\Rightarrow \gamma_t = \gamma^*$
 - γ^* is increasing in (β, \bar{z}) and decreasing in (R, \underline{z}, p)



General Equilibrium

- Market clearing for capital

$$\phi K_t^D + (1 - \phi)K_t^R = \bar{K}$$

where $\phi \in [0, 1]$ are the banks that default at $t = 0$

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- To be consistent with repayment decisions:

$$\phi = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } B_0 > \gamma_{-1} p_0 \bar{K}, \\ 0 & \text{if } B_0 < \gamma_{-1} p_0 \bar{K}, \\ \in [0, 1] & \text{if } B_0 = \gamma_{-1} p_0 \bar{K} \end{cases}$$

where

$$\frac{\bar{z} + p_0(1 - \gamma_{-1}R)}{\underline{z} + p_0} = \left(1 - \gamma_0 \frac{p_1}{p_0}\right)^\beta$$

Definition of Equilibrium

Given B_0 , an equilibrium is a sequence of $\{p_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$, $\{\gamma_t\}_{t=-1}^{\infty}$, aggregate debt and capital, $\{B_t, K_t^R, K_t^D\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$, and an *initial share of defaulting banks*, ϕ , such that

- (i) Evolution of aggregate B, K consistent with bank optimality

$$B_{t+1} = \mathcal{B}_{t+1}((\bar{z} + p_t)K_t^R - RB_t)$$

$$K_{t+1}^R = \mathcal{K}_{t+1}^R((\bar{z} + p_t)K_t^R - RB_t)$$

$$K_{t+1}^D = \mathcal{K}_{t+1}^D((\underline{z} + p_t)K_t^D)$$

- (ii) Borrowing limits are equilibrium consistent
(iii) Market for capital clears
(iv) ϕ is consistent with banks' optimal default decision

General Equilibrium

Type of equilibrium depends on B_0



Stationary values:

$$p^R = \frac{\beta \bar{z}}{1 - \beta - (1 - \beta R)\gamma^R}$$

$$\gamma^R = H(\gamma^R, p^R)$$

$$p^D = \frac{\beta}{1 - \beta} \bar{z}$$

$$\gamma^D = H(\gamma^D, p^D)$$

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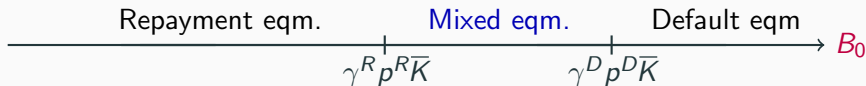
$$p^D = \frac{\beta}{1 - \beta} \bar{z}$$

$$\gamma^D = H(\gamma^D, p^D)$$

Result: $\gamma^D p^D > \gamma^R p^R \rightarrow$ Uniqueness

General Equilibrium

Type of equilibrium depends on B_0

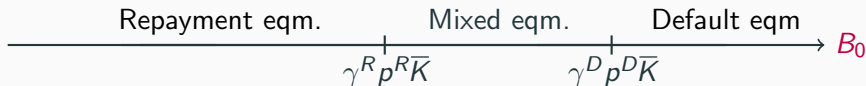


Within thresholds, a degenerate equilibrium does not exist

- Fraction ϕ defaults and $1 - \phi$ repay
 - Generalize Kehoe-Levine, by allowing initial defaults

General Equilibrium

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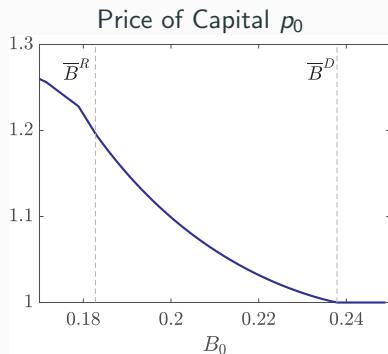
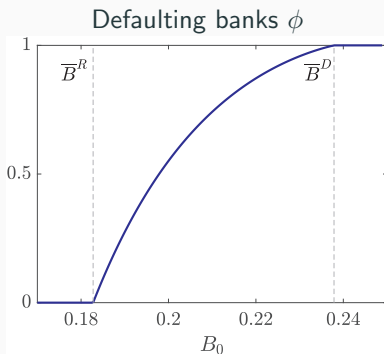
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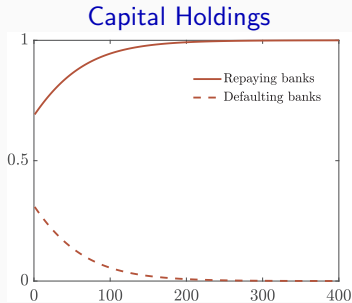
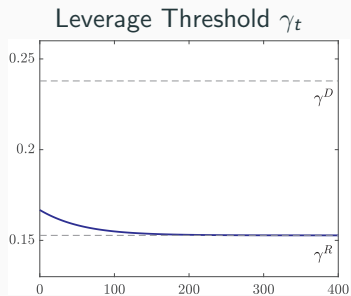
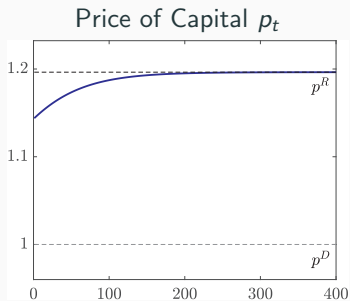
In the paper: [▶ Details](#)

- Unique stationary eqm. and unique transition
- Repaying banks are net buyers of k in the mixed eqm.

Equilibrium ϕ and ρ_0 as a function of B_0



Mixed Equilibrium Simulations



Outline of the Talk

1. Environment without runs
2. Model with bank runs
3. Policy analysis

Coordination problem between creditors a la Cole-Kehoe

- Creditors may refuse to rollover \Rightarrow repayment more costly
- If optimal to default during a run, a bank is “vulnerable”

Multiplicity of Equilibria

- Bank facing a run needs to de-lever:

$$\hat{V}_t^{Run}(n) = \max_{k' \geq 0, c} \log(c) + V_{t+1}((\bar{z} + p_{t+1})k')$$

$s.t \quad c = n + \overset{0}{\cancel{b'}} - p_t k'$

- Safe bank faces tighter constraint:

$$\hat{V}_t^{Safe}(n) = \max_{b', k' \geq 0, c} \log(c) + \beta \hat{V}_{t+1}^{Safe}((\bar{z} + p_{t+1})k' - Rb')$$

$s.t \quad c = n + b' - p_t k'$

$$\hat{V}_{t+1}^{Run}(n') \geq V_{t+1}^D(k') \quad [\text{If vulnerable, run happens}]$$

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$$\hat{V}_{t+1}^{Run}(n') \geq V_{t+1}^D(k') \quad [\text{If vulnerable, run happens}]$$

- $\hat{V}_t^{Run}(n) > V_t^D(k)$: bank is safe (run does not happen)

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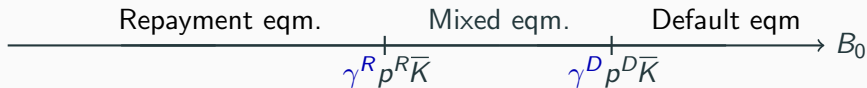
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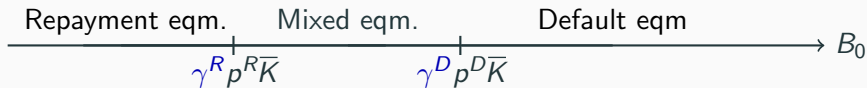
The Effects of Bank Runs

- Financial fragility, default region expands $\downarrow \gamma^D$
 - Repayment region contracts $\gamma^R \downarrow$ if and only if $\beta R < 1$



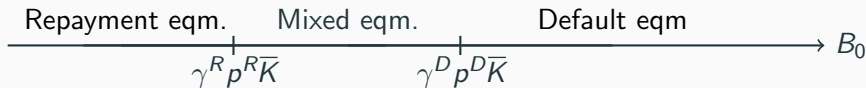
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- Lower price of capital
 - Lower γ , implies lower demand by repaying banks
 - More defaulting banks, which have lower demand for capital

Outline of the Talk

1. Basic environment without bank runs
 - Bank problem in partial equilibrium
 - General equilibrium
2. Introduce bank runs
3. Policy analysis

- Government purchases assets K^g at $t = 0$

$$\phi K_t^D + (1 - \phi) K_t^R + K^g = \bar{K}$$

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- Govt. budget constraints at $t = 0, 1$

$$p_0 K^g = T_0 + B_1^g, \quad RB_1^g = (z^g + p_1) K^g$$

Credit Easing

- Government purchases assets K^g at $t = 0$

$$\phi K_t^D + (1 - \phi) K_t^R + K^g = \bar{K}$$

- Assume that govt. return $R^g = \frac{p_1 + z^g}{p_0} < R$:

$$T_0 = \frac{p_0 K^g}{R} [R - R^g] > 0,$$

⇒ Investors don't want to buy k (if same return as gov.)

Credit Easing

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Q: How does credit easing affect ϕ and welfare?

Welfare Effects of Credit Easing

$$W(K^g) = \phi V^D(K^g) + (1 - \phi) V^R(K^g)$$

Welfare Effects of Credit Easing

$$\frac{dW}{dK^g} = \left[\phi \frac{dV^D}{dK^g} + (1 - \phi) \frac{dV^R}{dK^g} \right] + (V^D - V^R) \frac{d\phi}{dK^g}$$

Welfare Effects of Credit Easing

Assume $\phi = 0$

$$\frac{dW}{dK^g} = \left[\frac{dV^R}{dK^g} \right] + \underbrace{\left(V^D - V^R \right) \frac{d\phi}{dK^g}}_{\leq 0}$$

Welfare Effects of Credit Easing

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Effects of K^g via (T_0, p_0) and $\{p_t, \gamma_t(p_t)\}_{t \geq 1}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dV^R}{dK^g} = & u'(c_R) \left[(\bar{K} - k_1^R) \frac{dp_0}{dK^g} - \frac{dT_0}{dK^g} \right] + \left[u'(c_R) - \beta R \hat{V}_1^{R'}(n_1^R) \right] k_1^R \frac{d\gamma_0 p_1}{dK^g} \\ & + \beta \left. \frac{d\hat{V}_1^R(n)}{dK^g} \right|_{n=n_1^R} + \beta \hat{V}_1^{R'}(n_1^R) k_1^R \frac{dp_1}{dK^g} \end{aligned}$$

Welfare Effects of Credit Easing

Assume $\phi = 0$

$$\frac{dW}{dK^g} = \left[\frac{dV^R}{dK^g} \right] + \underbrace{\left(V^D - V^R \right) \frac{d\phi}{dK^g}}_{\leq 0}$$

Effects of K^g via (T_0, p_0) and $\{p_t, \gamma_t(p_t)\}_{t \geq 1}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dV^R}{dK^g} = & u'(c_R) \left[(\bar{K} - k_1^R) \frac{dp_0}{dK^g} - \frac{dT_0}{dK^g} \right] + \left[u'(c_R) - \beta R \hat{V}_1^{R'}(n_1^R) \right] k_1^R \frac{d\gamma_0 p_1}{dK^g} \\ & + \beta \left. \frac{d\hat{V}_1^R(n)}{dK^g} \right|_{n=n_1^R} + \beta \hat{V}_1^{R'}(n_1^R) k_1^R \frac{dp_1}{dK^g} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{dV^R}{dK^g} = u'(c_R) p_0 \left(\frac{R^g - R}{R} \right) < 0 \quad \text{[Ignoring effects on future prices]}$$

Welfare effects of Credit Easing $\phi > 0$

$$\frac{dW}{dK_g} = \left[\phi \frac{dV^D}{dK_g} - (1 - \phi) \frac{dV^R}{dK_g} \right] - (V^R - V^D) \frac{d\phi}{dK_g}$$

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 \Rightarrow If $d\phi < 0$, possibility that $\uparrow W$

A repaying banks facing a run is a net seller of assets

\Rightarrow benefits from intervention that $\uparrow p_0 \Rightarrow d\phi < 0$

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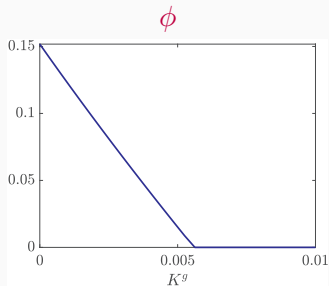
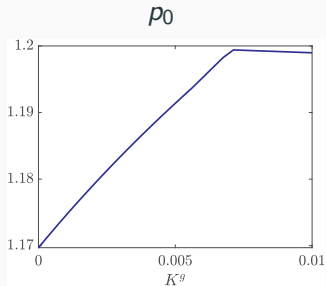
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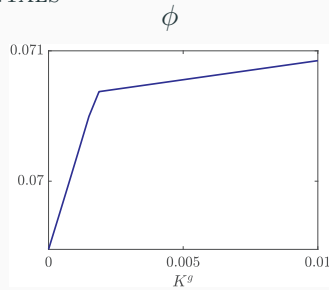
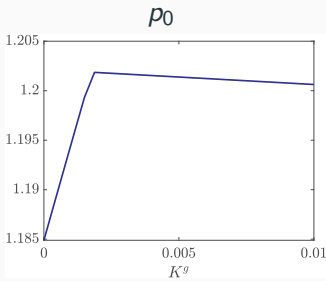
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Credit Easing: Self-Fulfilling vs. Fundamentals

SELF-FULFILLING RUNS

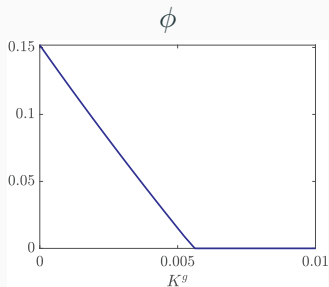
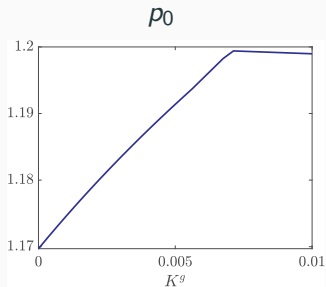


FUNDAMENTALS

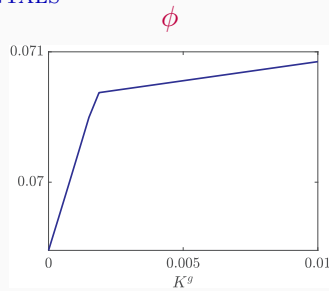
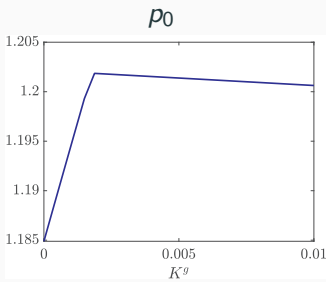


Credit Easing: Self-Fulfilling vs. Fundamentals

SELF-FULFILLING RUNS



FUNDAMENTALS



Other Policies

- Controlling default decisions: [▶ Details](#)
 - Banks prefer higher ϕ without runs and lower ϕ with runs
- Tax on purchases of capital at $t = 0$ rebated lump sum
 - Irrelevant: after-tax price remains constant and has no effects
- Deposit insurance: deters runs, but requires borrowing limits
- Lender of last resort: must cover *all* banks to be effective

Conclusions

- A dynamic macroeconomic model of self-fulfilling bank runs
- General equilibrium effects crucial to assess govt. policies
- Desirability of credit easing depends on whether a crisis is driven by fundamentals or self-fulfilling runs
- Agenda:
 - Anticipation effects of credit easing
 - Use framework for other policies, such as macroprudential

Government picks ϕ at $t = 0$

Banks' welfare

$$W = (1 - \phi)V^R + \phi V^D$$

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- Assume only p_0 changes in response to policy:

$$\left. \frac{dW}{d\phi} \right|_{\phi=\phi^E} = (V^D(p_0^E) - V^R(p_0^E)) + \left[(1 - \phi) \left. \frac{dV^R(p_0)}{dp_0} \right|_{p_0=p_0^E} + \phi \left. \frac{dV^D(p_0)}{dp_0} \right|_{p_0=p_0^E} \right] \frac{dp_0}{d\phi}$$

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$$\left. \frac{dV^R(p_0)}{dp_0} \right|_{\phi=\phi^E} = u'(c^R)(\bar{K} - k^R(p_0^E)), \quad \left. \frac{dV^D(p_0)}{dp_0} \right|_{\phi=\phi^E} = u'(c^D)(\bar{K} - k^D(p_0^E)).$$

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$\uparrow \phi$ reduces p_0 and helps repaying banks that have high u'

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- Without runs: optimal to have more banks defaulting

Government picks ϕ at $t = 0$

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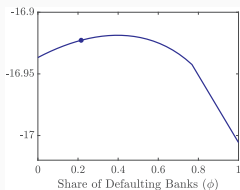
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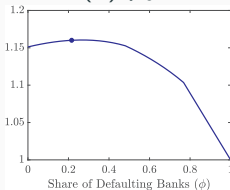
- Without runs: optimal to have more banks defaulting
- With runs: may be optimal to reduce defaults [▶ back](#)

FUNDAMENTALS

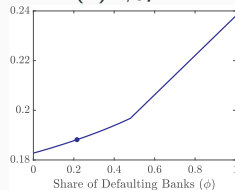
(a) Welfare



(b) p_0

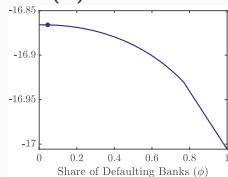


(c) $\gamma_0 p_1$

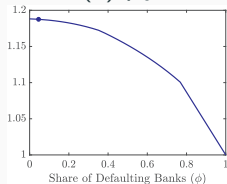


SELF-FULFILLING RUNS

(d) Welfare



(e) p_0



(f) $\gamma_0 p_1$

