## Flight to Safety and New Keynesian Demand Recessions

Ziang Li Imperial College London Sebastian Merkel University of Bristol

1

NBER Summer Institute July 2025

# Overview

- This paper: merge
  - safe asset framework of Brunnermeier, Merkel, Sannikov (2024)
  - New Keynesian (NK) price setting models

to study transmission of uncertainty shocks & flight to safety to real economy

- Why interesting?
  - large literature emphasizes role of uncertainty for aggregate fluctuations
  - $\bullet\,$  one prominent channel: uncertainty  $\rightarrow$  aggregate demand

(e.g. Christiano, Motto, Rostagno 2014; Basu, Bundick 2017; Caballero, Farhi 2018; Caballero, Simsek 2020)

- but abstracts from safe nominal government debt; potentially problematic omission:
  - we observe large debt stocks & flight to safety when measures of uncertainty spike
  - o real value of nominal debt is tightly linked to nominal goods prices
- Key lessons:
  - flight to safety at the core of transmission of uncertainty shocks to real economy
  - this mechanism matters for model predictions, including power of monetary policy

# Key Model Element: Portfolio Choice with Nominal Safe Assets

	conventional NK model	safe asset NK model	
aggregate demand	<ul> <li>IS curve: consumption-saving</li> <li>forward-looking</li> <li>relates demand to future rt - rt*-gaps</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>safe asset demand: portfolio choice btw. capital (risky) and nominal bonds (safe)</li> <li>forward-looking</li> <li>safe asset supply: debt accumulation equation</li> <li>backward-looking: gradually adjusts to inflation and interest rates</li> </ul>	
aggregate supply	<ul><li>Phillips curve</li><li>forward-looking</li><li>relates inflation to future output gaps</li></ul>		

# Some Implications

- O Portfolio choice not intertemporal substitution matters
  - uncertainty shocks increase desire to save (precautionary motive)
  - but relevant for aggregate demand only if there is flight to safety
- Interest Rate Policy Ineffectiveness
  - powerful in conventional IS logic except at ZLB
  - much less powerful in affecting portfolios; cannot fix demand recessions, regardless of ZLB
  - optimal policy: underreacts & utilizes inflationary revaluation of safe asset supply
- Same and the second second
  - $\bullet\,$  sticky goods prices  $\Rightarrow$  sluggish adjustments in real bond value
  - capital prices "overreact" to shocks, generates asymmetric volatility

# **Related Literature**

- NK models:
  - <u>uncertainty shocks in RANK</u>: Born, Pfeifer (2014); Christiano, Motto, Rastagno (2014); Ilut, Schneider (2014); Fernández-Villaverde, Guerrón-Quintana, Kuester, Rubio-Ramírez (2015); Leduc, Liu (2016); Basu, Bundick (2017); Caballero, Simsek (2020)

This paper: safe assets in pos. net supply, role of flight to safety, policy ineffectiveness, ...

• ... and quantitative HANK: Bayer, Lütticke, Pham-Dao, Tjaden (2019); Schaab (2020)

This paper: analytical results, isolate aggregate effects

• analytical HANK: Werning (2015); Acharya, Dogra (2020); Ravn, Sterk (2020); Bilbiie (2020, 2024)

This paper: novel tractable framework with portfolio choice and safe assets

- <u>Safe assets</u> (selective):
  - flight to safety: Brunnermeier, Merkel, Sannikov (2024)

This paper: sticky prices, capital price overshooting

• safety trap: Caballero, Farhi (2018); Acharya, Dogra (2022)

This paper: (ir)relevance of ZLB

Government debt as nominal anchor (FTPL/Ricardian non-equivalence): e.g., Leeper (1991); Sims (1994); Woodford (1995, 2001); Cochrane (2017, 2023); Caramp, Silva (2021); Bénassy (2000, 2005); Leith, von Thadden (2008); Hagedorn (2021); Angeletos, Lian, Wolf (2024)
 This paper: portfolio choice with government bonds as safe assets



## 1 Model

#### 2 Transmission of Uncertainty Shocks

### Implications

- Implications for Interest Rate Policy and Asset Pricing
- Comparison to Models without Safe Assets

### 4 Long-term Bonds and (Optimal) Interest Rate Policy

- Long-term Bonds
- Optimal Policy

# Outline

# 1 Model

#### Transmission of Uncertainty Shocks

### 3 Implications

- Implications for Interest Rate Policy and Asset Pricing
- Comparison to Models without Safe Assets

### Iong-term Bonds and (Optimal) Interest Rate Policy

- Long-term Bonds
- Optimal Policy

# Model Setup

- Continuous time, infinite horizon, one consumption good (= final output good)
- Agents
  - households: hold capital (idiosyncratically risky) and government bonds (nominally safe)
  - intermediate goods firms: rent capital, produce differentiated intermediate goods
  - final goods firms: combine intermediate goods outputs (CES technology)
- Government
  - issues nominal bonds
  - taxes capital, sets nominal interest rate
- Frictions
  - financial friction (incomplete markets): households cannot trade idiosyncratic risk
  - price setting friction: intermediate goods firms face price adjustment cost
- Aggregate shock: stochastic fluctuations in volatility of idiosyncratic shocks

# Selected Formal Details (simplified model)

• Household preferences ( $i \in [0, 1]$  agent index):

► household problem

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \left(\log c_t^i - \frac{(u_t^i)^{1+\varphi}}{1+\varphi}\right) dt\right]$$

- Manages capital  $k_t^i$ :
  - capital services (rented out):  $u_t^i k_t^i dt$

full production side

- capital tax by government:  $au_t k_t^i dt$
- capital evolution:

$$\frac{dk'_t}{k'_t} = \underbrace{d\Delta_t^{k,i}}_{\text{trading}} + \underbrace{\tilde{\sigma}_t d\tilde{Z}_t^i}_{\text{idio. shocks}}$$

- Government bonds
  - nominal face value  $\mathcal{B}_t$ :  $d\mathcal{B}_t/\mathcal{B}_t = \mu_t^{\mathcal{B}} dt$
  - floating nominal interest *i*<sub>t</sub> (extension: long-term bonds)
  - government flow budget constraint

$$\dot{s}_t = \mu_t^{\mathcal{B}} + \breve{s}_t, \qquad \breve{s}_t := rac{\mathcal{P}_t au_t K_t}{\mathcal{B}_t}$$

## Notation: Assets Values

- Assets in positive net supply: capital & bonds
  - capital: aggregate supply  $K_t \equiv 1$ , value  $q_t^K$
  - bonds: real value of bond stock  $q_t^B := rac{\mathcal{B}_t}{\mathcal{P}_t}$
- Also define total wealth  $q_t := q_t^B + q_t^K$
- Share of bond wealth

$$\vartheta_t := rac{\mathcal{B}_t/\mathcal{P}_t}{q_t^K + \mathcal{B}_t/\mathcal{P}_t} = rac{q_t^B}{q_t}$$

• In equilibrium:

- all households choose identical portfolios
- $\vartheta_t$  is also individual portfolio weight in bonds
- Note:  $\mathcal{B}_t$  is slow-moving (only drifts, no jumps or Brownian shock loadings)
  - ightarrow when  $\mathcal{P}_t$  is sticky, then so is  $q^B_t$

 $( \bullet \mathcal{P}_t - dynamics$ 

Special cases of our model are (essentially) isomorphic to the following models:

- Brunnermeier, Merkel, Sannikov (2024): without price setting friction
- Gali (2008, Chapter 3) textbook NK model: for σ̃ = 0 (reinterpret utilization as labor and capital as labor productivity)
- Caballero, Simsek (2020): for  $\mathcal{B} = q^B = 0$  (no safe assets)

(they have aggregate instead of idiosyncratic capital shocks, but irrelevant for conclusions)

▶ Remark II: Relationship to HANK



### 1 Model

#### 2 Transmission of Uncertainty Shocks

### Implications

- Implications for Interest Rate Policy and Asset Pricing
- Comparison to Models without Safe Assets

### Iong-term Bonds and (Optimal) Interest Rate Policy

- Long-term Bonds
- Optimal Policy

## Impulse Responses



## Transmission Preliminaries I: Separation of Portfolio Choice

• "Bond valuation equation":  $\vartheta_t$  satisfies in equilibrium

$$artheta_t = \mathbb{E}_t \left[ \int_t^\infty e^{-
ho(s-t)} artheta_s \left( \breve{s}_s + (1-artheta_s)^2 \widetilde{\sigma}_s^2 
ight) ds 
ight].$$

- depends only on fiscal instrument  $\breve{s}_t$  and idiosyncratic risk  $\tilde{\sigma}_t$
- not on aggregate output or price setting frictions
- Separation: if  $\check{s}_t$  is function of  $(\tilde{\sigma}_t, \vartheta_t)$  only, then  $\vartheta_t = \vartheta(\tilde{\sigma}_t)$  does not depend on bond valuation state  $q_t^B$

 $\rightarrow$  portfolios adjust "fast" (as under flexible prices)

• Remark: separation condition satisfied for conventional linear fiscal reaction rules

$$S_t/Y_t = \alpha + \beta q_t^B/Y_t \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad \breve{s}_t = \alpha \frac{\rho}{\vartheta_t} + \beta$$

• Flight to Safety: Unless š-policy leans strongly against it, rise in  $\sigma_t$  leads to increase in  $\vartheta_t$ 

### Transmission Preliminaries II: Asset Valuation and Aggregate Demand

• Goods market clearing relates real activity to level of asset valuations

$$u_t = \underbrace{\rho q_t = \rho(q_t^B + q_t^K)}_{= \text{aggr. cons. demand}}$$

• Portfolio choice  $(\vartheta_t)$  determines *relative asset valuations* 

$$q_t = q_t^B + q_t^{\mathcal{K}} = rac{1}{artheta_t} q_t^{\mathcal{K}}$$

• Combining the previous:

$$u_t = \rho \frac{q_t^B}{\vartheta_t}$$

# Shock Transmission: Impact Effect



	uncertainty shock ${ ilde \sigma}_t \uparrow$	
	flexible prices	sticky prices
portfolio choice	$\vartheta_t \uparrow$	$\vartheta_t \uparrow$
demand for given $q_t^B$	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$
equilibrium adjustment	$u_t  ightarrow$ , $q_t^B \uparrow$	$u_t\downarrow$ , $q_t^B ightarrow$
required price adjustment	${\mathcal P}_t\downarrow$	${\cal P}_t  ightarrow$

# Shock Transmission: Adjustment Dynamics under Sticky Prices

- After shock, gradual inflation/deflation slowly adjusts  $q_t^B$  towards flexible-price value ("Pigou effect") (Pigou, 1943; Patinkin, 1956)
- Dynamics guided by two equations
  - Bond value evolution (backward-looking):

$$dq_t^{\mathcal{B}} = \left(\underbrace{i_t - \breve{s}_t}_{=\mu_t^{\mathcal{B}}} - \pi_t\right) q_t^{\mathcal{B}} dt$$

• Phillips curve (forward-looking):

$$\mathbb{E}_t[d\pi_t] = \left(\rho\pi_t - \kappa\left(\left(\rho\frac{q_t^B}{\vartheta_t}\right)^{1+\varphi} - 1\right)\right) dt$$

closed-form solutions (under simplifying assumptions)



## 1 Model

#### 2 Transmission of Uncertainty Shocks

### Implications

- Implications for Interest Rate Policy and Asset Pricing
- Comparison to Models without Safe Assets

### 4 Long-term Bonds and (Optimal) Interest Rate Policy

- Long-term Bonds
- Optimal Policy

# I. Intertemporal Substitution versus Portfolio Choice

- Standard NK story: intertemporal substitution drives aggregate demand
  - key equation: IS equation (in terms of wealth  $q_t$ )

$$\mathbb{E}_t[dq_t] = (i_t - \pi_t - r_t^*) q_t dt$$

- relates level of wealth to level of interest rate
- usual interpretation: future  $q_T$  fixed (e.g., by "anchored beliefs"),  $q_0$  adjusts
- if  $i_t \pi_t > r_t^*$  for a while:  $q_0$  falls (demand recession)
- This model: portfolio demand for nominal safe assets drives aggregate demand
  - recall:  $q_t = q_t^B/\vartheta_t$  fully determined by  $\vartheta_t$  and safe asset state  $q_t^B$
  - portf. choice determines relative asset values  $\vartheta_t$
  - "level component" in  $q_t = q_t^B/artheta_t$  is backward-looking state variable  $q_t^B$

Conclusion: Portfolio choice and flight to safety are key for impact (demand) effect of shocks

- How does  $i_t$  affect aggregate demand?
  - **(**) Portfolio separation: portfolio demand for safe assets  $(\vartheta_t)$  unaffected by  $i_t$
  - **2** Safe asset value  $q_t^B$  is slow-moving state: affected by  $i_t$  only gradually over time
  - $\Rightarrow$  Impact effect of shock on aggregate demand does not depend on  $i_t$
- <u>Conclusion</u>: interest rate policy cannot eliminate aggregate demand recession (in contrast to standard NK models)
- *Remark*: "no impact effect" can be overturned with long-term bonds, broader conclusion is robust

# III. Capital Price Overshooting & Flight-to-Safety Volatility

- Portfolio separation:  $\vartheta_t$  rises as fast as under flexible prices
- Stickiness of bond value:  $q^B_t$  unaffected by shock, whereas  $q^{B,\mathit{flex}}_t\uparrow$
- Consequence: capital price overshoots relative to flexible price response

•  $q_t^{K} = (1 - \vartheta_t)/\vartheta_t \cdot q_t^{B}$  falls by more under sticky prices

- Corrects major shortcoming of flexible price model (Brunnermeier, Merkel, Sannikov 2024)
  - in that model: bond market  $(q^B)$  more volatile than stock market  $(q^K)$
  - this paper: any degree of price stickiness shifts all relative volatility into  $q^{K}$  fluctuations
- Reminiscent of Dornbusch's (1976) overshooting model
  - $\bullet\,$  original: sticky domestic price  $\rightarrow$  volatile exchange rate
  - $\bullet\,$  here: sticky bond value  $\rightarrow$  volatile capital price

# Illustration: Overshooting & Flight-to-Safety Volatility





## 1 Model

#### 2 Transmission of Uncertainty Shocks

### Implications

- Implications for Interest Rate Policy and Asset Pricing
- Comparison to Models without Safe Assets

### Iong-term Bonds and (Optimal) Interest Rate Policy

- Long-term Bonds
- Optimal Policy

# An Economy without Nominal Bonds

- Consider economy with  ${\cal B}_t \equiv 0 \Rightarrow artheta_t = q^B_t \equiv 0$
- Goods market clearing equation (note  $q_t = q_t^K$ )

$$u_t = \rho q_t$$

• pricing wealth ⇔ pricing capital: (without aggregate shocks)

$$\underbrace{\rho + \mathbb{E}_t[dq_t]/(q_t dt)}_{=\mathbb{E}_t[dr_t^K]/dt} = \underbrace{i_t - \pi_t}_{=r_t} + \underbrace{\tilde{\sigma}_t^2}_{=\operatorname{risk premium}}$$

ightarrow Aggregate demand without bonds is *purely forward-looking* and follows IS equation logic

**(**) no sticky bond value state  $(q_t^B \equiv 0)$  & no nominal anchor

2 previous equation

$$\mathbb{E}_t[dq_t]/(q_tdt) = i_t - \pi_t - \underbrace{(\rho - \tilde{\sigma}_t^2)}_{=r_t^*}$$

determines level of asset values as function of level of returns

Conclusions from such models (e.g. Basu, Bundick 2017; Caballero, Farhi 2018; Caballero, Simsek 2020):

**(**) if insufficient reduction in  $r_t = i_t - \pi_t$ , also these models predict shortfall in demand

Out this is not necessary: sufficient reduction in rt can prevent demand shortfall

- e.g. natural rate policy  $i_t=r_t^*:=
  ho- ilde{\sigma}_t^2$  & appropriate equilibrium selection
- leads to divine coincidence:  $\pi_t = 0$ ,  $u_t = u^*$
- more generally: only task of policy is expectations management

orollary: demand recessions are (mostly) a problem at ZLB



## 1 Model

#### 2 Transmission of Uncertainty Shocks

### 3 Implications

- Implications for Interest Rate Policy and Asset Pricing
- Comparison to Models without Safe Assets

### 4 Long-term Bonds and (Optimal) Interest Rate Policy

- Long-term Bonds
- Optimal Policy

# How Can Policy Stabilize Aggregate Demand on Impact?

- Manage safe asset demand by distorting portfolio choice
  - use policy instrument  $\breve{s}_t$  (by adjusting taxes)
  - mitigates flight to safety, but not optimal (in richer model) (safe asset services more valuable when σ̃ is large, higher θ beneficial)

2 Manage safe asset supply by introducing safe asset whose value is not (fully) sticky

- Iump-sum transfers
  - PV of lump-sum transfers acts as implicit safe asset (if aggr. risk markets complete)
  - use dynamic adjustments of transfers to absorb variations in safe asset demand
  - issue: works in theory but difficult in practice
- long-term bonds
  - *i*-policy affects (flexible) nominal bond price through expected future rates
  - but: cannot control  $i_t$  and  $q_t^B$  independently, insufficient to prevent demand recession
  - $\rightarrow\,$  generates interesting policy problem

# Model Extension with Long-term Bonds

- In baseline model: bonds have infinitesimal duration
  - there is no relative price between "money" (sticky unit of pricing) and nominal bonds
- Extension: bonds are long-term with geometric maturity structure
  - nominal face value  $\mathcal{B}_t$  as before
  - each period: government must make payments  $\lambda {\cal B}_t dt,\,\lambda>0$
  - $\mathcal{P}^{\mathcal{B}}_{t}$  is the nominal price of one nominal unit of bonds
  - note:  $\lambda \to \infty$ : short-term bonds,  $\lambda \to 0$ : perpetuities
- Proposition: all model equations are as before except

• 
$$q^B_t = \mathcal{P}^B_t q^{B,0}_t$$
 and only  $q^{B,0}_t := \mathcal{B}_t/\mathcal{P}_t$  is a state due to stickiness

• 
$$\mathcal{P}_t^B = \frac{\lambda}{\lambda + i}$$

•  $i_t$  is the long-term interest rate (fully controlled by controlling short rate  $i_t^0$ )

## Interest Rate Policy Ineffectiveness Revisited

- Two effects of higher *i*<sub>t</sub>:
  - **(**) **debt revaluation channel**: lower  $\mathcal{P}_t^B$  reduces safe asset supply  $q_t^B$  immediately
  - **debt growth channel**: higher µ<sup>B</sup><sub>t</sub> raises safe asset supply q<sup>B</sup><sub>t</sub> gradually (without need for deflation)
- First effect appears to overturn interest rate policy ineffectiveness:
  - *i*-policy can control  $q_t^B$  on shock impact
  - e.g. can completely eliminate (impact) output gap without any fiscal support
- But: interest rate policy still unable to eliminate sticky price distortions
  - second effect: lower  $i_t$  shifts deflation pressures into the future
  - *i*-policy cannot control level and dynamics of  $q_t^B$  independently



## 1 Model

#### 2 Transmission of Uncertainty Shocks

### 3 Implications

- Implications for Interest Rate Policy and Asset Pricing
- Comparison to Models without Safe Assets

# 4 Long-term Bonds and (Optimal) Interest Rate Policy

- Long-term Bonds
- Optimal Policy

# Benchmark: Constrained Efficient Allocation (in Model with Investment)

### Proposition (Representation of Welfare Objective)

For any social welfare function, maximizing welfare is equivalent to maximizing

$$\mathbb{E}igg[\int_0^\infty e^{-
ho t}ig( \mathcal{W}_artheta(artheta_t, ilde{\sigma}_t) + \mathcal{W}_u(u_t)ig)dtigg]$$

where  $\mathcal{W}_{\vartheta}(\cdot, \tilde{\sigma})$  and  $\mathcal{W}_{u}(\cdot)$  are strictly quasiconcave and  $\partial_{\tilde{\sigma}\vartheta}\mathcal{W}_{\vartheta} > 0$ .

### Proposition (Representation of Welfare Objective)

For any social welfare function, maximizing welfare is equivalent to maximizing

$$\mathbb{E}igg[\int_0^\infty e^{-
ho t}ig( \mathcal{W}_artheta(artheta_t, ilde{\sigma}_t) + \mathcal{W}_u(u_t)ig) dtigg]$$

where  $\mathcal{W}_{\vartheta}(\cdot, \tilde{\sigma})$  and  $\mathcal{W}_{u}(\cdot)$  are strictly quasiconcave and  $\partial_{\tilde{\sigma}\vartheta}\mathcal{W}_{\vartheta} > 0$ .

Conclusion: separated normative considerations concerning

• composition of wealth into safe assets and capital assets ( $W_{\vartheta}$ -term)

• constrained optimum:  $\vartheta_t = \vartheta^*(\tilde{\sigma}_t), \ \vartheta^{*\prime} > 0 \longrightarrow$  some flight to safety is desirable

• utilization of capital resources  $(W_u$ -term)

• constrained optimum:  $u_t = u^*$  constant  $\rightarrow$  but demand recessions are undesirable

### Proposition (Optimal Monetary Policy)

Suppose  $\tilde{\sigma}_t$  evolves deterministically and let a path  $\{\tilde{s}_t\}$  for fiscal policy be given.

- There is precisely one initial state  $q_0^{B,0} = q_0^{B,0*}$  such that interest rate policy can implement  $u_t = u^*$  for all  $t \ge 0$ .
- If  $q_0^{B,0} > q_0^{B,0*}$ , then the optimal interest rate policy is such that  $u_t > u^*$  for all  $t \ge 0$ .
- If  $q_0^{B,0} < q_0^{B,0*}$ , then the optimal interest rate policy is such that  $u_t < u^*$  for all  $t \ge 0$ .

### Proposition (Optimal Monetary Policy)

Suppose  $\tilde{\sigma}_t$  evolves deterministically and let a path  $\{\breve{s}_t\}$  for fiscal policy be given.

• There is precisely one initial state  $q_0^{B,0} = q_0^{B,0*}$  such that interest rate policy can implement  $u_t = u^*$  for all  $t \ge 0$ .

If  $q_0^{B,0} > q_0^{B,0*}$ , then the optimal interest rate policy is such that  $u_t > u^*$  for all  $t \ge 0$ .

If  $q_0^{B,0} < q_0^{B,0*}$ , then the optimal interest rate policy is such that  $u_t < u^*$  for all  $t \ge 0$ .

- In sum: monetary policy underreacts relative to full output gap stabilization
- Intuition for underreaction:
  - unless initial state  $q_0^{B,0}$  is exactly right, (inefficient) inflation/deflation required at some point
  - ${\, \bullet \,}$  concave objective  $\rightarrow$  smooth resulting distortions over time

### Numerical Example: Permanent Increase of $\tilde{\sigma}$ to Higher Level



## Conclusion

- New Keynesian model with (nominal) safe assets
  - uncertainty shocks lead to flight to safety (portfolio reallocation towards bonds)
  - safe asset stock becomes a state variable
  - portfolio choice key to understand aggregate demand
- Shock transmission:
  - rigid safe asset supply and separated portfolio choice generate demand shortage
  - asset pricing: capital price overshooting
  - policy implication: interest rate policy cannot fix sticky price distortion (even absent ZLB)
- Optimal policy
  - [in paper] coordinated monetary-fiscal policy can implement constrained optimal allocation if and only if lump-sum taxes are available
  - without lump-sum taxes: interest rate underreaction on impact and optimal smoothing of demand shortfall

# Household Problem

Hh i's problem: choose consumption  $c^i$ , utilization  $u^i$ , bond portfolio weight  $\theta^i$  to maximize

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \left(\log c_t^i - \frac{(u_t^i)^{1+\varphi}}{1+\varphi}\right) dt\right]$$

subject to

net worth evolution

$$dn_t^i/n_t^i = -c_t^i/n_t^i dt + heta_t^i dr_t^{\mathcal{B}} + \left(1 - heta_t^i\right) dr_t^{\mathcal{K},i}(u_t^i)$$

• return processes  $dr_t^{K,i}(\cdot)$ ,  $dr_t^{\mathcal{B}}$ 

$$dr_t^{K,i}(u) = \frac{p_t^R u + \omega_t - \tau_t}{q_t^K} dt + \frac{d(q_t^K(k_t^i - \Delta_t^{K,i}))}{q_t^K(k_t^i - \Delta_t^{K,i})} = \frac{\mathbb{E}_t[dr_t^{K,i}]}{dt} dt + \tilde{\sigma} d\tilde{Z}_t^i + \sigma_t^{q,K} dZ_t$$
$$dr_t^{\mathcal{B}} = i_t dt + \frac{d(1/\mathcal{P}_t)}{1/\mathcal{P}_t} = \frac{\mathbb{E}_t[dr_t^{\mathcal{B}}]}{dt} dt + \frac{\sigma_t^{q,B} dZ_t}{dt}$$

=0 for sticky prices

# Full Production Side

• Aggregate capital services supplied by households:

$$\int u_t^i k_t^i di = u_t K_t$$

- Intermediate goods firms (continuum  $j \in [0, 1]$ ):
  - rent capital services at unit price  $p_t^R$  in competetive market
  - ${\scriptstyle \bullet}\,$  transform capital services into differentiated goods 1 for 1
  - nominal output price  $\mathcal{P}_t^i$  subject to quadratic adjustment cost (rebated to households)
  - profits redistributed to households according to capital holding shares  $k_t^i/K_t$
- Final goods firms: CES technology

$$Y_t = \left(\int (y_t^j)^{\frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon-1}} dj\right)^{\frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon-1}}$$

Goods market clearing

$$C_t := \int c_t^i di = Y_t$$

## Equilibrium Price Level Dynamics under Sticky Prices

• The nominal price level  $\mathcal{P}_t$  is *locally deterministic* state variable (backward-looking)

$$d\mathcal{P}_t = \pi_t \mathcal{P}_t dt$$

• Instantaneous price inflation follows the Phillips curve (forward-looking)

$$\mathbb{E}_t[d\pi_t] = \left(\rho\pi_t - \kappa\left(p_t^R - \rho^{R, flex}\right)\right) dt$$

• In particular:  $\pi_t$  can react to shocks on impact but  $\mathcal{P}_t$  cannot

Aside: under flexible prices,  $\mathcal{P}_t$  can react to shocks on impact and  $\pi_t = \frac{d\mathcal{P}_t}{\mathcal{P}_t dt}$  may not be well-defined.

# Remark II: Relationship to HANK Models

- Technically, ours is a HANK model
  - but we abstract from MPC heterogeneity
    - $\rightarrow$  wealth distribution does not matter for aggregates
  - deliberate choice to isolate aggregate effects from safe asset demand
  - HA component merely used to generate safe asset demand
- **2** HANK papers have many extra (distributional) state variables, often focus on those
  - e.g. Bayer et al. (2019): model with "flight to liquidity" after uncertainty shock
  - but discussion focused on how wealth distribution is affected (and no analytical results)
  - our point: there is something else going on that is not about redistribution

Make the following *simplifying assumptions*:

**(**) Assume  $i_t = i$ ,  $\breve{s}_t = \breve{s}$ ,  $\vartheta_t = \vartheta$  are constant after the shock ( $\Rightarrow \mu^{\mathcal{B}} = i - \breve{s}$  is constant)

- ② Simplify the dynamic equations:
  - Case (a): replace dynamic Phillips curve with static Phillips curve

$$\pi_t = \frac{\kappa}{\rho} \left( \left( \rho \frac{\mathsf{q}_t^{\mathsf{B}}}{\vartheta_t} \right)^{1+\varphi} - 1 \right)$$

• Case (b): linearize the two equations

## Closed-Form Solutions for Debt Dynamics

#### Static Phillips curve:

$$q_t^B = \left( (q_0^B)^{-(1+\varphi)} e^{-\alpha t} + (q_\infty^B)^{-(1+\varphi)} \left( 1 - e^{-\alpha t} \right) \right)^{-\frac{1}{1+\varphi}},$$
  
where  $\alpha := \frac{1+\varphi}{\rho} (\rho \mu^B + \kappa), \quad q_\infty^B := \left( 1 + \frac{\rho \mu^B}{\kappa} \right)^{\frac{1}{1+\varphi}} \frac{\vartheta}{\rho}$ 

Linearized dynamics:

$$q_t^B = q_0^B e^{-\alpha t} + q_\infty^B \left(1 - e^{-\alpha t}\right)$$
  
where  $\alpha := \sqrt{\left(\frac{\rho}{2}\right)^2 + (1 + \varphi)\left(\rho\mu^B + \kappa\right)} - \frac{\rho}{2}, \quad q_\infty^B := \left(1 + \frac{\rho\mu^B}{\kappa}\right)^{\frac{1}{1+\varphi}} \frac{\vartheta}{\rho}$ 

✓ return

### Illustration: $\mathcal{B}_t > 0$ versus $\mathcal{B}_t \equiv 0$

