

Reconciling Hayek's and Keynes' views of recessions

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0. Introduction

Recessions

- ▶ Recessions often come after periods of rapid accumulation of assets (productive capital, houses, durable goods)
- ▶ Two opposite views of economic policy in those recessions
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- ▶ Recessions are needed to cleanse the economy.
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- ▶ Show that the two views are not mutually exclusive
- ▶ “Over-” (“mal-”) accumulation of physical assets creates the need *liquidation* \leadsto recession
- ▶ *Liquidation* can produce periods where the economy functions particularly inefficiently.
- ▶ Many socially desirable trades between individuals may remain unexploited.
- ▶ In this sense, a need for liquidation can cause recessions characterized by deficient aggregate demand.
- ▶ Some stimulative policies may remain desirable even if they postpone a recovery.

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Main Ingredients

- ▶ Environment with decentralized markets & flexible prices .
- ▶ Two imperfections:
 - ✗ Labor market matching friction in the spirit of Diamond-Mortensen-Pissarides \rightsquigarrow unemployment risk
 - ✗ Adverse selection in the insurance market : unemployment risk is not insurable.

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Main Mechanism

- ▶ If the economy finds itself with an excess of accumulated goods (houses, durables and/or capital goods):
 - × Consumers and firms will spend less because they already have a lot, (*HAYEK view, this is the efficient thing to do*)
 - × Firms will hire less as demand is low
 - × Consumers will consume less by fear of being unemployed,
 - × Spendings will therefore be low (*KEYNES view, a (negative) multiplier shows up*)
 - × etc...
- ▶ There will be socially excessive precautionary savings
- ▶ Government spending can boost mutually beneficial trades ...
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 - × Noisy news
 - × Lax monetary policy
 - × Exhuberance

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- ▶ I will spend much of my time on a static version of model.
- ▶ I will also work with a model in which "capital" is indeed "durable goods"
- ▶ More general version in the paper

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References

- ▶ Lucas [1990]
- ▶ Lagos and Wright [2005]
- ▶ Angeletos and La'O [2013]
- ▶ Carroll [1992]
- ▶ Guerrieri and Lorenzoni [2009]
- ▶ Ravn and Sterk [2012]
- ▶ Chamley [2014], Kaplan and Menzio [2013], Heathcote and Perri [2012]

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Roadmap

1. Static model setup
2. Equilibrium
3. Interesting Properties of the Static Equilibrium
4. Extensions / Dynamics / Policy Trade-offs

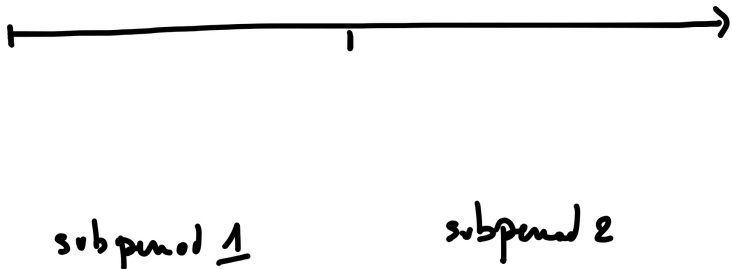
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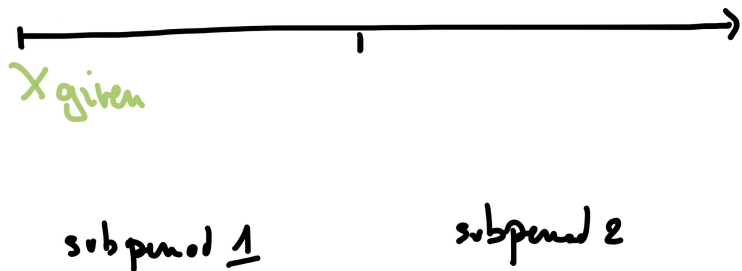
1. Static model setup

Figure 1: Overview: timeline



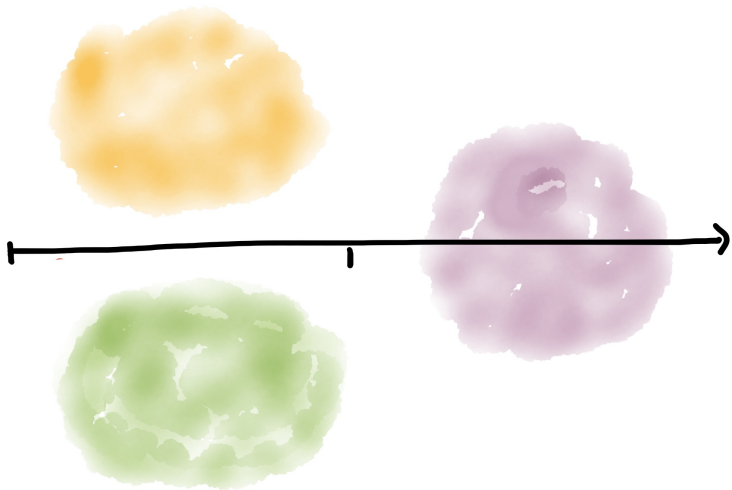
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Figure 2: Overview: Initial goods



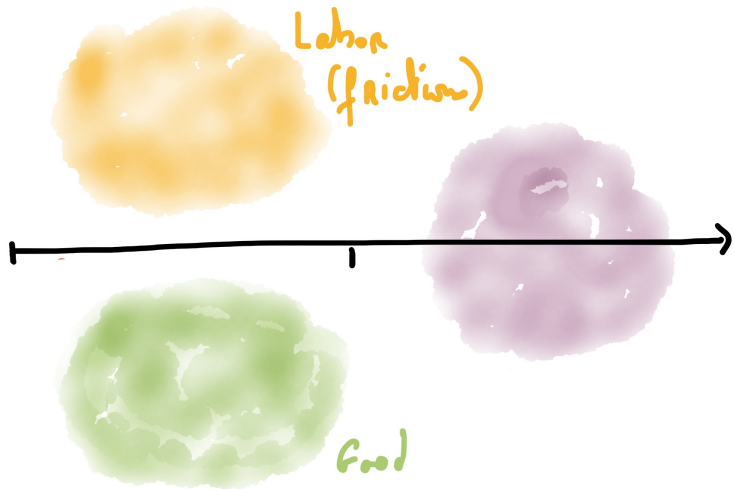
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Figure 3: Overview: markets



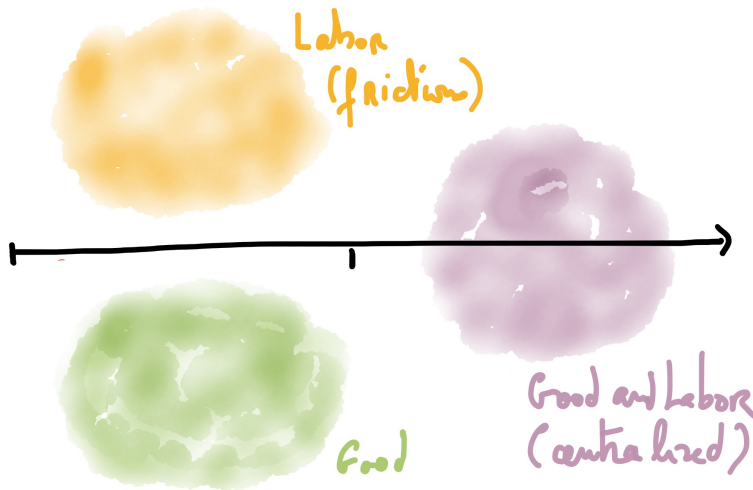
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Figure 4: Overview: markets



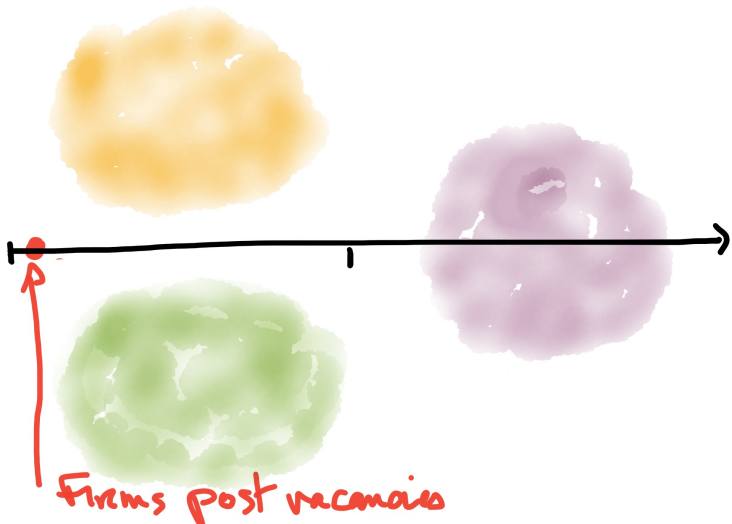
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Figure 5: Overview: markets



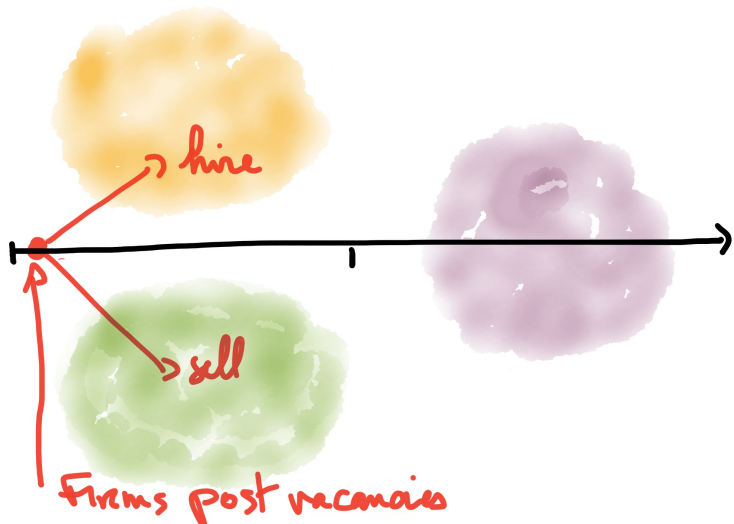
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Figure 6: Overview: firms



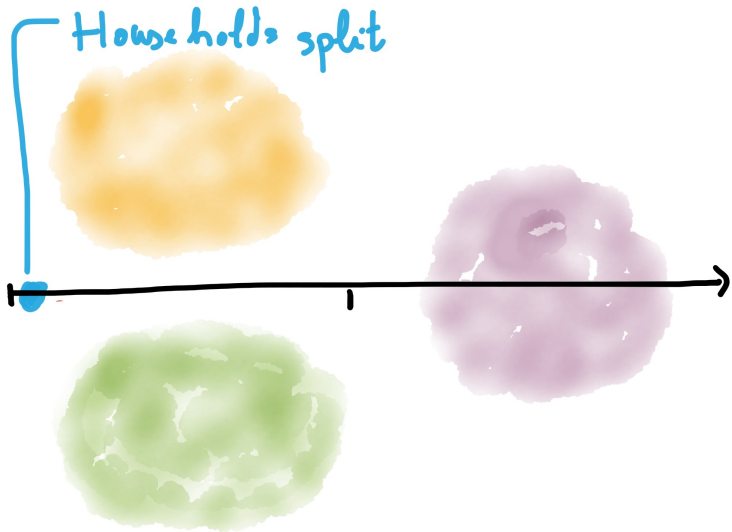
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Figure 7: Overview: firms



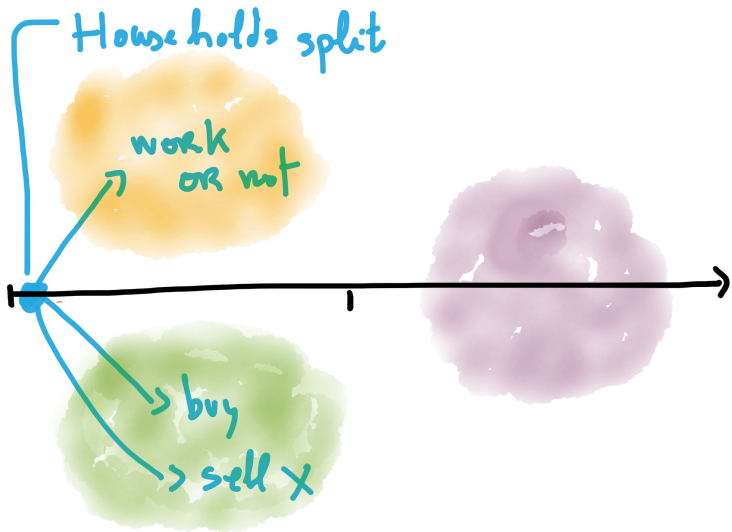
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Figure 8: Overview: households



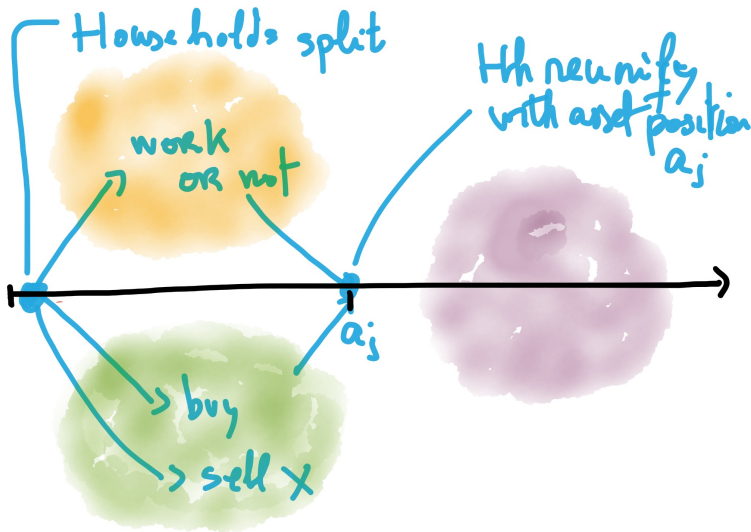
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Figure 9: Overview: households



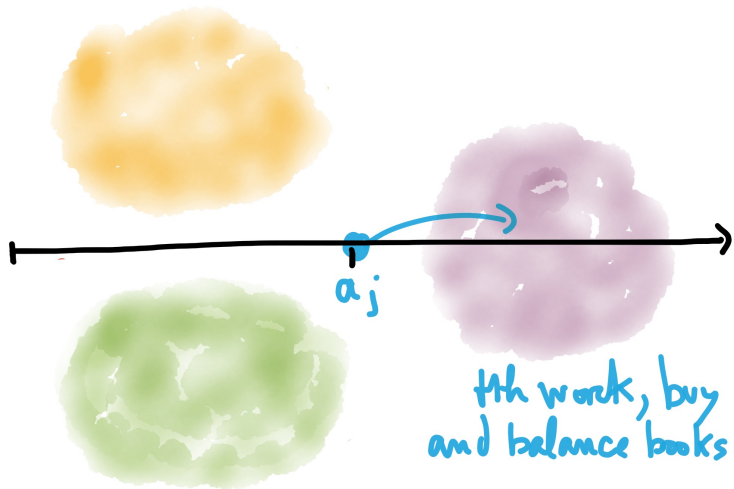
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Figure 10: Overview: households



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Figure 11: Overview: households



1. Static model setup

Checklist

- ▶ **X : exogenous amount of good that is already in households hands**
- ▶ Mass L of households always looking for jobs
- ▶ Sub-period two is centralized, all the action is in sub-period 1
- ▶ Frictions on the labor market
- ▶ Unemployment risk that is not insured
- ▶ No coordination between firms, buyers and workers
- ▶ Buyers and workers credit/debit a bank account that they will clear in sub-period 2.
- ▶ Good 2 serves as the numéraire.

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Preferences



$$U(\underbrace{X_j + e_j}_{c_j}) - \nu(\ell_j) + V(\underbrace{-pe_j + \mathcal{I}_j w \ell_j}_{a_j}).$$

- ▶ Initial endowment of X_j units of good 1.
- ▶ Continuation value $V(a_j)$ given (in this talk)
- ▶ $\mathcal{I}_j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if employed} \\ 0 & \text{if unemployed} \end{cases}$

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Firms

- ▶ Vacancy posting cost Φ .
- ▶ Decreasing-returns-to-scale production function $F(\ell)$.
- ▶ Net production of a firm hiring ℓ hours of labor from one worker is $F(\ell) - \Phi$.

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Matching

- ▶ N = number firms who decide to search for workers.
- ▶ $M(N, L)$ = number of matches (CRS).
- ▶ Upon a match, a Walrasian auctioneer equilibrates the demand and supply of labor among the two parties in the match:

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Household first sub-period decisions

- Normalization: $L = 1$
- Symmetry: $X_j = X$
- Worker problem:

$$\max_{\ell_j} -\nu(\ell_j) + V(\underbrace{-pe_j - \mathcal{I}_j w \ell_j}_{a_j})$$

- Buyer problem:

$$\max_{c_j} U(c_j) + \mu V(w \ell_j - pe_j) + (1 - \mu) V(-pe_j)$$

where $\mu \equiv M(N, L)/L$ is the probability that a worker finds a job.

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- ▶ $V(a)$ is strictly concave, with the key property that $V'(a_1) > V'(a_2)$ if $a_1 < 0 < a_2$

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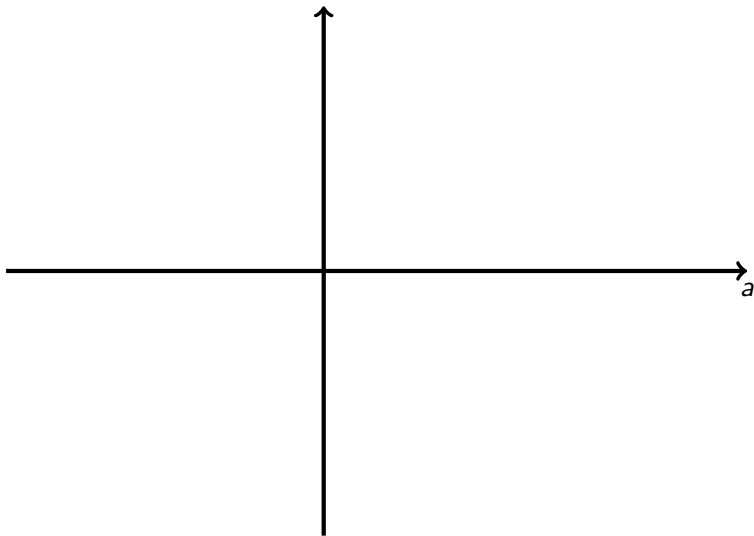


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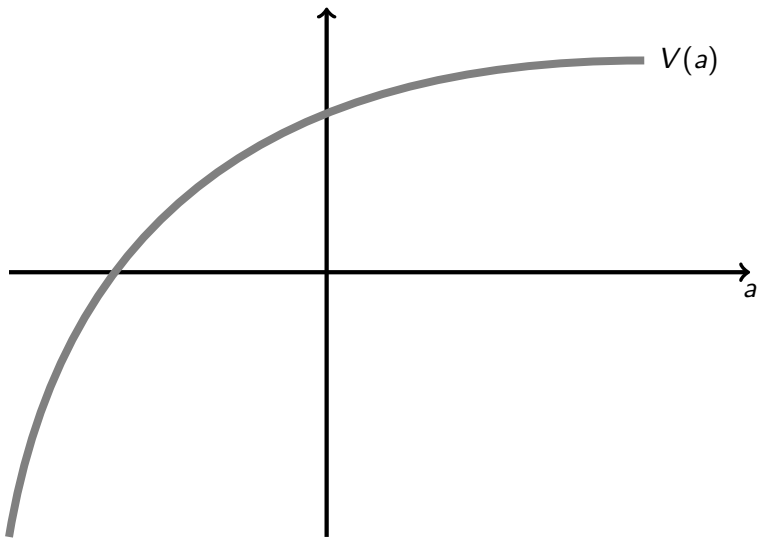


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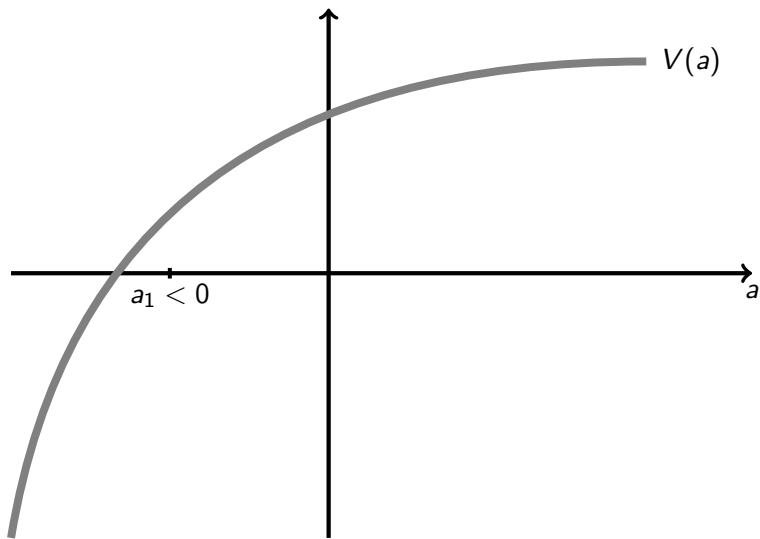


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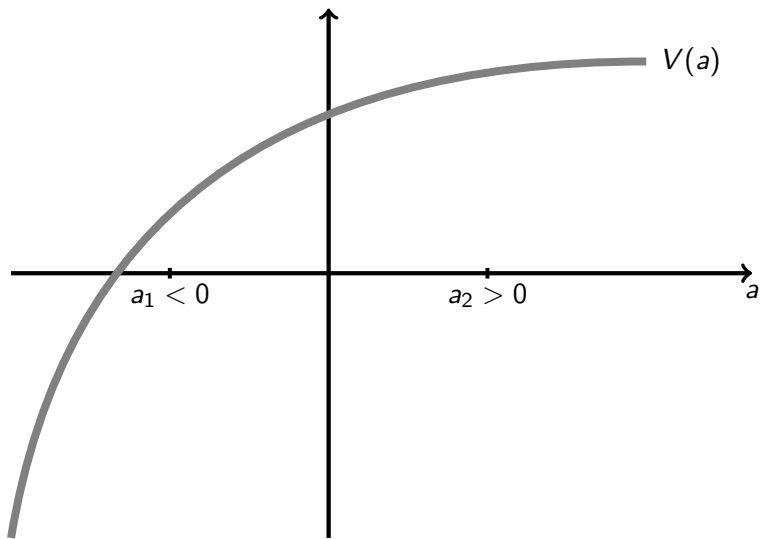


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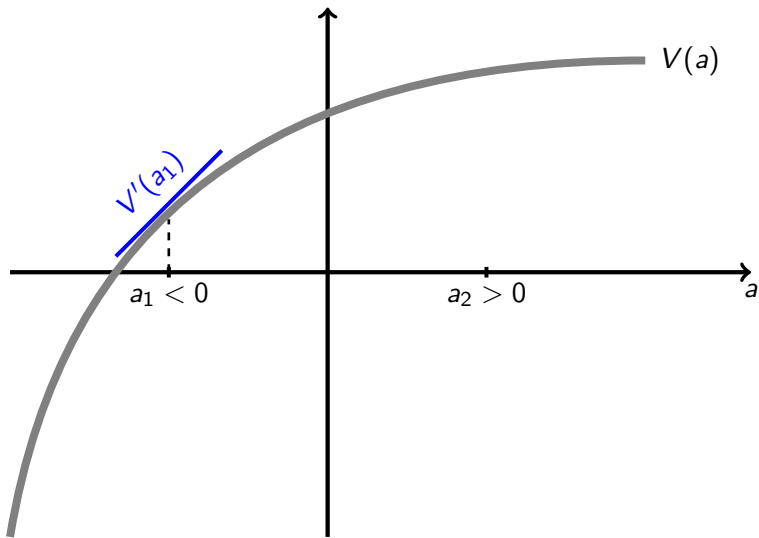
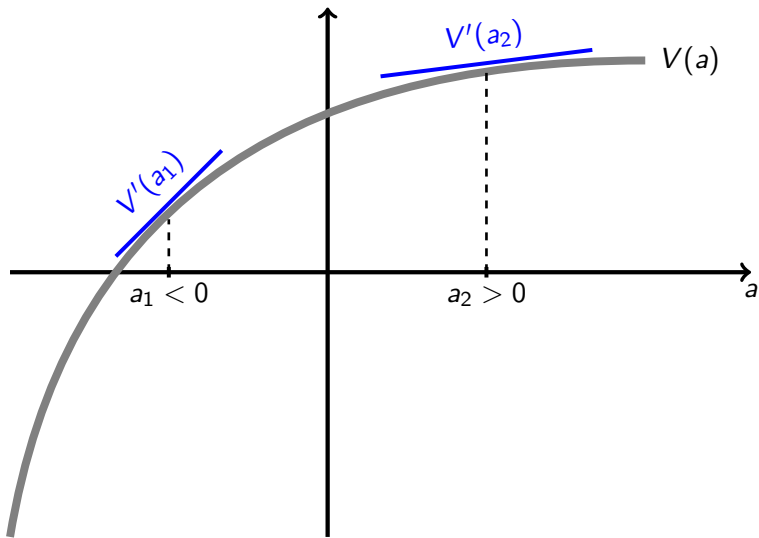


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2. Equilibrium

First sub-period

- ▶ The equilibrium is given by the following equations

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$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{p}U'(c) &= \frac{M(N, L)}{L}V'(w\ell - p(c - X)) \\ &\quad + \left[1 - \frac{M(N, L)}{L}\right]V'(-p(c - X))\end{aligned}$$

▶

$$\nu'(\ell) = V'(w\ell - p(c - X))w$$

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$$pF'(\ell) = w$$

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$$\frac{M(N, L)}{N}[pF(\ell) - w\ell] = p\Phi$$

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$$M(N, L)F(\ell) = L(c - X) + N\Phi$$

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2. Equilibrium

A labor market wedge



$$\frac{\nu'(\ell)}{U'(c)} \underbrace{\left\{ 1 + (1 - \mu) \left[\frac{V'(-p(c - X))}{V'(w\ell - p(c - X))} - 1 \right] \right\}}_{1 + \text{labor wedge}} = F'(\ell)$$

- ▶ The labor wedge is caused by precautionary savings and absent insurance market.
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0. Introduction

Roadmap

1. Static model setup
2. Equilibrium
3. Interesting Properties of the Static Equilibrium
4. Extensions / Dynamics / Policy Trade-offs

3. Interesting Properties of the Static Equilibrium

Goal and parametric restrictions

- ▶ Our main goal now is to explore the effects of changes in X on equilibrium outcomes.
- ▶ Why and when an increase in X can actually lead to a reduction in consumption and/or welfare?
- ▶ Can liquidation periods be socially painful?
- ▶ We restrict the analysis to
 - ✗ $M(N, L) = \min\{N, L\}$

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Figure 13: The Matching Function $M(N, L)$

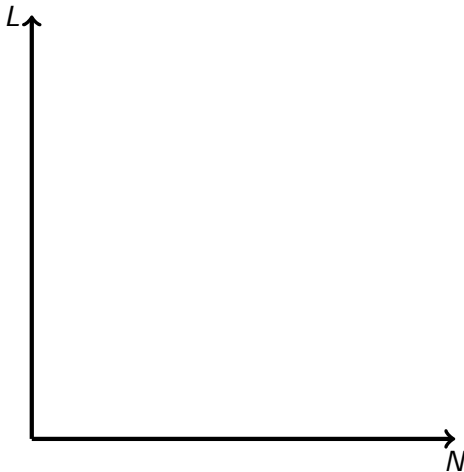


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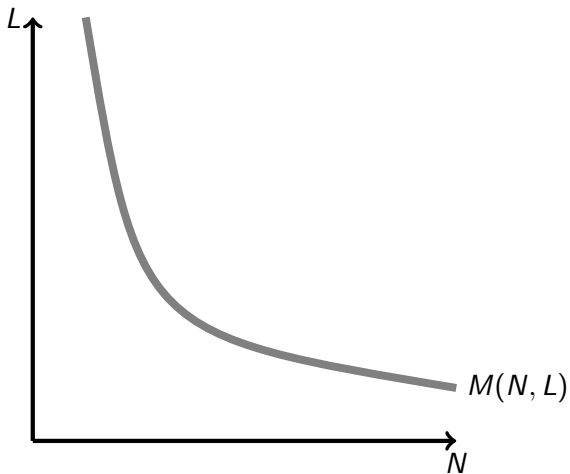


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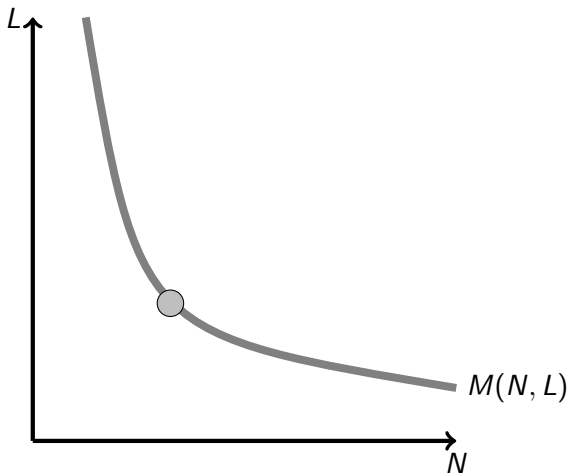
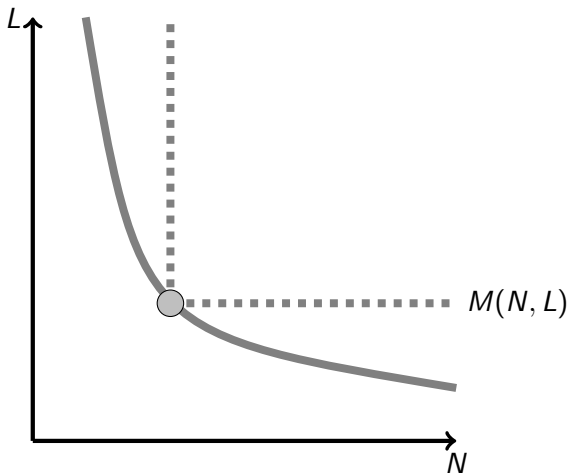


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Figure 14: The Value Function $V(a)$

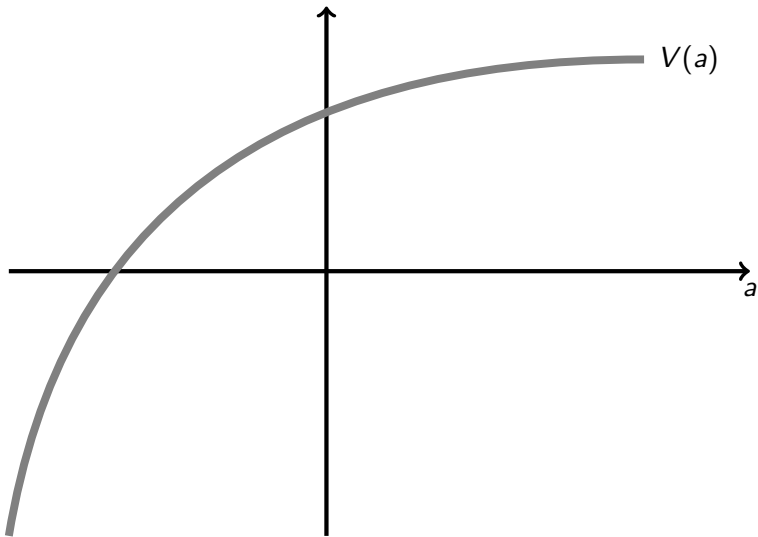


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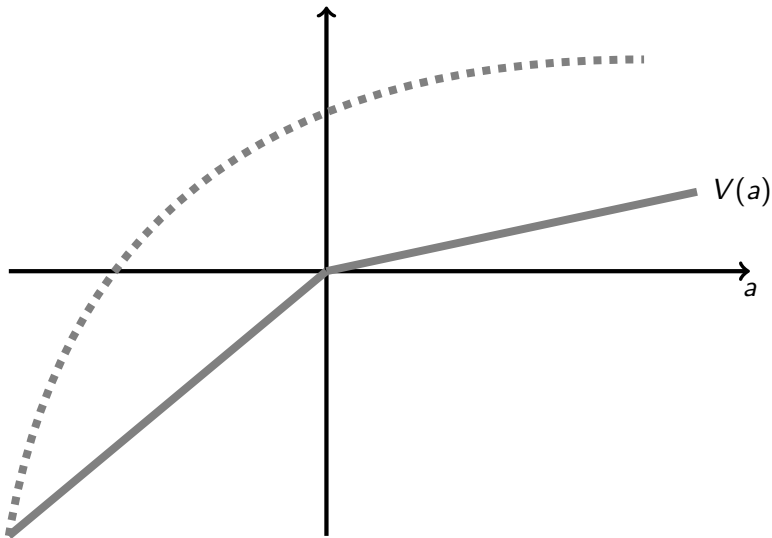


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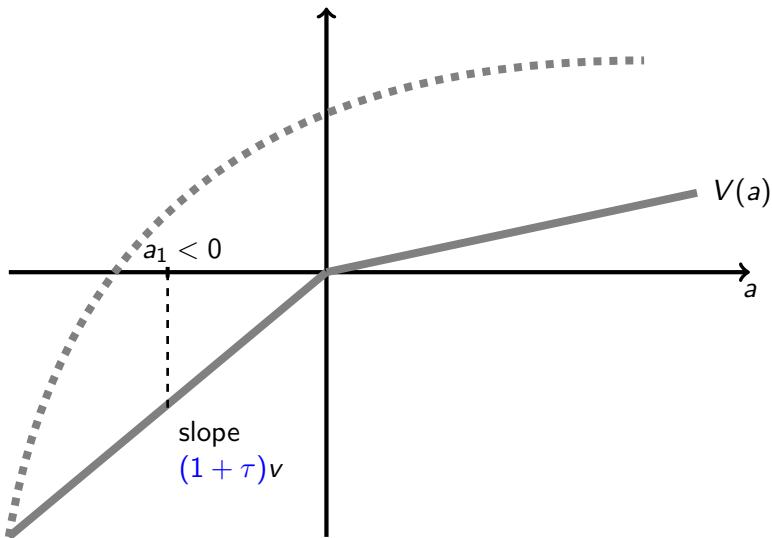


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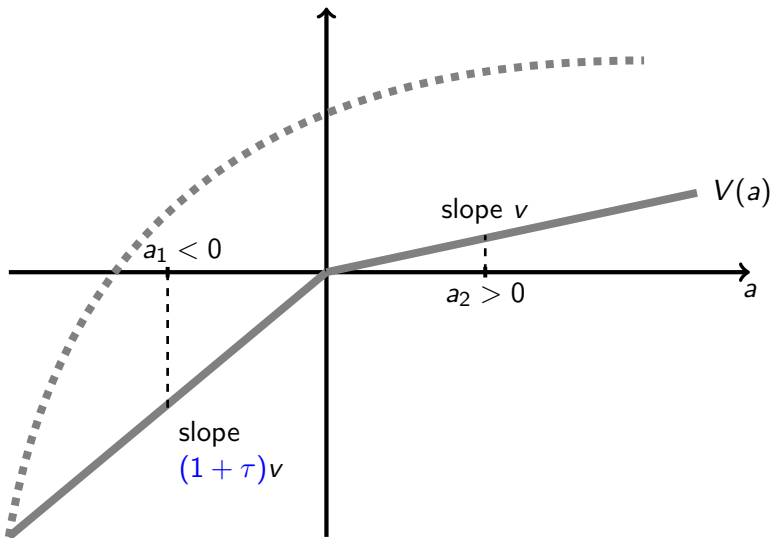


Figure 15: Proposition 1: Existence and Uniqueness

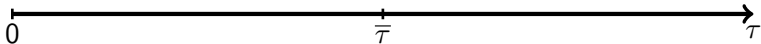


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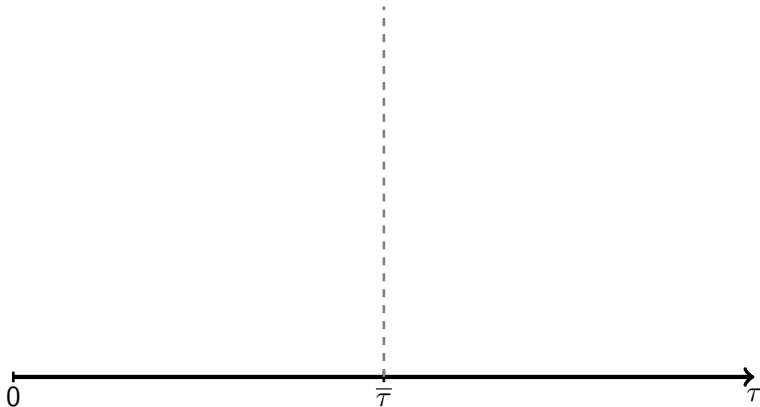


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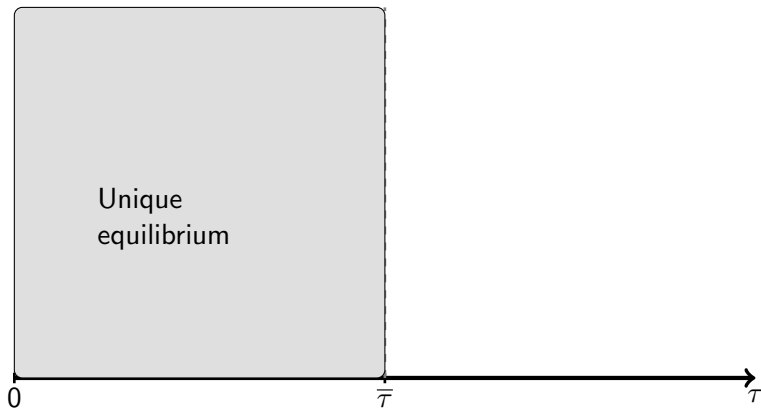


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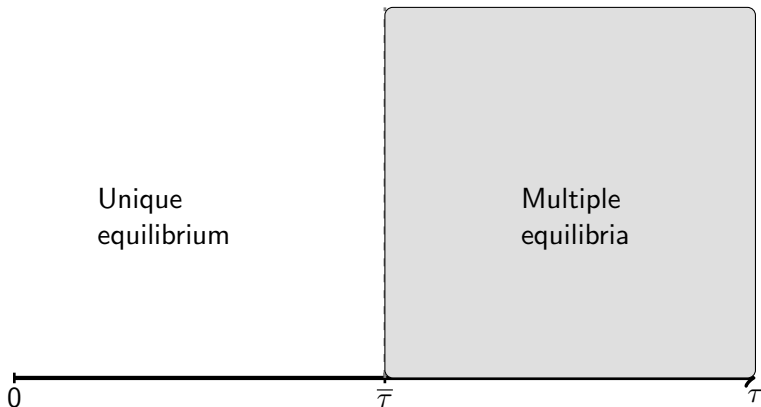


Figure 16: Proposition 2: The three regimes

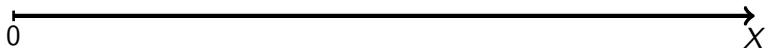


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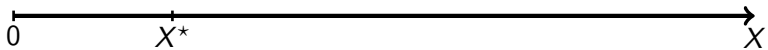


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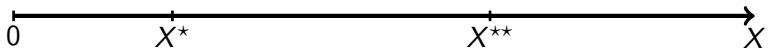


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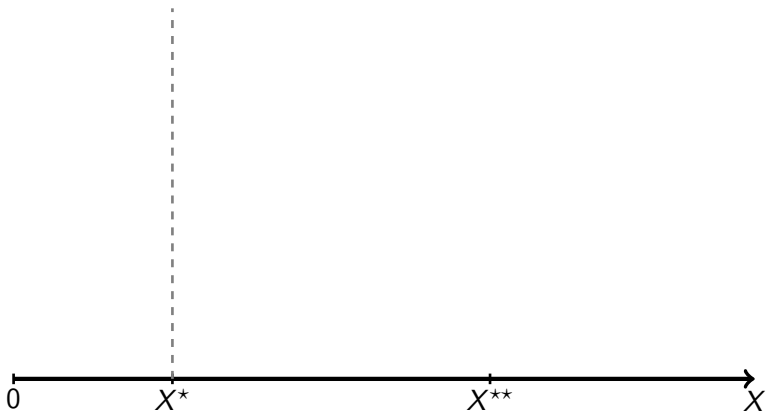


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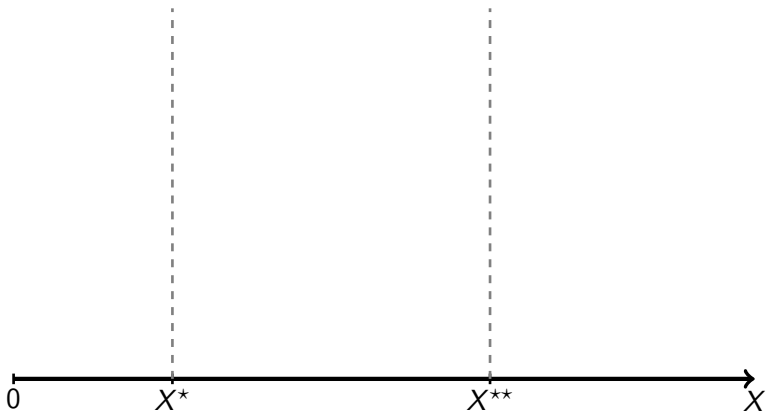


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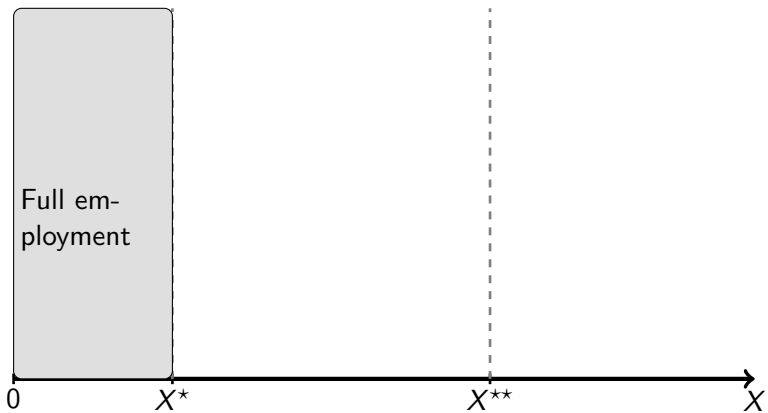


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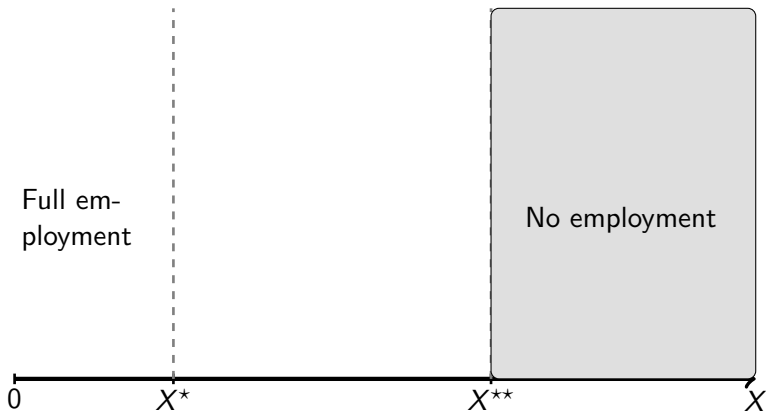
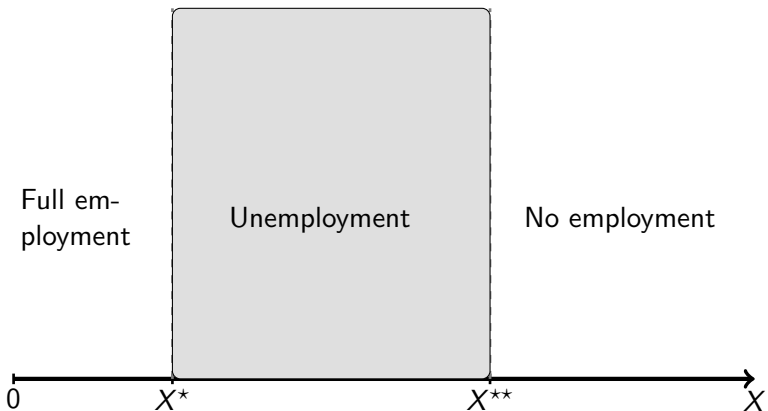


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3. Interesting Properties of the Static Equilibrium

Consumption as a function of X

- ▶ How does vary equilibrium consumption when X increases?
- ▶ In the full employment regime (which corresponds to no frictions):
 - × Marginal utility of spendings decrease with $X \rightsquigarrow$ less production
 - × But less than proportional to the increase in X
 - × Overall, c increases with X
- ▶ In the no employment regime :
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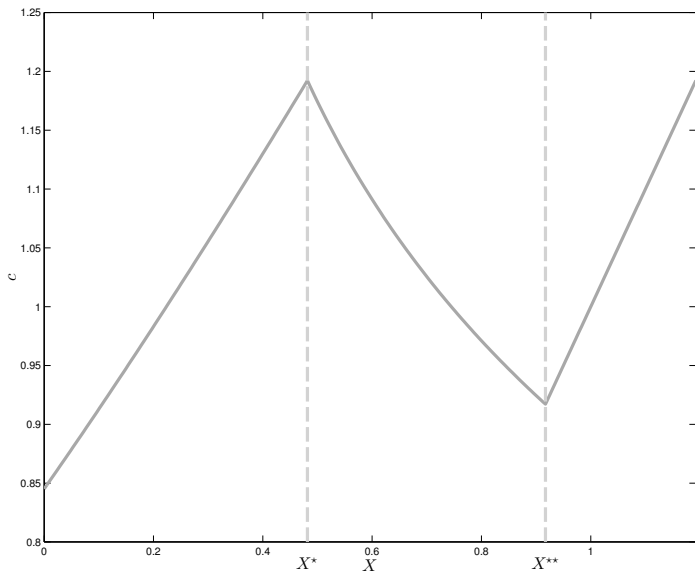
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Figure 17: Proposition 3, Consumption as function of X .



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Multiple equilibria

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Proposition 4 (Aggregate Demand)

- ▶ *When the economy is in the unemployment regime ($X^* < X < X^{**}$),*
- ▶ *if all but one households coordinate to increase purchases of the first sub-period consumption good,*
- ▶ *then it is optimal for the last household to also increase its spendings.*
- ▶ *Furthermore, this increases the expected utility of all households.*

3. Interesting Properties of the Static Equilibrium

Effects of changes in X on welfare

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Effects of changes in X on welfare

Proposition 5 (Welfare)

- ▶ *If the economy is the unemployment regime and if τ is large enough (close enough to $\bar{\tau}$),*
- ▶ *then an increase in X leads to a fall in expected welfare.*

3. Interesting Properties of the Static Equilibrium

Introducing government spending

- ▶ Add a government to the first sub-period.
- ▶ It buys goods, and it taxes employed individuals (lump-sum).
- ▶ We assume that the government runs a balanced budget
- ▶ Two types of government purchases: wasteful, and non-wasteful:
 - ✗ Wasteful government purchases, denoted G_w , are not valued by households.
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Introducing government spending (*continued*)

Proposition 6 (Fiscal Multipliers)

- ▶ *An increase in non-wasteful government purchases has no effect on economic activity.*
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- ▶ *If the economy is in the unemployment regime, wasteful government purchases are associated with a multiplier that is greater than one.*
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- ▶ *If the economy is in the full-employment regime, wasteful government purchases are associated with a multiplier that is less than one.*

3. Interesting Properties of the Static Equilibrium

Introducing government spending (*continued*)

Proposition 6 (Fiscal Multipliers)

- ▶ *An increase in non-wasteful government purchases has no effect on economic activity.*
- ▶ *An increase in wasteful government purchases leads to an increase in economic activity.*
- ▶ *If the economy is in the unemployment regime, wasteful government purchases are associated with a multiplier that is greater than one.*
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3. Interesting Properties of the Static Equilibrium

Introducing government spending (*continued*)

Proposition 7 (Fiscal policy and welfare)

- ▶ *If the economy is in the unemployment regime*
- ▶ *if X is in the range such that a fall in X would increase welfare,*
- ▶ *then an increase in wasteful government purchases will increase welfare.*

0. Introduction

Roadmap

1. Static model setup
2. Equilibrium
3. Interesting Properties of the Static Equilibrium
4. Extensions / Dynamics / Policy Trade-offs

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Relaxing functional-form assumptions

- ▶ Results are robust to:
 - × Relaxing functional assumptions
 - × Other ways of splitting the surplus
 - × Introduction of productive capital
 - × Addition of another good
- ▶ Simple characterization is not possible any more
- ▶ but main results hold.

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Dynamic Setup

- ▶ An infinite number of periods t ,
- ▶ Each period consists of the two previous sub-periods
- ▶ The only financial trade is between sub-periods by assumption

$$X_{t+1} = (1 - \delta)X_t + \gamma e_t$$

$$u = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t \left(U(c_t) - \nu(\ell_t) + V(a_t) \right)$$

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Policy Trade-off

- ▶ When X is high, the economy will converge with the SS with inefficiently low demand on the way.
- ▶ Welfare today would be increased by stimulating demand today.
- ▶ But this would imply higher X tomorrow,
- ▶ And therefore lower consumption in all subsequent periods until the liquidation is complete.
- ▶ This tradeoff is aimed at capturing the tension between the Keynesian and Hayekian prescriptions in recession.

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4. Extensions / Dynamics / Policy Trade-offs

Proposition 8 (Aggregate demand management is desirable)

- ▶ *Suppose the economy is in steady state in the unemployment regime.*
- ▶ *Then, to a first-order approximation, a (feasible) change in the path of expenditures from this steady state equilibrium will increase the present discounted value of expected welfare*
- ▶ *if and only if it increases the presented discounted sum of the resulting expenditure path, $\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \beta^i e_{t+i}$.*
- ▶ *Aggregate demand management is therefore desirable.*

