

AN APPLICATION OF THE IMPLICIT FUNCTION THEOREM TO  
COMPARATIVE STATICS ANALYSIS

ABSTRACT. Comparative statics analysis is concerned with the comparison of equilibri-  
ums that are associated with different sets of values of exogenous variables (parameters).

policy implications of economic models are generated by comparative static analysis.

**Theorem.** [p. 63, 1] Let  $A$  be open in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ; let  $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be of class  $C^r$ , meaning the first  $r$  derivatives of  $f$  exist and are continuous. If  $Df(\vec{x})$  is non-singular at some point  $\vec{a}$  in  $A$ , then there is a neighborhood  $U$  of the point  $\vec{a}$  such that  $f$  carries  $U$  in a one-to-one fashion onto an open set  $V$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and the inverse function  $f^{-1} : V \rightarrow U$  is of class  $C^r$ .

at each point of  $A$ , it does not imply that  $f$  is (globally) one-to-one on all of  $A$ .

### 3. IMPLICIT FUNCTION

**Definition.** An equation of the form

$$f(x, y) = 0$$

Then there is a neighborhood  $B$  of  $\vec{a}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^k$  and a unique continuous function  $g : B \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $g(\vec{a}) = \vec{b}$  and

$$f(\vec{x}, g(\vec{x})) = \vec{0}$$

Moreover, if  $\vec{a} \in \mathbb{R}^k$  and  $\vec{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  are such that  $f(\vec{a}, \vec{b}) = \vec{0}$  and

Moreover,

$$Dg(\vec{x}) = - \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{y}}(\vec{x}, g(\vec{x})) \right]^{-1} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{x}}(\vec{x}, g(\vec{x})).$$

*Proof.* Define  $F : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k+n}$  by the equation

$$F(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = (\vec{x}, f(\vec{x}, \vec{y})).$$

Let  $\vec{a} \in \mathbb{R}^k$  and  $\vec{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  be such that  $f(\vec{a}, \vec{b}) = \vec{0}$ . Then  $F(\vec{a}, \vec{b}) = (\vec{a}, \vec{0})$  and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \det DF(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) &= \det J \\
 &= \det J_{11} \\
 &= \det J_{22} \\
 &= \dots \\
 &= \det J_{kk} \\
 &\quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_k}
 \end{aligned}$$

So that the determinant of Jacobian matrix of function F is non-singular at the point  $(\vec{a}, \vec{b})$

Consider the function  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Apply the inverse function theorem to the map  $F$ .

Thus, there exists a continuous function  $g : B \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $g(\vec{a}) = \vec{b}$  and

$$f(\vec{x}, g(\vec{x})) = \vec{0} \text{ for all } \vec{x} \in B.$$

~~Therefore, the implicit function theorem is satisfied. The implicit function is~~

$(x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k$  is

$$\begin{aligned}
 Dp(\vec{x}) &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_k} \\ \vdots & (I_k) & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial x_k}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial x_k}{\partial x_k} \\ \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_k} \\ \vdots & (Dg(\vec{x})) & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial g_m}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial g_m}{\partial x_k} \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} I_k \\ Dg(\vec{x}) \end{bmatrix}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Substitute  $Df(p(\vec{x}))$  and  $Dp(\vec{x})$  to the equation 4.3, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{x}}(p(\vec{x})) & \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{y}}(p(\vec{x})) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} I_k \\ Dg(\vec{x}) \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{x}}(p(\vec{x})) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{y}}(p(\vec{x})) \cdot Dg(\vec{x}).
 \end{aligned}$$

So,

$$Dg(\vec{x}) = - \left[ \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{y}}(\vec{x}, g(\vec{x})) \right]^{-1} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{x}}(\vec{x}, g(\vec{x})).$$

□

The Implicit Function Theorem is extremely useful in economics to have a quick analysis

when the real money supply  $M$  is equal to the real demand for money, which depends on national income  $y$  and the real interest rate  $r$ . We assume that the real demand for money would increase if national income increased and the real interest rate decreased (i.e.  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial y} > 0$  and  $\frac{\partial L}{\partial r} < 0$ ).

A short summary of our model assumptions is followed

$$(5.1) \quad \begin{aligned} 1 &> \frac{\partial C}{\partial y} > 0 \\ \frac{\partial C}{\partial r} &< 0 \\ \frac{\partial I}{\partial r} &> 0 \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial y} &> 0 \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial r} &< 0. \end{aligned}$$

Analysis of this model consists of examining the impact of changes in the exogenous variables  $C$ ,  $M$  on the dependent variables  $y$ ,  $r$ . Deriving the functions of equilibrium, we

So,

$$D_{\mathbf{r}}(\vec{z}) \left[ \begin{array}{cc} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial r} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial u} \end{array} \right]^{-1} \left[ \begin{array}{cc} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial C} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial M} \end{array} \right]$$



Then, the function  $f = (f_1, f_2)$  from  $\mathbb{R}^4$  to  $\mathbb{R}^2$  describing equilibrium in the goods and money markets is written as

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(G, M, r, y) &= y - C(y, r) - I(r) - G \\ &= y - (a_C y + b_C r + c_C) - (b_I r + c_I) - G \\ &= (1 - a_C)y - (b_C + b_I)r - (c_C + c_I) - G \end{aligned}$$

$$= 0$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} f_2(G, M, r, y) &= L(y, r) - M \\ &= a_L y + b_L r + c_L - M \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

So,

$$(6.1) \quad G = (1 - a_C)y - (b_C + b_I)r - (c_C + c_I)$$

$$(6.2) \quad M = a_L y + b_L r + c_L.$$

To derive  $r$  as a function of  $G$  and  $M$ , we multiply both side of the equation 6.1 with  $a_L$  and the equation 6.2 with  $(1 - a_C)$

$$\begin{aligned} Ga_L &= (1 - a_C)a_L y - (b_C + b_I)a_L r - (c_C + c_I)a_L \\ M(1 - a_C) &= (1 - a_C)a_L y + (1 - a_C)b_L r + c_L(1 - a_C) \end{aligned}$$

then,

$$\begin{aligned} Ga_L - M(1 - a_C) &= (1 - a_C)a_L y - (b_C + b_I)a_L r - (c_C + c_I)a_L \\ &\quad - (1 - a_C)a_L y - (1 - a_C)b_L r - c_L(1 - a_C) \\ &= -r[(b_C + b_I)a_L + (1 - a_C)b_L] - [(c_C + c_I)a_L + c_L(1 - a_C)]. \end{aligned}$$

So, we can directly derive  $r$  as a function of  $G$  and  $M$

$$r = \frac{-a_L G - M(1 - a_C) + [(c_C + c_I)a_L + c_L(1 - a_C)]}{(b_C + b_I)a_L + (1 - a_C)b_L}$$

So, we can explicitly solve for  $u$  as a function of  $G$  and  $M$

$$b_L \sim (b_G + b_I) \dots (c_G + c_I)b_L - c_L(b_G + b_I)$$

From

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial r}{\partial G} & \frac{\partial r}{\partial M} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\begin{bmatrix} -a_L & (1-a_C) \end{bmatrix}} \begin{bmatrix} \dots \\ \dots \end{bmatrix}$$

means

$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial M} = \frac{-a_L}{\dots} < 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial r}{\partial M} &= \frac{(1-a_C)}{a_L(b_C + b_I) + (1-a_C)b_L} < 0 \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial G} &= \frac{b_L}{a_L(b_C + b_I) + (1-a_C)b_L} > 0 \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial M} &= \frac{(b_C + b_I)}{a_L(b_C + b_I) + (1-a_C)b_L} > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Indeed, the result derived by the Implicit Function Theorem coincides with the "explicit"

Since we assume  $\frac{\partial d}{\partial p} < 0$  and  $\frac{\partial s}{\partial p} > 0$ , we get

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial p} = \frac{\partial d}{\partial p} - \frac{\partial s}{\partial p} < 0.$$

Case 2.  $\frac{\partial d}{\partial p} > 0$  and  $\frac{\partial s}{\partial p} < 0$ . In this case, we have that the partial derivative of the function  $f$  with respect to  $p$  is

Moreover, when the price of new cars is at higher level, a fixed amount of an increase in new cars price would make smaller impact on the demand for used cars. For example, a

price increase from \$20,000 to \$25,000 would have a more significant effect than

price increase from \$40,000 to \$45,000. Therefore, we assume that the effect of change

price of new cars would increase when the price of used car increases, which coincides with

**Theorem.** *If the demand and supply functions are linear, the relative price ratio is constant on the equilibrium path.*

*Proof.* Suppose the demand function for used car is

$$D_u(P_n, P_u) = aP_n - bP_u$$

where  $a, b$  are positive. The supply function is

$$S_u(P_n, P_u) = -cP_n + dP_u$$

where  $c, d$  are positive.

*Proof.* Suppose the demand function has the form

$$D_u(P_n, P_u) = h(P_n)k(P_u)$$

$$S_u(P_n, P_u) = p(P_n)q(P_u)$$

Since demand and supply function are always positive, without loss of generality, suppose  $h, k, p, q$  are positive functions. Then, by the above lemma, since  $h, k, p, q$  are homogenous functions of one variable, we can rewrite our demand and supply functions in a specific form,

such as

$$\begin{aligned} D_u(P_n, P_u) &= cP_n^a P_u^b \\ S_u(P_n, P_u) &= dP_n^e P_u^k \end{aligned}$$

where  $c$  and  $d$  are positive.

Moreover, from the assumption (8.1)

$$\frac{\partial D_u}{\partial P_n} = caP_n^{a-1}P_u^b > 0$$

$$\frac{\partial D_u}{\partial P_u} = cbP_n^a P_u^{b-1} < 0$$

and

$$\frac{\partial S_u}{\partial P_n} = deP_n^{e-1}P_u^k < 0$$

$$\frac{\partial S_u}{\partial P_u} = dkP_n^e P_u^{k-1} > 0$$

we know  $a, k > 0$  and  $b, e < 0$ .

Let  $\alpha(P_n, P_u) = \frac{P_n}{P_u}$  be the function of the relative price ratio. If  $\alpha(P_n, P_u)$  is a constant, then substitute  $P_n = \alpha P_u$  in our market equilibrium condition,  $D_u = S_u$ , we get

$$c(\alpha P_u)^a P_u^b = d(\alpha P_u)^e P_u^k$$

$$c\alpha^a P_u^{a+b} = d\alpha^e P_u^{e+k}$$

*Proof.* Recall our model

$$\begin{aligned}D_u(P_n, P_u) &= cP_n^a P_u^b \\S_u(P_n, P_u) &= dP_n^e P_u^k\end{aligned}$$

where  $a, k, c, d > 0$ , and  $b, e < 0$ .

Then the condition for the market equilibrium  $D_u = S_u$  means  $cP_n^a P_u^b = dP_n^e P_u^k$  or

$$P_n^{a-e} = \frac{d}{c} P_u^{k-b}.$$

$$d(\partial D_u / \partial P_n) \quad d(\partial D_u / \partial P_u)$$



$$d(\partial D_u / \partial P_u)$$

second part,  $\frac{dP_u}{d(P_n/P_u)}$ , will be examined below.

d

Recall that  $\frac{\partial D_u}{\partial P_n} = caP_n^{a-1}P_u^b$ , then we substitute  $P_n = \left(\frac{d}{c}P_u^{k-b}\right)^{\frac{1}{a-e}}$  in equation 8.4 into the function and get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial D_u}{\partial P_n} &= caP_n^{a-1}P_u^b \\ &= ca\left(\frac{d}{c}P_u^{k-b}\right)^{\frac{a-1}{a-e}}P_u^b \\ &= ca\left(\frac{d}{c}\right)^{\frac{a-1}{a-e}}P_u^{\frac{(k-b)(a-1)+b(a-e)}{a-e}} \\ &= ca\left(\frac{d}{c}\right)^{\frac{a-1}{a-e}}P_u^{\frac{ka-ba-k+b+ba-be}{a-e}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial D_u}{\partial P_n}$$

$$\frac{d(\partial D_u / \partial P_n)}{dP_u} = ca\left(\frac{d}{c}\right)^{\frac{a-1}{a-e}} \frac{ka-k+b-be}{a-e} P_u^{\frac{ka-k+b-be}{a-e}-1}$$

full proof of the Implicit Function Theorem is presented in section 4. Basically, the Theorem consists of two main parts: conditions (continuity and non-singularity) for the existence and uniqueness of the implicit function, and the formula for its derivative. The proof technique

requires a broad background in mathematics, as we need to use multivariable calculus, lin-

