

1. The Real Business Cycle Model

Consider the following model, where the representative household maximizes

$$\mathbb{E}_t \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \beta^s \left[\ln C_{t+s} + \theta \frac{(1 - N_{t+s})^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} \right] \quad (1)$$

subject to

$$Y_t = (A_t N_t)^\alpha K_t^{1-\alpha} \quad (2)$$

$$K_{t+1} = (1 - \delta)K_t + Y_t - C_t. \quad (3)$$

Log technology follows

$$\ln A_t = \phi \ln A_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t, \quad (4)$$

where $\varepsilon_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$.

- (a) Define R_{t+1} as the gross rate of return on a one-period investment in capital. Derive the conditions characterizing the optimal consumption-savings and consumption leisure decisions.
- (b) Derive the steady-state ratios A/K , Y/K , and C/Y in terms of the model's parameters.
- (c) Log-linearize the optimality conditions, the production function and the resource constraint around the steady state. Then define vectors $\bar{\mathbf{y}}_t$ and $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_t$ and matrices \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{B} , \mathbf{C} so that the system of equations can be written as

$$\mathbf{A} \mathbb{E}_t \bar{\mathbf{y}}_{t+1} = \mathbf{B} \bar{\mathbf{y}}_t + \mathbf{C} \bar{\mathbf{x}}_t. \quad (5)$$

- (d) Using $\alpha = 0.67$, $r = 0.015$, $g = 0.005$, $\delta = 0.025$, $N = 0.33$, $\phi = 0.979$ and $\gamma = 2$ write a Matlab program that computes the solution of this system in terms of observables, and plot impulse response functions of y , k , c , and l to a technology shock. You may use the REDS-SOLDS package provided on the course website.