## Efficient Bailouts?

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## Motivation

- Large interventions in credit markets during financial crises
- Fierce debate about desirability of **bailouts** 
  - Supporters: salvation from a deeper credit crunch
  - Critics: sowing the seeds of future financial crises

• Frank-Dodd act attempts to end bailouts

## Questions

- What are the implications of bailouts for the stability of the financial sector?
- Is it desirable to prohibit government bailouts?
- Quantitatively:
  - What are the effects over risk-taking and the severity of crises?
  - What is the optimal size of government intervention?
  - What are the features of policies to prevent excessive risk taking?

Propose a **quantitative** equilibrium model:

- Liquidity constraints generate "occasional credit crunches"
- This leads to **precautionary behavior** during normal times

#### **Inefficiency and Policy Response:**

- Collective transfer to firms increase dividend payments and wages
- But households do not internalize these GE effects
- $\Rightarrow$  Ex-post: welfare improving bailouts
- $\Rightarrow$  Ex-ante: insurance and moral hazard effects

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## What I find

- Bailouts are ex-ante welfare improving
- Optimal bailout: 2% points of GDP on average and increasing in leverage
- Severity of recession falls by 40% with the optimal intervention
- Role for macro-prudential policy to correct private cost of borrowing
- Size of optimal bailout is reduced by half when bailout is not anticipated

#### Relationship to the Literature

- Credit crunches and credit policy in DSGE models: (Gertler-Karadi (JME, 2011); Del Negro et al. (2010); Gertler-Kiyotaki-Queralto (2011))
  - They mostly focus on policy response to unanticipated credit crunches or log-linear dynamics. I analyze moral hazard effects.
- Moral hazard and incentive effects of bailouts:

(Schneider-Tornell (RES, 2004); Farhi-Tirole (AER, 2012); Chari-Kehoe (2010), Keister (2010))

- They study theoretically how bailouts increase risk-taking and moral hazard. I conduct a quantitative assessment.
- Externalities and macro-prudential regulation

(Lorenzoni (RES, 2008); Bianchi (AER, 2011); Bianchi-Mendoza (2010); Jeanne-Korinek (2010))

• They study prudential measures to address systemic risk. I study the role of bailouts and the implications for prudential regulation.









#### Households

Preferences:

$$E_0 \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t u(c_t - G(n_t))$$

Budget constraint:

$$s_{t+1}p_t + c_t = w_t n_t + s_t (d_t + p_t)$$

 $d_t$  dividends,  $s_t$  equity shares,  $p_t$  price of shares

FOC:

$$w_t = G'(n_t)$$

$$p_t = \mathbb{E}_t m_{t+1} (d_{t+1} + p_{t+1})$$

where  $m_{t+j} \equiv \beta^{j} u'(c_{t+j} - G'(n_{t+j})) / u'(c_t - G'(n_t))$ 

#### Firms

Continuum of firms with revenue given by

$$F(z,k,h) = zk^{\alpha}h^{1-\alpha}$$

 $z_t$  is an exogenous aggregate productivity shock

Flow-of-funds constraint:

$$b_t + d_t + k_{t+1} + \phi(k_t, k_{t+1}) \le k_t(1 - \delta) + F(z_t, k_t, h_t) - w_t h_t + \frac{b_{t+1}}{R}$$

 $\phi(\cdot)$  capital adjustment costs

 $b_t$  non-state contingent one-period debt

<u>Remark:</u> stock of shares is fixed and normalized to 1

#### **Financial constraints**

• Collateral constraint on debt financing:

$$b_{t+1} \leq \frac{\kappa_t}{k_{t+1}} k_{t+1}$$

• Equity constraint:

$$d_t \ge \overline{d}$$

Investment is constrained by internal and external funds:

$$\underbrace{k_{t+1} - k_t(1-\delta) + \psi(k_t, k_{t+1})}_{Investment} = \underbrace{F(z_t, k_t, h_t) - w_t h_t}_{profits} - b_t + \underbrace{\frac{b_{t+1}}{R} - d_t}_{new \ ext. \ funds}$$

$$i_t \quad \leq F(z_t, k_t, h_t) - w_t h_t - b_t + \frac{\kappa_t k_{t+1}}{R} - \bar{d}$$

#### **Recursive Problem**

$$V(k, b, X) = \max_{d,h,k',b'} \left\{ d + \mathbb{E}m'(X, X')V(k', b', X') | X \right\}$$
  
s.t.  $b + d + k' + \psi(k, k') \le (1 - \delta)k + F(z, k, h) - w(X)h + \frac{b'}{R}$   
 $b' \le \kappa k' \qquad (\mu)$   
 $d \ge \bar{d} \qquad (\eta)$ 

 $X\equiv (K,B,\kappa,z)$ 

# **Optimality conditions**

(Labor demand) 
$$F_h(z_t, k_t, h_t) = w_t$$

(*EE for bonds*) 
$$1 + \eta_t = R \mathbb{E}_t m_{t+1} (1 + \eta_{t+1}) + R \mu_t$$

(*EE for capital*) 
$$1 + \eta_t = \mathbb{E}_t m_{t+1} R_{t+1}^k (1 + \eta_{t+1}) + \kappa_t \mu_t$$

$$R_{t+1}^k \equiv \frac{1 - \delta + F_k(z_{t+1}, k_{t+1}, h_{t+1}) - \psi_{1,t+1}}{1 + \psi_{2,t}}$$

## **Competitive Equilibrium Definition**

Given an interest rate R and stochastic processes for  $z_t$  and  $\kappa_t$ , a competitive equilibrium is defined by a set of prices  $\{w_t, p_t\}_{t\geq 0}$ , allocations  $\{c_t, k_{t+1}, b_{t+1}, d_t, h_t, n_t, s_t\}_{t\geq 0}$  and a SDF  $\{m_t\}_{t\geq 0}$ :

- Households maximize utility
- **2** Firms optimize and discount dividends at  $\beta^j u'(t+j))/(u'(t))$
- All market clears:
  - Equity markets:  $s_t = 1$
  - Labor markets:  $h_t = n_t$
  - Resource constraint:

 $b_t + c_t + k_{t+1} + \psi(k_t, k_{t+1}) = k_t(1 - \delta) + F(z_t, k_t, n_t) + \frac{b_{t+1}}{R}$ 



#### **Coordination Problem**

- During a credit crunch, funds are more valuable inside firms
- Households do not internalize benefits of <u>unilateral</u> transfers to firms ⇒ Free-rider problem ⇒ inefficient level of investment
- Bailouts force households to transfer funds to firms ⇒ solve free-rider problem and improve welfare ex-post
- Bailouts reduce perceived cost of borrowing ⇒ Need for tax on debt ex-ante





### Normative Analysis

- Set-up a constrained social planner's problem
- Identify possible instruments that decentralize optimal allocations (debt-relief, equity injections, lump-sum transfers)
- **3** Quantitative analysis

## **Constrained Social Planner Problem**

- Chooses investment, borrowing and dividends subject to liquidity constraints
- Choose transfers between firms and households subject to iceberg costs
- Lets labor markets, equity markets, and goods market clear competitively

#### Admissible Allocations

 $\Upsilon_t$  are transfers from households to firms,  $\varphi$  is iceberg cost of transfers

(Collateral Constraint) 
$$b_{t+1} \le \kappa_t k_{t+1}$$

(Stock market clearing)  $p_t = \mathbb{E}_t m_{t+1} (d_{t+1} + p_{t+1}), \ s_t = 1$ 

(Labor Market clearing)  $w_t = G'(n_t) = F_h(k_t, h_t)$ 

#### Some characterization

$$\eta_t - \varphi u'(t) \leq 0$$
 with equality if  $\Upsilon_t > 0$ 

Remarks:

- If  $\varphi = 0$ ,  $d \ge \overline{d}$  does not bind.
- If  $\bar{d} = -\infty$ , the competitive equilibrium and the social planner's solution coincide

![](_page_23_Picture_5.jpeg)

#### **Decentralization I: Debt relief**

Households finance bailout with lump-sum tax:

$$s_{t+1}p_t + c_t \le w_t n_t + s_t (d_t + p_t) - T_t$$

Firms receive debt relief:

$$(1 - \gamma_t)b_t + d_t + i_t \le F(z_t, k_t, h_t) - w_t n_t + \frac{b_{t+1}}{R}(1 - \tau_t) + T_t^f$$

Remark: Debt relief is executed only if equity constraint binds

#### Decentralization I: Debt relief, debt-tax

Households finance bailout with lump-sum tax:

$$s_{t+1}p_t + c_t \le w_t n_t + s_t (d_t + p_t) - T_t$$

Firms receive debt relief and pay tax on debt:

$$(1 - \gamma_t)b_t + d_t + i_t \le F(z_t, k_t, h_t) - w_t n_t + \frac{b_{t+1}}{R}(1 - \tau_t) + T_t^f$$

Remark: Debt relief is executed only if equity constraint binds

**Remark:** Tax on debt is set when debt releaf <u>only if</u> equity constraint is **expected** to bind

![](_page_25_Picture_7.jpeg)

#### **Decentralization II: Equity injections**

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Government purchases equity and transfer them to households:

$$s_{t+1}p_t + c_t \le w_t n_t + (s_t + s_t^g)(d_t + p_t) - T_t$$

Firms's problem is:

$$\mathbb{E}_{t} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} m_{t+j} (d_{t+j} - \mathbf{e}_{t} b_{t})$$
  
s.t.  $b_{t} + d_{t} + i_{t} \leq F(z_{t}, k_{t}, h_{t}) - w_{t} n_{t} + \mathbf{e}_{t} b_{t} + \frac{b_{t+1}}{R} (1 - \tau_{t}) + T_{t}^{f}$   
 $d_{t} \leq \bar{d}, \quad b_{t+1} \leq \kappa_{t} k_{t+1}$ 

where number of shares are re-normalized to one and equity injections are set to a fraction of debt

## Decentralization II: Equity injections, debt-tax

Government purchases equity and transfer them to households:

$$s_{t+1}p_t + c_t \le w_t n_t + (s_t + s_t^g)(d_t + p_t) - T_t$$

Firms's problem is:

$$\mathbb{E}_t \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} m_{t+j} (d_{t+j} - \boldsymbol{e_t} b_t)$$
  
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 $d_t \leq \bar{d}, \quad b_{t+1} \leq \kappa_t k_{t+1}$ 

where number of shares are re-normalized to one and equity injections are set to a fraction of debt

**Remark:** Prudential tax on debt is strictly smaller than debt relief

![](_page_27_Picture_7.jpeg)

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## **Decentralization III: Helicopter Drop**

Bailout implemented through lump sum transfers conditional on aggregate variables

First-order conditions remain unaffected

 $\rightarrow$  <u>No tax on debt</u> is required to implement planner's allocations

Best case to prevent moral hazard as individual outcomes are independent of individual choices Quantitative Analysis

## Numerical Method

#### • Challenges

- Financial constraints impose significant non-linearities
- State variables are not confined to a small region
- Changes in consumption lead to large changes in firms's choices
- Approach:
  - Iterates jointly on equilibrium policy functions on entire state space
  - Allows for occasionally binding liquidity constraints
  - Full-equilibrium dynamics

#### **Functional Forms and Distribution Assumptions**

$$u(c - G(n)) = \frac{\left[c - \chi \frac{n^{1+\frac{1}{\omega}}}{1+\frac{1}{\omega}}\right]^{1-\sigma} - 1}{1-\sigma}, \quad F(z,k,h) = zk^{\alpha}h^{1-\alpha}$$
$$\psi(k_t,k_{t+1}) = \frac{\phi_k}{2} \left(\frac{k_{t+1} - k_t}{k_t}\right)^2 k_t$$

TFP shocks and financial shocks are independent processes:

$$log(z_t) = \rho \ log(z_{t-1}) + \epsilon_t, \qquad \epsilon_t \sim N(0, \sigma_\epsilon)$$

Financial shocks follow a two-state Markov chain with values given by  $\{\kappa^L, \kappa^H\}$  and transition matrix:

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} P_{L,L} & 1 - P_{L,L} \\ 1 - P_{H,H} & P_{H,H} \end{bmatrix}$$

## Calibration

Parameters set independently	Value	Source/Target
Interest rate	R - 1 = 0.02	Interest rate mid 2000
Discount factor	$\beta=0.97$	Capital-output= $2.5$
Share of capital	$\alpha_K = 0.33$	Average Labor Share
Depreciation rate	$\delta = 0.1$	Standard value
Labor disutility coefficient	$\chi=0.67$	Normalization
Risk aversion	$\sigma = 1.5$	Benchmark value
Frisch elasticity parameter	$\omega=2.0$	Benchmark value
Efficiency cost	$\varphi=10bps$	Benchmark value

#### Calibration

Parameters set by simulation	Value	Target
TFP shock		
	$\sigma_{\epsilon} = 0.01$	SD of GDP= $2.0$
	$\rho = 0.24$	Autocorrelation of $GDP=0.45$
Financial shock		
	$\kappa_L = 0.43$	Average leverage $=45$ percent
	$\kappa_H = 0.54$	Non-binding collateral constraint
	$P_{HH} = 0.9$	Probability of credit crunch=4 percent
	$P_{LL} = 0.1$	Duration of credit crunch=3 years
Adjustment cost	$\phi_k = 2.0$	SD of investment $=9$ percent
Dividend threshold	$\bar{d} = 0.05$	Equalize prob. binding constraints

#### Definition of credit crunch: Fall in credit of more than 2SD

# How does a typical crisis look like in the decentralized equilibrium without intervention?

![](_page_35_Figure_0.jpeg)
## Comparison with Data

	Model	Data 2008-2009
Output	-1.5%	-2.6%
Consumption	-1.1%	-1.2%
Investment	-27.0%	-22.6%
Debt-repurchase/ $GDP$	6.6%	8.1%
Hours	-1.0%	-6.7%

Note: Data corresponds to US data 2008-2009. Model corresponds to average crisis in decentralized equilibrium.

## **Ergodic Distribution of Bailouts**



Laws of motion for leverage  $\left(\frac{B_{t+1}}{K_{t+1}}\right)$ , borrowing and capital as a function of current debt, for mean values of productivity and mean value of capital

OBP denote optimal bailout policy

NBP denote no bailout policy

















### Ergodic Distribution Leverage



### Non-linear impulse response

What is the economy's response to a negative financial shock?

- Simulate economy for a long period of time for a sequence of TFP shocks equal to the average and positive financial shocks
- Hit the economy with a one-time negative financial shock
- Compare economy without intervention to economy with anticipated and unanticipated bailouts
- Role for macro-prudential policy





























### No Prudential Tax on Debt



#### Prudential Tax on Debt



### Welfare Gains of Optimal Policy



# Conclusions

- Substantial effects of bailouts on risk-taking and on recovery from recession
- Part of the increase in leverage is socially desirable (insurance effects)
- Best approach is to complement bailouts with prudential policy
  - This offsets moral hazard effects
  - Delivers time-consistent policy
- Moving forward: foundations for financial shocks and equity constraint, crowding-out effects of bailouts

Extra Slides

#### Financial Flows **Dack**



FIGURE 1. FINANCIAL FLOWS IN THE NONFINANCIAL BUSINESS SECTOR (CORPORATE AND NONCORPORATE), 1952.I-2010.II. See the online appendix for data sources.

Source: Jermann and Quadrini (AER, 2012) from Flow of Funds

### Equity Injections • back

$$e_t b_t = \Upsilon_t$$

$$T_t = \Upsilon_t(1+\varphi)$$

$$\tau_t = \frac{\mathbb{E}_t m_{t+1} (1 + \eta_{t+1}) + \mu_t}{\mathbb{E}_t m_{t+1} (1 + \eta_{t+1} (1 - e_{t+1})) + \mu_t} - 1$$

$$T_t^f = \frac{b_{t+1}\tau_t}{R}$$

### Debt Relief • back

$$\gamma_t b_t = \Upsilon_t$$

$$T_t = \Upsilon_t(1+\varphi)$$

$$\tau_t = \frac{\mathbb{E}_t m_{t+1} (1 + \eta_{t+1}) + \mu_t}{\mathbb{E}_t m_{t+1} (1 + \eta_{t+1}) (1 - \gamma_{t+1}) + \mu_t} - 1$$

$$T_t^f = \frac{b_{t+1}\tau_t}{R}$$

### Recursive Competitive Equilibrium • back

- firms' policies  $\left\{\hat{d}(k,b,X),\hat{h}(k,b,X),\hat{k}(k,b,X),\hat{b}(k,b,X)\right\}$  and firm's value V(k,b,X)
- $\bullet$  households's policies  $\{\hat{s}(s,X), \hat{n}(s,X)\}$  and SDF m(X,X')
- prices for labor and stocks w(X), p(X)
- a law of motion of aggregate variables  $X' = \Gamma(X)$
- households solve their optimization problem
- <sup>(1)</sup> firms's policies and firm value solve their Bellman equation
- markets clear in equity and labor market (\$\hat{s}(1, X) = 1\$),
  (\$\hat{h}(K, B, X) = \hat{n}(1, X)\$)
- the law of motion is  $\Gamma(\cdot)$  is consistent with individual policy functions and stochastic processes for  $\kappa$  and z.

# **Binding Region**

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#### Planner's problem • back

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{k_{t+1}, b_{t+1}, d_t, c_t, \Upsilon_t, h_t, p_t} E_0 \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t u(c_t - G(h_t)) \\ b_t + c_t + k_{t+1} + \Upsilon_t \varphi &= (1 - \delta)k_t + F(z_t, k_t, h_t) + \frac{b_{t+1}}{R} \\ \bar{d} &\geq (1 - \delta)k_t + F(z, k_t, h_t) - w_t^* h_t^* + \frac{b_{t+1}}{R} + \Upsilon_t - b_t - k_{t+1} \\ b_{t+1} &\leq \kappa k_{t+1} \\ where \ h_t^*, w_t^* \quad w_t^* = G'(h_t^*) = F_L(z_t, k_t^*, h_t^*) \\ p_t u'(t) &= \beta \mathbb{E}_t u'(t+1)(d_t + p_{t+1}) \end{aligned}$$

Remark: similar results if planner internalizes wage effects

"The nation must work together to strike the right balance between our need to promote the public trust and using taxpayer money prudently to strengthen the financial system...to get credit flowing to working families and businesses."

Geithner, T. (2009): My Plan for Bad Bank Assets, Wall Street Journal, March 23

#### Table: Second Moments

	No Bailout Policy	Optimal Bailout Policy	Data
Output	2.3	2.2	2.3
Consumption	2.0	2.1	1.6
Employment	1.5	1.5	0.8
Investment	9.9	9.6	9.0

Note: Moments in the model correspond to the stochastic steady state.

Moments in the data correspond to annual data from 1950-2010.

