

AGGREGATE RISK

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ARE ECONOMIC FLUCTUATIONS IMPORTANT?

Lucas (1987, 2003):

- Macroeconomists spend a lot of time thinking about policies to dampen business cycles (i.e., stabilization policies)
- But how important in terms of welfare are such policies
- Upper bound: Welfare gains from eliminating all economic fluctuations
- What are the welfare gains from eliminating all economic fluctuations?

WELFARE LOSSES FROM ECONOMIC FLUCTUATIONS

- Assumes consumer's consumption stream is trend-stationary:

$$c_t = Ae^{\mu t} e^{-(1/2)\sigma^2} \epsilon_t$$

with $\log(\epsilon_t) \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$

- This implies:

$$E(e^{-(1/2)\sigma^2} \epsilon_t) = 1$$

$$E(c_t) = Ae^{\mu t}$$

WELFARE LOSSES FROM ECONOMIC FLUCTUATIONS

- Consumer's utility function

$$E \left\{ \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t \frac{c_t^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} \right\}$$

- β is subjective discount factor
- γ coefficient of risk aversion

WELFARE LOSSES FROM ECONOMIC FLUCTUATIONS

- Thought experiment: How much would welfare increase if we could magically eliminate all consumption variation around trend (best case scenario for stabilization policy!)
- Represent this as a consumption equivalent gain λ :

$$E \left\{ \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t \frac{((1 + \lambda)c_t)^{1-\gamma}}{1 - \gamma} \right\} = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t \frac{(Ae^{\mu t})^{1-\gamma}}{1 - \gamma}$$

- Answer:

$$\lambda \simeq \frac{1}{2} \gamma \sigma^2$$

WELFARE LOSSES FROM ECONOMIC FLUCTUATIONS

$$\lambda \simeq \frac{1}{2}\gamma\sigma^2$$

- For 1947-2001, the standard deviation of the log of U.S. real, per capita consumption about a linear trend: 0.032.
- Reasonable values of γ between 1 and 4

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{2}(0.032)^2 = 0.0005$$

- Even including the Great Depression and Great Recession (1920-2009) and setting $\gamma = 4$:

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{2}4(0.063)^2 = 0.008$$

WELFARE LOSSES FROM ECONOMIC FLUCTUATIONS

- Conclusion: Welfare gains from stabilization policy are trivial.
- Macroeconomics as originally conceived has succeeded.
- Is this convincing?

WELFARE LOSSES FROM ECONOMIC FLUCTUATIONS

- Conclusion: Welfare gains from stabilization policy are trivial.
- Macroeconomics as originally conceived has succeeded.
- Is this convincing?
- Model used to reach this conclusion may be wrong
 - Output/Consumption may not be trend stationary
 - Representative consumer view may understate seriousness of recessions
- Model Lucas uses does not fit the equity premium!!
Can it be taken seriously for thinking about the costs of risk??

EQUITY PREMIUM PUZZLE

- In a simple endowment economy (Mehra-Prescott 85):

$$\log E_t R_{C,t+1} - \log R_{f,t} = \gamma \text{var}_t(\log \Delta C_{t+1})$$

- Equity Premium Puzzle:

$$\log E_t R_{e,t+1} - \log R_{f,t} \approx 0.07$$

$$\text{var}_t(\log \Delta C_{t+1}) \approx 0.03^2 = 0.0009$$

(Arguably equity is a leveraged claim to consumption. See, e.g., Barro 06)

RESOLUTIONS OF THE EQUITY PREMIUM PUZZLE

- Different preferences: Habits (Campbell and Cochrane, 1999)
- Incomplete markets / heterogeneous agents
(Constantinides and Duffie, 1996; Constantinides and Ghosh, 2017)
- Different consumption process
 - Is trend-stationary consumption process assumed by Lucas or random-walk consumption process assumed in textbook equity premium calculations a good model of consumption growth?
 - Do they accurately capture aggregate risks?
 - What is missing?

How to Model Consumption Dynamics?

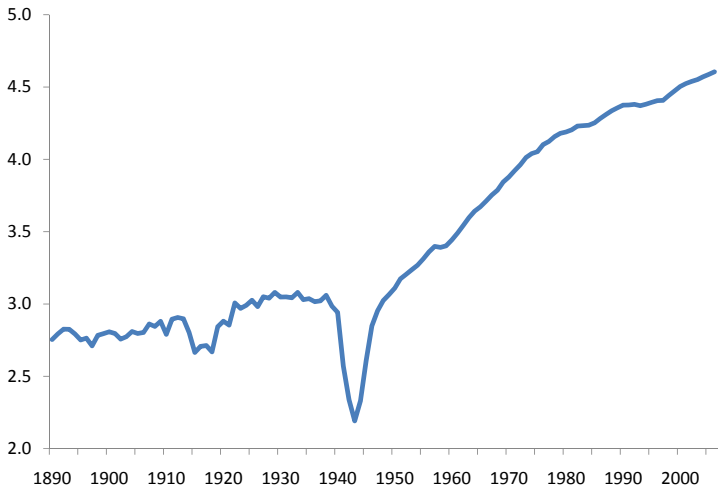


Figure: Log Consumption for France

How to Model Consumption Dynamics?

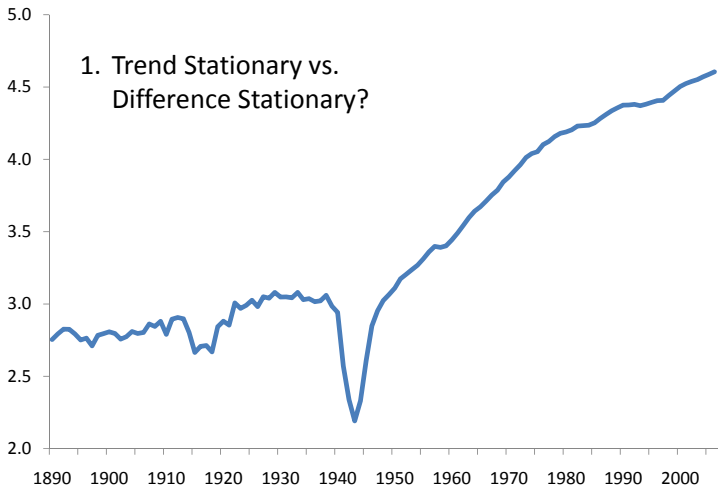


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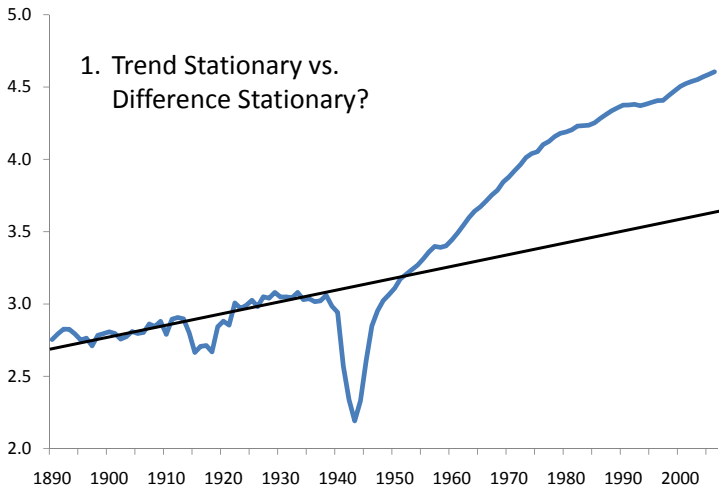


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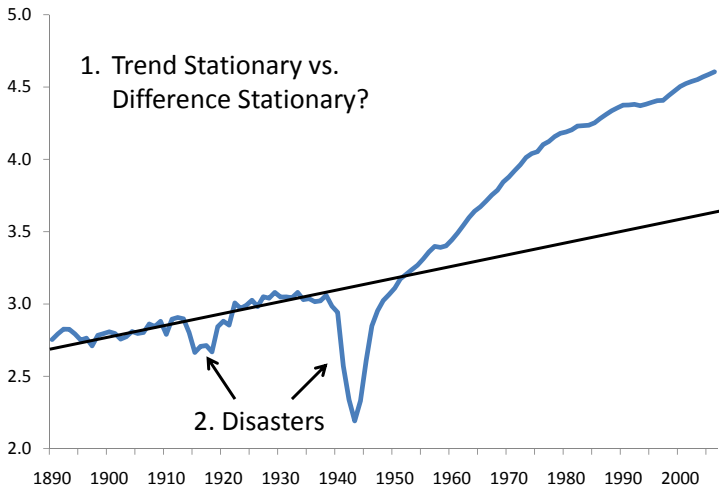


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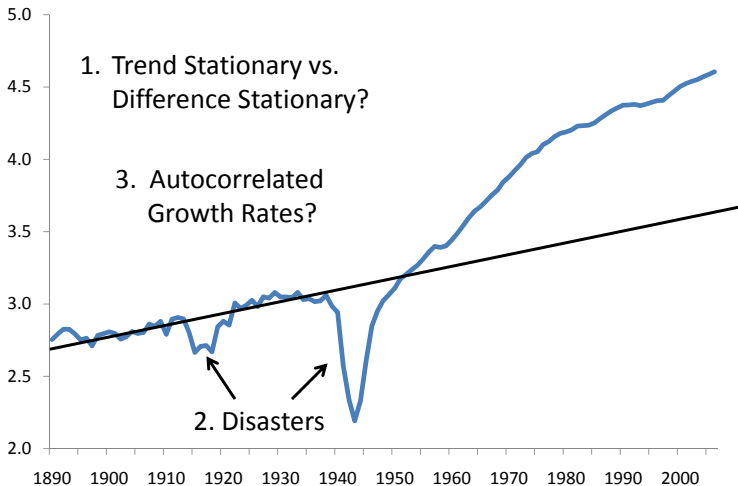


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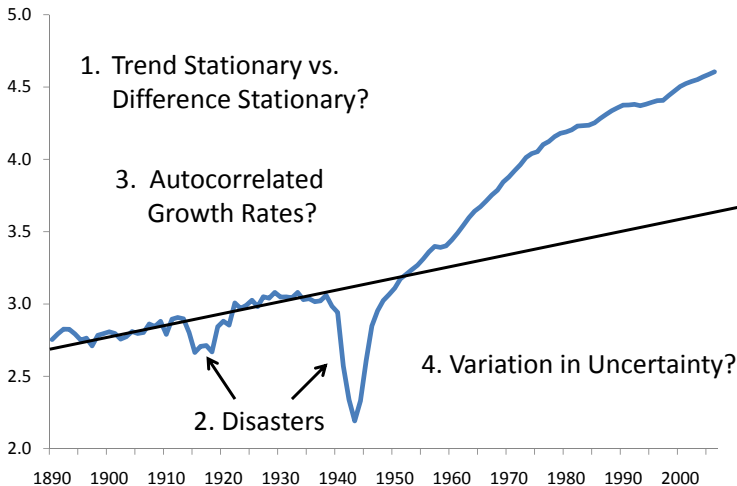


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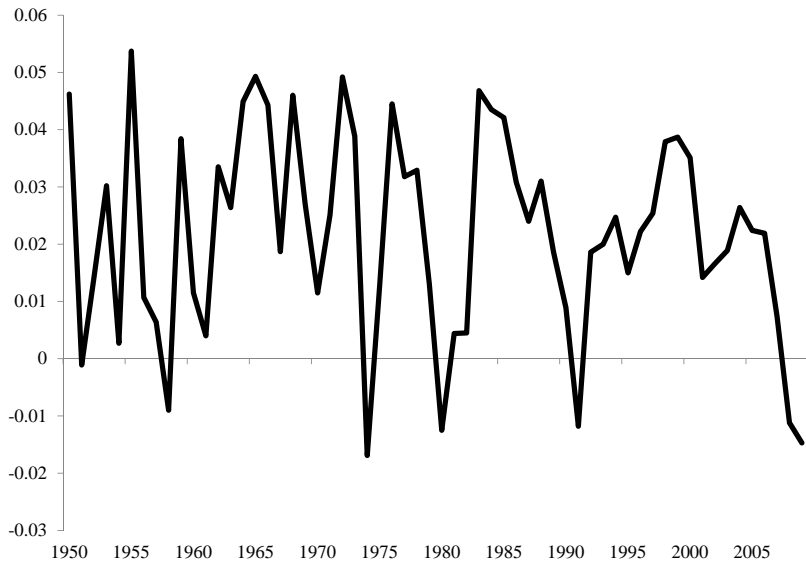


FIGURE
Growth in U.S. per Capita Consumption

Source: Barro and Ursua (2008)

IS GDP/CONSUMPTION A RANDOM WALK?

- Textbook asset pricing model:

$$\log C_{t+1} = \mu + \log C_t + \epsilon_{t+1}$$

- What does this imply about $\partial \log C_{t+j} / \partial \epsilon_{t+1}$ as $j \rightarrow \infty$?

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 - $\partial \log C_{t+j} / \partial \epsilon_{t+1} = 1$ for all j ?
 - I.e., shocks have permanent effects on GDP

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 - I.e., shocks have permanent effects on GDP
- What does it imply about $\text{var}_t(\log C_{t+j})$ as $j \rightarrow \infty$?
 - Goes to infinity!!
- But does US GDP look like a random walk with drift?

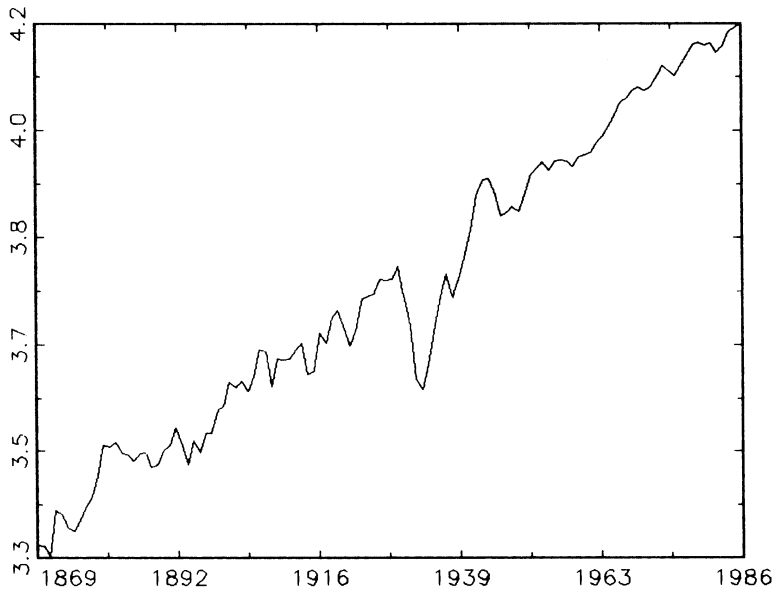


FIG. 2.—Log real per capita GNP, 1869–1986

Source: Cochrane (1988)

IS GDP/CONSUMPTION TREND STATIONARY?

- Traditional view in macro: GDP is trend stationary

$$y_t = bt + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a_j \epsilon_{t-j}$$

where a_j approaches zero for large j

- Implies:
 - Long-run forecast invariant to ϵ_t (i.e., business cycles are transient)
 - $\text{var}_t(\log C_{t+j}) \rightarrow \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a_j^2 \sigma < \infty$ as $j \rightarrow \infty$
- This view was challenged in the 1980s
(Nelson-Plosser 82; Watson 86; Clark 87; Campbell-Mankiw 87)

MODELING TIME SERIES

- Time series are autocorrelated (i.e., correlated with own past)
- Autoregressive (AR) model
 - Y_t a function of Y_{t-1} (and perhaps Y_{t-2}, \dots) plus a shock.
AR(1) is a simple case:

$$Y_t = \alpha + \beta Y_{t-1} + \epsilon_t$$

- Moving Average (MA) model
 - Y_t function of moving average of current and past shocks
(but not own past). MA(1) is a simple case:

$$Y_t = \epsilon_t + \gamma \epsilon_{t-1}$$

- ARMA(p,q) models combine these two features

- Estimate an ARMA(p, q) process for GNP growth:

$$\phi(L)\Delta Y_t = \theta(L)\epsilon_t$$

$\phi(L)$ and $\theta(L)$ are polynomials in the lag operator ($L\Delta Y_t = \Delta Y_{t-1}$)

- Sample period: 1947:1 - 1985:4 (quarterly data)
- Estimate by maximum likelihood
- Extensive discussion of model selection (i.e., selection of p and q)
- Main result:
 - $\partial \log C_{t+j} / \partial \epsilon_{t+1} \geq 1$ for relatively large j
 - Relatively robust to p and q choice

TABLE IV
MODEL IMPULSE RESPONSES, In REAL GNP

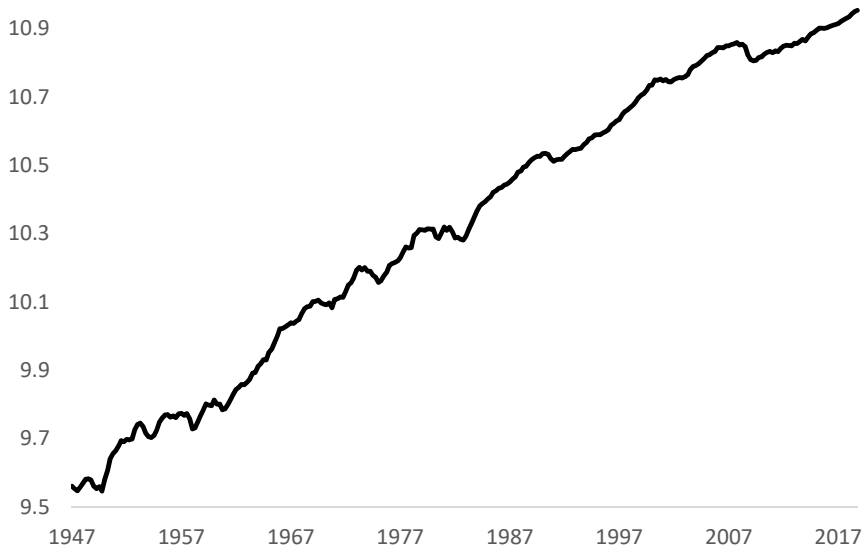
| Model p,q | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 16 | 20 | 40 | 80 |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 0,1 | 1.261 (0.072) | 1.261 (0.072) | 1.261 (0.072) | 1.261 (0.072) | 1.261 (0.072) | 1.261 (0.072) | 1.261 (0.072) | 1.261 (0.072) |
| 0,2 | 1.305 (0.073) | 1.573 (0.123) | 1.573 (0.123) | 1.573 (0.123) | 1.573 (0.123) | 1.573 (0.123) | 1.573 (0.123) | 1.573 (0.123) |
| 0,3 | 1.323 (0.077) | 1.647 (0.128) | 1.754 (0.170) | 1.754 (0.170) | 1.754 (0.170) | 1.754 (0.170) | 1.754 (0.170) | 1.754 (0.170) |
| 1,0 | 1.363 (0.070) | 1.496 (0.120) | 1.561 (0.161) | 1.571 (0.171) | 1.571 (0.172) | 1.571 (0.172) | 1.571 (0.172) | 1.571 (0.172) |
| 1,1 | 1.344 (0.077) | 1.523 (0.119) | 1.666 (0.202) | 1.715 (0.268) | 1.719 (0.278) | 1.719 (0.279) | 1.719 (0.279) | 1.719 (0.279) |
| 1,2 | 1.322 (0.075) | 1.635 (0.130) | 1.728 (0.206) | 1.734 (0.222) | 1.734 (0.222) | 1.734 (0.222) | 1.734 (0.222) | 1.734 (0.222) |
| 1,3 | 1.271 (0.119) | 1.488 (0.269) | 1.341 (0.572) | 1.090 (1.110) | 0.721 (1.895) | 0.586 (2.177) | 0.208 (2.958) | 0.026 (3.338) |
| 2,0 | 1.314 (0.073) | 1.547 (0.116) | 1.730 (0.201) | 1.804 (0.264) | 1.812 (0.276) | 1.812 (0.276) | 1.812 (0.276) | 1.812 (0.276) |
| 2,1 | 1.321 (0.071) | 1.591 (0.122) | 1.731 (0.198) | 1.770 (0.242) | 1.772 (0.248) | 1.772 (0.248) | 1.772 (0.248) | 1.772 (0.248) |
| 2,2 | 1.302 (0.078) | 1.621 (0.128) | 1.572 (0.193) | 1.532 (0.142) | 1.517 (0.162) | 1.517 (0.160) | 1.517 (0.161) | 1.517 (0.161) |
| 2,3 | 1.289 (0.119) | 1.561 (0.268) | 1.502 (0.596) | 1.115 (1.178) | 0.592 (1.921) | 0.431 (2.140) | 0.088 (2.599) | 0.004 (2.720) |
| 3,0 | 1.336 (0.076) | 1.632 (0.132) | 1.641 (0.207) | 1.568 (0.230) | 1.571 (0.223) | 1.571 (0.222) | 1.571 (0.222) | 1.571 (0.222) |
| 3,1 | 1.320 (0.077) | 1.614 (0.131) | 1.604 (0.206) | 1.334 (0.327) | 1.364 (0.288) | 1.360 (0.297) | 1.360 (0.297) | 1.360 (0.297) |
| 3,2 | 1.318 (0.078) | 1.624 (0.127) | 1.630 (0.210) | 1.626 (0.196) | 1.595 (0.206) | 1.596 (0.203) | 1.597 (0.203) | 1.597 (0.203) |
| 3,3 | 1.279 (0.122) | 1.563 (0.267) | 1.416 (0.602) | 1.095 (1.141) | 0.720 (1.929) | 0.584 (2.213) | 0.207 (3.001) | 0.026 (3.389) |

Standard errors are in parentheses.

Source: Campbell and Mankiw (1987)

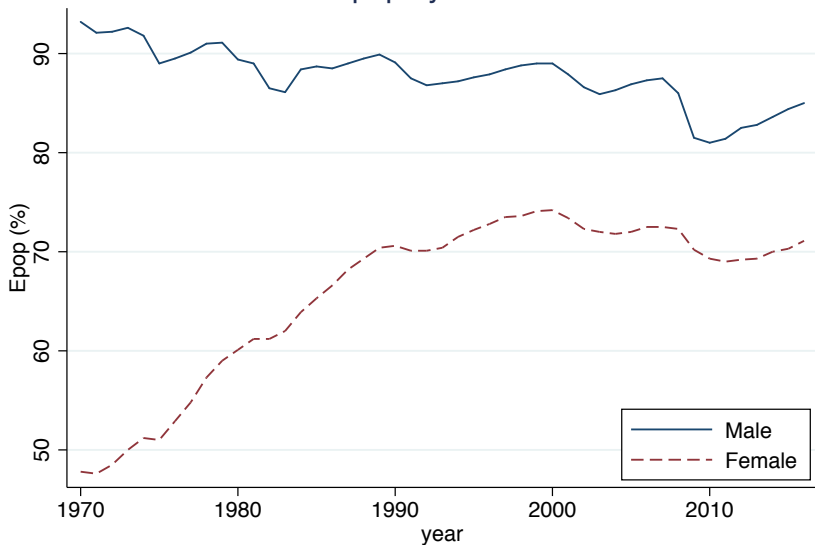
ONE SHOCK OR MANY SHOCKS?

- Much of the trend-stationary / difference-stationary literature in the 1980's assumed that GDP was driven by a single shock
 - I.e.: All shocks have the same dynamics
- Clearly unrealistic:
 - Monetary shocks (transitory?)
 - Productivity shocks (permanent?)
 - Demographic shocks (build very slowly?)
- Makes it very hard to measure “permanent component” of GDP shocks since short-term dynamics not necessarily informative about long-run dynamics (see, e.g., Quah 1992)



Source: FRED. Log GDP per Capita for the U.S.

Epop by Gender



Source: Fukui, Nakamura, and Steinsson (2019)

VARIANCE RATIOS FOR CONSUMPTION GROWTH

- Cochrane (1988) advocated using variance ratios:

$$VR_{i,k} = \frac{1}{k} \frac{\text{var}(c_{i,t} - c_{i,t-k})}{\text{var}(c_{i,t} - c_{i,t-1})}$$

Non-parametric approach

VARIANCE RATIOS FOR CONSUMPTION GROWTH

- Cochrane (1988) advocated using variance ratios:

$$VR_{i,k} = \frac{1}{k} \frac{\text{var}(c_{i,t} - c_{i,t-k})}{\text{var}(c_{i,t} - c_{i,t-1})}$$

Non-parametric approach

- Random walk: $VR_{i,k} = 1$ for all k
- Trend stationary: $VR_{i,k} \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$
- Positively autocorrelated growth: $VR_{i,k} > 1$ for large k

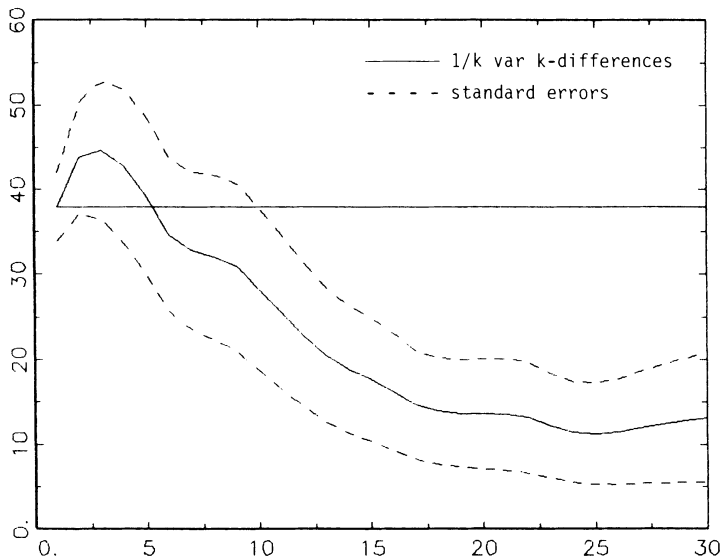


FIG. 1.— $1/k$ times the variance of k -differences of log real per capita GNP, 1869–1986, with asymptotic standard errors.

Source: Cochrane (1988)

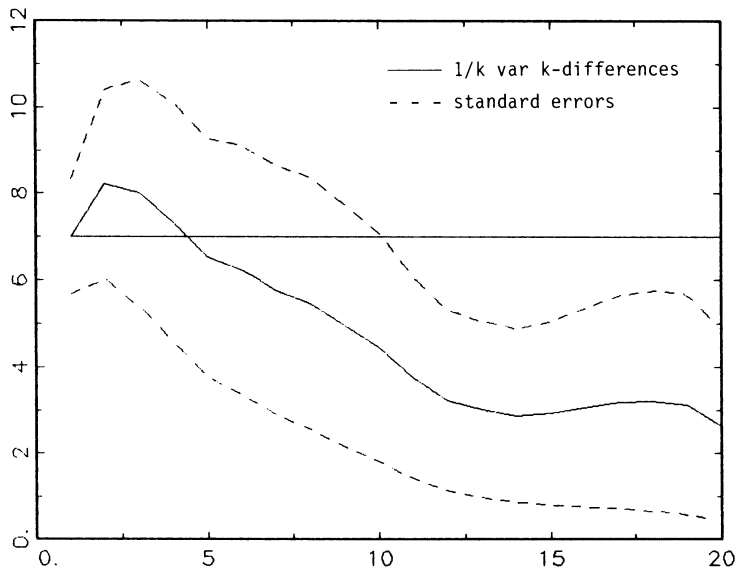


FIG. 3.— $1/k$ times the variance of k -differences of log real per capita GNP, 1947–86, with asymptotic standard errors.

Source: Cochrane (1988)

CAMPBELL-MANKIW VS. COCHRANE

- Notice that variance ratio initially rises above one
- GDP growth positively autocorrelated at short horizons
- This is what drives Campbell-Mankiw 87 results
- Cochrane's results reflect slow negative correlation of growth rates at longer horizons which is hard to pick up using low-order ARMA models

EQUITY PREMIUM PUZZLE WORSE!

- If consumption growth is largely trend stationary, then world is even less risky than textbook model assumes
- Equity premium puzzle even worse
(and Lucas' assumptions look good)

- Extends Cochrane's estimation approach to 9 OECD countries for 1871-1985
- Critiques small sample properties of Cochrane's asymptotic standard errors
- Presents two estimators for variance ratio:
 - \hat{V}^f based on frequency domain methods
 - \hat{V}^k based on traditional method (i.e., Cochrane's estimator)

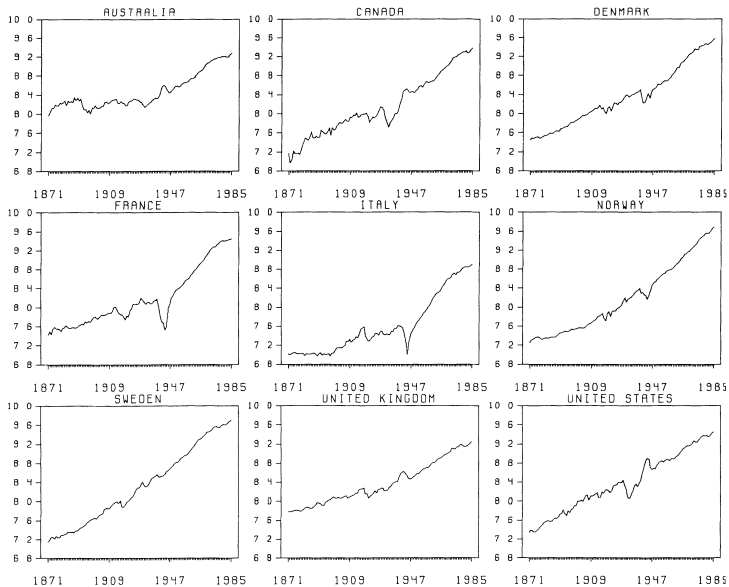


FIG. 1.—Log real per capita GDP, 1871–1985

Source: Cogley (1990)

TABLE 2
ESTIMATES OF THE VARIANCE RATIO: PER CAPITA OUTPUT GROWTH, 1871–1985

| | \hat{V}^f | | \hat{V}^k | |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------|
| | $k = 15$ | $k = 20$ | $k = 15$ | $k = 20$ |
| Australia | 1.15 (.63, 3.2) | 1.21 (.64, 4.1) | 1.25 | 1.40 |
| Canada | .64 (.35, 1.8) | .64 (.34, 2.2) | .72 | .77 |
| Denmark | .92 (.51, 2.6) | .97 (.51, 3.3) | 1.00 | 1.09 |
| France | 1.57 (.86, 4.4) | 1.55 (.82, 4.9) | 1.78 | 1.84 |
| Italy | 1.60 (.88, 4.5) | 1.80 (.96, 6.1) | 1.75 | 2.02 |
| Norway | 1.21 (.67, 3.4) | 1.39 (.74, 4.7) | 1.24 | 1.39 |
| Sweden | .90 (.50, 2.5) | .89 (.47, 3.0) | .99 | .97 |
| United Kingdom | .77 (.43, 2.2) | .85 (.45, 2.9) | .94 | 1.03 |
| United States: | | | | |
| GDP | .48 (.27, 1.4) | .36 (.19, 1.2) | .62 | .51 |
| GNP | .49 (.27, 1.4) | .41 (.22, 1.4) | .60 | .53 |

NOTE.—Approximate 90 percent confidence intervals are shown in parentheses

Source: Cogley (1990)

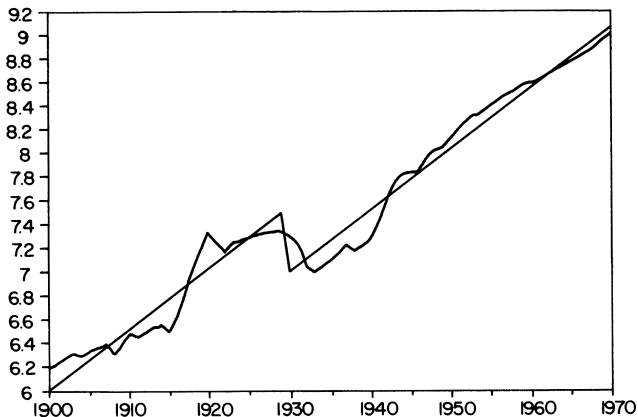
- Highly sensitive to the treatment of disasters
- Disasters generally involve substantial recoveries
(Nakamura et al., 2010)

TABLE IV
Variance Ratios in the Data and the Model (k=15)

| | Consumption Growth | | | | Realized Vol. of Cons. Growth | | | |
|---------|--------------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| | Data | | Full Model | | Data | | Full Model | |
| | Incl.Dis. | Excl.Dis. | Med. | [5%, 95%] | Incl.Dis. | Excl.Dis. | Med. | [5%, 95%] |
| France | 1.49 | 3.33 | 2.56 | [1.00, 5.33] | 4.60 | 2.26 | 2.40 | [1.04, 4.39] |
| UK | 1.56 | 2.87 | 3.84 | [1.78, 7.32] | 1.60 | 1.26 | 1.22 | [0.55, 2.57] |
| US | 1.08 | 1.29 | 1.69 | [0.75, 3.65] | 4.70 | 1.80 | 1.87 | [0.76, 3.96] |
| Average | 1.11 | 2.28 | 2.60 | [1.06, 5.29] | 3.48 | 2.17 | 1.82 | [0.79, 3.56] |
| Median | 0.87 | 1.62 | 2.69 | [1.02, 5.47] | 3.16 | 2.14 | 1.72 | [0.66, 3.62] |

Source: Outtakes from Nakamura, Steinsson, and Sergeyev (2017)

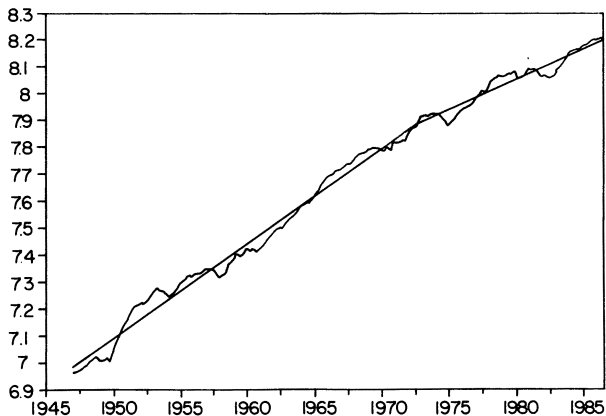
- How robust is the evidence that macroeconomic time series have a random walk?
- Perhaps one or two “structural breaks” account for apparent non-stationarity
- Perron argues that GDP is stationary once one accounts for:
 - Great Crash of 1929: Negative level shift
 - Oil Price Shock of 1973: Negative trend shift
- Data:
 - Nelson-Plosser 82 annual data on 14 macro series ending in 1970
 - Quarterly real GDP 1947:1-1986:3



Note: The broken straight line is a fitted trend (by OLS) of the form $\tilde{y}_t = \tilde{\mu} + \tilde{\gamma} DU_t + \tilde{\beta} t$ where $DU_t = 0$ if $t \leq 1929$ and $DU_t = 1$ if $t > 1929$.

FIGURE 1.—Logarithm of “Nominal Wages.”

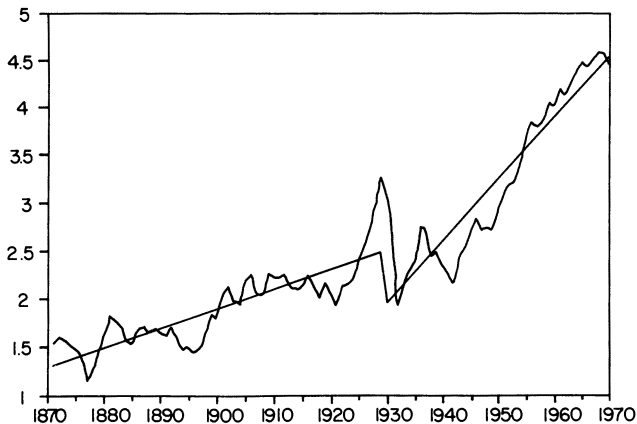
Source: Perron (1989)



Note: The broken straight line is a fitted trend (by OLS) of the form: $\tilde{y}_t = \tilde{\mu} + \tilde{\beta}t + \tilde{\gamma}DT_t^*$ where $DT_t^* = 0$ if $t \leq 1973:I$ and $DT_t^* = t - T_B$ if $t > 1973:I = T_B$.

FIGURE 2.—Logarithm of “Postwar Quarterly Real GNP.”

Source: Perron (1989)



Note: The broken straight line is a fitted trend (by OLS) of the form $\tilde{y}_t = \tilde{\mu} + \tilde{\gamma}_1 DU_t + \tilde{\beta}t + \tilde{\gamma}_2 DT_t$ where $DU_t = DT_t = 0$ if $t \leq 1929$ and $DU_t = 1$, $DT_t = t$ if $t > 1929$.

FIGURE 3.—Logarithm of “Common Stock Prices.”

Source: Perron (1989)

TABLE I
REGRESSION ANALYSIS FOR THE WAGES, QUARTERLY GNP, AND COMMON STOCK PRICE SERIES

| Regression: $y_t = \tilde{\mu} + \tilde{\beta}t + \tilde{\alpha}y_{t-1} + \sum_{i=1}^k \tilde{c}_i \Delta y_{t-i} + \tilde{\varepsilon}_t$ | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Series/Period | k | $\tilde{\mu}$ | $t_{\tilde{\mu}}$ | $\tilde{\beta}$ | $t_{\tilde{\beta}}$ | $\tilde{\alpha}$ | $t_{\tilde{\alpha}}$ | $S(\tilde{\varepsilon})$ |
| (a) Wages | | | | | | | | |
| 1900–1970 ^a | 2 | 0.566 | 2.30 | 0.004 | 2.30 | 0.910 | −2.09 | 0.060 |
| 1900–1929 | 7 | 4.299 | 2.84 | 0.037 | 2.73 | 0.304 | −2.82 | 0.0803 |
| 1930–1970 | 8 | 1.632 | 3.60 | 0.012 | 2.64 | 0.735 | −3.19 | 0.0269 |
| (b) Common stock prices | | | | | | | | |
| 1871–1970 ^a | 2 | 0.481 | 2.02 | 0.003 | 2.37 | 0.913 | −2.05 | 0.158 |
| 1871–1929 | 3 | 0.3468 | 2.13 | 0.0063 | 2.70 | 0.732 | −2.29 | 0.1209 |
| 1930–1970 | 4 | −0.5312 | −1.64 | 0.0166 | 1.96 | 0.788 | −1.89 | 0.1376 |
| (c) Quarterly real GNP | | | | | | | | |
| 1947:I–1986:III | 2 | 0.386 | 2.90 | 0.0004 | 2.71 | 0.946 | −2.85 | 0.010 |
| 1947:I–1973:I | 2 | 0.637 | 3.04 | 0.0008 | 2.99 | 0.910 | −3.02 | 0.0099 |
| 1973:II–1986:III | 1 | 0.883 | 2.23 | 0.0008 | 2.27 | 0.878 | −2.23 | 0.0102 |

^aResults taken from Nelson and Plosser (1982, Table 5).

Source: Perron (1989). Dickey-Fuller 2.5% critical value for $N = 100$, with constant and time trend is -3.7. Corresponding 5% critical value is -3.4.

CONFUSING BREAKS FOR UNIT ROOTS

- Perron simulates 10,000 replications of a series y_t of length 100
- “Crash” hypothesis:

$$y_t = \mu_1 + (\mu_2 - \mu_1)DU_t + \beta t + e_t$$

- where $DU_t = 1$ if $t > 50$, $\mu_1 = 0$, $\beta = 1$, $e_t \sim N(0, 1)$

- “Changing Growth” hypothesis:

$$y_t = \mu + \beta_1 t + (\beta_2 - \beta_1)DT_t^* + e_t$$

- where $DT_t^* = t - 50$ if $t > 50$, $\mu = 0$, $\beta_1 = 1$, $e_t \sim N(0, 1)$

CONFUSING BREAKS FOR UNIT ROOTS

- Estimates misspecified model:

$$y_t = \tilde{\mu} + \tilde{\beta}t + \tilde{\alpha}y_{t-1} + \tilde{\epsilon}_t$$

- True $\alpha = 0$. But breaks look like a unit root.

TABLE III
MEAN AND VARIANCE OF $\tilde{\alpha}$

| (a) Crash Simulations, $\mu_1 = 0, \beta = 1$ | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | $\mu_2 = 0$ | $\mu_2 = -2$ | $\mu_2 = -5$ | $\mu_2 = -10$ | $\mu_2 = -25$ |
| Mean | -0.019 | 0.172 | 0.558 | 0.795 | 0.899 |
| Variance | 0.00986 | 0.01090 | 0.00471 | 0.00089 | 0.00009 |
| (b) Breaking Trend Simulations, $\beta_1 = 1, \mu = 0$ | | | | | |
| | $\beta_2 = 1.0$ | $\beta_2 = 0.9$ | $\beta_2 = 0.7$ | $\beta_2 = 0.4$ | $\beta_2 = 0.0$ |
| Mean | -0.019 | 0.334 | 0.825 | 0.949 | 0.981 |
| Variance | 0.00986 | 0.00938 | 0.00094 | 0.00009 | 0.00001 |

See notes to Figure 4 for case (a) and Figure 5 for case (b).

TABLE VII
TESTS FOR A UNIT ROOT

| (a) Regression (12), Model A; $y_t = \hat{\mu} + \hat{\theta}DU_t + \hat{\beta}t + \hat{d}(TB)_t + \hat{\alpha}y_{t-1} + \sum_{i=1}^k \hat{c}_i \Delta y_{t-i} + \hat{\varepsilon}_t$ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----------|-----|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------|
| $T_B = 1929$ | T | λ | k | $\hat{\mu}$ | $t_{\hat{\mu}}$ | $\hat{\theta}$ | $t_{\hat{\theta}}$ | $\hat{\beta}$ | $t_{\hat{\beta}}$ | \hat{d} | $t_{\hat{d}}$ | $\hat{\alpha}$ | $t_{\hat{\alpha}}$ | $S(\hat{\varepsilon})$ | |
| Real GNP | 62 | 0.33 | 8 | 3.441 | 5.07 | -0.189 | -4.28 | 0.0267 | 5.05 | -0.018 | -0.30 | 0.282 | -5.03 ^a | 0.0509 | |
| Nominal GNP | 62 | 0.33 | 8 | 5.692 | 5.44 | -0.360 | -4.77 | 0.0359 | 5.44 | 0.100 | 1.09 | 0.471 | -5.42 ^a | 0.0694 | |
| Real per capita GNP | 62 | 0.33 | 7 | 3.325 | 4.11 | -0.102 | -2.76 | 0.0111 | 4.00 | -0.070 | -1.09 | 0.531 | -4.09 ^b | 0.0555 | |
| Industrial production | 111 | 0.63 | 8 | 0.120 | 4.37 | -0.298 | -4.58 | 0.0323 | 5.42 | -0.095 | -0.99 | 0.322 | -5.47 ^a | 0.0875 | |
| Employment | 81 | 0.49 | 7 | 3.402 | 4.54 | -0.046 | -2.65 | 0.0057 | 4.26 | -0.025 | -0.77 | 0.667 | -4.51 ^a | 0.0295 | |
| GNP deflator | 82 | 0.49 | 5 | 0.669 | 4.09 | -0.098 | -3.16 | 0.0070 | 4.01 | 0.026 | 0.53 | 0.776 | -4.04 ^b | 0.0438 | |
| Consumer prices | 111 | 0.63 | 2 | 0.065 | 1.12 | -0.004 | -0.21 | 0.0005 | 1.75 | -0.036 | -0.79 | 0.978 | -1.28 | 0.0445 | |
| Wages | 71 | 0.41 | 7 | 2.38 | 5.45 | -0.190 | -4.32 | 0.0197 | 5.37 | 0.085 | 1.36 | 0.619 | -5.41 ^a | 0.0532 | |
| Money stock | 82 | 0.49 | 6 | 0.301 | 4.72 | -0.071 | -2.59 | 0.0121 | 4.18 | 0.033 | 0.68 | 0.812 | -4.29 ^b | 0.0440 | |
| Velocity | 102 | 0.59 | 0 | 0.050 | 0.932 | -0.005 | -0.20 | -0.0002 | -0.35 | -0.136 | -2.01 | 0.941 | -1.66 | 0.0663 | |
| Interest rate | 71 | 0.41 | 2 | -0.018 | -0.088 | -0.343 | -2.06 | 0.0105 | 2.64 | 0.197 | 0.64 | 0.976 | -0.45 | 0.2787 | |
| (b) Regression (14), Model C; $y_t = \hat{\mu} + \hat{\theta}DU_t + \hat{\beta}t + \hat{\gamma}DT_t + \hat{d}(TB)_t + \hat{\alpha}y_{t-1} + \sum_{i=1}^k \hat{c}_i \Delta y_{t-i} + \hat{\varepsilon}_t$ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| $T_B = 1929$ | T | λ | k | $\hat{\mu}$ | $t_{\hat{\mu}}$ | $\hat{\theta}$ | $t_{\hat{\theta}}$ | $\hat{\beta}$ | $t_{\hat{\beta}}$ | $\hat{\gamma}$ | $t_{\hat{\gamma}}$ | \hat{d} | $t_{\hat{d}}$ | $S(\hat{\varepsilon})$ | |
| Common stock prices | 100 | 0.59 | 1 | 0.353 | 4.09 | -1.051 | -4.29 | 0.0070 | 4.43 | 0.0139 | 3.98 | 0.128 | 0.718 | -4.87 ^b | 0.1402 |
| Real wages | 71 | 0.41 | 8 | 2.115 | 4.33 | -0.190 | -3.71 | 0.0107 | 3.79 | 0.0066 | 3.33 | 0.031 | 0.298 | -4.28 ^c | 0.0330 |
| (c) Regression (10), Model B; $y_t = \hat{\mu} + \hat{\beta}t + \hat{\gamma}DT_t^* + \hat{\gamma}_t$; $\bar{y}_t = \hat{\alpha}\bar{y}_{t-1} + \sum_{i=1}^k \hat{c}_i \Delta \bar{y}_{t-i} + \hat{\varepsilon}_t$ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| $T_B = 1973:I$ | T | λ | k | $\hat{\mu}$ | $t_{\hat{\mu}}$ | $\hat{\beta}$ | $t_{\hat{\beta}}$ | $\hat{\gamma}$ | $t_{\hat{\gamma}}$ | $\hat{\alpha}$ | $t_{\hat{\alpha}}$ | $S(\hat{\varepsilon})$ | | | |
| Quarterly real GNP | 159 | 0.66 | 10 | 6.977 | 1160.51 | 0.0087 | 97.73 | -0.0031 | -12.06 | 0.86 | -3.98 ^c | 0.0097 | | | |

NOTE: a, b, and c denote statistical significance at the 1%, 2.5%, and 5% level respectively.

- Perron argues that after allowing for Great Crash of 1929 and 1973 Growth Slowdown, many macro series are stationary (i.e., he rejects the null of a unit root)

- Perron argues that after allowing for Great Crash of 1929 and 1973 Growth Slowdown, many macro series are stationary (i.e., he rejects the null of a unit root)
- But he chooses the break dates ex post
- Perhaps it is normal for a unit root of that length to look like it has a break and is otherwise stationary
- Main lesson: Hard to distinguish trends from unit roots in the presence of breaks.
- What is a break? Infrequent unit root shock.

- Recent literature has moved beyond trend vs. difference stationary debate
- Three types of risks have been emphasized:
 - Rare disasters (Ritz, 1988; Barro, 2006)
 - Growth rate shocks (Bansal and Yaron, 2004)
 - Stochastic volatility (Bansal and Yaron, 2004)

- Same setup as Mehra-Prescott, except

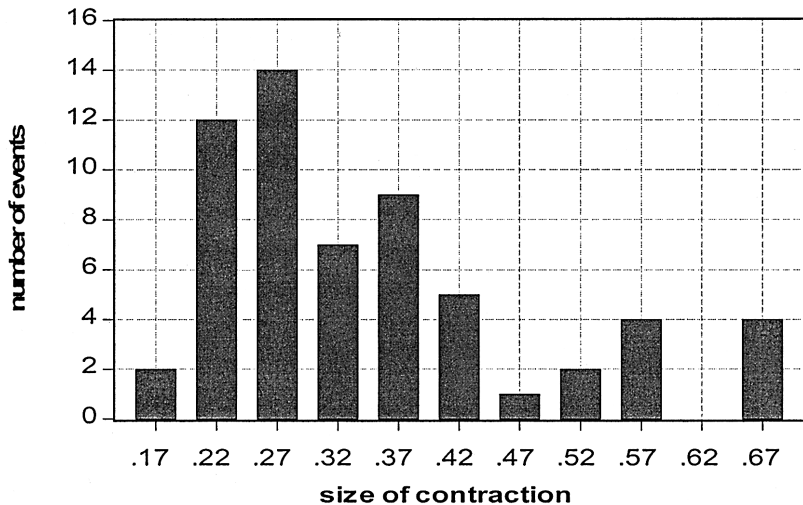
$$\log C_{t+1} = \mu + \log C_t + u_{t+1} + v_{t+1}$$

- $u_{t+1} \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$
- v_{t+1} reflects disasters:
 - Probability $e^{-\rho}$: $v_{t+1} = 0$
 - Probability $1 - e^{-\rho}$: $v_{t+1} = \log(1 - b)$

BARRO (2006): CALIBRATION OF DISASTERS

- Key parameters: p and b
- Measure declines in per capita GDP (Data: Maddison, 2003)
- Disaster: Cumulative drop of 15% or greater
- p frequency of such drops: 1.7%
- b peak-to-trough decline (e.g. WWII 1939-1945)
 - $E(b) = 0.29$ (mean size of disasters)
 - Huge amount of heterogeneity in disaster size

Panel A: Contractions in Table I



Panel B: Contractions in Table I adjusted for trend growth

FIGURE I

Frequency Distribution of Economic Disasters

- What is the impact of heterogeneity in disaster size?
- Why focus on disasters and ignore bonanzas?

BARRO (2006): ASSET PRICING

- Representative consumer
- Power utility
- Assets to price:
 - Unlevered consumption claim
 - One period, bond (occasional default during disasters)
- Empirical moments:
 - Equity Premium: Stocks: 7.1%, Bills: -0.1%
 - Leverage ratio for equity of 1.5
 - Target for unlevered equity: $7.2\%/1.5 = 4.8\%$

TABLE V
CALIBRATED MODEL FOR RATES OF RETURN

| | (1) | (2) | Parameters | | (5) | (6) | (7) |
|---|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | No disasters | Baseline | Low θ | High p | Low q | Low γ | Low ρ |
| θ (coeff. of relative risk aversion) | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| σ (s.d. of growth rate, no disasters) | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| ρ (rate of time preference) | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.02 |
| γ (growth rate, deterministic part) | 0.025 | 0.025 | 0.025 | 0.025 | 0.025 | 0.020 | 0.025 |
| p (disaster probability) | 0 | 0.017 | 0.017 | 0.025 | 0.017 | 0.017 | 0.017 |
| q (bill default probability in disaster) | 0 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Variables | | | | | | | |
| Expected equity rate | 0.128 | 0.071 | 0.076 | 0.044 | 0.071 | 0.051 | 0.061 |
| Expected bill rate | 0.127 | 0.035 | 0.061–0.007 | | 0.029 | 0.015 | 0.025 |
| Equity premium | 0.0016 | 0.036 | 0.016 | 0.052 | 0.042 | 0.036 | 0.036 |

Source: Barro (2006)

BARRO (2009): WELFARE COSTS OF DISASTERS

- Barro (2006): Simple disaster model can match
 - A high equity premium
 - A low risk-free rate
- Barro (2009): What does this same model imply about:
 - Welfare costs of business cycles?
 - Welfare costs of disasters?

TABLE 3—EFFECTS OF PREFERENCE PARAMETERS ON RATES OF RETURN AND WELFARE COSTS

| γ | θ | ρ | ρ^* | r^e | r^f | V | Welfare effects (percent) | |
|----------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | | $\sigma = 0$ | $p = 0$ |
| 4 | 0.25 | 0.054 | 0.027 | 0.069 | 0.010 | 20.7 | 1.65 | 24.7 |
| 4 | 0.50 | 0.052 | 0.027 | 0.069 | 0.010 | 20.7 | 1.65 | 24.0 |
| 4 | 1 | 0.048 | 0.027 | 0.069 | 0.010 | 20.7 | 1.64 | 22.6 |
| 4 | 4 | 0.027 | 0.027 | 0.069 | 0.010 | 20.7 | 1.60 | 17.3 |
| 3.5 | 0.25 | 0.062 | 0.027 | 0.074 | 0.035 | 18.7 | 1.31 | 16.5 |
| 3.5 | 0.50 | 0.059 | 0.027 | 0.074 | 0.035 | 18.7 | 1.30 | 16.1 |
| 3.5 | 1 | 0.054 | 0.027 | 0.074 | 0.035 | 18.7 | 1.30 | 15.5 |
| 3.5 | 4 | 0.022 | 0.027 | 0.074 | 0.035 | 18.7 | 1.27 | 12.7 |
| 3 | 0.25 | 0.063 | 0.027 | 0.074 | 0.048 | 18.7 | 1.12 | 12.0 |
| 3 | 0.50 | 0.060 | 0.027 | 0.074 | 0.048 | 18.7 | 1.12 | 11.8 |
| 3 | 1 | 0.053 | 0.027 | 0.074 | 0.048 | 18.7 | 1.12 | 11.5 |
| 3 | 4 | 0.014 | 0.027 | 0.074 | 0.048 | 18.7 | 1.10 | 9.9 |
| 1 | 0.25 | 0.041 | 0.027 | 0.047 | 0.044 | 37.1 | 0.74 | 4.7 |
| 1 | 0.50 | 0.036 | 0.027 | 0.047 | 0.044 | 37.1 | 0.74 | 4.6 |
| 1 | 1 | 0.027 | 0.027 | 0.047 | 0.044 | 37.1 | 0.74 | 4.6 |
| 1 | 4 | -0.030 | 0.027 | 0.047 | 0.044 | 37.1 | 0.73 | 4.3 |

Notes: The baseline results are in bold, γ is the coefficient of relative risk aversion, θ is the reciprocal of the IES in the formula for utility in equation (9), ρ is the rate of time preference, and ρ^* is the effective rate of time preference, given in equation (12); ($\rho = \rho^*$ holds when $\gamma = \theta$). The formulas for the expected rate of return on equity, r^e , the risk-free rate, r^f , and the price-dividend ratio, V , are given in equations (6), (7), and (5), respectively, after replacing ρ by ρ^* . The value of ρ^* is set at 0.027 to generate $r^f = 0.010$ with the baseline parameters. The value for ρ (0.052 in the baseline specification) is then varied in each case to maintain $\rho^* = 0.027$ (in equation (12)). Since ρ^* is held constant, the values for r^e , r^f , and V depend on γ but not on θ . Each welfare effect gives the percentage reduction in initial output, $1 - (Y_t)^*/Y_t$, that maintains attained utility while setting to zero either the standard deviation, σ , of normal economic fluctuations or the disaster probability, p . The effects are for a given expected growth rate, g^* , given in equation (2). The values for $1 - (Y_t)^*/Y_t$ come from equation (23).

Source: Barro (2009)

BARRO (2006): REALISTIC MODEL OF DISASTERS?

- Barro's model:

$$\log C_{t+1} = \mu + \log C_t + u_{t+1} + v_{t+1}$$

- $u_{t+1} \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$
- v_{t+1} :
 - Probability $e^{-\rho}$: $v_{t+1} = 0$
 - Probability $1 - e^{-\rho}$: $v_{t+1} = \log(1 - b)$
- Is this a realistic model of disasters?

BARRO (2006): STYLIZED DISASTER MODEL

- All disasters are completely permanent
- Disasters occur instantaneously
- Timing of disasters uncorrelated across countries
- Informal estimation procedure

- Consumption:

$$C_{i,t} = X_{i,t} + Z_{i,t} + \epsilon_{i,t}$$

- Potential Consumption:

$$\Delta X_{i,t} = \mu_{i,t} + \eta_{i,t} + l_{i,t}\theta_{i,t}$$

- The Disaster Gap

$$Z_{i,t} = \rho_Z Z_{i,t-1} - l_{i,t}\theta_{i,t} + l_{i,t}\phi_{i,t} + \nu_{i,t}$$

$$\epsilon_{i,t} \sim N(0, \sigma_{\epsilon,i}^2) \quad \eta_{i,t} \sim N(0, \sigma_{\eta,i}^2) \quad \nu_{i,t} \sim N(0, \sigma_{\nu,i}^2)$$

$$\theta_{i,t} \sim N(\theta, \sigma_{\theta}^2) \quad \phi_{i,t} \sim \text{truncN}(\phi, \sigma_{\phi}^2, [-\infty, 0])$$

WHAT HAPPENS IN A DISASTER?

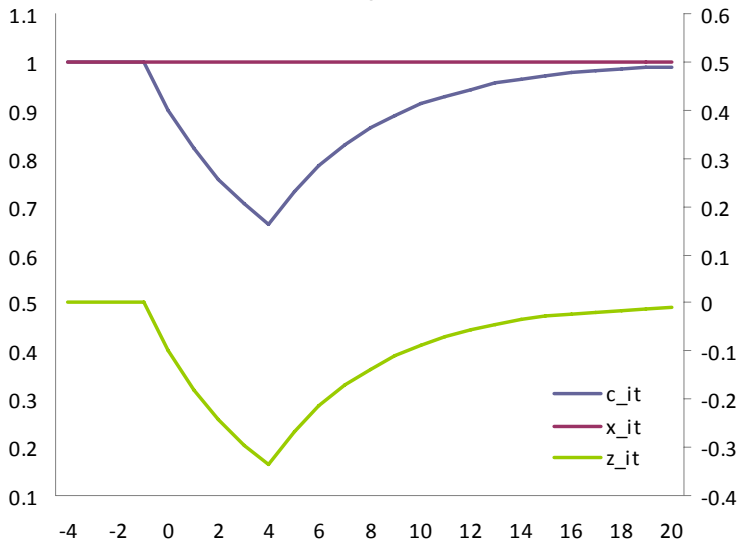
Two disaster shocks:

1. $\phi_{i,t}$: Short run effect but no long run effect
2. $\theta_{i,t}$: Long run effect but no short run effect

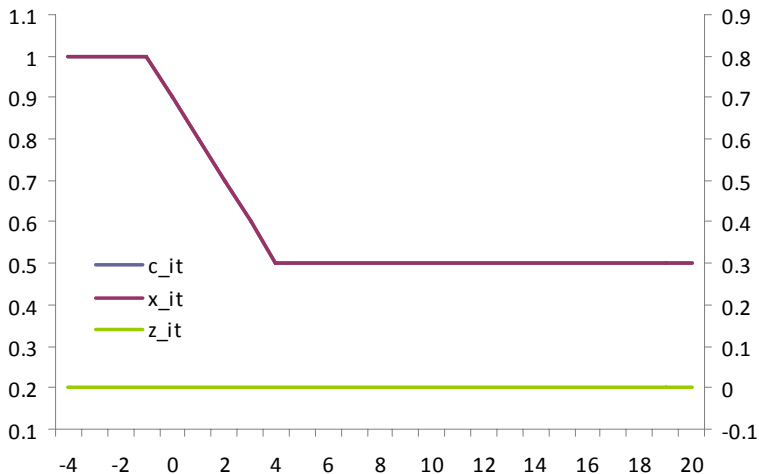
Examples:

- Transitory effects ($\phi_{i,t}$):
 - Destruction of capital, military spending crowds out consumption, financial stress
- Permanent effects ($\theta_{i,t}$):
 - Loss of time spent on R&D, change in institutions

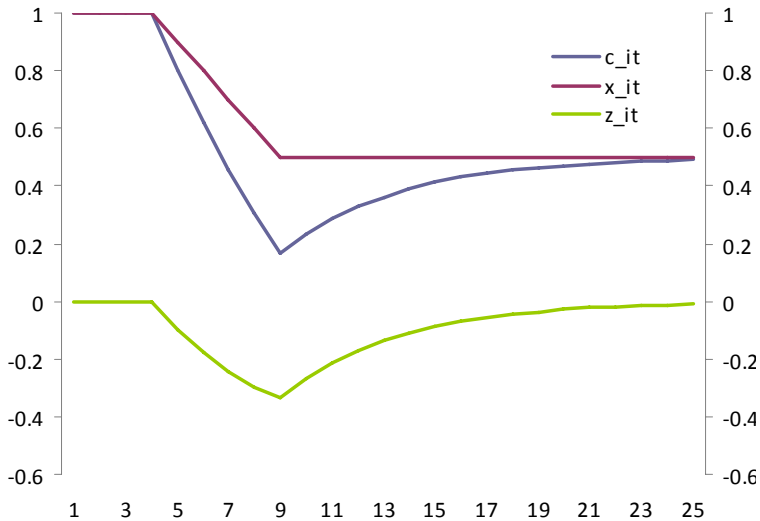
$$\theta = 0, \phi = -0.1$$



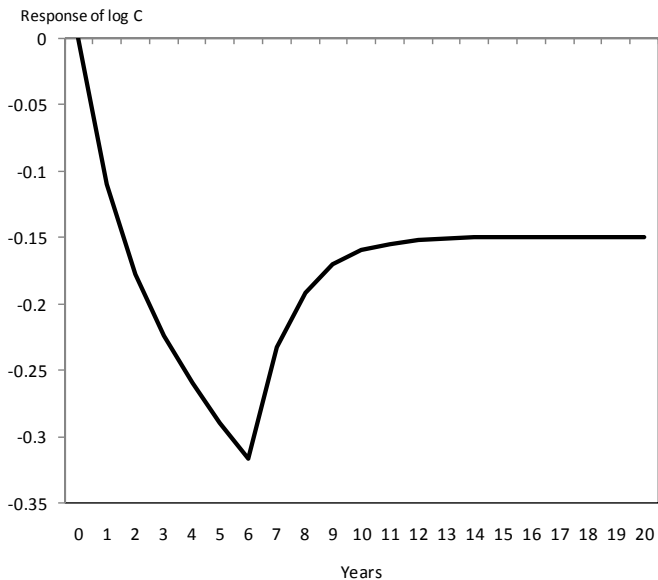
$$\theta = -0.1, \phi = -0.1$$



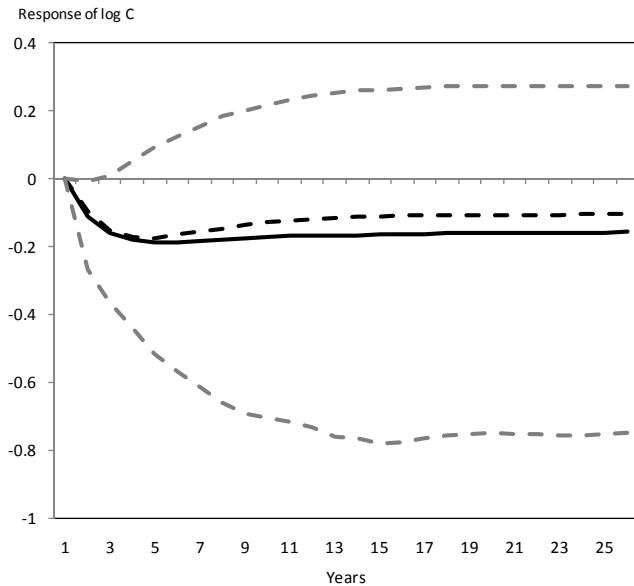
$$\theta = -0.1, \phi = -0.2$$



- Our model is difficult to estimate by ML
 - Many unobserved state variables
- Relatively simple to estimate by Bayesian MCMC estimation
- Allow for breaks in:
 - $\sigma_{\eta,i}, \sigma_{\epsilon,i}$ in 1946. (change in data quality)
 - μ_i in 1946 and 1973. (captures high post-WWII growth)

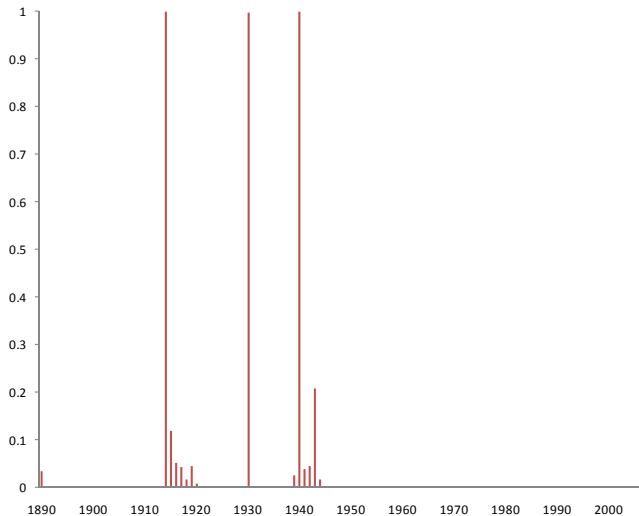


Source: Nakamura, Steinsson, Barro, and Ursua (2013)



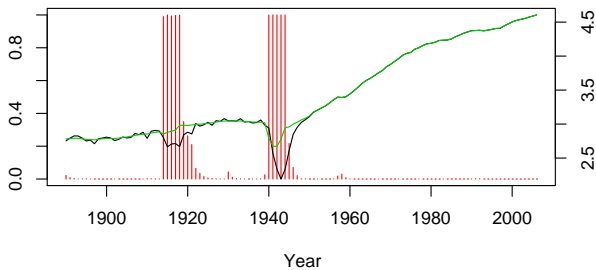
Source: Nakamura, Steinsson, Barro, and Ursua (2013)

World Disaster Probability

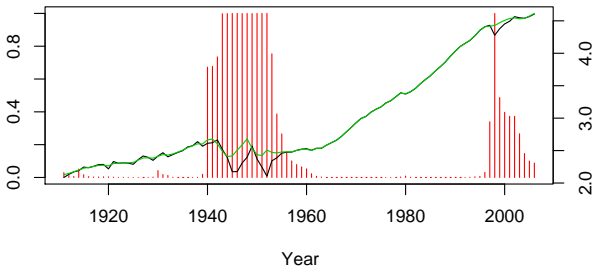


Source: Nakamura, Steinsson, Barro, and Ursua (2013)

France

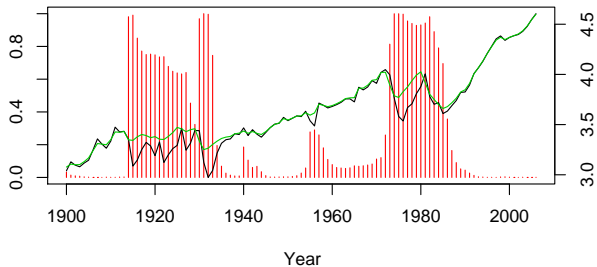


Korea

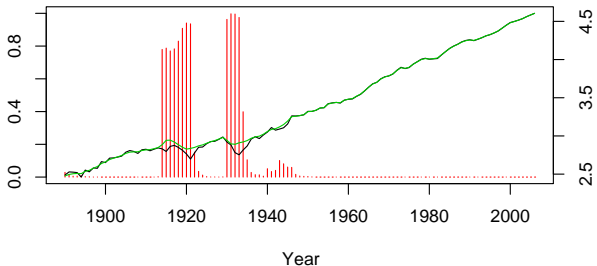


Source: Nakamura, Steinsson, Barro, and Ursua (2013)

Chile



United.States

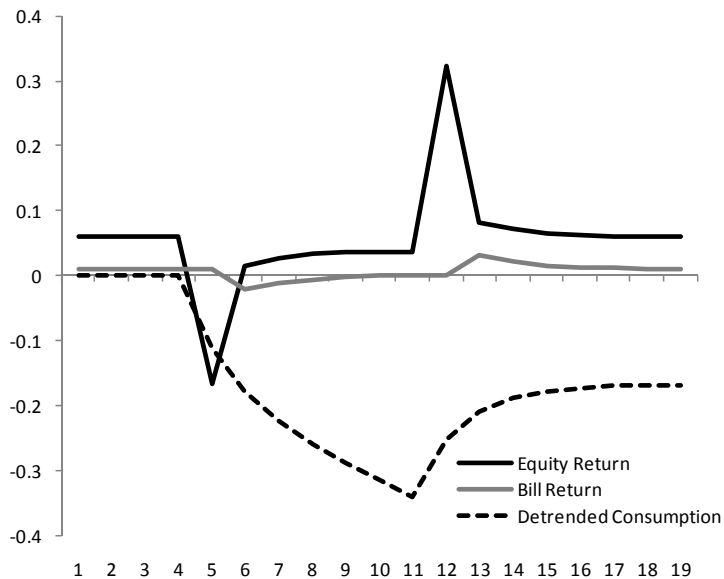


Source: Nakamura, Steinsson, Barro, and Ursua (2013)

TABLE
Asset Prices in Baseline Model with EZW Preferences

| | | | |
|---|-------|-------|--------|
| CRRA | 4.5 | 6.5 | 8.5 |
| IES | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Log Expected Return | | | |
| Equity | 0.050 | 0.058 | 0.066 |
| Bond | 0.032 | 0.009 | -0.023 |
| Equity Premium | 0.018 | 0.048 | 0.088 |
| Log Expected Return (Cond. on No Disasters) | | | |
| Equity | 0.051 | 0.058 | 0.066 |
| Bond | 0.034 | 0.010 | -0.025 |
| Equity Premium | 0.017 | 0.048 | 0.091 |

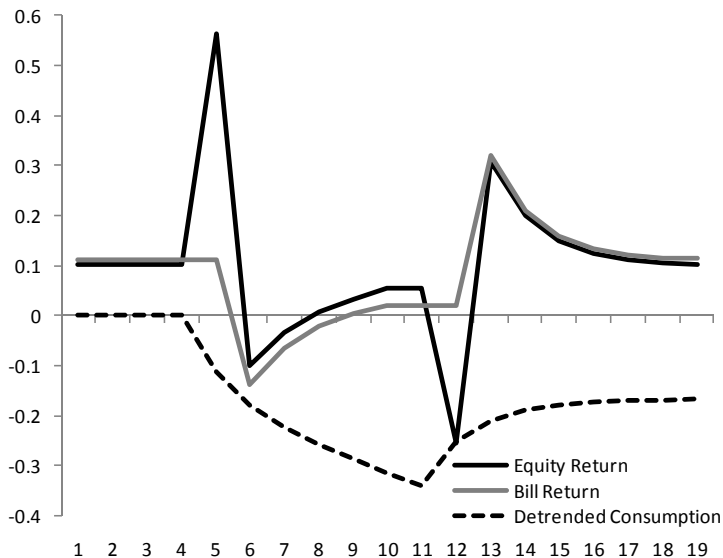
Source: Nakamura, Steinsson, Barro, and Ursua (2013). Equity is unleveraged.



Source: Nakamura, Steinsson, Barro, and Ursua (2013)

TABLE
Asset Prices with CRRA=4 and IES=1/4

| | Baseline | Barro (2006) |
|---|----------|--------------|
| Log Expected Return | | |
| Equity | 0.112 | 0.071 |
| Bond | 0.103 | 0.035 |
| Equity Premium | 0.009 | 0.036 |
| Log Expected Return (Cond. on No Disasters) | | |
| Equity | 0.097 | 0.076 |
| Bond | 0.106 | 0.037 |
| Equity Premium | -0.009 | 0.039 |



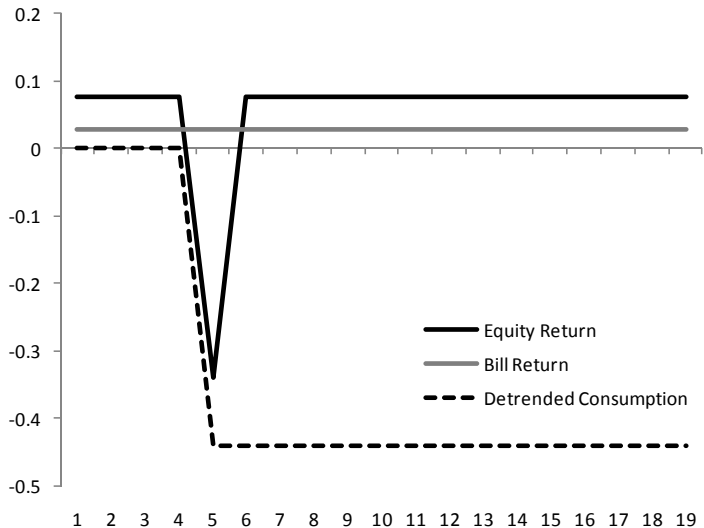
Source: Nakamura, Steinsson, Barro, and Ursua (2013)

THE ROLE OF EZW PREFERENCES

- EZW utility: Stock market crash at onset of disaster
 - Assuming $IES > 1$
- Power utility: Stock market boom!
- Why?

THE ROLE OF EZW PREFERENCES

- EZW utility: Stock market crash at onset of disaster
 - Assuming $IES > 1$
- Power utility: Stock market boom!
- Why?
 - At onset of disaster, expected growth is negative, uncertainty increases
 - Leads to high savings in a model with low IES (Power Utility)
- Contrast vs. Barro (2006) with permanent shocks



Source: Nakamura, Steinsson, Barro, and Ursua (2013)

How to Model Consumption Dynamics?

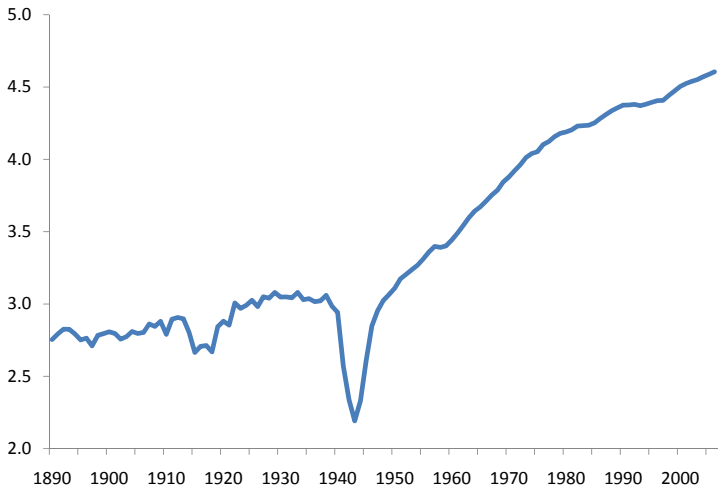


Figure: Log Consumption for France

BANSAL AND YARON (2004): LONG-RUN RISKS

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta c_{t+1} &= \mu + x_t + \chi \sigma_t \eta_{t+1}, \\ x_{t+1} &= \rho x_t + \sigma_t \epsilon_{t+1}, \\ \sigma_{t+1}^2 &= \sigma^2 + \gamma(\sigma_t^2 - \sigma^2) + \sigma_\omega \omega_{t+1},\end{aligned}$$

Idea:

- x_t and σ_t^2 small but persistent
- Small enough that they are hard to observe (can't be rejected)

Main Result:

- Even small “long run risks” makes a big difference for asset pricing

ARE LONG RUN RISKS PRICED?

- Seems intuitive that long-run risks to growth and uncertainty would raise equity premium
- But does this work in benchmark model?
- I.e.: Are long run risks priced?

IN POWER UTILITY MODEL: LRR NOT PRICED

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta c_{t+1} &= \mu + x_t + \chi \sigma_t \eta_{t+1}, \\ x_{t+1} &= \rho x_t + \sigma_t \epsilon_{t+1}, \\ \sigma_{t+1}^2 &= \sigma^2 + \gamma(\sigma_t^2 - \sigma^2) + \sigma_\omega \omega_{t+1},\end{aligned}$$

- Notice that ϵ_{t+1} and ω_{t+1} affect:
 - $R_{e,t+1}$
 - Δc_{t+j} for $j > 1$
 - But not Δc_{t+1}
- With power utility, long run risks:
 - Don't create correlation between returns and stochastic discount factor
 - Have no effect on asset prices
- Timing issue implies that EZW preferences are crucial in LRR model

BANSAL AND YARON (2004): ASSET PRICING

- EZW preferences with:
 - CRRA: $\gamma = 10$
 - IES: $\psi = 1.5$
- Two assets:
 - One period, risk-free bond
 - “Equity” with dividend growth rate:

$$\Delta d_{t+1} = \mu + \phi x_t + \varphi_d \sigma_t u_t$$

- Leverage: $\phi = 3$
- Dividend volatility: $\varphi_d = 4.5$

BANSAL AND YARON (2004): CALIBRATION

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta c_{t+1} &= \mu + x_t + \chi \sigma_t \eta_{t+1}, \\ x_{t+1} &= \rho x_t + \sigma_t \epsilon_{t+1}, \\ \sigma_{t+1}^2 &= \sigma^2 + \gamma(\sigma_t^2 - \sigma^2) + \sigma_\omega \omega_{t+1},\end{aligned}$$

- Calibrate long-run risks parameters:

$$\mu = 0.0015, \quad \rho = 0.979, \quad \sigma = 0.078, \quad \varphi_e = 0.044$$

- No formal macro calibration targets
- Parameters largely viewed as free parameters
- Chosen largely to fit asset prices

BANSAL AND YARON (2004): CALIBRATION

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta c_{t+1} &= \mu + x_t + \chi \sigma_t \eta_{t+1}, \\ x_{t+1} &= \rho x_t + \sigma_t \epsilon_{t+1}, \\ \sigma_{t+1}^2 &= \sigma^2 + \gamma(\sigma_t^2 - \sigma^2) + \sigma_\omega \omega_{t+1},\end{aligned}$$

- Calibrate long-run risks parameters:

$$\mu = 0.0015, \quad \rho = 0.979, \quad \sigma = 0.078, \quad \varphi_e = 0.044$$

- No formal macro calibration targets
- Parameters largely viewed as free parameters
- Chosen largely to fit asset prices
- Why is this viable?
 - Long-run risks small enough they don't seriously affect model's fit to data on macro aggregates

| Variable | Data | | Model | | | | |
|----------------|----------|--------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|------------|
| | Estimate | SE | Mean | 95% | 5% | <i>p</i> -Val | <i>Pop</i> |
| $\sigma(g)$ | 2.93 | (0.69) | 2.72 | 3.80 | 2.01 | 0.37 | 2.88 |
| $AC(1)$ | 0.49 | (0.14) | 0.48 | 0.65 | 0.21 | 0.53 | 0.53 |
| $AC(2)$ | 0.15 | (0.22) | 0.23 | 0.50 | -0.17 | 0.70 | 0.27 |
| $AC(5)$ | -0.08 | (0.10) | 0.13 | 0.46 | -0.13 | 0.93 | 0.09 |
| $AC(10)$ | 0.05 | (0.09) | 0.01 | 0.32 | -0.24 | 0.80 | 0.01 |
| $VR(2)$ | 1.61 | (0.34) | 1.47 | 1.69 | 1.22 | 0.17 | 1.53 |
| $VR(5)$ | 2.01 | (1.23) | 2.26 | 3.78 | 0.79 | 0.63 | 2.36 |
| $VR(10)$ | 1.57 | (2.07) | 3.00 | 6.51 | 0.76 | 0.77 | 2.96 |
| $\sigma(g_d)$ | 11.49 | (1.98) | 10.96 | 15.47 | 7.79 | 0.43 | 11.27 |
| $AC(1)$ | 0.21 | (0.13) | 0.33 | 0.57 | 0.09 | 0.53 | 0.39 |
| $corr(g, g_d)$ | 0.55 | (0.34) | 0.31 | 0.60 | -0.03 | 0.07 | 0.35 |

Source: Bansal and Yaron (2004)

| Variable | Data | | Model | |
|------------------|----------|--------|----------------|---------------|
| | Estimate | SE | $\gamma = 7.5$ | $\gamma = 10$ |
| Returns | | | | |
| $E(r_m - r_f)$ | 6.33 | (2.15) | 4.01 | 6.84 |
| $E(r_f)$ | 0.86 | (0.42) | 1.44 | 0.93 |
| $\sigma(r_m)$ | 19.42 | (3.07) | 17.81 | 18.65 |
| $\sigma(r_f)$ | 0.97 | (0.28) | 0.44 | 0.57 |
| Price Dividend | | | | |
| $E(\exp(p - d))$ | 26.56 | (2.53) | 25.02 | 19.98 |
| $\sigma(p - d)$ | 0.29 | (0.04) | 0.18 | 0.21 |
| $AC1(p - d)$ | 0.81 | (0.09) | 0.80 | 0.82 |
| $AC2(p - d)$ | 0.64 | (0.15) | 0.65 | 0.67 |

Source: Bansal and Yaron (2004)

ROLE OF EPSTEIN-ZIN PREFERENCES

- Stochastic discount factor with Epstein-Zin-Weil preferences:

$$\log M_{t+1} = \theta \log \beta - \frac{\theta}{\psi} \Delta c_{t+1} + (\theta - 1) R_{c,t+1}$$

- Current marginal utility depends on news about **future** consumption growth (through $R_{c,t+1}$)

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 - Decrease in future expected growth raise current marginal utility
(If $IES > 1$ and $CRRA > 1/IES$)
 - Increase in future uncertainty raises current marginal utility
(If $CRRA > 1$ and $IES > 1$)
- $IES > 1$ crucial for LRRs to increase equity premium

PREDICTABILITY OF STOCK RETURNS

- Large literature argues stock returns are predictable
(Campbell-Shiller, 1988; Fama-French, 1988, Cochrane, 2008, van Binsbergen-Koijen, 2010)
- Idea: High P/D ratio predicts low returns

| Panel A: Excess Returns | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Variable | Data | SE | Model |
| $B(1)$ | -0.08 | (0.07) | -0.18 |
| $B(3)$ | -0.37 | (0.16) | -0.47 |
| $B(5)$ | -0.66 | (0.21) | -0.66 |
| $R^2(1)$ | 0.02 | (0.04) | 0.05 |
| $R^2(3)$ | 0.19 | (0.13) | 0.10 |
| $R^2(5)$ | 0.37 | (0.15) | 0.16 |

Source: Bansal and Yaron (2004)

INTUITION FOR PREDICTABILITY IN LRR MODEL

- P/D ratio is stationary
- A decrease in P/D therefore implies:
 - High returns going forward, or ...
 - Low Dividend growth going forward, or ...
 - Both
- Uncertainty shock in LRR model implies:
 - Stock prices fall (if $CRRA > 1$ and $IES > 1$)
 - No effect on expected dividends
 - So, expected returns must rise

BEELER AND CAMPBELL (2012) CRITIQUE

- What about growth rate shocks?
- In LLR model, high growth rate shocks raise P/D and predict future consumption growth
- Not in the data

| | $\hat{\beta}$ | t | \hat{R}^2 | $R^2(50\%)$ | | $\%(\hat{R}^2)$ | |
|--|---------------|--------|-------------|-------------|-------|-----------------|--------------|
| | data | data | data | BY | BKY | BY | BKY |
| $\sum_{j=1}^J (r_{m,t+j} - r_{f,t+j}) = \alpha + \beta(p_t - d_t) + \varepsilon_{t+j}$ | | | | | | | |
| 1 Y | -0.093 | -1.803 | 0.044 | 0.007 | 0.011 | 0.918 | 0.841 |
| 3 Y | -0.264 | -3.231 | 0.170 | 0.017 | 0.028 | 0.980 | 0.940 |
| 5 Y | -0.413 | -3.781 | 0.269 | 0.025 | 0.043 | 0.990 | 0.956 |
| 4 Q | -0.119 | -2.625 | 0.090 | 0.008 | 0.012 | 0.980 | 0.952 |
| 12 Q | -0.274 | -3.191 | 0.187 | 0.022 | 0.033 | 0.970 | 0.933 |
| 20 Q | -0.424 | -3.365 | 0.257 | 0.033 | 0.050 | 0.969 | 0.926 |
| $\sum_{j=1}^J (\Delta c_{t+j}) = \alpha + \beta(p_t - d_t) + \varepsilon_{t+j}$ | | | | | | | |
| 1 Y | 0.011 | 1.586 | 0.060 | 0.324 | 0.145 | 0.006 | 0.202 |
| 3 Y | 0.010 | 0.588 | 0.013 | 0.350 | 0.109 | 0.002 | 0.132 |
| 5 Y | -0.001 | -0.060 | 0.000 | 0.285 | 0.085 | 0.001 | 0.015 |
| 4 Q | 0.000 | 0.140 | 0.000 | 0.237 | 0.063 | 0.000 | 0.023 |
| 12 Q | -0.002 | -0.296 | 0.001 | 0.269 | 0.068 | 0.003 | 0.069 |
| 20 Q | -0.003 | -0.296 | 0.002 | 0.213 | 0.060 | 0.014 | 0.089 |

Source: Beeler and Campbell (2012)

- Key LRR parameters are macro parameters
 - How important are changes in trend growth rates (e.g., productivity slowdown)
 - How important are fluctuations in macro volatility? (e.g. Great Moderation)
- However, in LRR literature, key parameters are calibrated or estimated to fit asset pricing data
- Since model has no other way to fit asset pricing data, it concludes that LRR are there
- But are these features really “there” in macro data?

- Estimate long-run risks model using **only** macro data
- Use data on aggregate consumption from 16 countries over 120 years
- Pool data across countries to better estimate key parameters
- Advantage of using macroeconomic data alone:
 - Results not driven by need to explain asset prices
 - Results provide direct evidence for the mechanism

$$\begin{aligned}
 c_{i,t+1} &= \tilde{c}_{i,t+1} + \sigma_{i,\nu} \nu_{i,t+1} + l_{i,t+1}^d \sigma_{i,\psi} \psi_{i,t+1}^d \\
 \Delta \tilde{c}_{i,t+1} &= \mu_i + x_{i,t} + \xi_i x_{W,t} + \chi_i \eta_{i,t+1}, \\
 x_{i,t+1} &= \rho x_{i,t} + \epsilon_{i,t+1}, \\
 \sigma_{i,t+1}^2 &= \sigma_i^2 + \gamma(\sigma_{i,t}^2 - \sigma_i^2) + \omega_{i,t+1}, \\
 x_{W,t+1} &= \rho_W x_{W,t} + \epsilon_{W,t+1}, \\
 \sigma_{W,t+1}^2 &= \sigma_W^2 + \gamma(\sigma_{W,t}^2 - \sigma_W^2) + \omega_{W,t+1},
 \end{aligned}$$

- Volatility of $\epsilon_{W,t+1}$ is $\sigma_{W,t}^2$
- Volatility of $\epsilon_{i,t+1}$ and $\eta_{i,t+1}$ is $\sigma_{i,t}^2 + \sigma_{W,t}^2$
- $\text{Corr}(\epsilon_{W,t+1}, \omega_{W,t+1}) = \lambda_W$, $\text{Corr}(\epsilon_{i,t+1}, \omega_{i,t+1}) = \lambda$
- Pooled parameters: $\rho_W, \rho, \gamma, \sigma_W^2, \sigma_{\omega,W}^2, \sigma_{\omega,i}^2, \lambda_W, \lambda$
- Country-specific parameters: $\mu_i, \xi_i, \chi_i, \sigma_i^2$

- Consumer expenditure data from Barro and Ursua (2008)
- Focus on 16 developed countries:
 - Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States
- Sample period: 1890 - 2009
 - Unbalanced panel
 - All countries start before 1914
- Asset prices: Global Financial Data
 - Total returns on equity and government bills
 - Price-dividend ratios on equity

- Large and persistent world growth-rate process,
 - Less persistent country-specific growth-rate process
 - High volatility correlated with low growth
-
- Match equity premium with $CRRA = 6.5$
 - Also consistent with high volatility of stock returns, low and stable risk free rate, predictability of stock returns based on P/D , volatility of P/D

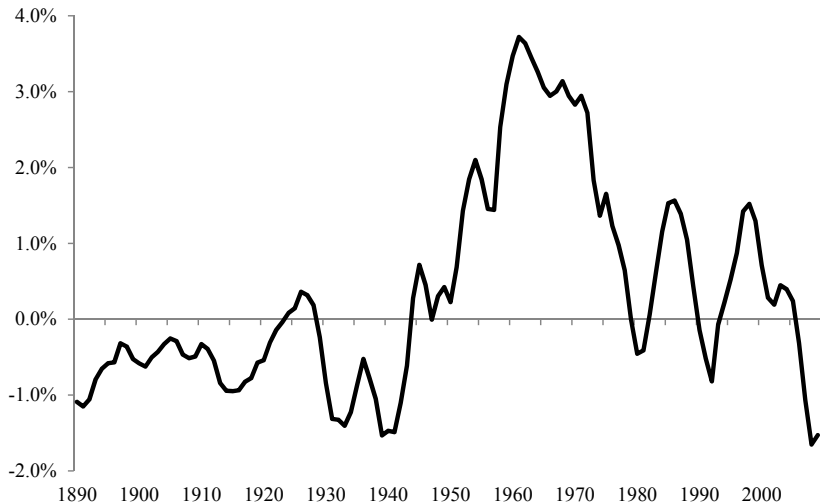


FIGURE II

The World Growth-Rate Process

The figure plots the posterior mean value of $x_{w,t}$ for each year in our sample.

Source: Nakamura, Sergeyev, Steinsson (2017)

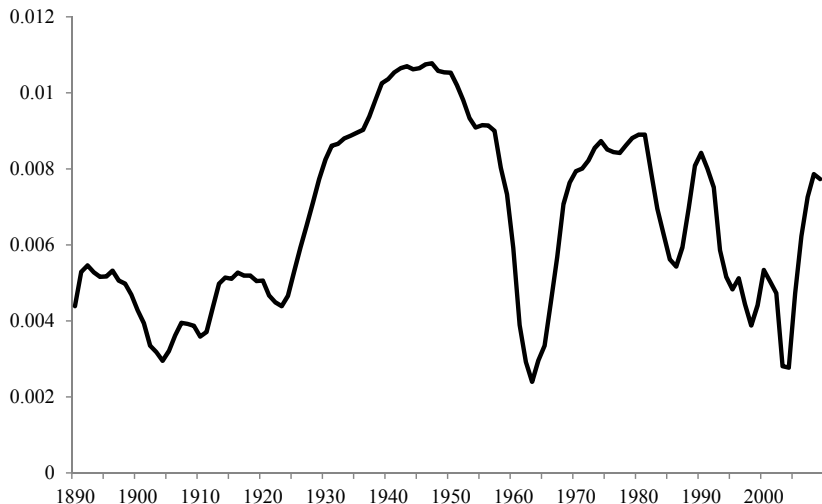


FIGURE III

World Stochastic Volatility

The figure plots the posterior mean value of $\sigma_{w,t}$ for each year in our sample.

Source: Nakamura, Sergeyev, Steinsson (2017)

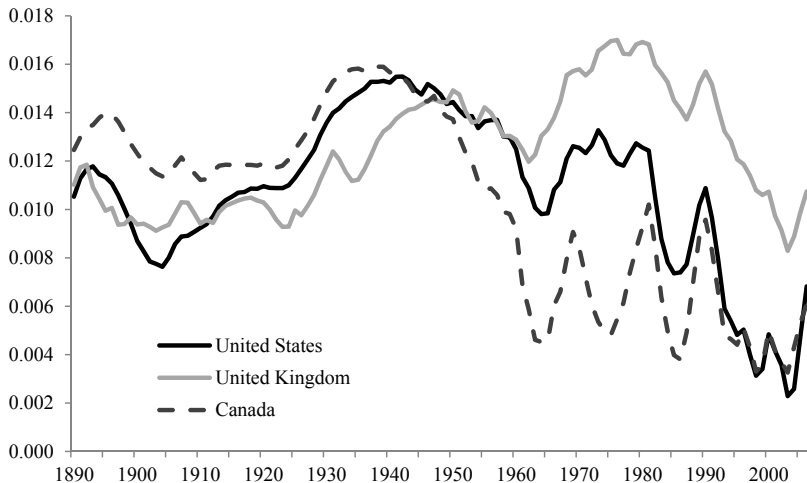


FIGURE IV
Stochastic Volatility for the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada

Source: Nakamura, Sergeyev, Steinsson (2017)

Correlations between Growth-Rate and Uncertainty Shocks

| | Baseline |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Country-Specific (λ) | -0.47 (0.17) |
| World (λ_w) | -0.42 (0.24) |

Source: Nakamura, Sergeyev, Steinsson (2017)

Properties of Consumption Growth

| | Median Country | | |
|--------|----------------|--------|---------------|
| | Data | Model | |
| | | Median | [2.5%, 97.5%] |
| AC(1) | 0.13 | -0.01 | [0.17,0.17] |
| AC(2) | 0.14 | 0.13 | [0.03,0.27] |
| AC(3) | 0.04 | 0.10 | [0.01,0.25] |
| AC(4) | 0.07 | 0.07 | [-0.01,0.22] |
| AC(5) | 0.00 | 0.06 | [-0.02,0.20] |
| AC(10) | 0.12 | 0.02 | [-0.05,0.13] |

Source: Nakamura, Sergeyev, Steinsson (2017)

TABLE V
Asset Pricing Summary Statistics

| | Data | | Model | |
|------------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Median | U.S. | Median | U.S. |
| $E(R_m - R_f)$ | 6.87 | 7.10 | 6.60 | 6.90 |
| $\sigma(R_m - R_f)$ | 21.82 | 17.37 | 13.85 | 13.91 |
| $E(R_m - R_f) / \sigma(R_m - R_f)$ | 0.32 | 0.41 | 0.48 | 0.50 |
| $E(R_m)$ | 9.10 | 8.23 | 7.74 | 8.03 |
| $\sigma(R_m)$ | 21.99 | 17.89 | 13.84 | 13.88 |
| $E(R_f)$ | 1.43 | 1.13 | 0.92 | 1.13 |
| $\sigma(R_f)$ | 4.57 | 3.33 | 1.55 | 1.55 |
| $E(p-d)$ | 3.30 | 3.30 | 2.94 | 2.92 |
| $\sigma(p-d)$ | 0.41 | 0.40 | 0.27 | 0.27 |
| $AC1(p-d)$ | 0.85 | 0.90 | 0.90 | 0.90 |

Source: Nakamura, Sergeyev, Steinsson (2017)