

Taylor projection under tail risk

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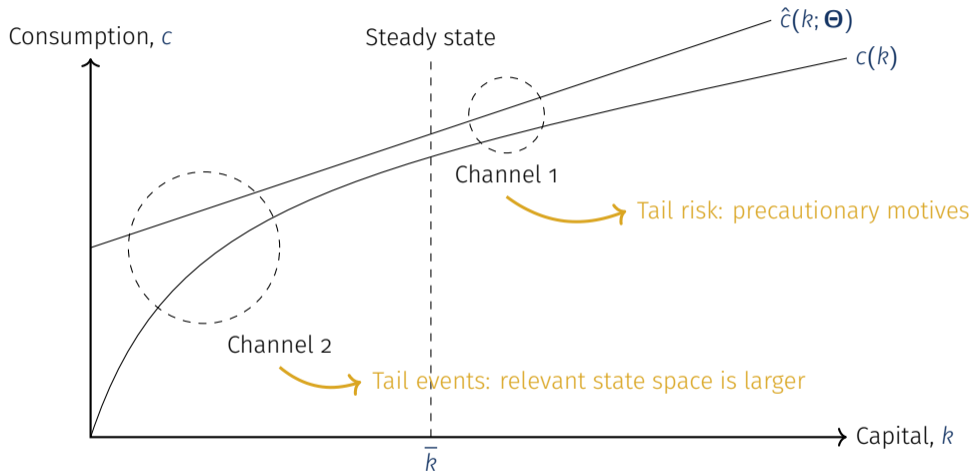
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How to (accurately and efficiently) approximate the solution to stochastic dynamic models with tail events i.e., low probability but large shocks?

Examples include (but are not limited to):

- ▶ Rare disasters (e.g., Barro, 2009)
- ▶ Climate change (e.g., van den Bremer and van der Ploeg, 2021)
- ▶ Natural disasters (e.g., Douenne, 2020)
- ▶ Pandemics (e.g., Hong, Wang, and Yang, 2021)
- ▶ Wars (e.g., Federle, Meier, Müller, Mutschler, and Schularick, 2024)
- ▶ Rare booms (e.g., Bekaert and Engstrom, 2017 and Tsai and Wachter, 2015)

Challenging task! Tail events affect the degree of non-linearities through two channels:



Contribution

A framework to approximate the solution of continuous-time (CT) dynamic stochastic models with tail events and tail risk (jump-diffusion)

- ▶ A CT Taylor projection (TP) algorithm (Levintal, 2018)
- ▶ Proof of convergence as the order of approximation goes to infinity
- ▶ Test TP, conditionally and unconditionally, in the Gourio (2012) economy
 - * RBC with EZ preferences, time-varying disaster risk, adjustment costs of capital
 - * Slow unfolding and recovery from disasters (Gourio, 2008; Nakamura et al., 2013)
- ▶ Propose globalized Taylor projection (GTP) that solves issues of
 - * Inaccuracies in economies exposed unconditionally to rare disasters
 - * Instabilities arising from explosive paths caused by disasters

Outline

- * Framework
- * Taylor projection
- * An illustration: The Ramsey-Cass-Koopmans model
- * An RBC model with time-varying disaster risk
- * Accuracy
- * Globalized Taylor projection
- * Conclusion

Framework

We consider a family of continuous-time dynamic stochastic models where the rational expectations equilibrium can be summarized by the following system of equations

$$\mathbf{0} = \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}_x, \mathbf{y}_{xx}) \quad (1)$$

$$d\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) dt + \boldsymbol{\sigma}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) d\mathbf{w} + \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_-, \mathbf{y}_-) d\mathbf{N}, \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}), \quad (3)$$

where:

- ▶ \mathcal{H} : a (deterministic) system of functional equations (second-order PDEs) that collects all the equilibrium conditions
- ▶ \mathbf{x} : vector of state variables (endogenous and exogenous)
- ▶ \mathbf{y} : vector of control variables with derivatives \mathbf{y}_x and \mathbf{y}_{xx} wrt the states
- ▶ \mathbf{w} : vector of independent Brownian motions
- ▶ \mathbf{N} : vector of stochastically independent Poisson processes with arrival rate vector $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ and jump size $\mathbf{f}(\cdot)$
- ▶ $\mathbf{g}(\cdot)$: unknown vector of policy functions that solves (1) and (2)

Taylor projection

Substituting the unknown solution (3) into the operator (1) yields the new functional operator

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}) := \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{g}_x(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{g}_{xx}(\mathbf{x})) = \mathbf{0} \quad (4)$$

Taylor projection of order h approximates $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})$ in (4) by polynomial power expansions at an arbitrary point $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$

$$\widehat{\mathbf{g}}(\mathbf{x}; \Theta) = \sum_{i=0}^h \widehat{\mathbf{G}}_{\mathbf{x}^i} (\mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}})^{\otimes [i]} \quad (5)$$

where Θ is a collection of non-repeated coefficients of $\widehat{\mathbf{G}}_{\mathbf{x}^i}$. Replacing $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})$ with (5) in the equilibrium conditions (4) yields

$$\widehat{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{x}; \Theta) = \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{x}, \widehat{\mathbf{g}}(\mathbf{x}; \Theta), \widehat{\mathbf{g}}_x(\mathbf{x}; \Theta), \widehat{\mathbf{g}}_{xx}(\mathbf{x}; \Theta)) = \mathbf{0} \quad (6)$$

Goal: find the values of Θ that satisfy (6) around the neighborhood of $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$

This can be achieved by successively computing the first h derivatives of the functional equation (6) with respect to \mathbf{x} and evaluating them at $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$. Collect derivatives in residual function $\mathcal{R}(\Theta, \bar{\mathbf{x}})$:

$$\mathcal{R}(\Theta, \bar{\mathbf{x}}) = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{F}}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \Theta) \\ \text{vec}(\hat{\mathbf{F}}_{\mathbf{x}}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \Theta)) \\ \text{vech}(\hat{\mathbf{F}}_{\mathbf{xx}}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \Theta)) \\ \vdots \\ \text{vech}(\hat{\mathbf{F}}_{\mathbf{x}^h}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \Theta)) \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0} \quad (7)$$

This procedure is consistent with a Taylor series expansion of (6) around $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x})}_{\text{Eq. (4)}} \approx \underbrace{\mathbf{F}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})}_{=\mathbf{0}} + \underbrace{\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{x}}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})}_{=\mathbf{0}}(\mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}) + \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{xx}}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})}_{=\mathbf{0}}(\mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}})^{\otimes 2} + \dots + \frac{1}{h!} \underbrace{\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{x}^h}(\bar{\mathbf{x}})}_{=\mathbf{0}}(\mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}})^{\otimes h}$$

which help us identify Θ exactly

Remarks

- ▶ Theorem (convergence): $\hat{\mathbf{g}}(\mathbf{x}; \Theta) \rightarrow \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})$ as $h \rightarrow \infty$ [Details](#)
- ▶ Continuous-time versus discrete-time Taylor projection [Details](#)
 - * Continuous-time Taylor projection has fewer theoretical assumptions
 - * Continuous-time Taylor projection has fewer computational costs
- ▶ (CT) Taylor projection vs perturbation (workhorse solution method) [Details](#)
 - * Taylor projection can be built at any point (known or unknown) on the state space
 - * Taylor projection requires fewer derivatives
 - * Taylor projection adjusts intercepts and slopes to risk already at first-order ($h = 1$)

**An illustration:
The Ramsey-Cass-Koopmans economy**

Deterministic Ramsey-Cass-Koopmans economy

Households maximize lifetime utility by choosing $\{c_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$

$$U_0 = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\rho t} \frac{c_t^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} dt$$

subject to the evolution of capital

$$dk_t = [f(k_t) - \delta k_t - c_t] dt$$

Optimal c is characterized by the following partial differential equation (PDE)

$$\mathcal{H}(k, c, c_k) = c [f_k(k) - \delta - \rho] - \gamma c_k [f(k) - \delta k - c] = 0$$

Since $c = c(k)$, we may write

$$\mathbf{F}(k) = c(k) [f_k(k) - \delta - \rho] - \gamma c_k(k) [f(k) - \delta k - c(k)] = 0$$

The Ramsey-Cass-Koopmans economy

As c is an unknown function, consider a first-order polynomial approximant

$$\hat{c}(k; \Theta) = \theta_0 + \theta_1(k - \bar{k})$$

around an arbitrary point \bar{k} . The coefficients $\Theta = [\theta_0, \theta_1]^T$ are unknown

First-order Taylor projection ($h = 1$): Plug $\hat{c}(k; \Theta)$ into $\mathbf{F}(k)$ to form $\hat{\mathbf{F}}(k; \Theta)$ and then

1. Differentiate $\hat{\mathbf{F}}(k; \Theta)$ wrt $k \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{F}}_k(k; \Theta)$
2. Evaluate $\hat{\mathbf{F}}(k; \Theta)$ and $\hat{\mathbf{F}}_k(k; \Theta)$ at \bar{k}

$$\mathcal{R}(\Theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{F}}(\bar{k}; \Theta) \\ \hat{\mathbf{F}}_k(\bar{k}; \Theta) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \theta_0(\bar{f}_k - \delta - \rho) - \gamma\theta_1(\bar{f} - \delta\bar{k} - \theta_0) \\ \theta_1(\bar{f}_k - \delta - \rho) + \theta_0\bar{f}_{kk} - \gamma\theta_1(\bar{f}_k - \delta - \theta_1) \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

That is, two nonlinear equations in two unknowns

An RBC model with time-varying disaster risk

Given initial values $K_0, z_{r,0}, z_{p,0}, q_0,$ and $\lambda_0,$ the social planner chooses sequences $\{C, \ell\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ that maximize the household's present discounted value of lifetime utility

$$V(K, z_p, z_r, q, \lambda) = \max_{\{C, \ell\}_{t=0}^{\infty}} \mathbb{E}_0 \left[\int_0^{\infty} \beta \theta^t \left(\left(\frac{C(1-\ell)^\nu}{((1-\gamma)\beta)^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma}}} \right)^{1-\frac{1}{\psi}} - 1 \right) dt \right], \quad \text{s.t.}$$

$$dK = \left(\Phi \left(\frac{K^\alpha (z_r z_p \ell)^{1-\alpha} - C}{K} \right) - \delta \right) K dt + \xi_K K \boxed{dN}, \quad \xi_K < 0,$$

$$dz_p = (\mu + \omega q) z_p dt + \sigma_{z_p} z_p dB_{z_p},$$

$$dz_r = \rho_z (q - \log z_r) z_r dt,$$

$$dq = -\phi_q q dt + \xi_z \boxed{dN}, \quad \xi_z < 0,$$

$$d\lambda = \kappa (\bar{\lambda} - \lambda) dt + \sigma_\lambda \sqrt{\lambda} dB_\lambda,$$

Solving the model with Taylor projection

- ▶ We induce stationarity by de-trending the model.
- ▶ $\hat{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{x}; \Theta)$ is a 3×1 vector of optimality conditions with $\mathbf{x} = [k, z_r, q, \lambda]^T$ (minimal representation) [Details](#)
- ▶ We approximate three unknown decision rules

$$\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) \simeq \hat{\mathbf{g}}(\mathbf{x}; \Theta) = [\hat{v}_k(\mathbf{x}; \Theta) \quad \hat{c}(\mathbf{x}; \Theta) \quad \hat{l}(\mathbf{x}; \Theta)]^T$$

- ▶ How to approximate for the value function, $v(\mathbf{x})$, in models with SDU? [Details](#)
- ▶ Standard RBC calibration (reference unit of time is annual) [Details](#)
- ▶ Impulse response functions to a disaster (tail event) and disaster risk (tail risk) [Details](#)

Accuracy and stability

We construct Unit free Euler errors $\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{x})$, using stochastic simulations across the ergodic distribution to assess the accuracy of the approximation

	$\log_{10} \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{x})$			Average $\log_{10} \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{x})$ sorted by percentile of k				
	Mean	Max	≤ 10	(10, 25]	(25, 50]	(50, 75]	(75, 90]	90 <
TP1	-1.12	4.23	0.04	-0.33	-1.06	-2.42	-1.05	-0.52
TP2	-2.03	0.51	-0.22	-0.72	-1.86	-3.99	-2.01	-1.31
TP3	-2.87	0.29	-0.45	-1.09	-2.63	-5.51	-2.88	-1.93
GTP1	-1.78	-0.02	-1.22	-1.74	-1.99	-1.86	-1.77	-1.65
GTP2	-2.45	0.38	-0.32	-1.07	-2.69	-3.39	-3.33	-2.38
GTP3	-4.54	0.10	-2.10	-4.49	-5.14	-5.04	-4.97	-3.63

Table: Euler Errors across the population distribution.

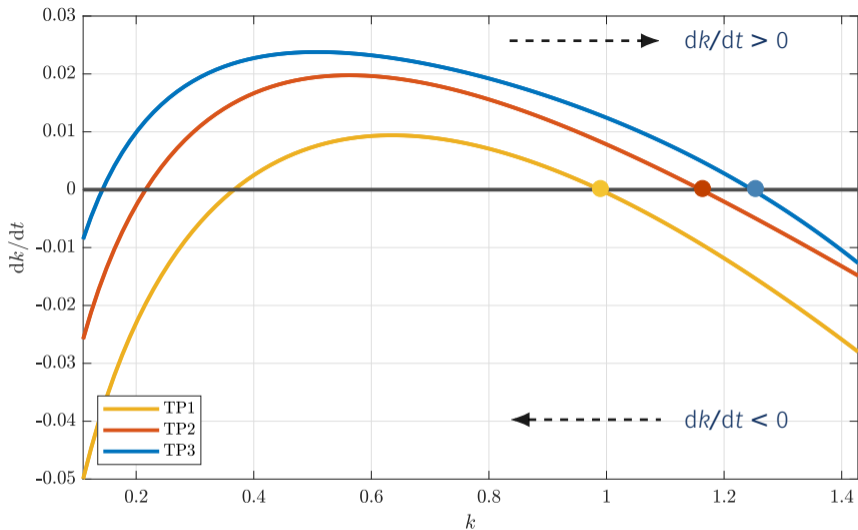
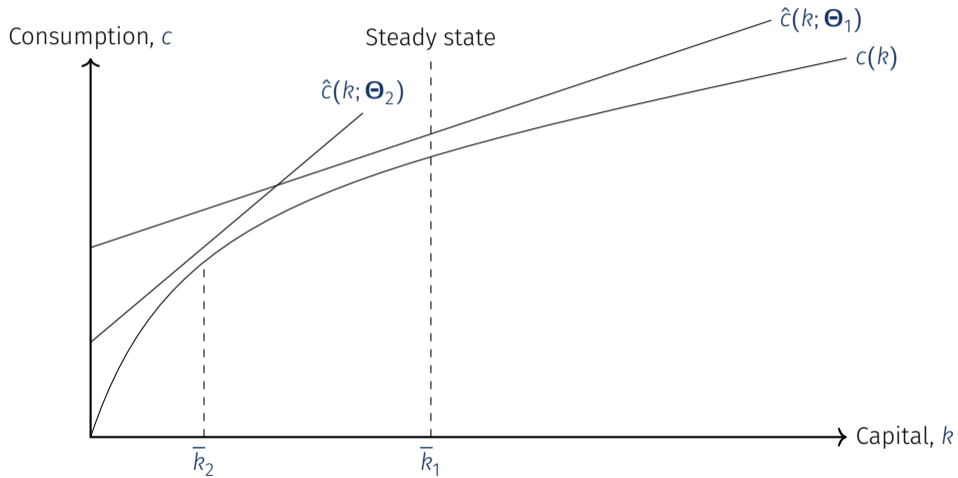


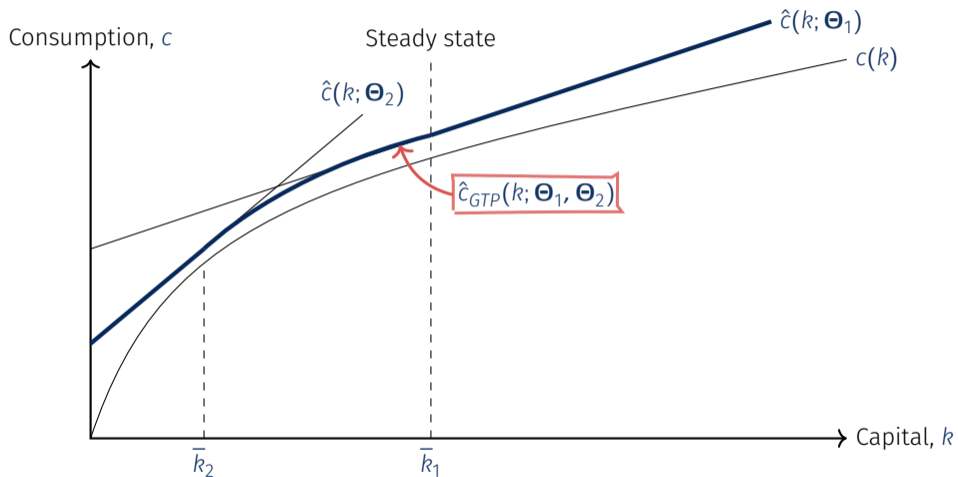
Figure: Transitional dynamics of (detrended) capital stock, $dk = (\Phi(i/k) - \delta - (\mu + \omega q)) k dt$.

Globalized Taylor projection

Inaccuracies and instabilities in tail region: Propose globalized Taylor projection (GTP)



Inaccuracies and instabilities in tail region: Propose globalized Taylor projection (GTP)



The “globalized” approximation is given by

$$\widehat{\mathbf{g}}_{GTP}(\mathbf{x}; \Theta) = \sum_{s=1}^{n_s} \phi(\mathbf{x}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_s) \times \widehat{\mathbf{g}}(\mathbf{x}; \Theta_s, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_s)$$

- ▶ $\widehat{\mathbf{g}}(\mathbf{x}; \Theta_s, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_s)$ is a Taylor projection approximation of order h at $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_s \in \{\bar{\mathbf{x}}_1, \dots, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_s, \dots, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{n_s}\}$
- ▶ $\phi(\mathbf{x}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_s) \in [0, 1]$ are scalar weight functions
 - * Centered weights at $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_1, \dots, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_s, \dots, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{n_s}$
 - * $\sum_{s=1}^{n_s} \phi(\mathbf{x}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_s) = 1 \quad \forall \mathbf{x}$

We prove convergence of GTP for any grid, $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_1, \dots, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_s, \dots, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_{n_s}$,

$$\widehat{\mathbf{g}}_{GTP}(\mathbf{x}; \Theta) \rightarrow \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) \text{ as } h \rightarrow \infty$$

	$\log_{10} \mathcal{M}$		Average $\log_{10} \mathcal{M}$ sorted by percentile of k					
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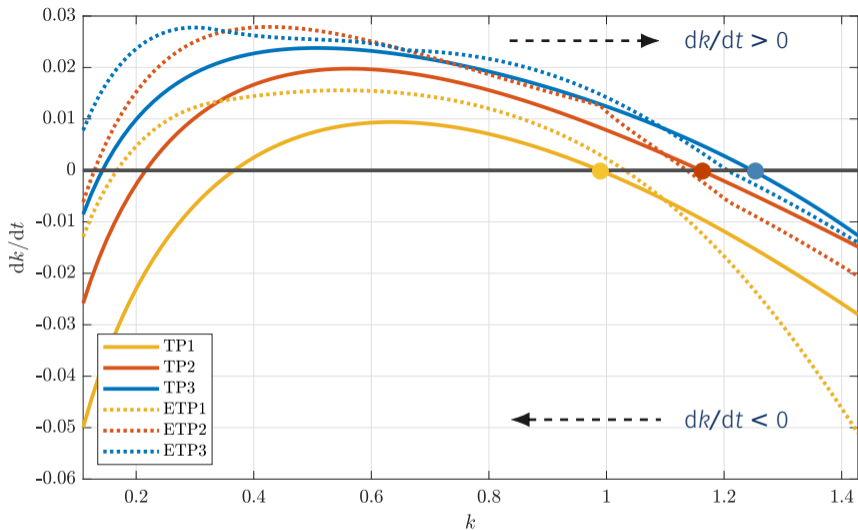


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Conclusion

Conclusion

We extend Taylor projection to approximate the solution of continuous-time dynamic stochastic models under tail risk and tail events

- ▶ We provide proof of convergence
- ▶ Test TP in an economy with infrequent disasters by gauging errors and stability
 - * Captures well tail risk (channel 1): accuracy increases with the order of approximation
 - * Issues with tail events (channel 2): sizable approximation errors and instability
- ▶ Propose globalized Taylor projection to ensure stable and precise approximations

Our appendix provides additional applications: a New Keynesian economy, an endogenous growth (AK) economy with disaster risk, and a resource extraction problem

Thank you!

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Appendix

Convergence of Taylor projection

Assumptions

1. \mathcal{H} and \mathbf{g} are analytic functions on an open set $\mathbb{X} \ni \bar{\mathbf{x}}$
2. As the order of approximation approaches infinity, $h \rightarrow \infty$, the derivatives of the policy function at the approximation point, $\mathbf{g}_{\mathbf{x}}^h(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$, go sufficiently fast to zero

Theorem

Let Assumptions 1 and 2 hold. Then, $\widehat{\mathbf{g}}(\mathbf{x}; \Theta)$ converges to $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})$ as $h \rightarrow \infty$

Continuous vs. discrete time

- ▶ Discrete-time framework (Levintal, 2018)

$$\mathbb{E}_t[\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}')] = \mathbf{0}.$$

The framework requires approximations of $\mathbb{E}_t[\cdot]$

- ▶ Continuous-time framework implies (using Itô calculus) the absence of any conditional expectation operator in the equilibrium conditions

$$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}_x, \mathbf{y}_{xx}) = \mathbf{0}.$$

But on the flip side, the derivatives of policy functions are needed

- ▶ Implications

- * Theoretical: proof of convergence requires fewer assumptions
- * Numerical: cost of $\mathbf{y}_{\mathbf{x}^h}$ is small (exploit \mathbf{y} 's polynomial structure)

Taylor projection vs. perturbation

Computational differences

- ▶ A perturbation approximation of order h needs information from derivatives of equilibrium equations of order $h + 2$ (Gaspar and Judd, 1997)
- ▶ An h -th order Taylor projection only needs derivatives of equilibrium equations of order h
- ▶ Example: Five equilibrium equations and three state variables. A 2nd order perturbation approximation needs 125 derivatives, while Taylor projection needs 45

Properties (first-order)

- ▶ Perturbation adjusts for risk in levels but slopes are certainty equivalent
- ▶ Taylor projection adjusts for risk in both level and slope coefficients

The Ramsey-Cass-Koopmans economy

HJB reads

$$\rho v = \frac{c^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} + v_k (f(k) - \delta k - c)$$

FOC

$$c^{-\gamma} - v_k = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad c(k)$$

Costate

$$v_k (f_k(k) - \delta - \rho) + v_{kk} (f(k) - \delta k - c) = 0$$

Using the FOC, substitute v_k and v_{kk} with c and c_k into costate to get $\mathbf{F}(k)$

Return

Social planner problem (Gourio, 2012)

The social planner chooses sequences $\{C_t, \ell_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ such that that

$$V(K_0, Z_{r,0}, Z_{p,0}, q_0, \lambda_0) = \max_{\{C_t, \ell_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}} J_0,$$

subject to

$$dK_t = \left(\Phi \left(\frac{K_t^\alpha (Z_{r,t} Z_{p,t} \ell_t)^{1-\alpha} - C_t}{K_t} \right) - \delta \right) K_t dt + \xi_K K_{-t} dN_t,$$

$$dz_{p,t} = (\mu + \omega q_t) z_{p,t} dt + \sigma_{z_p} z_{p,t} dB_{z_p,t},$$

$$dz_{r,t} = \rho_z (q_t - \log z_{r,t}) z_{r,t} dt,$$

$$dq_t = -\phi q_t dt + \xi_z dN_t,$$

$$d\lambda_t = \kappa (\bar{\lambda} - \lambda_t) dt + \sigma_\lambda \sqrt{\lambda_t} dB_{\lambda,t},$$

Social planner problem (Gourio, 2012)

We characterize the competitive equilibrium as the evolution of the costate of capital

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 = & \left[\Phi_l l_k k + \Phi(l) - \delta - \mu - \omega q + \gamma \sigma_{z_p}^2 + \left(\mu + \omega q - \frac{1}{2} \gamma \sigma_{z_p}^2 \right) (1 - \gamma) + f_v \right] v_k \\
 & + \left[\Phi(l) - \delta - \mu - \omega q + \gamma \sigma_{z_p}^2 \right] k v_{kk} + \sigma_{z_p}^2 k v_{kk} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{z_p}^2 k^2 v_{kkk} \\
 & + \rho_z (q - \log(z_r)) z_r v_{z_r k} - \phi_q q v_{qk} \\
 & + \kappa (\bar{\lambda} - \lambda) v_{\lambda k} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{\lambda}^2 \lambda v_{\lambda \lambda k} + \lambda [\tilde{v}_k (1 + \xi) - v_k], \tag{8}
 \end{aligned}$$

along with first-order conditions for c and ℓ

$$f_u u_c + \Phi_l l_c k v_k = 0, \tag{9}$$

$$f_u u_\ell + \Phi_l l_\ell k v_k = 0, \tag{10}$$

Together, they form the equilibrium vector, $\mathbf{F}(k, z_r, q, \lambda)$

Social planner problem (Gourio, 2012)

A note on the approximation of the value function

- ▶ Stochastic differential utility (SDU) \Rightarrow policy functions depend on the (unknown) value function $v(\mathbf{x})$
- ▶ We do not approximate the value function directly. Instead

$$\hat{v}(\mathbf{x}) = \int \hat{v}_k(\mathbf{x}; \Theta) dk$$

using the approximant of the costate variable for capital

- ▶ The yet unknown constant of integration is pinned down by the maximized HJB

Calibration

Parameters	Value
Household's preferences	
Coefficient of relative risk aversion, γ	3.8000
Intertemporal elasticity of substitution, $\hat{\psi}$	2.0000
Leisure preference, ν	2.3300
Subjective discount rate, β	0.0410
Production	
Capital share in output, α	0.3400
Depreciation rate of capital, δ	0.0776
Elasticity, investment-to-capital ratio, wrt Tobin's q , η	10.0000
Det. steady-state value, investment-to-capital ratio, \bar{t}	$\delta + \mu$
Exogenous processes	
Trend growth of TFP, μ	0.0200
Standard deviation of TFP shock, σ_{z_p}	0.0200
Mean arrival rate of Poisson process, $\bar{\lambda}$	0.0280
Persistence of disaster risk, κ	0.2000
Standard deviation of disaster risk, σ_λ	0.1000
Permanent destruction in productivity after a jump, ω	0.1900
Destruction rate of capital/productivity, $\xi_K = \xi_Z := \xi$	-0.4742
Speed of recovery, ϕ_q	0.7526
Speed of disaster realization, ρ_z	0.7527

 Large destruction of capital!

Impulse-response functions

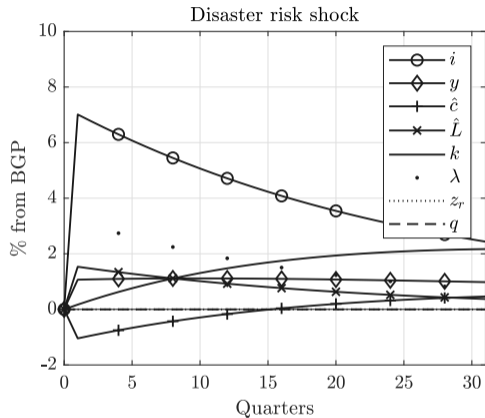
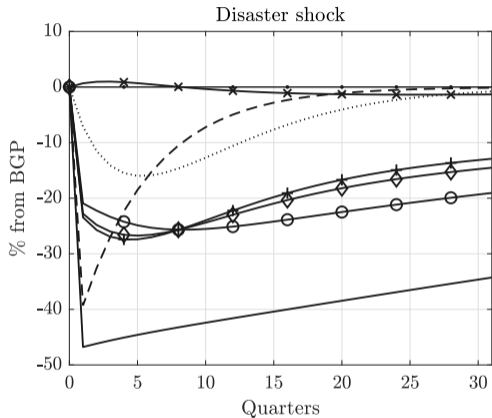


Figure: A third-order Taylor projection's impulse response (detrended variables)

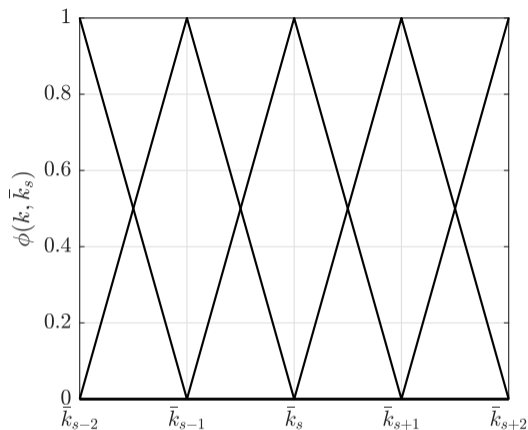
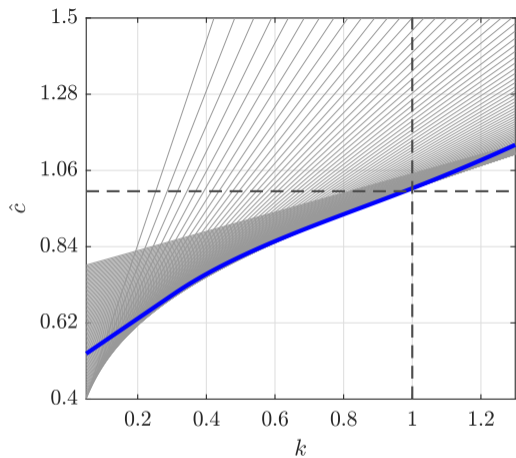


Figure: A first-order globalized Taylor projection

JMM Bounds

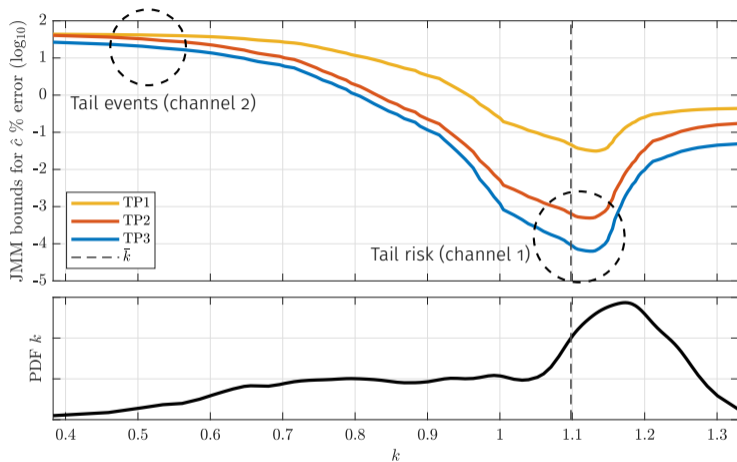


Figure: JMM bounds for \hat{c} along k .

JMM Bounds

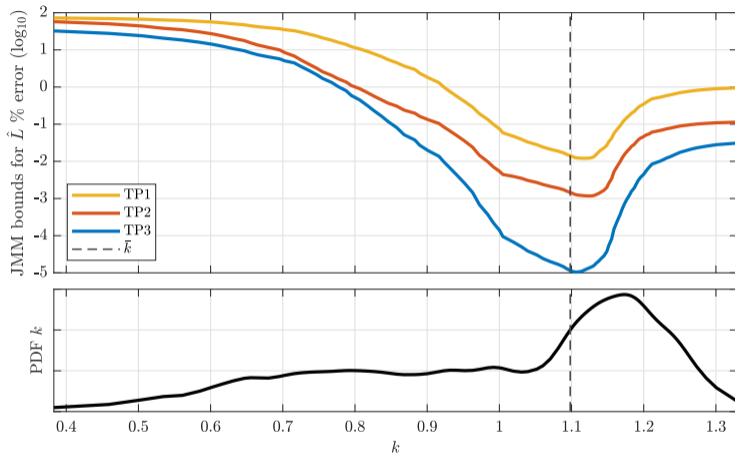


Figure: JMM bounds for \hat{L} along k .

JMM Bounds

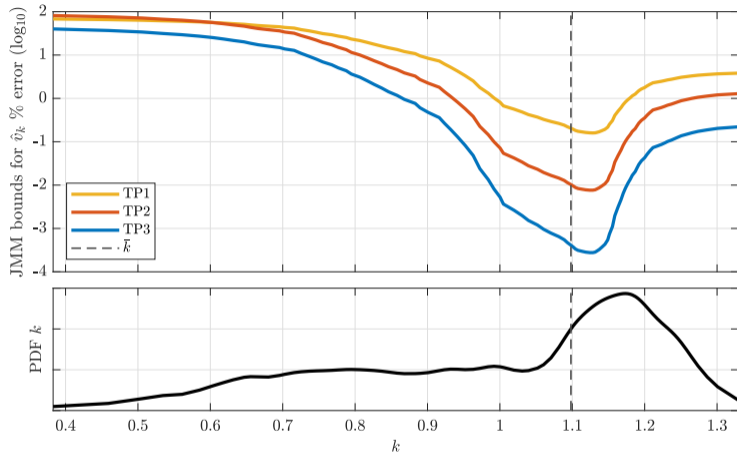


Figure: JMM bounds for \hat{v}_k along k .

JMM Bounds (ETP)

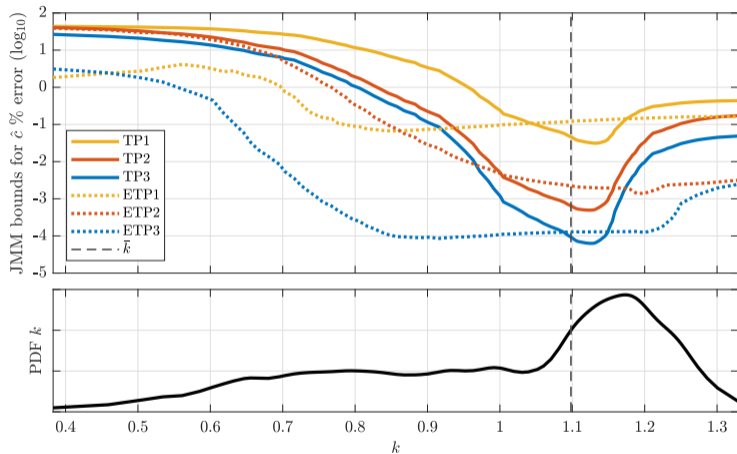


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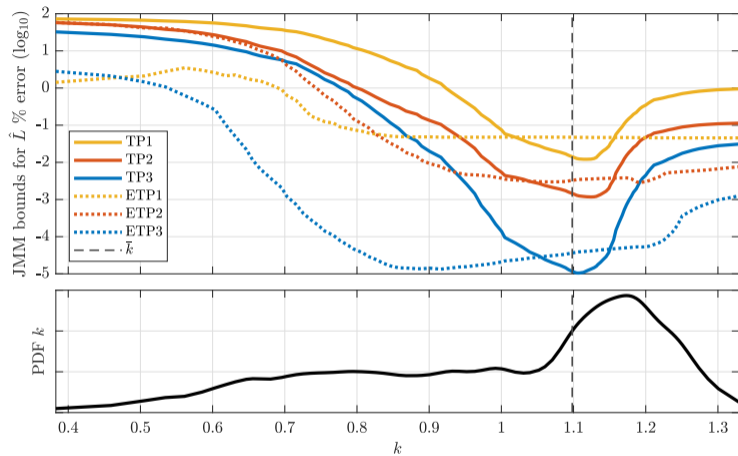


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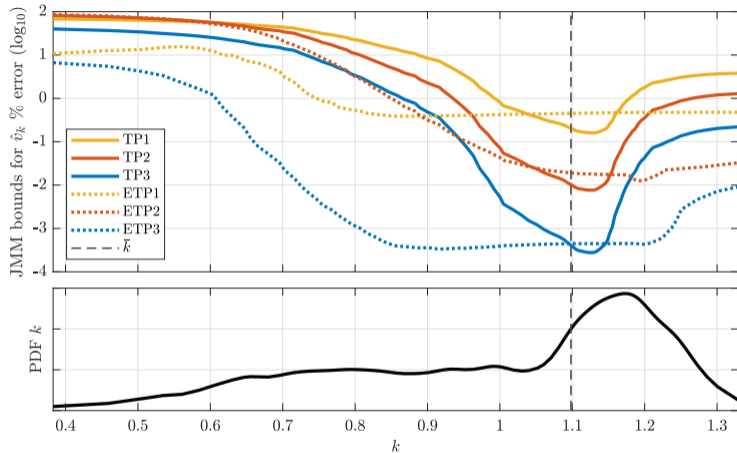


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