

Liquidity and Investment in General Equilibrium

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June 29, 2023

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Liquidity and Investment

Liquidity is important for **asset pricing**

- ▶ Price an **exogenous** dividend stream, a *Lucas tree*
- ▶ E.g., Amihud Mendelson Pedersen (2005)

Liquidity is important for **household behavior**

- ▶ Usually in **partial equilibrium** and/or firms not affected by trading frictions
- ▶ E.g., Kaplan Violante 2014, HANK

This paper:

- ▶ How do **trading frictions** affect firms' **investment** and the aggregate economy?
 - ▶ Why might they matter? Affect **owners'** discount factor

Liquidity and Investment in General Equilibrium

Model

- ▶ Aiyagari production economy with liquid and illiquid assets in general equilibrium
- ▶ **Firms** take into account that ownership shares trade in **frictional asset markets**

Results

1. **Theory:** The problem of the firm is **time inconsistent**
 - ▶ The discount factor of firms is as if firms have **quasi-hyperbolic discounting**
 - ▶ Result from frictions in financial markets
 - ▶ Present-bias is the empirically relevant case
2. **Quantitative:** **Trading frictions and aggregate distortions**
 - ▶ **With commitment:** Capital does not change with trading frictions
 - ▶ **Without commitment:** Lower capital with larger trading frictions
3. **Data:** Rationalize facts on the **cross-section of liquidity and investment**

Model

Model

Aiyagari production economy with liquid and illiquid assets

Households

- ▶ Idiosyncratic labor risk h
- ▶ Incomplete markets:
 - ▶ Liquid bond b , borrowing limit $b \geq \underline{b}$
 - ▶ Illiquid stock θ , transaction costs \mathcal{T}

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Firms

- ▶ DRS technology $y = (h^\gamma k^{1-\gamma})^\psi$
- ▶ Capital accumulation $k_{t+1} = i_t + (1 - \delta)k_t$ \longleftarrow firms solve a **dynamic problem**

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 - ▶ Capital accumulation $k_{t+1} = i_t + (1 - \delta)k_t$
 - ▶ Owners: Households, with illiquid stock shares $\tilde{\theta}$
- firms solve a **dynamic** problem
-

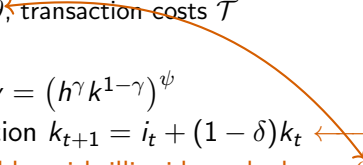
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- 

Stationary Equilibrium

- ▶ Interest rate r , stock price q , and wage w such that markets clear:

$$\mathbb{E}[b] = 0 \quad \mathbb{E}[\theta] = 1 \quad \mathbb{E}[h] = H$$

Household Problem

$$V(\theta, b, h) = \max_{c, b', \Delta^+, \Delta^-} u(c) + \beta \mathbb{E} [V(\theta', b', h')]$$

subject to

$$c + b' + q\Delta^+ \leq wh + b(1+r) + d\theta + q(\Delta^- - \mathcal{T}(\Delta^-))$$

$$\theta' = \theta + \Delta^+ - \Delta^-$$

$$\Delta^- \leq \theta \leftarrow \text{short-selling constraint}$$

$$b' \geq \underline{b} \leftarrow \text{borrowing constraint}$$

$$\mathcal{T}(\Delta^-) = \frac{\phi}{2} (\Delta^-)^2 \leftarrow \text{Transaction costs for sellers (e.g., Heaton Lucas 96)}$$

$$\Delta^+, \Delta^- \geq 0$$

Owners Valuation

- Let $\tilde{q}(\theta, b, h)$ be owners's valuation in units of the consumption good

$$\tilde{q}(\theta, b, h) = \frac{V_{\theta}(\theta, b, h)}{u'(c)}$$

where V_{θ} is the marginal valuation of stocks.

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- ▶ Owners valuation is

$$\tilde{q}(\theta, b, h) = d + (1 - \phi \Delta^{-}(\theta, b, h)) q$$

- ▶ Buyers, $\Delta^{-} = 0$: agree the value of the firm is $\tilde{q}(\theta, b, h) = d + q$
 - ▶ Sellers: Heterogeneous valuations, depend on marginal transaction cost $\phi \Delta^{-}$
- Disagreement among owners on the valuation of the firm

Firm's Objective

Assumption 1: Firm maximizes owners' valuation weighted by ownership shares.

$$\int_{\theta, b, h} \theta \underbrace{\left[d + (1 - \phi \Delta^-(\theta, b, h)) q \right]}_{\text{owners' valuation}} d\Gamma(\theta, b, h)$$

In spirit of Grossman Hart 1979 (paper also considers Dreze 1974 and DeMarzo 1993).

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Define $\bar{\Phi}$ as the weighted average marginal transaction cost

$$\bar{\Phi} \equiv \phi \int_{\theta, b, h} \theta \Delta^-(\theta, b, h) d\Gamma(\theta, b, h)$$

The firm maximizes

$$d + (1 - \bar{\Phi}) q$$

The Frictionless Case $\phi = 0$

- ▶ The firm's objective is to maximize $d + q$
 - ▶ The price is equal to $q = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{1+r} \right)^t d_t$
 - ▶ Standard time-consistent problem
 - ▶ Maximize the NPV of dividends, discounted at the risk-free rate
- ▷ Three-period model \implies analytical characterization of time inconsistency

Euler Equation

$$(1 - \phi \Delta_t^-) q_t = E_t \left[\beta \frac{u'(c_{t+1})}{u'(c_t)} \right] (d_{t+1} + (1 - \Phi_t) q_{t+1}) + \eta_t$$

where η_t is the Lagrange multiplier on $\Delta^- \leq \theta$ and

$$\Phi_t \equiv E_t [\phi \Delta_{t+1}^-] + \phi \frac{\text{cov}_t (u'(c_{t+1}), \Delta_{t+1}^-)}{E_t [u'(c_{t+1})]}$$

Φ captures liquidity frictions:

1. Expected marginal transaction costs: $\phi \Delta_{t+1}^- \rightarrow$ lower asset prices
2. Positive covariance if sell in bad times \rightarrow further depress asset prices

Buyers

- ▶ Focus on unconstrained buyers: $\Delta_t^- = 0$, $\Delta_t^+ > 0$, $b_{t+1} > \underline{b}$
- ▶ Bonds' Euler equation: $E_t \left[\beta \frac{u'(c_{t+1})}{u'(c_t)} \right] = \frac{1}{1+r_t}$

Buyers

- ▶ Focus on unconstrained buyers: $\Delta_t^- = 0$, $\Delta_t^+ > 0$, $b_{t+1} > \underline{b}$
- ▶ Bonds' Euler equation: $E_t \left[\beta \frac{u'(c_{t+1})}{u'(c_t)} \right] = \frac{1}{1+r_t}$
- ▶ Asset price:

$$q_t = \frac{d_{t+1} + (1 - \Phi) q_{t+1}}{1 + r}$$

- ▶ **Liquidity premium**
 - ▶ Define the yield of the stock as $1 + r^\theta \equiv \frac{d_{t+1} + q_{t+1}}{q_t}$
 - ▶ The **liquidity premium** is $r^\theta - r = \Phi$

Assumption 2: The firm takes $\bar{\Phi}$ and Φ as given.

Firm's Problem

$$V^F(k_t) = \max_{\{k_{t+s}\}_{s \geq 1}} d_t + (1 - \bar{\Phi})q_t$$

subject to

$$q_t = \frac{d_{t+1} + (1 - \Phi)q_{t+1}}{1 + r}$$

where $d_t = F(k_t, k_{t+1}) - zk_t^\alpha - (1 - \delta)k_t = k_{t+1} - k_t$

▷ static labor choice

Quasi-hyperbolic Discounting and Time Consistency

Quasi-Hyperbolic Discounting

The firm's problem is

$$V^F(k_t) = \max_{\{k_{t+s}\}_{s \geq 1}} F(k_t, k_{t+1}) + \tilde{\beta} \sum_{s=1}^{\infty} \tilde{\delta}^s F(k_{t+s}, k_{t+s+1})$$

where

$$\tilde{\delta} = \frac{1 - \Phi}{1 + r} \quad \tilde{\beta} = \frac{1 - \bar{\Phi}}{1 - \Phi}$$

- ▶ Quasi-hyperbolic discounting iff $\Phi \neq \bar{\Phi}$
- ▶ Present bias ($\tilde{\beta} < 1$) iff $\bar{\Phi} > \Phi$

Direction and Magnitude of Bias Depends on Φ vs $\bar{\Phi}$

Proposition: The difference $\Phi - \bar{\Phi}$ is equal to **persistence** and **risk premium** effects:

$$\Phi - \bar{\Phi} = \underbrace{\phi \left(\tilde{\mathbb{E}} \left[\mathbb{E}_t \left[\Delta_{t+1}^- \right] \middle| \text{buyer} \right] - \tilde{\mathbb{E}} \left[\mathbb{E}_t \left[\Delta_{t+1}^- \right] \right] \right)}_{\text{persistence effect}} + \underbrace{\phi \tilde{\mathbb{E}} \left[\frac{\text{cov}_t \left(u' \left(c_{t+1} \right), \Delta_{t+1}^- \right)}{\mathbb{E}_t \left[u' \left(c_{t+1} \right) \right]} \middle| \text{buyer} \right]}_{\text{risk premium}}$$

$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}$ is the cross-sectional expectation, weighted by stock shares θ'

No transaction costs: If $\phi = 0$ then $\Phi = \bar{\Phi} = 0$, so $\tilde{\beta} = 1$, time consistent problem.

Intuition: Persistence and Risk Premium Effects

Persistence effect:

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}} \left[\mathbb{E}_t \left[\Delta_{t+1}^- \right] \middle| \text{buyer} \right] - \tilde{\mathbb{E}} \left[\mathbb{E}_t \left[\Delta_{t+1}^- \right] \right]$$

- ▶ Difference on transaction costs for buyers and owners
- ▶ Expected transaction costs are smaller for buyers than owners \rightarrow negative term

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Risk premium:

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}} \left[\frac{\text{cov}_t \left(u' \left(c_{t+1} \right), \Delta_{t+1}^- \right)}{\mathbb{E}_t \left[u' \left(c_{t+1} \right) \right]} \middle| \text{buyer} \right]$$

- ▶ If sell in bad times \rightarrow positive covariance
- ▶ Quantitatively the persistence effect dominates, $\bar{\Phi} > \Phi$, so $\tilde{\beta} < 1$
- ▶ The problem is **time inconsistent** and the firm has **present bias**

Solution With and Without Commitment

Solution With and Without Commitment

With commitment

$$\max_{\{k_{t+s}\}_{s \geq 1}} F(k_t, k_{t+1}) + \tilde{\beta} \sum_{s=1}^{\infty} \tilde{\delta}^s F(k_{t+s}, k_{t+s+1})$$

Steady state capital is

$$k^C = \left(\frac{(1-\gamma)\psi\tilde{\delta}}{1-\tilde{\delta}(1-\delta)} H^{\gamma\psi} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-(1-\gamma)\psi}}$$

Solution With and Without Commitment

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Without commitment

► Markov Perfect Equilibrium

$$\max_{k'} F(k, k') + \tilde{\beta}\tilde{\delta}W(k')$$

$$W(k') = F(k', g(k')) + \tilde{\delta}W(g(k'))$$

$$k^N = \left(\frac{(1-\gamma)\psi\tilde{\beta}\tilde{\delta}}{1-\tilde{\beta}\tilde{\delta}(1-\delta)} H^{\gamma\psi} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-(1-\gamma)\psi}}$$

Incomplete Markets, Transaction Costs, and Commitment

1. Complete Markets

- ▶ $\beta(1+r) = 1$, firms discount at rate $\frac{1}{1+r} = \beta$

2. Aiyagari 94: Incomplete markets without transactions costs

- ▶ $\tilde{\beta} = 1$, no problems of commitment
- ▶ Firms discount at rate $\frac{1}{1+r}$
- ▶ Precautionary savings: $\beta(1+r) < 1$, *more capital* than in complete markets

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3. Transactions costs, with commitment

- ▶ Firms discount at rate $\tilde{\delta} = \frac{1-\phi}{1+r}$
- ▶ $\phi \rightarrow$ more discounting, *less capital* than in Aiyagari 94

Incomplete Markets, Transaction Costs, and Commitment

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3. Transactions costs, with commitment

- ▶ Firms discount at rate $\tilde{\delta} = \frac{1-\phi}{1+r}$
- ▶ $\phi \rightarrow$ more discounting, **less capital** than in Aiyagari 94

4. Transactions costs, without commitment

- ▶ Firms discount at rate $\tilde{\beta}\tilde{\delta}$, **present bias** $\tilde{\beta} < 1$
- ▶ **Less capital than with commitment:** $k^n < k^c$

Caveat: For 3. and 4., in GE, r and ϕ also change \rightarrow quantitative evaluation

Quantitative Evaluation

Calibration

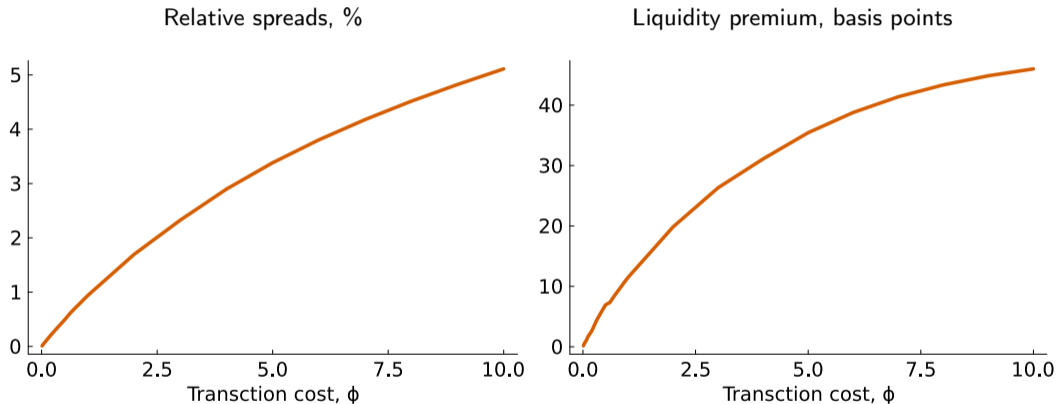
Three sets of parameters:

1. Standard or from the literature
2. Income process: assume **conservative** values, do robustness exercises
3. Transaction costs: look at the **data**, consider different values of ϕ **▷ data**

Parameter	Value	Source
Discount factor β	0.95	Standard
Risk aversion σ	2.00	Standard
Depreciation δ	0.05	Standard
Production weight on labor γ	0.80	Gavazza et al. (2018)
Returns to scale ψ	0.95	Gavazza et al. (2018)
Borrowing limit \underline{b}	1.00	Kaplan et al. (2018)
Labor persistence ρ_h	0.50	Conservative, robustness exercises
Labor st dev σ_h	0.03	Conservative, robustness exercises
Transaction cost ϕ	4.00	Data

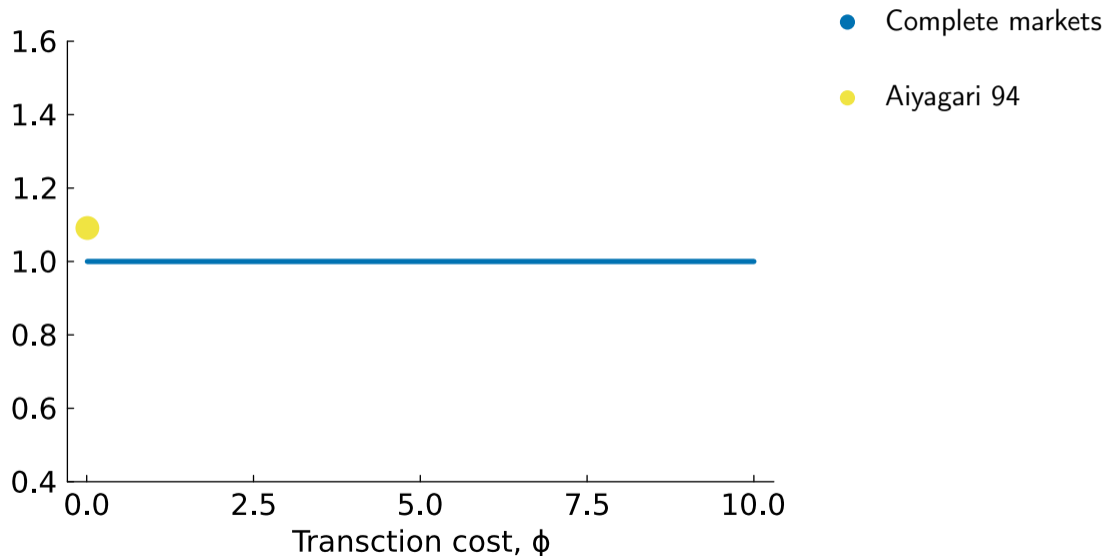
▷ **Non-targeted moments**

Calibration of transaction costs

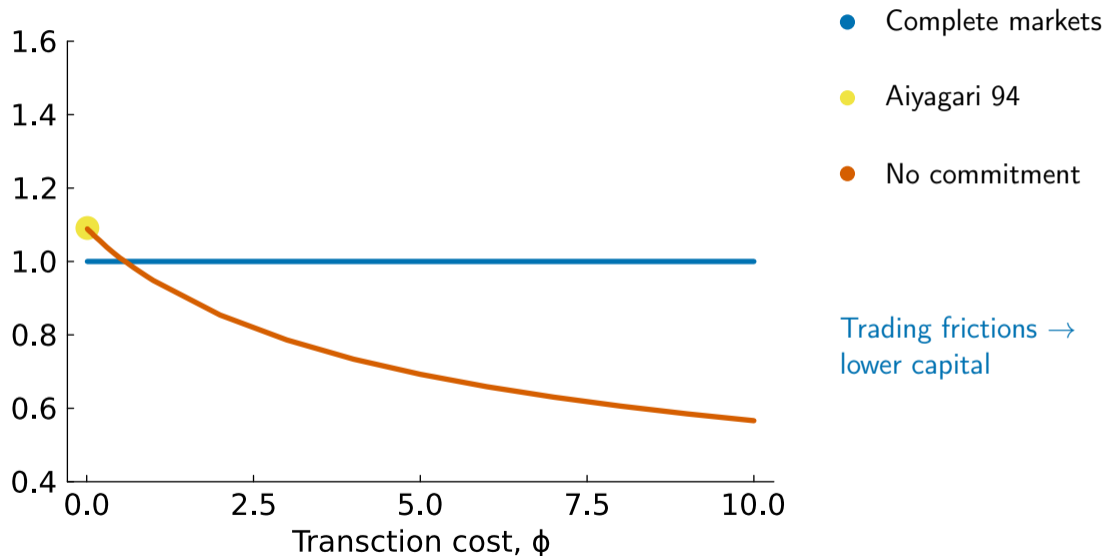


- ▶ Benchmark calibration: $\phi = 4.0$
- ▶ Relative spread of 2.8%, consistent with data
- ▶ Liquidity premium of 31 basis points

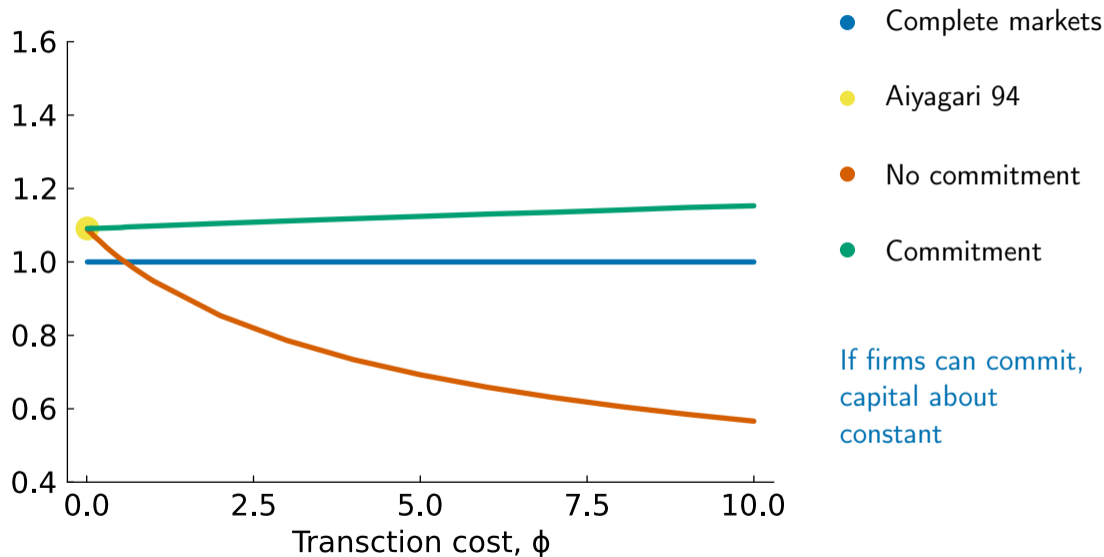
Capital, relative to complete markets



Capital, relative to complete markets



Capital, relative to complete markets



Transmission of Trading Frictions to Investment Depends on Commitment

With commitment

- ▶ Trading frictions depress asset prices \rightarrow lower level of capital
- ▶ Higher precautionary motive for saving \rightarrow larger level of capital
- ▶ Quantitatively similar, capital does not change significantly

Transmission of Trading Frictions to Investment Depends on Commitment

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Without commitment

- ▶ Present bias: strong force towards more discounting and lower capital

▷ How does the model work?

- ▶ Corporate Bonds
- ▶ Liquidity & Investment in the Cross-Section
- ▶ Demand of Liquidity: Increase idiosyncratic Volatility
- ▶ Liquidity & Investment over the Business Cycle
- ▶ Supply of Liquidity & Government Bonds
- ▶ Short-termism

Conclusions

- ▶ Aiyagari production economy, with liquid and illiquid assets in general equilibrium
- ▶ The problem of the firm is **time inconsistent**
 - ▶ Result from frictions in financial markets
 - ▶ The discount factor of firms is as if they have **quasi-hyperbolic discounting**
- ▶ Aggregate distortions due to trading frictions depend on commitment
- ▶ Rationalize **empirical regularities** on liquidity and investment

Appendix

Related Literature

- ▶ **Incomplete markets & firm insurance:** Diamond (1967), Dreze (1974), **Grossman Hart (1979)**, Aiyagari Gertler (1991), Heaton Lucas (1996), Magill Quinzii (1996), Espino Kozlowski Sanchez (2018)
New: Trading frictions and/or GE
- ▶ **Illiquid assets & macro:** Kaplan Violante (2014), Cui Radde (2019), Jeenas Lagos (2020)
New: Dynamic firm's problem with liquidity frictions
- ▶ **Hyperbolic discounting:** Krusell Smith (2003), Azzimonti (2011), Amador (2012), Cao Werning (2018)
New: Hyperbolic discounting as a result
- ▶ **Short-termism:** Graham Harvey Rajgopal (2005), Terry (2022)
New: Don't need additional constraints

Time Inconsistency in a Three-Period Model

Three-Period Model

Simplified model to show the **time-consistency problem**

- ▶ Three periods: $t \in \{0, 1, 2\}$
- ▶ No income risk, two type of households with income $\{H, L, H\}$ and $\{L, H, L\}$
- ▶ No bonds

Three-period Model: Euler Equations & Firm's Value

Euler equations:

$$\left(1 - \phi \Delta_0^{j-}\right) q_0 = \beta \frac{u' \left(c_1^j \right)}{u' \left(c_0^j \right)} d_1 + \beta \frac{u' \left(c_1^j \right)}{u' \left(c_0^j \right)} \left(1 - \phi \Delta_1^{j-}\right) q_1$$

$$\left(1 - \phi \Delta_1^{j-}\right) q_1 = \beta \frac{u' \left(c_2^j \right)}{u' \left(c_1^j \right)} d_2$$

Three-period Model: Euler Equations & Firm's Value

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Firm's value:

$$\sum_{j \in \{l, h\}} \frac{\theta_0^j}{2} \left[d_0 + (1 - \phi \Delta_0^{j-}) q_0 \right]$$
$$\sum_j \frac{\theta_0^j}{2} \left[d_0 + \beta \frac{u' \left(c_1^j \right)}{u' \left(c_0^j \right)} d_1 + \beta^2 \frac{u' \left(c_2^j \right)}{u' \left(c_0^j \right)} d_2 \right]$$

Time Consistency in the Three-Period Model

Problem in period 0

$$\max_{k_1, k_2 \geq 0} \sum_j \frac{\theta_0^j}{2} \left[d_0 + \beta \frac{u'(c_1^j)}{u'(c_0^j)} d_1 + \beta^2 \frac{u'(c_2^j)}{u'(c_0^j)} d_2 \right]$$

Problem in period 1

$$\max_{k_2 \geq 0} \sum_j \frac{\theta_1^j}{2} \left[d_1 + \beta \frac{u'(c_2^j)}{u'(c_1^j)} d_2 \right]$$

Time Consistency in the Three-Period Model

Problem in period 0

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Problem in period 1

$$\max_{k_2 \geq 0} \sum_j \frac{\theta_1^j}{2} \left[d_1 + \beta \frac{u'(c_2^j)}{u'(c_1^j)} d_2 \right]$$

The problem is time consistent iff the discounting between period 1 and 2 coincides

$$\frac{\sum_j \frac{\theta_0^j}{2} \beta^2 \frac{u'(c_2^j)}{u'(c_0^j)}}{\sum_j \frac{\theta_0^j}{2} \beta \frac{u'(c_1^j)}{u'(c_0^j)}} = \sum_j \frac{\theta_1^j}{2} \beta \frac{u'(c_2^j)}{u'(c_1^j)}$$

Three-Period Model, Frictionless Case $\phi = 0$

The Euler equation implies equalization of marginal rates of substitution across agents:

$$\frac{q_t}{d_{t+1} + q_{t+1}} = \beta \frac{u'(c_{t+1}^j)}{u'(c_t^j)}$$

Hence

$$\frac{\sum_j \frac{\theta_0^j}{2} \beta^2 \frac{u'(c_2^j)}{u'(c_0^j)}}{\underbrace{\sum_j \frac{\theta_0^j}{2} \beta \frac{u'(c_1^j)}{u'(c_0^j)}}_{t=0 \text{ discount between } t=1 \text{ and } t=2}} =$$

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- The problem is time consistent when $\phi = 0$!

Three-periods Model With Trading Frictions, $\phi > 0$

With transaction costs:

$$\frac{\sum_j \frac{\theta_0^j}{2} \beta^2 \frac{u'(c_2^j)}{u'(c_0^j)}}{\sum_j \frac{\theta_0^j}{2} \beta \frac{u'(c_1^j)}{u'(c_0^j)}} \neq \sum_j \frac{\theta_1^j}{2} \beta \frac{u'(c_2^j)}{u'(c_1^j)}$$

- ▶ The intertemporal marginal rates of substitution are **not** equalized across agents
- ▶ The problem is time inconsistent

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Firm: Static labor choice

- ▶ Static labor choice

$$\max_l (r^\gamma k^{1-\gamma})^\psi - wl$$

with labor demand $l = \psi\gamma \frac{y}{w}$

- ▶ In equilibrium $w = \psi\gamma k^{(1-\gamma)\psi}$
- ▶ Dividends are

$$d_t = F(k_t, k_{t+1}) = zk_t^\alpha + (1 - \delta)k_t - k_{t+1}$$

where $z = (1 - \gamma\psi) \left(\frac{\gamma\psi}{w}\right)^{\frac{\gamma\psi}{1-\gamma\psi}}$ and $\alpha = \frac{(1-\gamma)\psi}{1-\gamma\psi}$

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Government Bonds

- ▶ Introduce government bonds
- ▶ Lump-sum taxes to pay for the debt services
- ▶ Bonds market clearing

$$\int b'(\theta, b, h) d\Gamma(\theta, b, h) = B^g$$

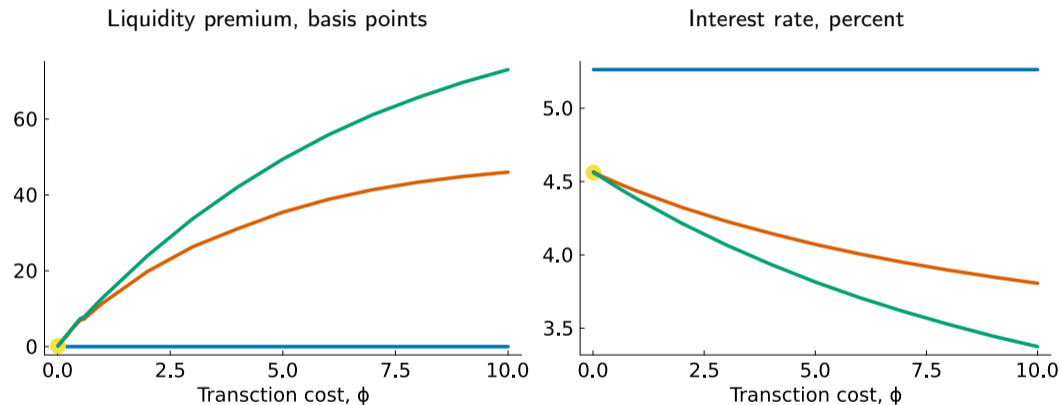
- ▶ As B^g increases: more liquid assets

Public vs Private Firms

- ▶ Asker et al. (2015) finds that public firms invest substantially less than private firms.
- ▶ We add private firms to the benchmark equilibrium. Private firms are owned by only one household and are not traded in financial markets.
- ▶ The investment decisions of private firms are independent of ϕ , while investment in public firms decreases with the transaction cost.
- ▶ For most values of ϕ private firms invest more than public firms, consistent with the empirical evidence.

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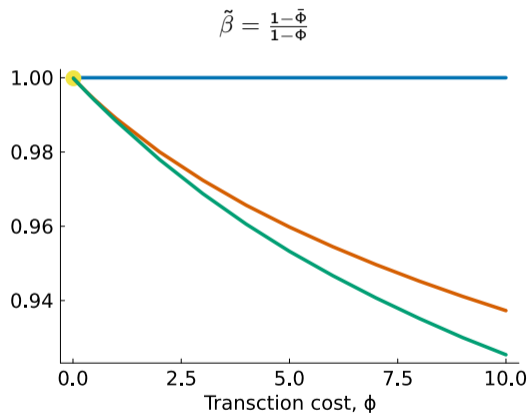
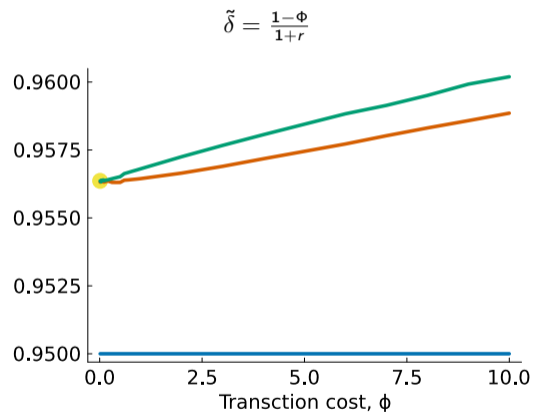
Commitment: Constant discounting



- ▶ Higher $\phi \rightarrow$ bonds *better* than stocks \rightarrow higher liquidity premium & lower r
- ▶ Capital with commitment about constant, recall $\tilde{\delta} = \frac{1-\phi}{1+r}$

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Lack of commitment: Quasi-Hyperbolic Discounting with Present Bias



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Data: Relative Spreads

- ▶ Daily data on ordinary shares traded in NYSE (CRSP). Relative spreads:

$$RS_{i,t} = \frac{A_{i,t} - B_{i,t}}{0.5(A_{i,t} + B_{i,t})}$$

- ▶ 2000Q1 to 2022Q1 (average of daily data), 3k firms, 124k firm-quarter obs

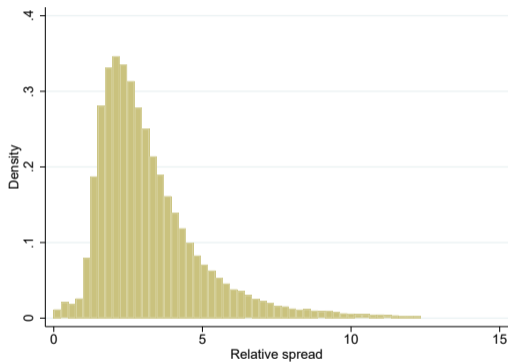
	Relative Spreads, %				
	Mean	St. dev.	p10	p50	p90
2000Q1-2022Q1	3.37	2.35	1.54	2.79	5.72
2000Q1-2006Q1	3.23	2.28	1.57	2.77	5.23
2010Q1-2019Q4	2.93	1.71	1.47	2.52	4.8

Data: Relative Spreads, Weighted by Market Capitalization

	Relative Spreads, %				
	Mean	St. dev.	p10	p50	p90
2000Q1-2022Q1	2.31	1.26	1.24	1.98	3.78
2000Q1-2006Q1	2.64	1.27	1.39	2.35	4.23
2010Q1-2019Q4	1.88	0.8	1.15	1.69	2.84

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Relative Spreads



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Non targeted moments

	Model	Data
Var log consumption / var log income	0.2	0.3
Mean illiquid assets to GDP	3.7	2.9
Mean liquid assets ($b > 0$) to GDP	0.2	0.6
Share with $b < 0$	0.5	0.2

Consumption and income data from Krueger and Perri (2006).
Asset data from SCF 2004 (see Kaplan et al., 2018).

Consistent with non-targeted moments despite being an stylized model without many quantitative add-ons.

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Generalized Weights

$$\int_{\theta, b, h} w(\theta, b, h) [d_t + (1 - \phi \Delta_t^-(\theta, b, h)) q_t] d\Gamma_t(\theta, b, h)$$

- ▶ Current shareholder weighting (Grossman Hart 1979) is given by $w(\theta, b, h) = \theta$
- ▶ Future shareholder weighting (Dreze 1974)) is given by $w(\theta, b, h) = \Theta_{t+1}(\theta, b, h)$
- ▶ For the median owner (DeMarzo 1993) consider the median m satisfying

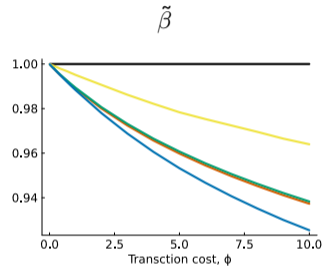
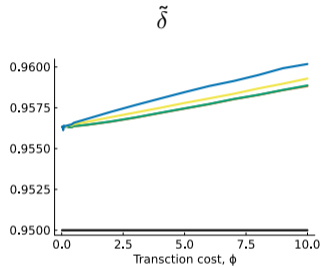
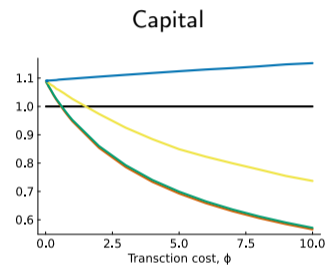
$$\sum_h \int_{\theta} \int_b 1_{\{\Delta_t^-(\theta, b, h) \leq m\}} \theta d\Gamma_t(\theta, b, h) = \frac{1}{2}$$

and let

$$w(\theta, b, h) = \begin{cases} k & \text{if } \Delta_t^-(\theta, b, h) = m \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where $k > 0$ is chosen so that weights integrate to one.

Generalized Weights



— Complete markets
— Future owners

— Commitment
— Median owner

— Current owners

Corporate Bonds

Firms can borrow at interest rate $1 + r^{cb} = \frac{1+r}{1-\tilde{\phi}}$ up to a limit

- ▶ If $\tilde{\phi} < \Phi$ the firm always borrows to the limit independently of its commitment.
- ▶ If $\Phi < \tilde{\phi} < \bar{\Phi}$ only the firm **without commitment** borrows up to the limit.

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Implications:

- ▶ Can alter financing but not investment and the time-inconsistency problem.
- ▶ Firms borrow even if bonds are more illiquid than stocks due to present bias.
- ▶ Rationalize corporate debt that does not rely on the tax advantage of debt.

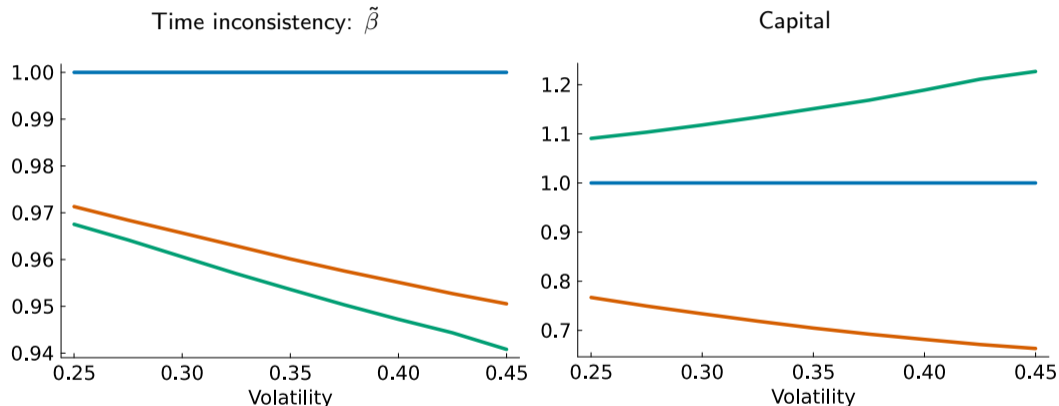
Liquidity & Investment in the Cross-Section

- ▶ **Data:** Liquid firms invest more than illiquid ones in the cross-section of US public firms (Amihud and Levi, 2022).
- ▶ **Model:** extension with two type of firms, liquid and illiquid ones.

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- ▶ **Model:** extension with two type of firms, liquid and illiquid ones.
- ▶ The liquid firm discounts at rate $\frac{1}{1+r}$ with standard exponential discounting.
- ▶ The discount factor of illiquid firms is $\frac{1-\bar{\Phi}}{1+r}$.
- ▶ Liquid firms invest more than illiquid ones, consistent with the data.

Demand of Liquidity: Increase idiosyncratic Volatility



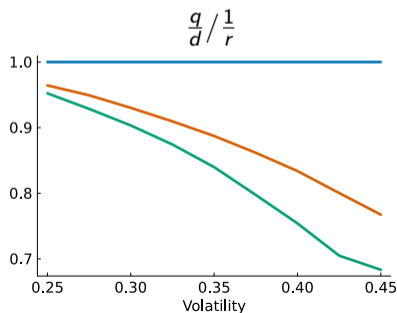
- ▶ **With commitment:** more precautionary savings \rightarrow more capital
- ▶ **Without commitment:** more time inconsistency \rightarrow less capital

Liquidity & Investment over the Business Cycle

- ▶ **Data:** During recessions markets become less liquid and there is a “flight to liquidity”: shift towards more liquid assets (NAES et al. 2011).
- ▶ **Model:**
 - ▶ Illiquid price-dividend ratio: $q/d = (r + \Phi)^{-1}$
 - ▶ Liquid price-dividend ratio: $1/r$
 - ▶ Illiquid-to-liquid ratio of the price-dividend ratios: $(1 + \frac{\Phi}{r})^{-1}$

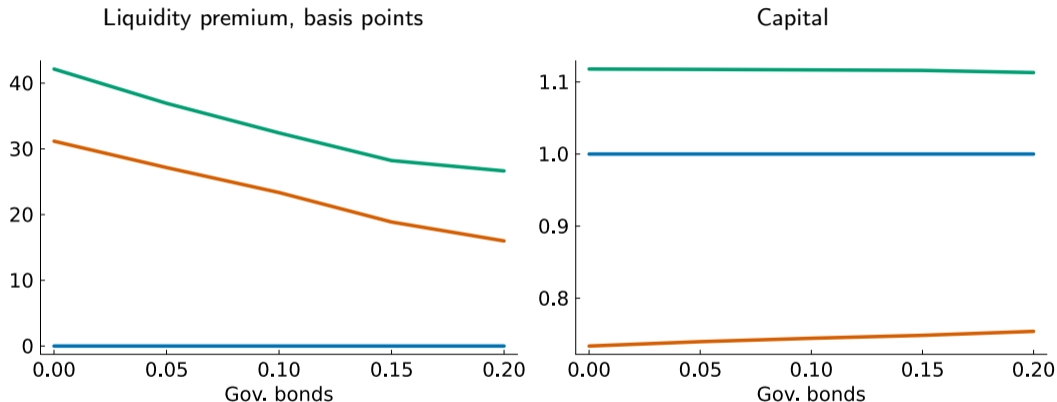
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The illiquid-to-liquid ratio of the price-dividend ratios decreases with volatility \rightarrow *flight to liquidity*

Supply of Liquidity & Government Bonds



Capital closer to complete markets

- ▶ **With commitment:** less precautionary savings → less capital
- ▶ **Without commitment:** less time inconsistency → more capital

Short-termism

Evidence on short-termism:

- ▶ An excessive focus on short-term results at the expense of long-term interests (Graham et al. 2005, Terry 2022, Fink 2015)
- ▶ Public firms distort their investment to meet short-term targets (Graham et al., 2005).

Model: Short-termism as a result of (i) trading frictions, and (ii) lack of commitment.

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