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AND RETURNS ON INVESTMENT

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Abstract

This paper presents general conditions under which it is possible to obtain asset pricing relations from the intertemporal optimal investment decision of the firm. Under the assumption of linear homogeneous production and adjustment cost functions (the Hayashi (1982) conditions), it is possible to establish, state by state, the equality between the return on investment and the market return of the financial claims issued by the firm. This result proves to be, in essence, robust to the consideration of very general constraints on investment and the inclusion of taxes.

INTRODUCTION

Standard work in asset pricing relates the returns on financial claims with the intertemporal marginal rate of substitution of economic agents [e.g., Breeden (1979), Merton (1973), Lucas (1978), and Hansen and Singleton (1982)]. The intertemporal marginal rate of substitution typically involves a function of consumption growth. The empirical performance of this approach has not been very successful in explaining the relation between financial variables and the business cycle. On one hand, consumption is probably too smooth to explain the behavior of asset returns, and on the other hand, this variable is not an accurate proxy for economic activity.

Production variables such as investment and output, are relatively more volatile and more characteristic of economic fluctuations than consumption. Furthermore, studies by Fama and Gibbons (1982), Fama and French (1989), and Barro (1989) have documented a significant relation between stock returns and both output and investment. These facts seem to suggest that theoretical models which succeed in relating asset returns with production side variables might be empirically more successful.

Standard production based asset pricing models [e.g., Brock (1982), Sharatchandra (1990), and Braun (1990)] assume price-taking managers who maximize the net present discounted value of the firm in a world with complete markets. The first order conditions are stochastic Euler equations which state that the conditional mean of returns on investment evaluated with contingent prices must be equal to a constant. Thus, as any return on a financial claim, investment returns have to satisfy a traditional Euler equation. However, contingent claim prices are not obtainable from standard specifications of the technology. It follows that, in general, the first order

conditions of the optimization problem involve unobserved terms unless one is willing to assume a particular specification of the relative prices. This requires a particular specification for consumer preferences [as in Sharatchandra (1990) or Braun (1990)].

Research which attempts to further exploit the implications of the assumption of market completeness [as in Cochrane (1991)] is probably more promising. This assumption ensures that investment payoffs can be replicated with the existing financial claims. Cochrane assumes a particular technology and adjustment cost function which allows him to identify the replicating marketed portfolio with the return on the stock of the firm. In this paper we build on Cochrane's (1991) result and obtain a general set of conditions under which one can identify the portfolio which replicates the investment return with the return on the financial claims issued by the firm.

The structure of this paper is as follows. In section 2 we find that it is possible to obtain strong asset pricing implications when a model similar to the one used in q-theory of investment is set in an uncertain environment. In particular we show that in a world with complete markets, the return on investing in a firm with linear homogeneous production and adjustment cost function [the Hayashi (1982) conditions] is equal *state by state* to the market return of a claim on the stock of the firm. In section 3 we extend the analysis to the case where the firm is constrained in its possibilities to raise external funds to finance investment and find a similar result to the one obtained in section 2. The expression of the investment return, though, is modified to incorporate a term which measures the binding character of the constraint. In section 4, we focus on taxation and find that the investment return can be replicated by a portfolio composed by the stock of the firm and a risk free discount bond. Section 5 concludes.

1 THE BASIC MODEL

Assume a standard multiperiod production economy under uncertainty. Trading takes place at discrete points of time indexed by $t = 1, 2, \dots$. The resolution of uncertainty can be represented by an event tree. Assume that there exists a sufficient number of securities to dynamically complete the markets. Therefore, there exists a probability measure under which any (normalized) payoff structure must be priced as a conditional expectation to prevent arbitrage¹ [e.g., Harrison and Kreps (1979), Huang and Litzenberger (1988)]. Denote the expectations operator under this alternative probability by E^* and let p_t, x_{t+1} denote the price of an asset and its random payoff. Assume without loss of generality the existence of an infinitely lived security with a strictly positive price at all times. Call b_t the price at time t of such a claim chosen as numeraire. Let $P_t = p_t/b_t, X_{t+1} = x_{t+1}/b_{t+1}$ be the normalized prices. Then the return $R_{t+1} = X_{t+1}/P_t$ has to satisfy the no arbitrage condition

$$E_t^*\{R_{t+1}\} = 1. \tag{1}$$

Consider now a representative firm under perfect competition. Let k_t, i_t and λ_t stand for the capital stock of the firm, investment and a random technical shock. The latter is assumed to be markovian; therefore future realizations depend on the past only through the present. Also assume that the distribution of the technical shock is independent of the existing capital stock and that it becomes observed at the beginning of each period. Define, for simplicity, a single factor production function $y_t = f(k_t)\lambda_t$ and a capital accumulation rule $k_{t+1} = a(k_t, i_t)$. Assume $f(\cdot)$ and $a(\cdot, \cdot)$ are continuously differentiable with strictly positive partial derivatives over their domains. The capital accumulation rule incorporates capital depreciation as

¹This is sometimes called in the literature risk neutral pricing.

well as installation costs². For notational convenience we denote in capital letters the corresponding normalized variables in terms of the price of the infinitely lived security taken as numeraire. Therefore, define as $K_t = k_t/b_t$, $I_t = i_t/b_t$, $Y_t = y_t/b_t$, $F(K_t) = f(K_t, b_t)/b_t$ and as $A(K_t, I_t) = a(K_t, b_t, I_t, b_t)/b_{t+1}$ the normalized capital stock, investment, output, production function and capital accumulation rule. Finally define the normalized cash flow as $D_j = F(K_j)\lambda_j - I_j$.

Under the assumption of efficient markets, the gross value at time t of a firm is given by the expected present discounted value of the random stream of future cash flows $\{D_j\}_{j=t+1}^{+\infty}$. More formally

$$V_t = E_t^* \left\{ \sum_{j=t+1}^{+\infty} D_j \right\}. \quad (2)$$

Define $J_t \equiv V_t - I_t$ as the net value of the firm at period t . Assume producers choose the investment path which maximizes the expected future stream of cash flows subject to a technological constraint. We can then write J_t as

$$\begin{aligned} J_t &= \max_{\{I_t\}} E_t^* \left\{ -I_t + \sum_{j=t+1}^{+\infty} [F(K_j)\lambda_j - I_j] \right\}, \\ \text{s.t. } &K_{t+1} = A(K_t, I_t). \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

As shown in Appendix A the first order conditions for the producer problem can be written as follows

$$E_t^* \left\{ \left[F_K(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1} + \frac{A_K(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})}{A_I(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})} \right] A_I(K_t, I_t) \right\} = 1. \quad (4)$$

Equation 4 states that along an optimal investment path it must be true that expected marginal benefits are equal to marginal costs. Notice that $1/A_I(K_t, I_t)$ is

²For instance $k_{t+1} = (1 - \delta)k_t + g(k_t, i_t)i_t$. Where $g(\cdot, \cdot)$ represent adjustment costs per unit of investment and δ is the depreciation rate of capital.

the value (in terms of investment at period t) of a unit of capital installed during the next production period. This marginal unit of capital produces $F_K(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1}$ units of the investment good at time $t + 1$ but also depreciates into $A_K(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})$ units of capital³ which are worth $A_K(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})/A_I(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})$ units of investment at period $t + 1$.

We can therefore define the *investment return* as

$$R_{t+1}^I \equiv \left[F_K(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1} + \frac{A_K(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})}{A_I(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})} \right] A_I(K_t, I_t). \quad (5)$$

The first order condition for an optimal investment schedule (4) therefore implies that the investment return should satisfy an orthogonality condition analogous to (1)

$$E_t^* \{ R_{t+1}^I \} = 1. \quad (6)$$

This expression states that the investment return has to satisfy as any other asset return a set of arbitrage conditions represented generically by (1). Expression (6) can be tested if the equivalent probability measure is specified. This approach (used implicitly by Sharatchandra (1990) and Braun (1990)) requires, however, the assumption of a particular preference structure to obtain explicit expressions for the contingent claim prices which define the new probabilities. It is also obvious that this approach is hardly a test of a new asset pricing theory.

However, the assumption of market completeness implies that the investment pay-offs can be replicated by a portfolio of tradeable assets. Standard arbitrage arguments

³For the simplest case where there are no adjustment costs but exponential depreciation of capital we have $K_{t+1} = (1 - \delta)K_t + I_t$ and in this case we obtain as first order condition

$$E_t^* \{ [F_K(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1} + (1 - \delta)] \} = 1.$$

In this case the marginal unit of invested capital is worth its expected productivity plus its value after depreciation.

then yield that the investment return should be equal state by state to the return of the replicating portfolio. A natural application of this idea is to relate the investment return of the firm with the return of the claims issued by the firm. Cochrane (1991) deals with a particular case where investment is perfectly replicated by the stock of the firm. Proposition 1 establishes general conditions under which the investment return is equal to the market return of the stock of the firm.

Let's define the market return of the firm as $R_{t+1}^M = (D_{t+1} + V_{t+1})/V_t$. Then,

Proposition 1 If the production function and the capital accumulation rule are linear homogeneous then investment and market returns are equal state by state.

Proof Appendix A.

The equality result between investment and market returns⁴ requires exactly the Hayashi (1982) conditions to relate average and marginal valuations of the capital stock in a perfect foresight environment. A constant returns to scale production function is required since we do not want the firm to obtain quasirents beyond the remuneration to inputs. A linear homogeneous capital accumulation rule is required to ensure that the average market valuation of the installed capital is equal to the marginal one. Notice that in general, the stock market is evaluating the proceedings from owning an average unit of capital, while the investment return is related to the marginal unit of invested capital.

Proposition 1 shows how strong asset pricing implications can be derived from those technological conditions in a very general framework under uncertainty. Notice that the extension of this proposition to a multifactor technology is immediate. The definition of the investment return remains unchanged if the technology is assumed to include variable inputs together with the fixed input. Furthermore, the equality

⁴The conditions of this proposition are invariant to the adopted normalization. Also since the numerator and the denominator of investment and market returns involve terms with the same time subscript the equality state by state of the two returns also holds in the original units without normalization.

between market and investment returns holds as long as it is assumed that firms are price takers in the factor markets and a complete set of contingent factor prices exist.

Cochrane (1991) obtains this result for a two-factor technology with endogenous marginal productivity of labor and capital. In proposition 1 it is seen how, not surprisingly, we can extend his finding for every technology that satisfies the Hayashi (1982) conditions. However, unlike Hayashi, we have assumed away taxation. On the other hand, like in most of Tobin's Q-literature, we have not included financing constraints.

In the next sections we investigate how extensions of the benchmark model affect the result stated in this section.

2 CONSTRAINED INVESTMENT

Asymmetric information and capital market imperfections provide explanations for the existence of limited possibilities of raising external funds to finance investment. The empirical investment literature [e.g., Fazzari, Hubbard and Petersen (1988) and Bronwyn H. Hall (1991)] has tried to incorporate financing constraints by including proxies of the liquidity status of the firm in a standard q-type of relation. However, this approach has failed to directly model the effects of those restrictions on the optimal investment decisions. Below we show how in our framework this issue can be modeled in a more satisfactory way for very general specifications of the financing constraints.

Assume that, at period t , the firm can only invest a proportion $\zeta_t(\lambda_t, t)$ of its capital stock. This seems to be a natural and sufficiently general way to account for the existence of financial rationing.

The producer problem can therefore be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
J_t &= \max_{\{I_t\}} E_t^* \left\{ -I_t + \sum_{j=t+1}^{+\infty} [F(K_j)\lambda_j - I_j] \right\} \\
&\text{s.t. } K_{t+1} = A(K_t, I_t) \\
&I_t \leq \zeta_t K_t.
\end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

To solve this program, we need to introduce a sequence of Lagrange multipliers γ_t for the set of constraints (7). Those multipliers are set up to be nonnegative and zero if the constraint is not binding.

The first order conditions of the maximization problem (see Appendix A) imply the no arbitrage condition

$$E_t^* \{R_{t+1}^I\} = 1.$$

where the investment return R_t^I is now defined as

$$R_{t+1}^I \equiv \left[F_K(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1} + (1 + \gamma_{t+1}) \frac{A_K(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})}{A_I(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})} + \gamma_{t+1} \frac{I_{t+1}}{K_{t+1}} \right] \frac{A_I(K_t, I_t)}{(1 + \gamma_t)} \tag{8}$$

As before this equation states that along an optimal investment path marginal costs have to be equal to marginal expected benefits. If at period t and period $t+1$ the firm is not liquidity constrained the investment return takes the same expression as seen in section 2. If the firm is constrained over time then there is an interplay of various factors which modify the expression of the investment return. First, if the constraint is binding at time t every unit of installed capital at period $t+1$ is more valuable because feasible investment is below its optimal level at period t . The value of a unit of installed capital is therefore $(1 + \gamma_t)/A_I(K_t, I_t)$. Second, at period $t+1$ the marginal unit of capital produces as before $F_K(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1}$. Third, each unit of investment at period t increases the capital stock at period $t+1$ and therefore relaxes the possibly binding character of the constraint at period $t+1$. This effect is measured by the

term $\gamma_{t+1}I_{t+1}/K_{t+1}$. Fourth, every unit of remaining installed capital $A_K(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})$ has a higher value at $t+2$ if the constraint is binding at $t+1$. This is the explanation of the term $(1 + \gamma_{t+1})A_K(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})/ A_I(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})$.

As in the basic model, under some technological conditions it is possible to link the return on the investment with the returns of a claim on the capital stock of the firm. As a first step, one can show that under the conditions of Proposition 1 the gross value of the firm can be expressed as

$$V_t = \frac{(1 + \gamma_t)}{a_I(K_t, I_t)} K_{t+1}. \quad (9)$$

This equation states that the market value of a claim to a capital stock of the firm is still proportional to its replacement cost. If the constraint is not binding, then the Lagrange multiplier is zero and the value of the firm is equal to the unconstrained case. If the constraint is binding then the Lagrange multiplier is positive. In this case, the desired investment is larger than the feasible investment and therefore the existing capital stock is more valuable. This gets translated into a greater shadow price of capital. Now we are ready to state the liquidity constrained version of Proposition 1.

PROPOSITION 2 If the production function and the capital accumulation rule are linear homogenous, then the investment return as defined by (8) is equal to market returns state by state.

PROOF Using the complementary slackness condition, the investment return for the general case (8) can be written as:

$$R_{t+1}^I \equiv \left[F_K(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1} + (1 + \gamma_{t+1}) \frac{A_K(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})}{A_I(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})} + \gamma_{t+1}\zeta_{t+1} \right] \frac{A_I(K_t, I_t)}{(1 + \gamma_t)}.$$

Multiplication of the numerator and denominator by K_{t+1} , using the Euler theorem

for homogeneous functions and expression (9) yield

$$\begin{aligned}
R_{t+1}^I &= \frac{F(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1} + (1 + \gamma_{t+1}) \frac{A_K(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})}{A_I(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})} K_{t+1} + \gamma_{t+1} \zeta_{t+1}}{\frac{K_{t+1}}{(1+\gamma_t)}} \\
&= \frac{f(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1} - I_{t+1} + V_{t+1}}{V_t} \equiv R_{t+1}^M.
\end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

One of the limitations of the model outlined in section 2 is the absence of taxes. In the following section we analyze how the relation between market and investment returns varies in presence of distortionary taxation. In particular, we modify the model to include taxation on corporate profits, and credits on investment expenditures and the depreciation of the capital stock.

3 TAXES

Let u_j , k_j and $d(s, j - s)$ be respectively the corporate tax rate, the investment tax credit and a depreciation allowance for equipment of age s at period j .

Therefore, total depreciation allowances at period j are $da_j = \sum_{s=1}^{+\infty} d(s, j - s) i_{j-s}$. As done in the previous sections, it is convenient to perform a normalization in units of an infinitely lived security by redefining $DA_j = da_j/b_j$ and $D(s, j - s) = d(s, j - s)b_{j-s}/b_j$. Under this renormalization, total depreciation allowances can be written

$$DA_j = \sum_{s=1}^{+\infty} D(s, j - s) I_{j-s}. \tag{11}$$

The cash flows of the firm are given by after tax income minus investment expenditures adjusted for the investment tax credit plus depreciation allowances on existing

capital

$$D_j = [1 - u_j]F(K_j) - [1 - k_j]I_j + u_j DA_j \quad (12)$$

and the gross value of the firm can be expressed as

$$V_t = E_t^* \left\{ \sum_{j=t+1}^{+\infty} [1 - u_j]F(K_j) - [1 - k_j]I_j + u_j \sum_{s=1}^{+\infty} D(s, j - s)I_{j-s} \right\}. \quad (13)$$

Define for further use the following quantities

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_t &\equiv \sum_{j=t+1}^{+\infty} z_j I_j, \\ z_t &\equiv \sum_{s=1}^{+\infty} u_{t+s} D(s, t), \\ \beta_t &= \sum_{j=t+1}^{+\infty} \sum_{v=-\infty}^{t-1} D(j - v, v) I_v + z_t I_t \end{aligned}$$

then, the total amount of depreciation allowances can be split into two parts⁵ as follows

$$\sum_{j=t+1}^{+\infty} u_j DA_j = \alpha_t + \beta_t.$$

The terms α_t and β_t respectively measure the present discounted value of future depreciation allowances associated to future investment and existing capital at period $t + 1$.

After some straightforward algebra analogous to the one indicated in appendix A, one can show that the first order conditions of the manager yield the standard no

⁵Similar results can be found in Hayashi (1982), Summers (1981), as well as Salinger and Summers (1983).

arbitrage condition

$$E_t^* \{R_t^I\} = 1$$

where the expression for investment return is

$$R_t^I \equiv \left[[1 - u_{t+1}]F_K(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1} + (1 - k_{t+1} - z_{t+1}) \frac{A_K(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})}{A_I(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})} \right] \frac{A_I(K_t, I_t)}{1 - k_t - z_t}. \quad (14)$$

This expression is similar to the one given in section 1. The only modification affects the relative price of invested capital at every period t . This variable now includes both the investment tax credit and the present discounted value of future depreciation allowances associated with this investment.

After tedious but straightforward manipulations it can be shown that (14) can be rewritten as

$$R_t^I = \frac{D_{t+1} + V_{t+1} - \beta_t}{V_t - \beta_t}. \quad (15)$$

From this expression one can notice that the equality between investment and market return does not hold state by state. The latter incorporates the return of a depreciation bond whose face value is the present discounted value of future depreciation allowances associated with existing capital at period $t + 1$. Notice that under the new probability measure the normalized riskless rate of return is zero.

However, we can easily obtain a replicating portfolio for the investment payoff.

PROPOSITION 3

Consider the following investment strategy: Buy the capital stock of the firm firm and shorten an amount β_t of a riskfree discount bond. Then the investment return is equal to the return of this portfolio state by state.

Proof

Follows directly from expression (15) and the exclusion of arbitrage opportunities.

4 Conclusion

This paper presents general conditions under which it is possible to obtain asset pricing relations from the intertemporal optimal investment decision of the firm. The basic model places firms in an uncertain environment with complete markets. Under the assumption of linear homogeneous production and adjustment cost functions (the Hayashi (1982) conditions), it is possible to establish, state by state, the equality between the return on investment and the market return of the financial claims issued by the firm. This allows us to relate asset prices to technology without explicitly specifying discount factors or assuming the existence of a representative consumer. This result proves to be, in essence, robust to the consideration of very general constraints on investment and the inclusion of taxes. This paper places the findings of Cochrane (1991) in a general set-up and provides a fertile framework to obtain asset pricing implications from technological and financial characteristics of the firm.

APPENDIX A

In this appendix we establish the link between the value of a firm and an optimal investment policy under uncertainty. Once we have stated the first order condition for optimal investment yielding the analytical expression for the investment return we will determine the value of the firm at any time. Finally we will establish that investment and market returns are equal state by state in this model. The problem defined by (3) can be written compactly in the following recursive manner

$$J(K_t, \lambda_t) = \max_{\{I_t\}} E_t^* \left\{ -I_t + F(A(K_t, I_t))\lambda_{t+1} + J(A(K_t, I_t), \lambda_{t+1}) \right\}.$$

The first order condition is at any time given by

$$E_t^* \left\{ \left[F_K(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1} + J_K(K_{t+1}, \lambda_{t+1}) \right] A_I(K_t, I_t) \right\} = 1. \quad (16)$$

Notice that since K_t and λ_t are the state variables it must be that investment is also a function of those variables. Along the optimal investment path combining the first order condition for optimality (16) as well as the capital accumulation rule yield the envelope condition

$$J_K(K_{t+1}, \lambda_{t+1}) = \frac{A_K(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})}{A_I(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})} \quad (17)$$

and therefore, the first order condition for optimal investment becomes

$$E_t^* \left\{ \left[F_K(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1} + \frac{A_K(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})}{A_I(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})} \right] A_I(K_t, I_t) \right\} = 1. \quad (18)$$

We are now ready to give the

Proof of Proposition 1: Consider the experiment of multiplying K_t and I_t by some constant μ . Then equation (17) becomes

$$J_K(\mu K_{t+1}, \lambda_{t+1}) = \frac{A_K(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})}{A_I(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})} \quad (19)$$

where we have used the assumption that A is linear homogeneous and therefore that all partial derivatives depend only on the ratio I_{t+1}/K_{t+1} . Since μ appears only on the LHS of (19) it must be that the LHS does not depend on K_{t+1} .

Formally, we can therefore write that

$$J_K(\lambda_{t+1}) = \frac{A_K(1, I_{t+1}/K_{t+1})}{A_I(1, I_{t+1}/K_{t+1})} \equiv H(\lambda_{t+1}). \quad (20)$$

Integration yields

$$J(K_{t+1}, \lambda_{t+1}) = H(\lambda_{t+1})K_{t+1} + h(\lambda_{t+1}, t + 1). \quad (21)$$

Along an optimal investment path it must be that

$$J(K_t, \lambda_t) = E_t^* \left\{ -I_t + F(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1} + J(K_{t+1}, \lambda_{t+1}) \right\}. \quad (22)$$

Substitution of (21) into (22) yields

$$H(\lambda_t)K_t + h(\lambda_t, t) = E_t^* \left\{ -I_t + F(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1} + H(\lambda_{t+1})K_{t+1} + h(\lambda_{t+1}, t + 1) \right\}. \quad (23)$$

The homogeneous solution of the integration $J(K_{t+1}, \lambda_{t+1}) = H(\lambda_{t+1})K_{t+1}$ must satisfy equation (22). Indeed substitution in equation (22) and use of the linear homogeneity properties yields equation (16). From equation (23) we see therefore that h

has to satisfy the condition

$$h(\lambda_t, t) = E_t^* \{h(\lambda_{t+1}, t+1)\}. \quad (24)$$

Notice that as long as we have not assumed a terminal condition for the Bellman equation, equation (24) admits an infinite number of solutions. However, assuming bubbles away, we only deal with the case where $h \equiv 0$ at all times.

By using again the assumption of homogeneity of A , we get along an optimal path that $V_t \equiv J_t - I_t = K_{t+1}/A_I(\lambda_t)$. This q-type of relation under uncertainty simply states that the value of the firm is proportional to the replacement value of its capital stock. The proportionality factor depends just on the realization of the technical shock. To finish the proof, recall that

$$R_{t+1}^I = \frac{F_K(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1} + \frac{A_K(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})}{A_I(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})}}{\frac{1}{A_I(K_t, I_t)}}$$

then, multiplication and division by K_{t+1} addition and subtraction of I_{t+1} in the numerator as well as application of the Euler theorem for linear homogeneous functions yields

$$\begin{aligned} R_{t+1}^I &= \frac{F(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1} - I_{t+1} + K_{t+2}/A_I(K_{t+1}, I_{t+1})}{K_{t+1}/A_I(K_t, I_t)} \\ &= \frac{D_{t+1} + V_{t+1}}{V_t} = R_{t+1}^M. \end{aligned}$$

This proof can be easily extended to situations where the investment is subject to explicit constraints. We indicate how to formulate the Bellman equation in terms of liquidity constraints $I_t \leq \zeta_t K_t$ but an analogous proof could be constructed for irreversible investment $I_t \geq 0$. Associate Lagrange multipliers γ_t with the liquidity constraints $I_t \leq \zeta_t K_t$. Those Lagrange multipliers are subject to the complementary slackness condition $\gamma_t[\zeta_t K_t - I_t] = 0$.

The recursive structure of the optimization problem can then be written as

$$J(K_t, \lambda_t) = \max_{\{I_t\}} E_t^* \left\{ -I_t + F(K_{t+1})\lambda_{t+1} + J(K_{t+1}, \lambda_{t+1}) + \gamma_t[\zeta_t K_t - I_t] \right\}.$$

The remaining steps are similar to the ones outlined previously.

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