

Discussion of
Monetary Policy and the Redistribution Channel
by Adrien Auclert

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NBER Mathematical Economics Conference - UVa
November 7 2015

Summary

- ▶ **Motivation**

- ▶ How does monetary policy affect consumption?

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- ▶ **This paper:** Framework to understand the effects of monetary policy on consumption

- ▶ In a model with heterogeneous agents
- ▶ Emphasis in real redistribution channel $Cov_i(MPC, URE)$

- ▶ Very important question

- ▶ Big fan of the overall approach

Three parts in the paper

1. **Theory** (3 main theorems)
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3. Heterogeneous agents DSGE model

Theorem 1: complete markets/perfect foresight

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- ▶ $MPC = \frac{\partial c_0}{\partial y_0}$ is out of date 0 income (or present value of future wealth)
- ▶ Alternative interpretation: unforeseen (MIT) shock

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- ▶ So

$$\boxed{\frac{dx}{dp} = \frac{\partial x}{\partial w} (\tilde{x} - x) + \frac{\partial h}{\partial p}}$$

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- ▶ **Last remark on theorem 1:** For welfare, only $d\Omega$ matters

$$dU = U_{c_0} d\Omega$$

- ▶ No need to differentiate substitution versus income effects!

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Theorem 2: additional remarks

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 - ▶ First-order effects from $t = 1$ to $t = T$ are missing
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Two additional comments

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 - ▶ We need MPC's out of future income
 - ▶ No guarantees that they are equal to MPC at 0

Conclusion

- ▶ Important contribution in important topic
- ▶ Scope to clarify applicability
- ▶ Exciting paper
 - ▶ More work remains to be done on this question, positive and normative on the theoretical side and especially on the measurement side