

Adverse Selection, Slow Moving Capital and Misallocation.

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- Economies respond sluggishly to aggregate shocks
 - Christiano, Eichenbaum and Evans (2005), Eberly, Rebelo and Vincent (2012)
- Capital misallocation matters.
 - e.g., Syverson (2004); Foster, Haltiwanger, and Syverson (2008)
- Especially in developing countries.
 - e.g., Hsieh and Klenow (2009)

- Adjustment costs often used to explain these patterns:
 - 'k-dot' adjustment cost generate slow changes in the capital stock
 - Pindyck (1982), Abel (1984), Abel and Eberly (1994)
 - 'i-dot' adjustment costs to generate slow changes in investment
 - Christiano, Eichenbaum and Evans (2005)
 - Counter-cyclical adjustment costs generate pro-cyclical reallocation
 - Eisfeldt and Rampini (2006)
- But what do these costs represent? Physical costs vs market frictions

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 - Technological Innovation and New Investment.
 - Slow moving financial capital.

- **Convex Adjustment Cost and Time to Build Models**
 - Hall and Jorgenson (1967), Lucas and Prescott (1971), Hayashi (1982), Kydland and Prescott (1982), Pindyck (1982), Abel (1983), Abel and Eberly (1994), Eisfeldt and Rampini (2006), Lucca (2007)
- **Search and Capital Mobility:**
 - Vayanos and Weil (2005), Duffie and Strulovici (2012), Gromb and Vayanos (2012)
- **Financial Constraints:**
 - Bernanke and Gertler (1989), Kiyotaki and Moore (1998), Banerjee and Newman (1993), Gilchrist, Sim, and Zakrajek (2013)
- **Adverse Selection and Delay:**
 - Jaansen and Roy (2002), Daley and Green (2012,2013), Fuchs and Skrzypacz (2013), Kurlat (2013)

The Model

- Different locations $l \in \{a, b\}$
 - Sectors, industries, or physical locations
- Mass $M > 1$ of firms in each location
 - Firms can operate a unit of capital only in their own location
- Unit mass of capital of quality: $\theta \in [\underline{\theta}, \bar{\theta}] \sim F(\theta)$ with $dF(\theta) > 0$
 - **Quality is privately observed** by owner of capital
- The state $\phi_t \in \{\phi_A, \phi_B\}$ is a Markov process with transition probability λ .
- Output flow $\pi_l(\theta, \phi_t)$ depends on capital quality, its location and the state:

	Location	
State	π_A	π_B
ϕ_A	$\pi_1(\theta)$	$\pi_0(\theta)$
ϕ_B	$\pi_0(\theta)$	$\pi_1(\theta)$

where $\pi_1(\theta) > \pi_0(\theta)$ and $\pi'_1(\theta) > 0$.

The Model (cont'd)

- In order for capital to be reallocated it must be traded in a continuously open market.
- Only friction adverse selection. (not adj costs, no search, deep pockets)
- Firms can observe in which sector the capital is that they are buying but not its quality.
- Existing capital depreciates and new capital flows in at rate δ
 - New capital flows into efficient sector (maintains full support).
- Firms maximize the present expected profits discounted at $\rho = r + \delta$

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 - **Different types of capital will have different illiquidity discounts.**

Permanent: Seller's Problem

- Given P_t sellers face a stopping problem:

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- Let χ_t denote the lowest quality asset that has not been traded by time t :

$$\chi_t = \inf \{ \theta_i : \tau_i \geq t \}$$

Definition

A path for prices P and stopping rules $\tau(\theta)$ is a **Competitive Decentralized Equilibrium** if:

(i) **Sellers Optimize:** Given P , $\tau(\theta)$ solves the Seller's Problem

(ii) **Zero Profit:** Let $\Theta_t \neq \emptyset$ denote the set of types that trades at t , then:

$$P_t = E[V_1(\theta) | \theta \in \Theta_t]$$

(iii) **Market Clearing:** $P_t \geq V_1(\chi_t)$

Permanent: Separating Equilibrium

- We will focus our analysis on the separating equilibrium where χ_t is strictly increasing and continuous.
- Other equilibria can be ruled out with additional assumptions.

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- Together:

$$\rho V_1(\chi_t) = \frac{d\chi_t}{dt} \frac{dV_1(\chi_t)}{d\chi} + \pi_0(\chi_t)$$

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- Letting $\dot{\chi}_t = \frac{d\chi_t}{dt}$ and rearranging:

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- $F(\theta)$ would still matter when calculating aggregates.

Permanent: Aggregate Output

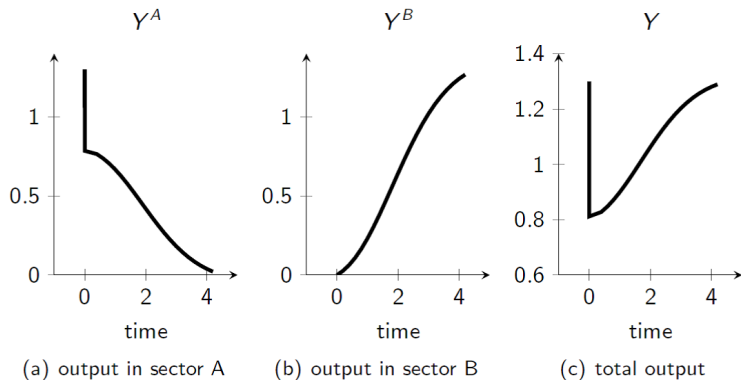
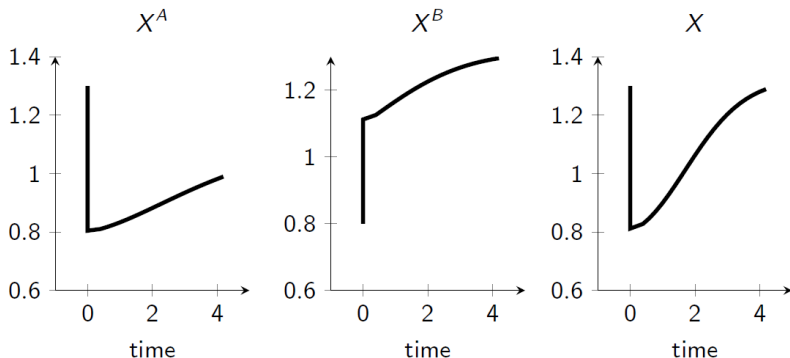


Figure: Response to a sectoral productivity shift, where at $t = 0$, sector B becomes the more productive sector. The economy recovers slowly from a productivity shift even though aggregate potential output is unchanged.

Permanent: Aggregate Productivity



(a) productivity in sector A (b) productivity in sector B (c) total productivity

Figure: Productivity is increasing across *both* sectors.

Permanent: Example:

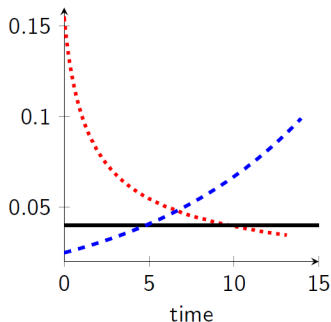
Let $\pi_1(\theta) = c\theta + d$ and $\pi_0(\theta) = \theta$

$$\dot{\chi}_t = \frac{(c-1)\chi_t + d}{\frac{c}{\rho}}$$

$c = 1 \rightarrow \dot{\chi}_t$ is constant over time

$c > 1 \rightarrow \dot{\chi}_t$ is increasing over time

$c < 1 \rightarrow \dot{\chi}_t$ is decreasing over time



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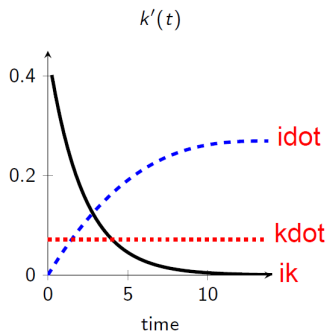
- Under full information we would have type specific prices $P(\theta)$ and all capital instantaneously reallocating.
- Convex adjustment cost model:
 - For simplicity assume capital is homogenous.
 - Specify costs in terms of how capital is reallocated between sectors:

$$c(k, \dot{k}, \ddot{k}) = \begin{cases} c(\dot{k})^2 & ('kdot') \\ c\left(\frac{\dot{k}}{1-k}\right)^2 (1-k) & ('ik') \\ c(\ddot{k})^2 & ('idot')$$

Focus on the planner's problem:

$$\max \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\rho t} (1 - k_t) \pi_0 + k_t \pi_1 - c(k_t)$$

Permanent: Costly Adjustment Cost Dynamics:



Adverse selection can deliver similar dynamics to those of the costly adjustment cost models!!

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- Before we were done but now we must determine $V_1(\theta)$ which is now endogenous.

Transitory: Seller's Problem

Determining $V_1(\theta)$ from χ_t

$$V_1(\theta) = \frac{\rho}{\rho + \lambda} \pi_1(\theta) + \frac{\lambda}{\rho + \lambda} V_0(\theta, \underline{\theta})$$

Also,

$$V_0(\theta, \underline{\theta}) = f(\tau(\theta)) \frac{\pi_0(\theta)}{\rho} + (1 - f(\tau(\theta))) V_1(\theta)$$

$\tau(\theta)$ is the time from that it takes to type θ to trade once the state switches.

$f(\tau(\theta))$ in addition takes into account discounting and the state switching.

- Combining both we get:

$$V_1(\theta) = g(\tau(\theta)) \frac{\pi_0(\theta)}{\rho} + (1 - g(\tau(\theta))) \frac{\pi_1(\theta)}{\rho}$$

Transitory: Characterization:

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$$V_1(\theta) = g(\tau(\theta)) \frac{\pi_0(\theta)}{\rho} + (1 - g(\tau(\theta))) \frac{\pi_1(\theta)}{\rho}$$

- Using the seller's indifference condition we can then obtain:

$$\dot{\chi}_t = \frac{\rho \left(1 - g(t) + \frac{g'(t)}{\rho} \right) (\pi_1(\chi_t) - \pi_0(\chi_t))}{g(t) \pi'_0(\chi_t) + (1 - g(t)) \pi'_1(\chi_t)}$$

which (under mild regularity conditions) has a unique solution.

Theorem

There exists a unique (τ^, V_1^*) such that the strategies consistent with (τ^*, V_1^*) constitute a fully separating equilibrium.*

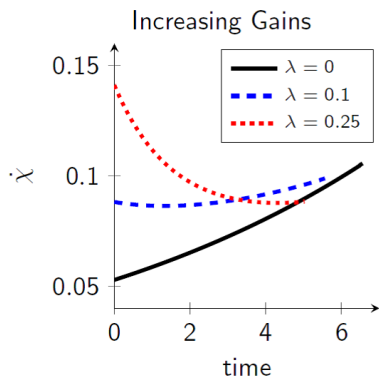
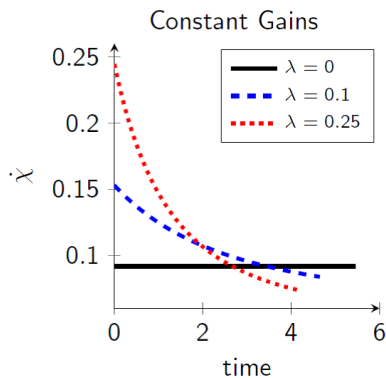
- **Remark:** If other equilibria exist they are basically characterized by a continuous flow of trade, a pause and one atom in which all remaining types trade. If the adverse selection problem is mild enough then the atom would take place at time zero. A sufficient condition to rule such equilibria out is that $\pi_0(\bar{\theta}) = \pi_1(\bar{\theta})$.

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- Not correct!!



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Result

Consider any two symmetric economies Γ_x and Γ_y , which are identical except that $\lambda_x < \lambda_y$. There exists a $\bar{t} > 0$ such that the rate of reallocation is strictly higher in Γ_y than in Γ_x prior to \bar{t} , i.e., $\chi'_y(t) > \chi'_x(t)$ for all $t \in [0, \bar{t}]$.

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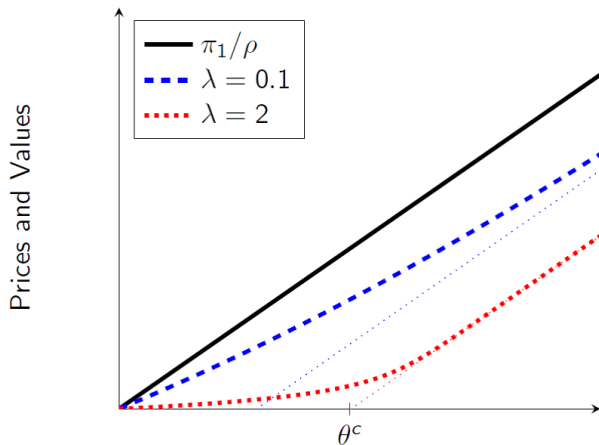
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- Reallocation must "speed up" at the bottom in equilibrium.

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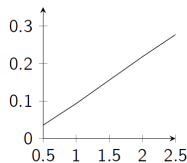
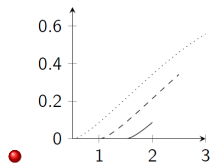
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