



This paper provides a theory of credit-driven stock market bubbles. Our theory is motivated by two observations. First, the United States has experienced stock market booms and busts, which may not be explained entirely by fundamentals. Figure 1 presents the monthly real (adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index) Standard and Poor's (S&P) Composite Stock Price Index from January 1871 to January 2011 (upper line), and the corresponding series of real S&P Composite earnings (lower line) for the same period. From this figure, we see that the most dramatic bull market in U.S. history is from July 1982 to August 2000, with the skyrocketing increase in the price index during the late 1990s being the most remarkable. The latter price increase is often attributed to the internet bubble. Yet, the dramatic rise in prices since 1982 is not matched in real earnings growth. The lower line in Figure 1 shows that earnings seem to be oscillating around a slow, steady growth path that has persisted for over a century. Following the peak in 2000, the stock market crashed, reaching the bottom in February 2003. After then the stock market went up and reaching the peak in October 2007. This stock market runup is often attributed to the housing market bubble. Following the burst of the bubble, the U.S. economy has entered the Great Recession, with the stock market drop of 51.7% from October 2007 until March 2009. The recent stock market behavior resembles the runup of the 1920s (the Roaring Twenties), culminating in the 1929 crash. The stock market moves during that period are often used as an example of bubbles and crashes.

Second, some episodes of stock market booms are accompanied by credit booms. This suggests that one possible cause of bubbles is excessive liquidity in the financial system, inducing lax or inappropriate lending standards by the banks.<sup>1</sup> Figure 2 presents the S&P price index in relation to two credit market condition indexes for the United States. Both panels in the figure shows that since 2003 until then, the stock market boom was associated with credit ease and the bust was associated with credit tightening. However, this relationship did not exist during 1990s. This figure suggests that the recent stock market bubble and crash may be credit driven, while it is not the case for the internet bubble and crash.

The above two observations can be applied to many other countries, especially in emerging market countries. For example, overoptimism in 1990s about an "East Asian miracle" gen-

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<sup>1</sup>For example, Axel A. Weber, the former president of the Deutsche Bundesbank, has argued that "The past has shown that an overly generous provision of liquidity in global financial markets in connection with a very low level of interest rates promotes the formation of asset-price bubbles." (<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=a5S5Boes29Io>)

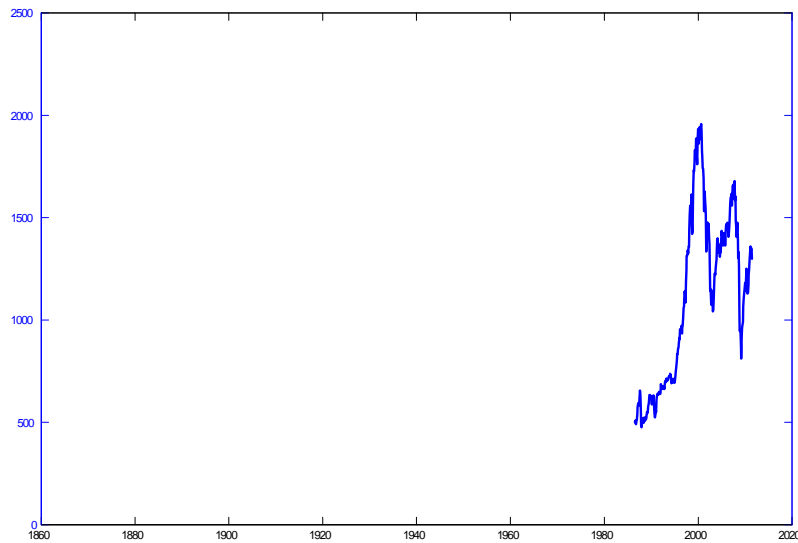


Figure 1: This figure plots the S&P Price Index and earnings. The solid line represents the S&P Price Index and the dashed line represents earnings. The data are downloaded from Robert Shiller's website: <http://www.econ.yale.edu/~shiller/data.htm>

erated high economic growth in East Asian countries. Capital account and financial market liberalization contributed to large capital inflows and generated a lending boom. The rapid increase in asset prices including housing prices and stock prices were accompanied by a large expansion of domestic credit through under-regulated banking systems. As documented by Collins and Senhadji (2002), regional stock markets (including Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand) trended upward through the first part of the 1990s, generally peaking around 1997 at an average 165% higher than their value in January 1991. Regional stock prices fell sharply after the onset of the crisis in mid-1997 through the end of 1998. In particular, Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand all suffered declines of over 70%.

To formalize our theory, we construct a tractable model of a production economy in which households are infinitely lived and trade firm stocks. We assume that households have linear utility so that the interest rate is equal to the constant subjective discount rate. There is no aggregate uncertainty.<sup>2</sup> A continuum of firms meet idiosyncratic stochastic investment

<sup>2</sup>These two assumptions are adopted for simplicity. Miao and Wang (2011a) introduce a concave utility

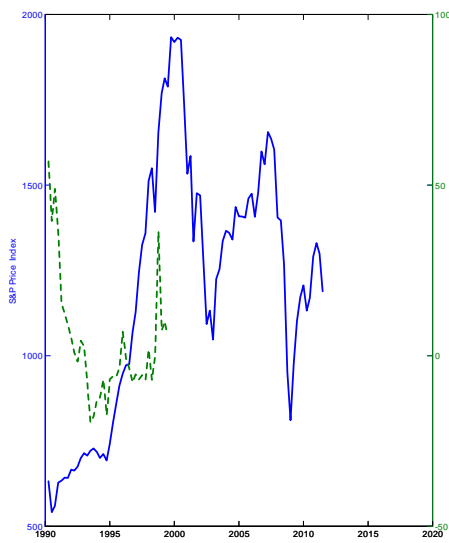


Figure 2: This figure plots S&P Price Index and two credit market condition indexes. The solid lines in the two panels represent the S&P Price Index. The dashed line on the left panel represents Net Percentage of Domestic Respondents Tightening Standards for Commercial and Industrial Loans Large and Medium Firms. The dashed line on the right panel represents the St. Louis Financial Stress Index. The last two series are downloaded from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

opportunities as in Kiyotaki and Moore (1997, 2005, 2008) and face credit constraints. We model credit constraints in a way similar to that in Kiyotaki and Moore (1997), Albuquerque and Hopenhayn (2004), and Jermann and Quadrini (2010).<sup>3</sup> Specifically, durable assets (or capital in our model) are used not only as inputs for production, but also as collateral for loans. Borrowing is limited by the market value of the collateral. Unlike Kiyotaki and Moore (1997) who assume that the market value of the collateral is equal to the liquidation value of the collateralized assets, we assume that it is equal to the value of the reorganized firm with these assets. Because the going-concern value is priced in the stock market, it may contain a bubble component. If both lenders and the credit-constrained borrowers (firms in our model) optimistically believe that the collateral value is high possibly because of bubbles, firms will want to borrow more and lenders won't mind lending more. Consequently, firms can finance more investment and accumulate more assets for future production, making their assets indeed more valuable.<sup>4</sup> This positive feedback loop mechanism makes the lenders' and the borrowers' beliefs self-reinforcing and bubbles may sustain in equilibrium. We refer to this equilibrium as the bubbly equilibrium.

Of course, there is another equilibrium in which no one believes in bubbles and hence bubbles do not appear. We call this equilibrium the bubbleless equilibrium. We provide explicit conditions to determine which type of equilibrium can exist. We show that if the degree of pledgeability is sufficiently small, then both bubbleless and bubbly equilibria can exist; otherwise, only the bubbleless equilibrium exists. This result is intuitive. If the degree of pledgeability is sufficiently small, investors have incentives to inflate their asset values to relax the collateral constraint and bubbles may emerge. The emergence of bubbles is accompanied by a credit boom. If the degree of pledgeability is sufficiently large, investors can borrow enough to finance investment. There is no need for them to create bubbles.

We prove that the bubbly equilibrium has two steady states: a bubbly one and a bubbleless one. Both steady states are inefficient due to credit constraints and both are local saddle points. Thus, multiple equilibria in our model are not generated by indeterminacy as in the literature





production. Wang and Wen (2011) provide a model similar to that in Kocherlakota (2009). They study asset price volatility and bubbles that may grow on assets with exogenous rents. They assume that these assets cannot be used as an input for production. Our model can also generate bubbles on intrinsically useless assets as long as these assets can be used to finance investment and households face short sales constraints. These assumptions are standard in the literature (e.g., Kocherlakota (2009) and Wang and Wen (2011)).

Building on Diamond (1965) and Tirole (1985), Caballero and Krishnamurthy (2006), Farhi and Tirole (2010), and Martin and Ventura (2010a,b) study bubbles in overlapping generations models with credit constraints. Caballero and Krishnamurthy (2006) show that stochastic bubbles are beneficial because they provide domestic stores of value, thereby reducing capital outflows while increasing investment. But they come at a cost, as they expose the country to

Appendix D analyzes a discrete-time setup when firms face idiosyncratic investment-specific shocks with a continuous distribution.

where  $w_t$  is the wage rate and

$$R_t = \frac{w_t}{1 - \alpha} \quad (2)$$

We will show later that  $R_t$  is equal to the marginal product of capital or the rental rate of capital.

Following Kiyotaki and Moore (1997, 2005, 2008), we assume that each firm  $j$  meets an opportunity to make investment in capital with probability  $\lambda dt$  in period  $t$ . With probability  $1 - \lambda dt$ ; no investment opportunity arrives. Thus, capital evolves according to:

$$K_{t+dt}^j = \begin{cases} (1 - \lambda dt) K_t^j + I_t^j & \text{with probability } \lambda dt \\ (1 - \lambda dt) K_t^j & \text{with probability } 1 - \lambda dt \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where  $\delta > 0$  is the depreciation rate of capital and  $I_t^j$  is the investment level. This assumption captures firm-level investment lumpiness and generates ex post firm heterogeneity. Assume that the arrival of the investment opportunity is independent across firms and over time. In Appendix D, we study the case where firms are subject to idiosyncratic investment-specific shocks with a continuous distribution. This alternative modeling does not change our key insights.

Let the ex ante firm value (or stock value) prior to observing the arrival of investment opportunities be  $V_t(K_t^j)$ ; where we suppress aggregate state variables in the argument. It satisfies the following Bellman equation:

$$V_t(K_t^j) = \max_{I_t^j} \left[ R_t K_t^j dt - I_t^j dt + e^{-rdt} V_{t+dt}((1 - \lambda dt) K_t^j + I_t^j) dt \right. \\ \left. + e^{-rdt} V_{t+dt}((1 - \lambda dt) K_t^j) (1 - \lambda dt) \right] \quad (4)$$

subject to some constraints on investment to be specified next. As will be shown in Section 3, the optimization problem in (4) is not well defined if there is no constraint on investment given our

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We now write the investment constraint as:

$$0 \leq I_t^j \leq R_t K_t^j + L_t^j; \quad (5)$$

where  $R_t K_t^j$  represents internal funds and  $L_t^j$  represents loans from financial intermediaries. To reduce the number of state variables and keep the model tractable, we consider intratemporal loans as in Carlstrom and Fuerst (1997) and Jermann and Quadrini (2010). These loans are taken at the beginning of the period and repaid at the end of the period. They do not have interests. In Appendix C, we incorporate intertemporal bonds with interest payments and allow firms to save. We show that our key insights and analysis carry over to this setup.

The key assumption of our model is that loans are subject to the collateral constraint:

$$L_t^j \leq e^{-r dt} V_{t+dt}(K_t^j); \quad (6)$$

The motivation of this constraint is similar to that in Kiyotaki and Moore (1997): Firm  $j$  pledges a fraction  $\alpha \in (0; 1]$  of its assets (capital stock)  $K_t^j$  at the beginning of period  $t$  as the collateral. The parameter  $\alpha$  may represent the tightness of the collateral constraint or the extent of financial market imperfections. It is the key parameter for our analysis below. At the end of period  $t$ , the stock market value of the collateral is equal to  $e^{-r dt} V_{t+dt}(K_t^j)$ : The lender never allows the loan repayment  $L_t^j$  to exceed this value. If this condition is violated, then firm  $j$  may take loans  $L_t^j$  and walk away, leaving the collateralized asset  $K_t^j$  behind. In this case, the lender runs the firm with the collateralized assets  $K_t^j$  at the beginning of period  $t + dt$  and obtains the smaller firm value  $e^{-r dt} V_{t+dt}(K_t^j)$  at the end of period  $t$ ; which is the collateral value. Alternatively, the lender sells the collateralized assets to a third party at the value  $e^{-r dt} V_{t+dt}(K_t^j)$ : The third party runs the firm with these assets and obtains the value  $e^{-r dt} V_{t+dt}(K_t^j)$ . Implicitly, we assume that firm assets are not specific to a particular owner. Any owner can operate the assets using the same technology.

We may interpret the collateral constraint in (6) as an incentive constraint in an optimal contract between firm  $j$  and the lender with limited commitment:<sup>9</sup> Given a history of information at date  $t$ ;

the beginning of period  $t$ ; and repayments  $L_t^j$  at the end of period  $t$ ; only when an investment opportunity arrives with Poisson probability  $\lambda dt$ : When no investment opportunity arrives, the firm does not invest and hence does not borrow. Firm  $j$  may default on debt at the end of period  $t$ . If it happens, then the firm and the lender renegotiate the loan repayment. In addition, the lender reorganizes the firm. Because of default costs, the lender can only seize a fraction  $\alpha$  of capital  $K_t^j$ : Alternatively, we may interpret  $\alpha$  as an efficiency parameter in that the lender may not be able to efficiently use the firm's assets  $K_t^j$ : The lender can run the firm with these assets at the beginning of period  $t + dt$  and obtains firm value  $e^{-r dt} V_{t+dt}(\alpha K_t^j)$ . Or it can sell these assets to a third party at the going-concern value  $e^{-r dt} V_{t+dt}(K_t^j)$  if the third party can run the firm using assets  $K_t^j$  at the beginning of period  $t + dt$ . This value is the threat value (or the collateral value) to the lender at the end of period  $t$ . Following Jermann and Quadrini (2010), we assume that the firm has all the bargaining power in the renegotiation and the lender gets only the threat value. The key difference between our modeling and that of Jermann and Quadrini (2010) is that the threat value to the lender is the going concern value in our model, while Jermann and Quadrini (2010) assume that the lender liquidates the firm's assets and obtains the liquidation value in the even of default.<sup>10</sup>

Enforcement requires that, when the investment opportunity arrives at date  $t$ ; the continuation value to the firm of not defaulting is not smaller than the continuation value of defaulting, that is,

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-r dt} V_{t+dt}((1 - \lambda dt) K_t^j + I_t^j) - L_t^j \\ e^{-r dt} V_{t+dt}((1 - \lambda dt) K_t^j + I_t^j) \geq e^{-r dt} V_{t+dt}(K_t^j); \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

This incentive constraint is equivalent to the collateral constraint in (6). This constraint ensures that there is no default in an optimal contract.

In the continuous-time limit, the collateral constraint becomes

$$L_t^j \leq V_t(K_t^j); \quad (8)$$

Note that our modeling of collateral constraint is different from that of Kiyotaki and Moore (1997). We may write the Kiyotaki-Moore-type collateral constraint in our continuous-time framework as:

$$L_t^j \leq Q_t K_t^j; \quad (9)$$

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<sup>10</sup>U.S. Bankruptcy law has recognized the need to preserve going concern value when reorganizing businesses in order to maximize recoveries by creditors and shareholders (see 11 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.). Bankruptcy laws seek to preserve going concern value whenever possible by promoting the reorganization, as opposed to the liquidation, of businesses.

where  $Q_t$  represents the shadow price of capital. The expression  $Q_t K_t^j$  is the shadow value of the collateralized assets or the liquidation value.<sup>11</sup> In Section 5, we shall argue that this type of collateral constraint will rule out bubbles. By contrast, according to (6), we allow the collateralized assets are valued in the stock market as the going-concern value when the firm is reorganized and keeps running using the collateralized assets after default. If both the firm and the lender believe that the firm's assets may be overvalued due to stock market bubbles, then these bubbles will relax the collateral constraint, which provides a positive feedback loop mechanism.

Let  $K_t = \int_0^1 K_t^j dj$ ;  $I_t = \int_0^1 I_t^j dj$ ;  $N_t = \int_0^1 N_t^j dj$ ; and  $Y_t = \int_0^1 Y_t^j dj$  be the aggregate capital stock, the aggregate investment, the aggregate labor demand, and aggregate output. Then a competitive equilibrium is defined as sequences of  $\{fY_t^j; fC_t^j; fK_t^j, fI_t^j; fN_t^j; fw_t^j; fR_t^j; fV_t(K_t^j); fI_t^j; fK_t^j; fN_t^j$  and  $fL_t^j\}$  such that households and firms optimize and markets clear in that:

$$\begin{aligned} N_t &= 1; \\ C_t + I_t &= Y_t; \\ K_{t+dt} &= (1 - dt) K_t + I_t dt; \end{aligned}$$

We first solve an individual firm's optimal contract problem (4) subject to (3), (5), and (6) when the wage rate  $w_t$  or the rental rate  $R_t$  in (2) is taken as given. This problem does not give a contraction mapping and hence may admit multiple solutions. We conjecture that ex ante firm value takes the following form:

$$V_t(K_t^j) = v_t K_t^j + b_t; \quad (10)$$

where  $v_t$  and  $b_t$  are to be determined and depend on aggregate states only. Note that  $b_t = 0$  is a possible solution. In this case, we may interpret  $v_t K_t^j$  as the fundamental value of the firm.

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<sup>11</sup>Note that our model differs from the Kiyotaki and Moore model in market arrangements, besides other specific modeling details. Kiyotaki and Moore assume that there is a market for physical capital (corresponding to land in their model), but there is no stock market for trading firm shares. In addition, they assume that households and entrepreneurs own firms and trade physical capital in the capital market. By contrast, we assume that households trade firm shares in the stock market and that firms own physical capital and make investment

The fundamental value is proportional to the firm's assets  $K_t^j$ ; which has the same form as that derived in Hayashi (1982). The firm has no fundamental value if it has no assets ( $K_t^j = 0$ ): There may be another solution in which  $b_t > 0$ : In this case, we interpret  $b_t$  as a bubble.<sup>12</sup>

Let  $Q_t$  be the Lagrange multiplier associated with the constraint (3) if the investment opportunity arrives. It represents the shadow price of capital or Tobin's marginal  $Q$ . The

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..rm will make the minimal possible level of investment. This investment choice is similar to Tobin's Q

$$Q_t = e^{-r dt} [R_{t+dt} dt + (1 - dt)Q_{t+dt} + (R_{t+dt} + Q_{t+dt})(Q_{t+dt} - 1) dt]; \quad (17)$$

$$K_{t+dt} = (1 - dt)K_t + (R_t K_t + Q_t K_t + B_t) dt; \quad K_0 \quad (18)$$

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} e^{-rT} Q_T K_{T+dt} = 0 \quad \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} e^{-rT} B_T = 0;$$

$$R_t = K_t^{-1};$$

When  $dt = 1$ , the above system reduces to the usual discrete-time characterization of equilibrium. However, this system is not convenient for analytically characterizing local dynamics. We may solve this system numerically by assigning parameter values. Instead of pursuing this route, we use analytical methods in the continuous-time limit as  $dt$  goes to zero. To compute the limit, we use the heuristic rule  $dX_t = X_{t+dt} - X_t$  for any variable  $X_t$ : We also use the notation  $\dot{X}_t = dX_t/dt$ : We obtain the following:

$$(B_t; Q_t; K_t) \quad Q_t > 1; \quad dt \rightarrow 0;$$

$$B_t = rB_t - B_t (Q_t - 1); \quad (19)$$

$$Q_t = (r + \delta) Q_t - R_t - (R_t + Q_t)(Q_t - 1); \quad (20)$$

$$\dot{K}_t = K_t + (R_t K_t + Q_t K_t + B_t); \quad K_0 \quad (21)$$

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} e^{-rT} Q_T K_T = 0 \quad \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} e^{-rT} B_T = 0;$$

$$R_t = K_t^{-1} \quad Q_t = v_t \quad B_t = b_t \quad j$$

$$V_t(K_t^j) = Q_t K_t^j + B_t;$$

After obtaining the solution for  $(B_t; Q_t; K_t)$ ; we can derive the equilibrium wage rate  $w_t = (1 - \delta) K_t$ , the rental rate  $R_t = K_t^{-1}$ ; aggregate output  $Y_t = K_t$ ; aggregate investment,

$$I_t = R_t K_t + Q_t K_t + B_t; \quad (22)$$

and aggregate consumption  $C_t = Y_t - I_t$ : We focus on two types of equilibrium.<sup>13</sup> The first type is bubbleless, for which  $B_t = 0$  for all  $t$ : In this case, the market value of firm  $j$  is equal

to its fundamental value in that  $V_t(K_t^j) = Q_t K_t^j$ . The second type is bubbly, for which  $B_t > 0$  for some  $t$ : We assume that assets can be freely disposed of so that the bubbles  $B_t$  cannot be negative. In this case, firm value contains a bubble component in that  $V_t(K_t^j) = Q_t K_t^j + B_t$  with  $B_t > 0$ : We next study these two types of equilibrium.

In a bubbleless equilibrium,  $B_t = 0$  for all  $t$ : Equation (19) becomes an identity. We only need to focus on  $(Q_t; K_t)$  determined by the differential equations (20) and (21) in which  $B_t = 0$  for all  $t$ . In the continuous time limit,  $v_t = Q_t$

We first analyze the steady state. In the steady state, all aggregate variables are constant over time so that  $\dot{Q}_t = \dot{K}_t = 0$ . We use  $X$  to denote the steady state value of any variable  $X_t$ : By (20) and (21), we obtain the following steady-state equations:

$$0 = (r + \delta)Q - R - (R + \delta)Q = 0; \quad (23)$$

$$0 = -\dot{K} + (RK + \delta K): \quad (24)$$

We use a variable with an asterisk to denote its value in the bubbleless equilibrium. Solving equations (23)-(24) yields:

$$\frac{(1 - \delta)}{r} = r; \quad (25)$$

$$K_E = \frac{Q_t = Q_E}{(K_E)^{-1} = r + \delta}; \quad K_t = K_E;$$

$$0 < \delta < \frac{(1 - \delta)}{r}; \quad (26)$$

$$Q = \frac{(1 - \delta)}{r + \delta} > 1; \quad (27)$$

$$(K)^{-1} = \frac{(1 - \delta)}{r + \delta} + \delta; \quad (28)$$

$$K < K_E:$$

Assumption (25) says that if firms pledge sufficient assets as the collateral, then the collateral constraints will not bind in equilibrium. The competitive equilibrium allocation is the same





the bubbleless equilibrium. This means that the bubbleless equilibrium must be dynamically inefficient (see Tirole (1985)).

Unlike this literature, bubbles in our model are on reproducible real assets and also influence their fundamentals (or dividends). Specifically, each unit of the bubble raises the collateral value by one unit and hence allows the firm to borrow an additional unit. The firm then makes one more unit of investment when an investment opportunity arrives. This unit of investment raises firm value by  $Q_t$ : Subtracting one unit of costs, we then deduce that the second term on the left-hand side of (29) represents the net increase in firm value for each unit of bubbles. This is why we call this term dividend yields. Dividend payouts make the growth rate of bubbles less than the interest rate. Thus, the transversality condition cannot rule out bubbles in our model. We can also show that the bubbleless equilibrium is dynamically efficient in our model. Specifically, the golden rule capital stock is given by  $K_{GR} = (\frac{r}{1+r})^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}}$ : One can verify that  $K < K_{GR}$ : Thus, one cannot use the condition for the overlapping generations economies in Tirole (1985) to ensure the existence of bubbles. Below we will give new conditions to ensure the existence of bubbles in our model.

We first study the existence of a bubbly steady state in which  $B > 0$ : We use a variable with a subscript b to denote this variable's bubbly steady state value. By Proposition 3,  $(B; Q_b; K_b)$  satisfies equations (23) and

$$0 = rB - B(Q - 1); \tag{30}$$

$$0 = K + [RK + QK + B] ; \tag{31}$$

Using these equations, we can derive:

$$\frac{B}{K_b} = - \frac{r + \alpha}{1 + r} \frac{r + \alpha}{r + \alpha} > 0; \tag{32}$$

$$Q_b = \frac{r}{r + \alpha} + 1 > 1; \tag{33}$$

$$(K_b)^{1-\alpha} = \frac{(1 - \alpha)r + \alpha}{1 + r} \frac{r}{r + \alpha} + 1 ; \tag{34}$$

$$0 < \alpha < \frac{(1 - \alpha)r + \alpha}{r + \alpha} r; \tag{35}$$

$$Q_b < Q ; \quad K_{GR} > K_E > K_b > K$$

only pledge a smaller amount of assets, they will face a tighter collateral constraint so that they have higher incentives to generate larger bubbles to finance investment.

Now, we study the stability of the two steady states and the local dynamics around these steady states. Since the equilibrium system (19)-(21) is three dimensional, we cannot use the phase diagram to analyze its stability. We thus consider a linearized system and obtain the following:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{B} \\ \dot{Q} \\ \dot{K} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} B \\ Q_b \\ K_b \end{pmatrix}$$

More formally, in Appendix A, we prove that for the nonlinear system (19)-(21), there is a neighborhood  $N \subset \mathbb{R}_+^3$  of the bubbly steady state  $(B; Q_b; K_b)$  and a continuously differentiable function  $\phi : N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  such that given any  $(B_0; Q_0; K_0) \in N$  there exists a unique solution  $(B_t; Q_t; K_t)$  to the equation  $\dot{(B; Q; K)} = 0$  with  $(B_0; Q_0; K_0) \in N$ ; and  $(B_t; Q_t; K_t)$  converges to  $(B; Q_b; K_b)$  starting at  $(B_0; Q_0; K_0)$  as  $t$  approaches infinity. The set of points  $(B; Q; K)$  satisfying the equation  $\dot{(B; Q; K)} = 0$  is a one dimensional stable manifold of the system. If the initial value  $(B_0; Q_0; K_0)$  is on the stable manifold, then the solution to the nonlinear system (19)-(21) is also on the stable manifold and converges to  $(B; Q_b; K_b)$  as  $t$  approaches infinity.

Although the bubbleless steady state  $(0; Q; K)$  is also a local saddle point, the local dynamics around this steady state are different. In Appendix A, we prove that the stable manifold for the bubbleless steady state is two dimensional. Formally, there is a neighborhood  $N \subset \mathbb{R}_+^3$  of  $(0; Q; K)$  and a continuously differentiable function  $\psi : N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that given any  $(B_0; Q_0; K_0) \in N$  there exists a unique solution  $Q_t$  to the equation  $\dot{(B; Q; K)} = 0$  with  $(B_0; Q_0; K_0) \in N$ ; and  $(B_t; Q_t; K_t)$  converges to  $(0; Q; K)$  starting at  $(B_0; Q_0; K_0)$  as  $t$  approaches infinity. Intuitively, along the two-dimensional stable manifold, the bubbly equilibrium is asymptotically bubbleless in that bubbles will burst eventually.

So far, we have focused on deterministic bubbles. Following Blanchard and Watson (1982) and Weil (1987), we now study stochastic bubbles. Consider the discrete-time economy described in Section 2. Suppose a bubble exists initially,  $B_0 > 0$ . In each time interval between  $t$  and



subject to

$$0 = I_t^j - R_t K_t^j + Q_t K_t^j + B_t; \quad (41)$$

where we define  $Q_t = e^{-rdt} v_{t+dt}$ ;

$$Q_t = e^{-rdt} (1 - dt)v_{t+dt} + v_{t+dt} dt; \quad (42)$$

$$B_t = e^{-rdt} (1 - dt)b_{t+dt}; \quad (43)$$

Suppose  $Q_t > 1$ : Then the optimal investment level achieves the upper bound in (41). Substituting this investment level into equation (40) and matching coefficients on the two sides of this equation, we obtain:

$$v_t = R_t dt + Q_t (1 - dt) + (Q_t - 1)(R_t + Q_t) dt; \quad (44)$$

$$b_t = B_t + (Q_t - 1)B_t dt; \quad (45)$$

As in Section 3, we conduct aggregation to obtain the discrete-time equilibrium system. We then take the continuous-time limits as  $dt \rightarrow 0$  to obtain the following:

$$Q_t > 1:$$

$(B_t; Q_t; K_t)$

$$B_t = (r + \delta)B_t - (Q_t - 1)B_t; \quad (46)$$

$$Q_t = (r + \delta + \lambda)Q_t - Q_t - R_t - (Q_t - 1)(R_t + Q_t); \quad (47)$$

$$R_t = K_t^{-1} \quad Q_t = g(K_t)$$

Equation (46) reveals that the rate of return on bubbles is equal to  $r + \delta - (Q_t - 1)$  which is the real return

$g(K)$  after the bubble collapses and then converges to the bubbleless steady-state value  $Q$  given in equation (27).

Our objective is to show the existence of  $(B_S; Q_S; K_S)$ : By (46), we can show that

$$Q_S = \frac{r + \delta}{r} + 1; \quad (48)$$

Since  $Q_S > 1$ , we can apply Proposition 7 in some neighborhood of  $Q_S$ : Equation (47) implies that

$$0 = (r + \delta)Q_S - g(K) - R - (Q_S - 1)(R + Q_S); \quad (49)$$

where  $R = K^{-1}$ : The solution to this equation gives  $K_S$ : Once we obtain  $K_S$  and  $Q_S$ ; we use equation (31) to determine  $B_S$ :

The difficult part is to solve for  $K_S$ : In doing so, we define  $\lambda$  such that

$$\frac{r + \delta}{r} + 1 = \lambda$$

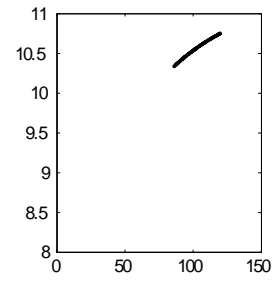
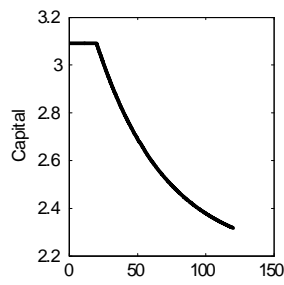


Figure 4: This figure plots the dynamics of the stationary equilibrium with stochastic bubbles. Assume that the bubble bursts at time  $t = 20$ . The parameter values are set as follows:  $r = 0.02$ ;  $\beta = 0.4$ ;  $\delta = 0.025$ ;  $\theta = 0.05$ ;  $\lambda = 0.01$ ; and  $\sigma = 0.1$ .

We have shown that the collapse of bubbles generates a recession. Is there a government policy that restores economic efficiency? The inefficiency of our model comes from the credit constraints. In our model, firms can use internal funds and external loans to finance investment. External loans are subject to collateral constraints. Bubbles help relax these constraints, while the collapse of bubbles tightens them.

Now suppose that the government can supply liquidity to the firms by issuing public bonds. These bonds are backed by lump-sum taxes.<sup>18</sup> We consider unbacked assets in Section 7.3. We first suppose that households can buy and sell these bonds without any trading frictions. We then relax this assumption in Section 7.3. Firms can use public bonds as collateral to relax their collateral constraints. They can also buy and sell these assets to finance investment. Let the quantity of government bonds supplied to the firms be  $M_t$  and the bond price be  $P_t$ : We start with the discrete-time environment described in Section 2. The value of the government assets satisfies:

$$M_t P_t = T_t dt + M_{t+dt} P_t; \quad (51)$$

where  $T_t$  denotes lump-sum taxes. Taking the continuous-time limits yields:

$$M_t P_t = T_t; \quad (52)$$

It is more convenient to define  $D_t = P_t M_t$ : Then use the fact that  $D_t = P_t M_t + M_t P_t$  to rewrite (52) as:

$$D_t - P_t M_t = D_t - \frac{P_t}{P_t} D_t = T_t \text{ if } P_t > 0; \quad (53)$$

Since households are assumed to be risk neutral, we immediately obtain the asset pricing

holdings of government bonds are another state variable. We write firm  $j$ 's dynamic programming problem as follows:

$$V_t(K_t^j; M_t^j) = \max_{I_t^j; M_{t+dt}^j} \int_0^1 R_t K_t^j dt - I_t^j dt + P_t(M_t^j - M_{t+dt}^j) \quad (55)$$

$$+ e^{-rdt} V_{t+dt}((1-dt)K_t^j + I_t^j; M_{t+dt}^j) dt$$

$$+ e^{-rdt} V_{t+dt}((1-dt)K_t^j; M_{t+dt}^j) (1-dt);$$

subject to (5) and

$$L_t^j - e^{-rdt} V_{t+dt}(K_t^j; 0) + P_t M_t^j; \quad (56)$$

$$M_{t+dt}^j \geq 0; \quad (57)$$

where  $M_t^j$  denotes the amount of government assets held by firm  $j$ : In equilibrium,  $\sum_j M_t^j dj = M_t$ : Equation (56) indicates that firms use government assets as collateral. The expression  $e^{-rdt} V_{t+dt}(K_t^j; 0)$  gives the market value of the collateralized assets  $K_t^j$ : Equation (57) is a short sales constraint, which rules out Ponzi schemes for public assets. It turns out that this constraint will never bind for firms: 431Td[c]-3238.431Td[sh]-As3(...in4(f)-1S(ct)-33II)-on4(f)-13,3(wi)1(er)-34(f)

As in Proposition 2, we may conduct aggregation and derive the equilibrium system for  $(P_t; Q_t; K_t)$  in the discrete time case. As in Proposition 3, the continuous-time limits satisfy the following differential equations:

$$\dot{P}_t = rP_t - P_t(Q_t - 1); \quad (61)$$

$$\dot{K}_t = -K_t + (R_t K_t + Q_t K_t + P_t M_t); \quad K_0 \text{ given,} \quad (62)$$

and an equation analogous to (20) for  $Q_t$ . In addition, the transversality condition

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} e^{-rT} P_T M_T = 0;$$

and other transversality conditions for  $K_t$  and  $B_t$  as described in Proposition 3 must be satisfied. Here, we omit the detailed derivation of these conditions and the above differential equations.

Equation (61) is an asset pricing equation for the firms' trading. It is identical to the asset pricing equation (19) for the bubble. This is because the government bonds and the bubble on firm assets play the same role for the firms in that both of them can be used to relax the credit constraints. The dividend yield of the government bonds to the firms is equal to  $(Q_t - 1)$

$$K_t = K_t + (R_t K_t + Q_t K_t + B_t + P_t M_t); K_0 \text{ given.} \quad (65)$$

By a no-arbitrage argument similar to that in the previous subsection, we deduce that  $Q_t = 1$ : By equation (47) and  $Q_t = 1$ ; we deduce that  $R_t = r + \dots$ ; which gives the efficient

(51) implies that  $M_t$  is constant over time since  $T_t = 0$ : We thus normalize  $M_t = 1$  for all  $t$ : Our previous asset pricing equations (54) (61), and (64) for public bonds still apply here if households do not face trading frictions. Thus, if  $P_t > 0$ ; then  $Q_t = Q_t = 1$ ; which implies that  $K_t = K_E$  for all  $t$ : In this case, the capital accumulation equations (62) and (65) imply that the public bond price  $P_t$  must be constant over time, contradicting with the asset pricing equations for bonds. Thus, in equilibrium  $P_t = 0$ : The intuition is that the public bond is a bubble when it is an unbacked asset. Its rate of return or its growth rate is equal to the riskfree interest rate which is higher than the zero economic growth rate. Thus, the bubble cannot sustain in equilibrium.

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assets. As equation (65) shows, equilibrium only determines the aggregate bubble  $B_t + P_t M_t$ . But the decomposition is indeterminate because both  $B_t$  and  $P_t$  satisfy the same equilibrium conditions and follow the same dynamics (see (46) and (64)). The equilibrium real allocation is independent of the decomposition. This result is analogous to that discussed in Section 5 of Tirole (1985).

In this paper, we provide an infinite-horizon model of a production economy with bubbles, in which firms meet stochastic investment opportunities and face credit constraints. Capital is not only an input for production, but also serves as collateral. We show that bubbles on this reproducible asset may arise, which relax collateral constraints and improve investment efficiency. The collapse of bubbles leads to a recession, even though there is no exogenous shock to the fundamentals of the economy. Immediately after the collapse, investment falls discontinuously and the stock market crashes in that the stock price falls discontinuously. In the long run, output, investment, consumption, and capital all fall

# Appendices

Substituting the conjecture (10) into (4) and (6) yields:

$$v_t K_t^j + b_t = \max \left[ R_t K_t^j dt - I_t^j dt + e^{-rdt} v_{t+dt} (1 - dt) K_t^j + I_t^j dt \right. \quad (\text{A.1}) \\ \left. + e^{-rdt} v_{t+dt} (1 - dt) K_t^j (1 - dt) + B_t \right];$$

$$L_t^j = e^{-rdt} v_{t+dt} K_t^j + B_t; \quad (\text{A.2})$$

where  $B_t$  is defined in (12). We combine (5) and (A.2) to obtain:

$$0 = I_t^j - R_t K_t^j + e^{-rdt} v_{t+dt} K_t^j + B_t; \quad (\text{A.3})$$

Let  $Q_t$  be the Lagrange multiplier associated with (3) for the case with the arrival of the investment opportunity. The first-order condition with respect to  $K_{t+dt}^j$  delivers equation (13). When  $Q_t > 1$ ; we obtain the optimal investment rule in (11). Plugging (11) and (3) into the Bellman equation (A.1) and matching coefficients of  $K_t^j$  and the terms unrelated to  $K_t^j$ ; we obtain (14) and (15). Q.E.D.

Using the optimal investment rule in (11) and aggregating equation (3), we obtain the aggregate capital accumulation equation (18) and the aggregate investment equation (22). Substituting (15) into (12) yields (16). Substituting (14) into (13) yields (17). The first-order condition for the static labor choice problem (1) gives  $w_t = (1 - \alpha) (K_t^j = N_t^j)^\alpha$ . We then obtain (2) and  $K_t^j = N_t^j (w_t = (1 - \alpha) (K_t^j = N_t^j)^\alpha)^{1-\alpha}$ : Thus, the capital-labor ratio is identical for each firm. Aggregating yields  $K_t = N_t (w_t = (1 - \alpha) (K_t^j = N_t^j)^\alpha)^{1-\alpha}$ : Using this equation to substitute out  $w_t$  in (2) yields  $R_t = K_t^{-1} N_t^1 = K_t^{-1}$  since  $N_t = 1$  in equilibrium. Aggregate output satisfies

$$Y_t = \sum_j (K_t^j)^\alpha (N_t^j)^{1-\alpha} dj = \sum_j (K_t^j = N_t^j)^\alpha N_t^j dj = (K_t^j = N_t^j)^\alpha \sum_j N_t^j dj = K_t^\alpha N_t^{1-\alpha} :$$

This completes the proof. Q.E.D.

By equation (18),

$$\frac{K_{t+dt} - K_t}{dt} = K_t + [R_t + Q_t K_t + B_t] :$$

Taking limit as  $dt \rightarrow 0$  yields equation (21). Using the approximation  $e^{rdt} = 1 + rdt$  in equation (16) yields:

$$B_t(1 + rdt) = B_{t+dt} [1 + (Q_{t+dt} - 1)dt]:$$

Simplifying yields:

$$\frac{B_t - B_{t+dt}}{dt} + rB_t = B_{t+dt} (Q_{t+dt} - 1):$$

Taking limits as  $dt \rightarrow 0$  yields equation (19). Finally, we approximate equation (17) by:

$$Q_t(1 + rdt) = R_{t+dt}dt + (1 - dt)Q_{t+dt} + (R_{t+dt} + Q_{t+dt})(Q_{t+dt} - 1) dt:$$

Simplifying yields:

$$\frac{Q_t - Q_{t+dt}}{dt} + rQ_t = R_{t+dt} - Q_{t+dt} + (R_{t+dt} + Q_{t+dt})(Q_{t+dt} - 1) :$$

Taking limit as  $dt \rightarrow 0$  yields equation (20).

We may start with a continuous-time formulation directly. The Bellman equation in continuous time satisfies:

$$rV(K^J; S) = \max_{I^J} [RK^J - I^J + V(K^J + I^J; S) - V(K^J; S) - K^J V_K(K^J; S) + V_S(K^J; S) S];$$

where  $S = (B; Q)$  represents the vector of aggregate state variables. We may derive this Bellman equation by taking limits in (4) as  $dt \rightarrow 0$ : Conjecture  $V(K^J; B; Q) = QK^J + B$ : We can then solve the above Bellman equation. After aggregation, we can derive the system of differential equations in the proposition. Q.E.D.

(i) The social planner solves the following problem:

$$\max_{I_t} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-rt} (K_t - I_t) dt$$

subject to

$$\dot{K}_t = K_t + I_t; K_0 \text{ given}$$

where  $K_t$  is the aggregate capital stock and  $I_t$  is the investment level for each firm with the arrival of the investment opportunity. From this problem, we can derive the efficient capital stock  $K_E$ ; which satisfies  $(K_E)^{-1} = r + \delta$ : The efficient output, investment and consumption levels are given by  $Y_E = (K_E)^\alpha$ ;  $I_E = \delta K_E$ ; and  $C_E = (K_E)^\alpha - \delta K_E$ ; respectively.

From the proof of Proposition 1, we can rewrite (A.1) as:

$$v_t K_t^j = \max \{ R_t K_t^j dt, I_t^j dt + Q_t(1 - dt)K_t^j + Q_t I_t^j dt \} \quad (A.4)$$

Suppose assumption (25) holds. We conjecture  $Q = 1$  and  $Q_t = 1$ . Substituting this conjecture into the above equation and matching coefficients of  $K_t^j$  give:

$$v_t = R_t dt + 1 - dt$$

Since  $Q_t = e^{-rdt} v_{t+dt} = 1$ ; we have  $e^{rdt} = R_{t+dt} dt + 1 - dt$ : Approximating this equation yields:

$$1 + rdt = R_{t+dt} dt + 1 - dt$$

Taking limits as  $dt \rightarrow 0$  gives  $R_t = r + \delta = K_t^{-1}$ : Thus,  $K_t = K_E$ : Given this constant capital stock for all firms, the optimal investment level satisfies  $K_t = I_t$ : Thus,  $I_t = K_t = \delta K_t$ : We can easily check that assumption (25) implies that

$$\delta K_t = I_t = K_t \quad R_t + \delta = r + \delta$$

Thus, the investment constraint (5) or (A.3) is satisfied for  $Q_t = 1$  and  $B_t = 0$ : We conclude that the solutions  $Q_t = 1$ ,  $K_t = K_E$ ; and  $I_t = K_t = \delta K_t$  give the bubbleless equilibrium, which also delivers the efficient allocation.

(ii) Suppose (26) holds. Conjecture  $Q_t > 1$  in some neighborhood of the bubbleless steady state. We can then apply Proposition 3 and derive the steady-state equations (23) and (24). From these equations, we obtain the steady-state solution  $Q$  and  $K$  in (27) and (28), respectively. Assumption (26) implies that  $Q > 1$ : By continuity,  $Q_t > 1$  in some neighborhood of  $(Q; K)$ : This verifies our conjecture. Q.E.D.

Solving equations (23), (30), (31) yields equations (32)-(34). By (32),  $B > 0$  if and only if (35) holds. From (27) and (33), we deduce that  $Q_b < Q$ : Using condition (35), it is straightforward to check that  $K_{GR} > K_E > K_b > K$ . From (32), it is also straightforward to verify that the bubble-asset ratio  $B = K_b$  decreases with  $\delta$ : Q.E.D.

First, we consider the log-linearized system around the bubbly steady state  $(B; Q_b; K_b)$ : We use  $\hat{X}_t$  to denote the percentage deviation from the steady state value for any variable  $X_t$ , i.e.,  $\hat{X}_t = \ln X_t - \ln X$ : We can show that the log-linearized system

is given by:

Since  $\lambda_1 < 0$  the above equation and equation (A.8) imply that  $g > 0$ .

From the above analysis, we conclude that the matrix  $A$  has one negative eigenvalues and the other two eigenvalues are either positive real numbers or complex numbers with positive real part. As a result, the bubbly steady state is a local saddle point and the stable manifold is one dimensional.

Next, we consider the local dynamics around the bubbleless steady state  $(0; Q; K^*)$ . We linearize  $B_t$  around zero and log-linearize  $Q_t$  and  $K_t$  and obtain linearized system:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dB_t}{dt} &= J \begin{pmatrix} B_t \\ \hat{Q}_t \\ \hat{K}_t \end{pmatrix} \\ \frac{d\hat{Q}_t}{dt} &= J \begin{pmatrix} \hat{Q}_t \\ \hat{K}_t \end{pmatrix} \\ \frac{d\hat{K}_t}{dt} &= J \begin{pmatrix} \hat{Q}_t \\ \hat{K}_t \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

where

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} r & (Q-1) & 0 \\ 0 & a & b \\ \frac{1}{K^*} & c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} a &= \frac{R}{Q} [1 + (Q-1)] \left( \frac{R}{Q} + \right) Q; \\ b &= \frac{R}{Q} [1 + (Q-1)] (1 - ) > 0; \\ c &= -Q > 0; \\ d &= R [ - 1] < 0; \end{aligned}$$

Using a similar method for the bubbly steady state, we analyze the three eigenvalues of the matrix  $J$ . One eigenvalue, denoted by  $\lambda_1$ ; is equal to  $r - (Q - 1) < 0$  and the other two, denoted by  $\lambda_2$  and  $\lambda_3$ ; satisfy

$$\lambda_2 \lambda_3 = ad - bc \tag{A.9}$$

Notice that we have

$$\frac{a}{b} = \frac{1}{1 - } \frac{1}{1 + (Q - 1)} \frac{Q}{R} \frac{Q}{1 + (Q - 1)};$$

and

$$\frac{c}{d} = \frac{Q}{R} \frac{1}{1 - };$$

So we have

$$\frac{a}{b} \frac{c}{d} > 0 \text{ or } \frac{a}{b} > \frac{c}{d};$$

Since  $b > 0$  and  $d < 0$ , we deduce that  $ad < bc$ . It follows from (A.9) that

As we discussed in the main text, we may derive equations (44) and (45). Substituting equation (44) into (42) and using the definition  $Q_t = e^{-rdt}V_{t+dt}$ ; we can derive that:

$$Q_t = Q_t dt + e^{-rdt}(1 - dt)[R_{t+dt}dt + Q_{t+dt}(1 - dt) + (Q_{t+dt} - 1)(R_{t+dt} + Q_{t+dt})dt]; \quad (\text{A.10})$$

Using the approximation  $e^{-rdt} = 1 - rdt$  and removing all terms that have orders at least  $dt^2$ ; we approximate the above equation by:

$$Q_t - Q_{t+dt} = Q_t dt + R_{t+dt}dt - Q_{t+dt}dt + (Q_{t+dt} - 1)(R_{t+dt} + Q_{t+dt})dt - (r + \delta)Q_{t+dt}dt; \quad (\text{A.11})$$

Dividing by  $dt$  on the two sides and taking limits as  $dt \rightarrow 0$ ; we obtain:

$$Q_t = R_t - (r + \delta)Q_t + Q_t + (Q_t - 1)(R_t + Q_t); \quad (\text{A.12})$$

which gives equation (47). Similarly, substituting equation (45) into (43) and taking limits, we can derive equation (46). Q.E.D.

Let  $Q(\cdot)$  be the expression on the right-hand side of equation (48). We then use this equation to rewrite equation (49) as:

$$K^{-1}(1 + r + \delta) - (r + \delta)Q(\cdot) + g(K) + (r + \delta)Q(\cdot) = 0:$$

Define the function  $F(K; \cdot)$  as the expression on the left-hand side of the above equation. Notice  $Q(\cdot) = Q = g(K)$  by definition and  $Q(0) = Q_b$  where  $Q_b$  is given in (33). The condition (35) ensures the existence of the bubbly steady-state value  $Q_b$  and the bubbleless steady-state values  $Q^*$  and  $K^*$ .

Define

$$K_{\max} = \max_0^* \frac{(r + \delta + (r + \delta)Q(\cdot))Q(\cdot) - Q}{\frac{1}{-1}};$$

By (34), we can show that

$$K_b = \frac{(r + \delta)Q(0)}{r}$$

for  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ : If this true, then it follows from the intermediate value theorem that there exists a solution  $K_s$  to  $F(K; \alpha) = 0$  such that  $K_s \in (K; K_{max})$ :

First, notice that

$$\begin{aligned} F(K; 0) &= K^{-1}(1+r) - r(1-\alpha)Q_b - Q_b \\ &> K_b^{-1}(1+r) - r(1-\alpha)Q_b - Q_b \\ &= 0; \end{aligned}$$

and

$$F(K; 1) = 0;$$

We can verify that  $F(K; \alpha)$  is concave in  $\alpha$  for any fixed  $K$ : Thus, for all  $0 < \alpha < 1$ ;

$$\begin{aligned} F(K; \alpha) &= F(K; (1-\alpha)0 + \alpha 1) \\ &> (1-\alpha)F(K; 0) + \alpha F(K; 1) \\ &> 0; \end{aligned}$$

Next, for  $K \in (K; K_{max})$ , we derive the following:

$$\begin{aligned} F(K_{max}; \alpha) &= K_{max}^{-1}(1+r+\alpha) - (r+\alpha)Q(\alpha) + g(K_{max}) + (r+\alpha)Q(\alpha) \\ &< K_{max}^{-1}(1+r+\alpha) - (r+\alpha)Q(\alpha) + g(K) + (r+\alpha)Q(\alpha) \\ &< 0; \end{aligned}$$

where the first inequality follows from the fact that the saddle path for the bubbleless equilibrium is downward sloping as illustrated in Figure 3 so that  $g(K_{max}) < g(K)$ ; and the second inequality follows from the definition of  $K_{max}$  and the fact that  $g(K) = Q$ :

Finally, note that  $Q(\alpha) < Q$  for  $0 < \alpha < 1$ : We use equation (31) and  $K_s > K$  to deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{B_s}{K_s} &= -K_s^{-1}Q(\alpha) \\ &> -K^{-1}Q \\ &= 0; \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof of the existence of stationary equilibrium with stochastic bubbles  $(B_s; Q_s; K_s)$ :



more realistic prediction after introducing variable capacity utilization. Assume that each firm  $j$ 's production is given by

$$Y_t^j = (u_t^j K_t^j)^\alpha N_t^{1-\alpha}; \quad (B.1)$$

where  $u_t^j$  represents the capacity utilization rate. Assume that the firm's depreciation rate between period  $t$  to period  $t + dt$  is given by

$$\delta_t^j = \delta(u_t^j); \quad (B.2)$$

where  $\delta$  is an increasing and convex function. Suppose that the capacity utilization decision

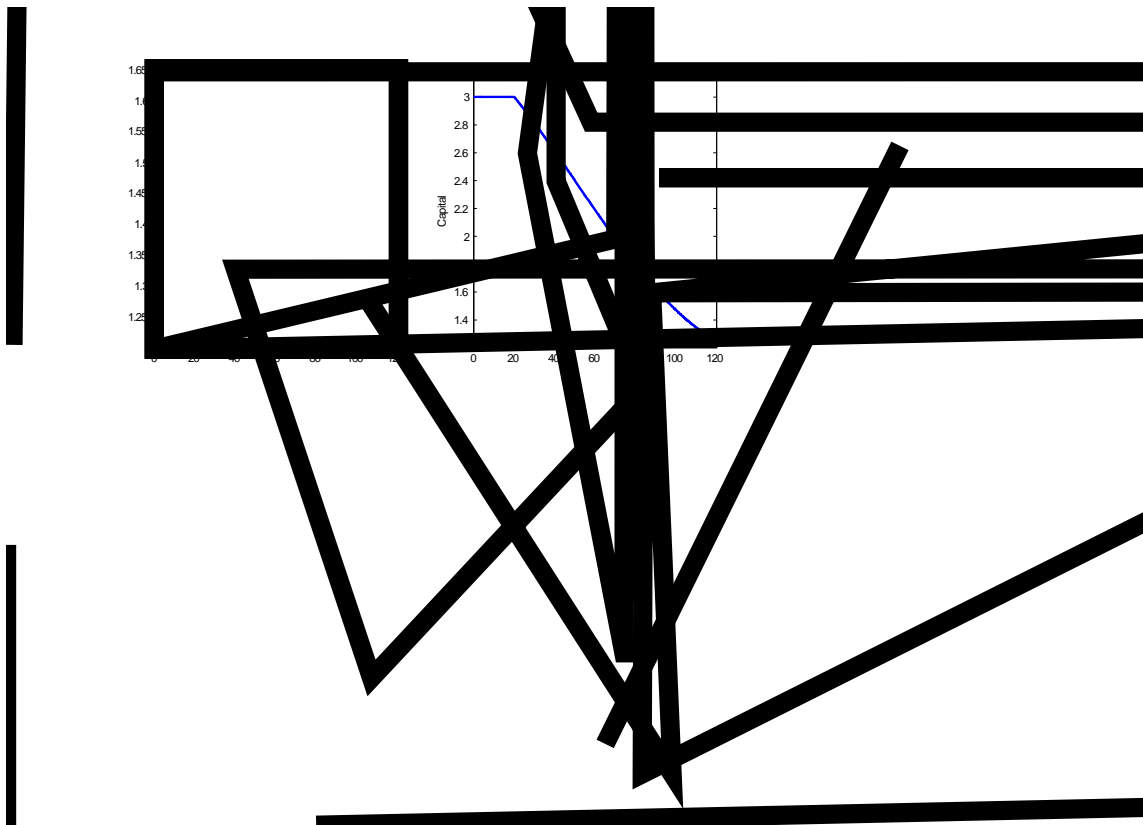


Figure 5: This figure plots the dynamics of the stationary equilibrium with capacity utilization and stochastic bubbles. Set the parameter values as follows:  $r = 0.02$ ,  $\beta = 0.4$ ,  $\delta = 0.01$ ;  $\alpha = 0.05$ ;  $\gamma = 0.2$ ,  $\eta = 0.4$ ,  $\sigma_0 = 0.0075$ ; and  $\sigma_1 = 0.0245$ .

Next, we turn to the equilibrium with stochastic bubbles. When the bubble bursts, the economy will be at the bubbleless equilibrium described in the previous proposition. We write the capital price in a feedback form  $Q_t = Q(K_t)$  for some function  $K_t$ : As in Section 6, we characterize the equilibrium before the bubble bursts as follows:

$$Q_t > 1: \\ (B_t; Q_t; K_t; u_t)$$

$$Q_t = (r + \delta + \lambda)Q_t - Q_t - u_t R_t - (Q_t - 1)(u_t R_t + Q_t); \quad (B.8)$$

$$B_t = (r + \delta)B_t - (Q_t - 1)B_t; \quad (B.9)$$

$$K_t = \delta K_t + (u_t R_t K_t + Q_t K_t + B_t); \quad (B.10)$$

$$u_t = R_t \quad Q_t = Q(K_t):$$

As in Section 6, we can simulate the impact of the collapse of bubbles. In doing so, we specify:  $u_t = u_0 + \frac{u_t^+}{1 + \lambda}$  and take parameter values given in Figure 5. Suppose the economy is in a steady state initially and then the bubble bursts at  $t = 20$ . On impact,  $Q_t$  immediately jumps and so does the capacity utilization rate. Since one unit of installed capital becomes more valuable, the capacity utilization rate decreases to slow down depreciation. As a result, both output and consumption drop immediately. Figure 5 reveals that the economy enters into a prolonged recession after the burst of bubbles.

In the base model studied in Section 2, we have considered intratemporal debt and assumed that firms cannot borrow and save intertemporally. In this appendix, we shall relax this assumption. We assume that there is no intratemporal debt and firms can borrow and save intertemporally by trading risk-free one-period private bonds. Households can also trade these bonds, but face short sales constraints. Intuitively, each period firms without investment opportunities have extra funds and may lend to firms with investment opportunities. They may also save their funds and use these funds to finance investments when investment opportunities arrive in the future. We will show that bubbles on firm assets can still exist even though the steady-state interest rate on the private bonds is positive. In addition, our key insights still carry over to this setup.

Consider a discrete-time setup outlined in Section 2 and time is denoted by  $t = 0; 1; 2; \dots$ . Let  $\beta = e^{-\rho}$ : Let  $R_{ft}$  denote the gross interest rate of the bonds. Let  $L_t^h$  denote households' bond holdings. The short sales constraint is given by  $L_t^h \geq 0$  for all  $t$ :

Let  $V_{1t}(K_t^j; L_t^j) = (V_{0t}(K_t^j; L_t^j))$  denote the stock market value of a typical firm  $j$  with (without) investment opportunities when its capital stock and debt at time  $t$  are  $K_t^j$  and  $L_t^j$ ; respectively. We suppress the aggregate state variables in the argument. When  $L_t^j < 0$ ;  $L_t^j$  means savings. Then  $V_{1t}(K_t^j; L_t^j)$  satisfies the Bellman equation:

$$V_{1t}(K_t^j; L_t^j) = \max_{I_t^j; L_{t+1}^j} R_t K_t^j - I_t^j + \frac{L_{t+1}^j}{R_{ft}} - L_t^j \quad (C.1)$$

$$+ \beta V_{1t+1}(K_{t+1}^j; L_{t+1}^j) + (1 - \beta) V_{0t+1}(K_{t+1}^j; L_{t+1}^j);$$

subject to

$$K_{t+1}^j = (1 - \delta) K_t^j + I_t^j; \quad (C.2)$$

$$D_t^j + I_t^j = R_t K_t^j + \frac{L_{t+1}^j}{R_{ft}} - L_t^j; \quad (C.3)$$

$$D_t^j \leq (1 - \alpha) L_t^j; \quad (C.4)$$

and a borrowing constraint (C.6) described below. Equation (C.3) is a flow of funds constraint, where  $D_t^j$  means dividend payments if  $D_t^j \geq 0$  and new equity if  $D_t^j < 0$ : We assume that external equity finance is costly so that the value of new equity is limited by a fraction  $(1 - \alpha)$  of debt as shown in (C.4). This constraint ensures that new equity is not sufficient to finance investment and firms still need debt financing. If  $\alpha = 1$ ; then firms cannot raise any new equity.

A firm without investment opportunities solves the following dynamic programming problem:

$$V_{0t}(K_t^j; L_t^j) = \max_{L_{t+1}^j} R_t K_t^j + \frac{L_{t+1}^j}{R_{ft}} - L_t^j \quad (C.5)$$

$$+ \beta V_{1t+1}(1 - \delta) K_t^j; L_{t+1}^j + (1 - \beta) V_{0t+1}(1 - \delta) K_t^j; L_{t+1}^j;$$

subject to a borrowing constraint (C.6) described below and a constraint on new equity. We will show below that both constraints will not bind in equilibrium.

We now introduce the credit constraint:

$$E_t V_{t+1}(K_{t+1}^j; L_{t+1}^j) - E_t V_{t+1}(K_{t+1}^j; 0) \leq E_t V_{t+1}(K_t^j; 0); \quad (C.6)$$

where we define

$$E_t V_{t+1}$$

and  $v_{0t} = R_t + (1 - \delta)Q_t$ ,  $b_{0t} = B_t$  and  $v_{0t}^L = 1$ .

Next, we consider problem (C.1) for a firm with investment opportunities. Substituting conjecture (C.7) into this problem yields:

$$v_{1t}K_t^j - v_{1t}^L L_t^j + b_{1t} = \max_{I_t^j; L_{t+1}^j} R_t K_t^j - I_t^j + \frac{L_{t+1}^j}{R_{ft}} - L_t^j \quad (C.11)$$

$$+ Q_t[(1 - \delta)K_t^j + I_t^j] - Q_t^L L_{t+1}^j + B_t:$$

If  $Q_t > 1$  then both the borrowing constraint (C.8) and the constraint (C.4) must bind. Using these constraints as well as (C.10) and (C.3), we obtain:

$$I_t^j = R_t K_t^j + Q_t K_t^j + B_t - L_t^j: \quad (C.12)$$

Substituting this equation back into the Bellman equation (C.11) and matching coefficients, we obtain:

$$v_{1t}^L = 1 + (Q_t - 1); \quad (C.13)$$

$$v_{1t} = R_t + (1 - \delta)Q_t + (Q_t - 1)(Q_t + R_t); \quad (C.14)$$

$$b_{1t} = B_t + (Q_t - 1)B_t: \quad (C.15)$$

By definition of  $B_t$  and  $Q_t$  introduced in this appendix, we can show that:

$$B_t = B_{t+1}(1 + (Q_{t+1} - 1)); \quad (C.16)$$

$$Q_t = [R_{t+1} + (1 - \delta)Q_{t+1} + (Q_{t+1} - 1)(Q_{t+1} + R_{t+1})]; \quad (C.17)$$

The aggregate capital stock satisfies:

$$K_{t+1} = (1 - \delta)K_t + (R_t K_t + Q_t K_t + B_t) \int^Z L_t^j dj$$

$$= (1 - \delta)K_t + (R_t K_t + Q_t K_t + B_t); \quad (C.18)$$

where the second line follows from the bond market-clearing condition  $\int^R L_t^j dj = 0$ , when households do not hold any bonds.

By definition of  $Q_t^L$ ;  $v_{0t}^L = 1$ , and equations (C.10) and (C.14), we can show that:

$$\frac{1}{R_{ft}} = Q_t^L = v_{1t}^L + (1 - \delta)v_{0t}^L = [1 + (Q_{t+1} - 1)]; \quad (C.19)$$

If  $Q_{t+1} > 1$ , then

$$R_{ft} = \frac{1}{1 + (Q_{t+1} - 1)} < 1: \quad (C.20)$$

Thus, households prefer to sell bonds until their borrowing constraints bind so that  $L_t^h = 0$  for all  $t$ : Because firms with investment opportunities choose to borrow and invest, for the bond market to clear, firms without investment opportunities must save and lend. By (C.16) and (C.20), we find that  $R_{ft} > B_{t+1} = B_t$  for  $\beta < 1$  and  $B_t > 0$  so that the interest rate of bonds is larger than the growth rate of bubbles. Only when  $\beta = 1$ ;  $R_{ft} = B_{t+1} = B_t$ :

Notice that equations (C.16)-(C.18) are exactly the same as equations (16)-(18) for  $dt = 1$  and  $r = \log(\beta)$ . Thus, our analyses of bubbleless and bubbly equilibria in Sections 4-5 can be carried over to the present setup, by suitably translating the continuous-time results into the discrete time results.

In the steady state,  $B_t = B$  is constant over time, where  $B$  may be zero or positive. But the steady-state net rate of interest rate on bonds  $R_f - 1$  is positive. The steady state aggregate dividends  $D$  satisfy:

$$D = RK - I = RK - (RK + QK + B):$$

By (C.18), the steady state capital stock  $K$  satisfies:

$$K = (RK + QK + B):$$

Combining the above two equations yields  $D = (R - 1)K > 0$ ; where the inequality follows from (28) or (34). Because firms with investment opportunities borrow and raise new equity to finance investment, firms without investment opportunities must save and payout dividends for the aggregate dividends  $D$  to be positive. This result is true in the neighborhood of the steady state. Thus, the constraint on new equity finance for firms without investment opportunities will never bind, confirming our previous claim.

In the main text, we have assumed that investment opportunities arrive stochastically according to a Poisson process. In this appendix, we modify our model by considering the case where firms are subject to idiosyncratic investment-specific shocks with a continuous distribution in a discrete time setup. We will show that our key insights carry over to this case. In addition, we will show that stock-price bubbles can arise even though capital can be fully pledgeable, e.g.,  $\beta = 1$ .

We replace equation (3) with

$$K_{t+1}^j = (1 - \delta) K_t^j + I_t^j; \tag{D.1}$$

where  $\epsilon_t^j$  represents idiosyncratic investment-specific shocks. Assume that  $\epsilon_t^j$  is independently and identically distributed over time and across firms. It is drawn from a continuous distribution function  $f$  with the support  $[\epsilon_{\min}^j; \epsilon_{\max}^j]$ ; where  $\epsilon_{\min}^j \geq 0$ :

Let  $V_t(K_t^j; \epsilon_t^j)$  denote the cum-dividends stock value after the idiosyncratic shock  $\epsilon_t^j$  is realized. It satisfies the following Bellman equation:

$$V_t(K_t^j; \epsilon_t^j) = \max_{I_t^j} R_t K_t^j - I_t^j + E_t V_{t+1}(K_{t+1}^j; \epsilon_{t+1}^j); \quad (D.2)$$

subject to the investment constraint (5) and the credit constraint:

$$L_t^j \leq E_t V_{t+1}(K_{t+1}^j; \epsilon_{t+1}^j); \quad (D.3)$$

Here  $E_t$  is the conditional expectation operator with respect to  $\epsilon_{t+1}^j$ : We conjecture that firm value takes the following form:

$$V_t(K_t^j; \epsilon_t^j) = v_t(\epsilon_t^j) K_t^j + b_t(\epsilon_t^j);$$

where  $v_t(\epsilon_t^j)$  and  $b_t(\epsilon_t^j)$  are functions to be determined.

Following a similar proof for Proposition 1, we can show that optimal investment is given by:

$$I_t^j = \begin{cases} 0 & \epsilon_t^j < 1-Q_t \\ R_t K_t^j + Q_t K_t^j + B_t & \epsilon_t^j \geq 1-Q_t \end{cases}; \quad (D.4)$$

where

$$B_t = \int_{1-Q_t}^Z b_{t+1}(\epsilon) dF(\epsilon); \quad Q_t = \int_{1-Q_t}^Z v_{t+1}(\epsilon) dF(\epsilon);$$

$$v_t(\epsilon_t^j) = \begin{cases} R_t \epsilon_t^j + (1 - \epsilon_t^j) Q_t & \epsilon_t^j < 1-Q_t \\ (1 - \epsilon_t^j) Q_t + (R_t + Q_t) Q_t \epsilon_t^j & \epsilon_t^j \geq 1-Q_t \end{cases};$$

$$b_t(\epsilon_t^j) = \begin{cases} B_t & \epsilon_t^j < 1-Q_t \\ B_t + Q_t \epsilon_t^j & \epsilon_t^j \geq 1-Q_t \end{cases};$$

Clearly, when the investment-specific shock  $\epsilon_t^j$  is small enough, the firm chooses to reduce investment as much as possible so that investment reaches the lower bound. When the investment-specific shock  $\epsilon_t^j$  is large enough, the firm chooses to increase investment until reaching the upper bound.

Following a similar proof for Proposition 2, we can then derive the equilibrium system. We then take the continuous time limit to obtain the following result.

$(B_t; Q_t; K_t)$

$$B_t = B_{t+1} \sum_{\omega} \max\left(\frac{1}{\omega}; 1\right) (\omega)^d \quad (D.5)$$

$$Q_t = K_{t+1}^{-1} + (1 - \delta) Q_{t+1} + \sum_{\omega} K_{t+1}^{-1} + Q_{t+1} (\omega_{t+1}^{-1} - 1) (\omega)^d \quad (D.6)$$

$$K_{t+1} = (1 - \delta) K_t + (K_t + K_t Q_t + B_t) \sum_{\omega} \omega^{-1} (\omega)^d \quad (D.7)$$

$$\omega_t = \frac{1}{Q_t} \quad (D.8)$$

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} Q_T K_{T+1} = 0 \quad \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} B_{T+1} = 0:$$

Clearly, there is one equilibrium without bubbles in which  $B_t = 0$  for all  $t$ : To study the existence of a bubbly equilibrium, we consider the Pareto distribution  $(\omega) = 1 - \omega^{-\alpha}$  where  $\alpha > 1$  and  $\omega \geq 1$ : We shall focus on the steady state. In the bubbly steady state,  $B_t$ ,  $Q_t$  and  $K_t$  are equal to some constants  $B$ ,  $Q_b$  and  $K_b$  over time, respectively. We can then use the above proposition to show that:

$$Q_b = (1 - \delta)^{-1} \frac{1}{1 - \alpha};$$

$$R_b = Q_b [1 - (1 - \delta) + (1 - \delta)] > 0;$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{B}{K_b} &= \sum_{\omega} \frac{1}{\omega} (\omega)^d R_b - Q_b \\ &= Q_b \frac{1}{1 - \alpha} [1 + (1 - \delta)] \end{aligned}$$

For  $B > 0$ ; we need

$$1 < \frac{1}{(1 - \delta)^{-1} + 1} \frac{1}{1 - \alpha} :$$

This is the condition for the existence of bubbles for the model in this appendix. We can see that if

$$1 < \alpha < \dots$$

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