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Household Debt, Financial Intermediation, and Monetary Policy

Yahong Zhang *

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Abstract

The collapse of the housing prices in the U.S. during the Great Recession not only eroded housing wealth held by households, but also the values of the assets in the banking sector. As a result, during the Great Recession mortgage risk premium increases significantly. I introduce a micro-founded banking sector to a standard DSGE model with household debt to study the interaction between housing prices, household debt and banks' balance sheet positions. I estimate the model using the US data from 1991Q1 to 2014Q1. I find that the model accounts well the negative relationship between housing prices and mortgage risk premium. In the model, a weakened households' demand for housing leads to a decline in housing prices, which worsens the banks' balance sheet positions, and as a result, risk premium rises. The results show that housing demand shocks as well as shocks that increases the riskiness of the banking sector contribute significantly to the decline in output during the Great Recession. I also find that the unconventional monetary policy implemented by the Federal Reserve mitigates the decline in output.

JEL: classification: E32;E44; E52

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1 Introduction

The collapse of the housing prices in the U.S. during the Great Recession not only eroded housing wealth held by households, but also the values of the assets in the banking sector. The deterioration of banks' balance sheet condition resulted in a rise in risk premium in both business loan and mortgage loan. Figure 1 illustrates the movements in both house price and mortgage risk premium for the U.S. from 1991Q1 to 2014Q1. What was the most striking is the steep decline in housing prices and sharp rise in risk premium during the Great Recession (the second shaded area). On the real side of the economy, the rise in risk premium has led to a decline in borrowing for both households and firms, leading declines in both business and housing investments. On the policy front, the deterioration of banks' balance sheet and the rise in the mortgage spread were the key factors that triggered the Federal Reserve to intervene heavily in mortgage markets by directly purchasing mortgage-backed securities from the banking sector.



Figure 1: House Prices and Mortgage Risk Premium 1991Q1-2014Q1

Mortgage risk premium is in basis points and constructed using 30 year fixed rate mortgage loan minus the average of 10 year government debt yield and 5 year government debt yield. Housing prices are S&P/Case-Shiller Home Price Indices.

Banking sector, however, is largely absent in the existing works in the DSGE models studying housing wealth and consumption.¹ Due to this, the existing models are not only incapable of ad-

¹[Iacoviello, 2005], built upon [Kiyotaki and Moore, 1997], is the seminal work in this branch of literature. For

dressing the interactions between households' and banks' balance sheets, but also the impact of the unconventional monetary policy on household debt and the aggregate economy. To my knowledge, the only exception is [Iacoviello, 2015], which introduces a simple banking sector to an otherwise standard DSGE model with household debt. In his model, the limitation of raising deposits from households for banks generates a wedge between the deposit rate and lending rate. The drawback of the paper is that there is no micro-foundation for why banks face this limitation. In addition, [Iacoviello, 2015] is a purely real model, and thus monetary policy is absent in the model.

Thus, the goal of this paper is to propose a model that allows us to study the interaction between housing prices, households' debt, and banks' balance sheet positions, and to assess quantitatively the impact of the unconventional monetary policy on household debt and the aggregate economy. To achieve this, I introduce a banking sector that is similar to [Gertler and Karadi, 2011] and [Gertler and Kiyotaki, 2015] to a DSGE model with household debt. In the model, there are two principal-agent problems: one is between borrowers and banks, and the other one is between depositors and banks. On one hand, the default risks and the enforcement problem between borrowers and banks lead to a standard collateral requirement for borrowers. On the other hand, the frictions in the principal-agent relationship between the banks and depositors generate a spread between the lending rate and the rate that banks pay to their depositors. In particular, it is assumed that there is a moral hazard problem between the banks and depositors: the banks can divert a fraction of the funds supplied by the depositors at the end of each period, at the costs that the relationship with depositors will be terminated. In the model, the banks' capacity of raising deposits is limited due to the concerns of the depositors that part of their funds can be diverted. Risk premium is a natural outcome due to this limitation since otherwise the arbitrage condition will drive the gap between lending rate and borrowing rate to zero. This limitation of raising deposits constraint tightens if banks are more likely to divert funds or they become less capitalized.

The key mechanism at work is as follows: the banks intermediate funds between depositors and borrowers, including the borrowers from both household sector and business sector. To be specific, the banks buy claims issued by households and firms. A bank's net worth varies with the price of the claims. When there is a negative shock to the housing demand, house prices drop, resulting a decline in housing wealth held by households. Since housing wealth is used as collateral for the households to obtain mortgage loans, the demand for household debt declines, and this drives down the prices of the claims which the banks hold. As a result, banks' net worth declines and the constraint on the raising deposit tightens. The tightening of the banks' ability of raising deposits leads to a rise in risk premium. This is the mechanism in the paper that allows us to capture the negative correlation between housing prices and risk premium in the data.

In order to make the model more suitable for delivering quantitative results, the baseline framework in this paper is the conventional monetary business cycle framework as in [Christiano et al., 2005]

examples of estimating this type of model, see [Neri and Iacoviello, 2010]. For recent examples of applying this type of model to study household debt, see [Justiniano et al., 2015].

and [Smets and Wouters, 2007], including features such as habit persistence, investment adjustment costs and nominal rigidity. I use the Bayesian method to estimate the model using the U.S. data from 1991Q1 to 2014Q1. The main findings are as follows: first, I find that the financial frictions faced by the banks give rise to a "banking financial accelerator" mechanism which is similar to what is described in [Bernanke et al., 1999]: For the shocks that increase the prices of the assets held by the banks, the financial frictions amplifies the impact of the shocks.² For instance, an expansionary monetary policy shock increases the prices of the assets held by the banks, and in turn, increases the net worth of the banks and improves the banks' balance sheet positions. This results in a lower risk premium, which leads both firms and households to borrow more, and further increases the prices of the assets held by the banks. Second, I find that the housing demand shocks and banking sector shocks. Lastly, I conduct experiments to examine the effects of the unconventional monetary policy. I find that injecting equity to the banking sector moderates the downturn, particularly when the economy is buffeted by banking sector shocks.

The remaining of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, I describe the model. Section 3 contains data and estimation. I analyze the model's performance in Section 4 and conduct experiments on the unconventionary monetary policy in Section 5. I offer some concluding remarks in Section 6.

2 The Model

Consider a discrete time, infinite horizon economy, populated by five types of agents: households, house producers, goods producers, a government and financial intermediaries. Their optimization problems and the market clearing conditions are as follows:

2.1 Households

Households are infinitely lived and measure 1. There are two types of households, patient and impatient, which differ only by the rate at which they discount the future. Patient households are denoted by p, and represent a share of α of the population. Impatient households are denoted by ip, and represent a share of $1 - \alpha$ of the population. The discount factors for the patient and impatient households are β_p and β_{ip} respectively, with $\beta_p > \beta_{ip}$. In the model, because the impatient households discount the future more, they are the borrowers, and the patient households are the lenders. The financial intermediaries channel the funds from lenders to borrowers.

2.1.1 Patient households' problem

$$E_0 \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta_p^t (\varepsilon_t^c \log(c_{p,t} - bc_{p,t-1}) + \varepsilon_t^h \phi \log h_{p,t} - \psi \frac{n_{p,t}^{1+\eta}}{1+\eta}), \tag{1}$$

²In [Bernanke et al., 1999], it is the firms who face financial frictions.

where $c_{p,t}$ denotes consumption of non-durable goods for the patient households, $h_{p,t}$ is the stock of houses at the end of period t, and $n_{p,t}$ is hours worked. ε_t^c is a consumption demand shock that obeys

$$\log \varepsilon_t^c = \rho^c \log \varepsilon_{t-1}^c + \zeta_t^c$$

and ε^h_t is a housing demand shock that follows

$$\log \varepsilon_t^h = \rho^h \log \varepsilon_{t-1}^h + \zeta_t^h$$

both ζ_t^c and ζ_t^h are zero-mean i.i.d. random variables. All variables are in per-capita real terms. The stock of houses evolves according to

$$h_{p,t} = (1 - \delta_h)h_{p,t-1} + i_{p,t}^h, \tag{2}$$

where $i_{p,t}^h$ is residential investment (i.e. new houses) and δ_h is the rate of depreciation of the housing stocks. The household faces the following budget constraint

$$P_t c_{p,t} + P_t^h i_{p,t}^h + D_t <= W_{p,t} n_{p,t} + R_{t-1} D_{t-1} - T_t + \Pi_t,$$
(3)

where P_t and P_t^h are the prices of the consumption good and of houses, while R_t and $W_{p,t}$ are the nominal interest rate and wage rate. D_t is the amount of deposits by the end of period t, and carried into period t + 1. Following [Iacoviello, 2005], it is assumed that it is the patient households (not the impatient households) who pay tax T_t , and receive Π_t , which includes the profits from the retailers, plus the value of the assets received from the exiting bankers, minus the transfer to the newly entered bankers.³ In real terms, the budget constraint is:

$$c_{p,t} + q_t i_{p,t}^h + d_t <= w_{p,t} n_{p,t} + R_{t-1}^d \frac{d_{t-1}}{\pi_t} - t_t + \pi_t,$$
(4)

where $q_t = \frac{P_t^h}{P_t}$.

Households maximize their life-time utility (1) subject to equations (2) and (4) by choosing $c_{p,t}, d_t, n_{p,t}, i_{p,t}$ and $h_{p,t}$. Let $\lambda_{1,t}^p$ and $\lambda_{2,t}^p$ be the Lagrangian multipliers associated with equations (2) and (4). The first-order conditions are:

 $c_{p,t}$:

$$\varepsilon_t^c \frac{1}{c_{p,t} - bc_{p,t-1}} - \beta_p b \varepsilon_{t+1}^c \frac{1}{c_{p,t+1} - bc_{p,t}} - \lambda_{1,t}^p = 0,$$
(5)

 d_t :

$$\lambda_{1,t}^{p} = E_t \beta_p R_t \frac{\lambda_{1,t+1}^{p}}{\pi_{t+1}},\tag{6}$$

 $n_{p,t}$:

$$\varphi n_{p,t}^{\eta} = \lambda_{1,t}^{p} w_{p,t},\tag{7}$$

³Given the lump-sum nature, the optimal allocations are not affected by who pay tax and receive retaining earnings.

 $i_{p,t}$:

$$\lambda_{1,t}^p q_t = \lambda_{2,t}^p,\tag{8}$$

and $h_{p,t}$:

$$\frac{\varepsilon_t^h \phi}{h_{p,t}} - \lambda_{2,t}^p + E_t \beta_p \lambda_{2,t+1}^p (1-\delta) = 0,$$
(9)

Equations (5) and (6) characterize the standard Euler equation for consumption goods with the presence of habit formation:

$$\varepsilon_t^c \frac{1}{c_{p,t} - bc_{p,t-1}} - \beta_p b \varepsilon_{t+1}^c \frac{1}{c_{p,t+1} - bc_{p,t}} = E_t \beta_p R_t \frac{\varepsilon_{t+1}^c \frac{1}{c_{p,t+1} - bc_{p,t}} - \beta_p b \varepsilon_{t+2}^c \frac{1}{c_{p,t+2} - bc_{p,t+1}}}{\pi_{t+1}}.$$
 (10)

Equations (8) and (9) give us the Euler equation for housing:

$$\frac{\varepsilon_t^h \phi}{h_{p,t}} + \beta_p E_t \lambda_{1,t+1}^p q_{t+1} (1 - \delta_h) = q_t \lambda_{1,t}^p. \tag{11}$$

This intertemporal condition for housing requires the borrowers to equate the marginal utility of current consumption $q_t \lambda_{1,t}^p$ to the marginal gain of housing, which consists of two terms: the direct utility gain of an additional unit of housing $\frac{\varepsilon_t^h \phi}{h_{p,t}}$, and the expected gain in terms of future consumption by selling the housing asset (discounted by depreciation) $\beta_p E_t \lambda_{1,t+1}^p q_{t+1}(1-\delta_h)$. Equation (7) governs the household's decision on consumption and leisure choices.

2.1.2 Impatient households' problem

The impatient households' problem is similar to the one faced by the patient households except that they are also subject to a borrowing constraint. The impatient households maximize their lifetime utility

$$E_0 \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta_{ip}^t (\varepsilon_t^c \log(c_{ip,t} - bc_{ip,t-1}) + \varepsilon_t^h \phi \log h_{ip,t} - \psi \frac{n_{ip,t}^{1+\eta}}{1+\eta}),$$
(12)

subject to a housing accumulation equation

$$h_{ip,t} = (1 - \delta^h) h_{ip,t-1} + i^h_{ip,t},$$
(13)

and a budget constraint

$$P_t c_{ip,t} + P_t^h i_{ip,t}^h + R_{t-1}^l L_{t-1} \le W_{ip,t} n_{i,t} + L_t,$$
(14)

where L_t denotes the amount of loan that the impatient households borrow from the financial intermediaries. Note that the borrowing rate R_{t-1}^l is different from the deposit rate R_{t-1} . The existence of risk premium will be explained in the following financial intermediary section. In real terms, equation (14) is

$$c_{ip,t} + q_t i_{ip,t}^h + R_{t-1}^l \frac{l_{t-1}}{\pi_t} <= w_{ip,t} n_{ip,t} + l_t.$$
(15)

Following [Iacoviello, 2015], I assume that the impatient households are subject to the following borrowing constraint

$$L_t <= \rho^l L_{t-1} + (1 - \rho^l) \frac{E_t \varepsilon_t^\theta \theta P_{t+1}^h h_{ip,t} (1 - \delta_h)}{R_t^l}.$$
(16)

Allowing $\rho^l > 0$ captures the idea that in each quarter, only a fraction of the mortgage loans is either newly issued or renegotiated. In the U.S. for mortgage loans, the most common terms are 15 and 30 year fixed rate loans. Equation (16) can be thought of as a reduced way to deal with long-term debt in a model estimated at quarterly frequency. In other words, ρ^l can be thought of as the persistence of the mortgage loan. When $\rho^l = 0$, equation (16) is reduced to the standard collateral constraint

$$L_t <= \frac{E_t \varepsilon_t^\theta \theta P_{t+1}^h h_{ip,t} (1 - \delta_h)}{R_t^l},\tag{17}$$

that is, the maximum amount that the impatient households can borrow is a fraction $\varepsilon_t^{\theta} \theta$ of their housing wealth $P_{t+1}^h h_{ip,t}(1-\delta_h)$, where ε_t^{θ} is a shock to the loan-to-value ratio θ , which follows

$$\log \varepsilon_t^{\theta} = \rho^{\theta} \log \varepsilon_{t-1}^{\theta} + \zeta_t^{\theta}.$$

The borrowing constraint (16) in real terms is

$$l_t <= \rho^l l_{t-1} + (1 - \rho^l) \frac{E_t \varepsilon_t^{\theta} \theta q_{t+1} \pi_{t+1} h_{ip,t} (1 - \delta_h)}{R_t^l}.$$
(18)

The impatient households maximize their life-time utility (12) subject to equations (13), (15) and (18) by choosing $c_{ip,t}$, l_t , $n_{ip,t}$, $i_{ip,t}$ and $h_{ip,t}$. Let $\lambda_{1,t}^{ip}$, $\lambda_{2,t}^{ip}$ and $\lambda_{3,t}^{ip}$ be the Lagrangian multipliers associated with equations (13), (15) and (18). The first-order conditions are:

 $c_{ip,t}$:

$$\varepsilon_t^c \frac{1}{c_{ip,t} - bc_{ip,t-1}} - \beta_p b \varepsilon_{t+1}^c \frac{1}{c_{ip,t+1} - bc_{ip,t}} - \lambda_{1,t}^{ip} = 0,$$
(19)

 $l_{ip,t}$:

$$\lambda_{1,t}^{ip} = E_t \beta_{ip} R_t^l \frac{\lambda_{1,t+1}^{ip}}{\pi_{t+1}} + \lambda_{3,t}^{ip} R_t^l - E_t \beta_{ip} \lambda_{3,t+1}^{ip} R_{t+1}^l \rho^l,$$
(20)

 $n_{ip,t}$:

$$\varphi n_{ip,t}^{\eta} = \lambda_{1,t}^{ip} w_{ip,t}, \tag{21}$$

 $\boldsymbol{i}_{ip,t}^h$:

$$\lambda_{1,t}^{ip}q_t = \lambda_{2,t}^{ip},\tag{22}$$

 $h_{ip,t}$:

$$\varepsilon_t^h \frac{\phi}{h_{ip,t}} - \lambda_{2,t}^{ip} + E_t \lambda_{2,t+1}^{ip} \beta_{ip} (1 - \delta_h) + (1 - \rho^l) \lambda_{3,t}^{ip} E_t \theta \varepsilon_t^\theta q_{t+1} \pi_{t+1} (1 - \delta_h) = 0.$$
(23)

Equation (20) and (19) gives us the consumption Euler equation for the impatient households

$$\lambda_{1,t}^{ip} = E_t \beta_{ip} R_t^l \frac{\lambda_{1,t+1}^{ip}}{\pi_{t+1}} + \lambda_{3,t}^{ip} R_t^l - E_t \beta_{ip} \lambda_{3,t+1}^{ip} R_{t+1}^l \rho^l.$$
(24)

The Euler equation for housing can be derived by equations (22) and (23):

$$\varepsilon_t^c \varepsilon_t^h \frac{\phi}{h_{ip,t}} + E_t \{ \beta_{ip} \lambda_{1,t+1}^{ip} q_{t+1} (1-\delta_h) + (1-\rho^l) \lambda_{3,t}^{ip} \theta \varepsilon_t^\theta q_{t+1} \pi_{t+1} (1-\delta_h) \} = \lambda_{1,t}^{ip} q_t.$$
(25)

Compared to the first order conditions for consumption and housing for the patient households, there are additional terms which are related to the borrowing constraint for the impatient households. To get some intuitions for why these terms appear in equations (24) and (25), without loss of generality let us assume that $\rho^l = 0$. With $\rho^l = 0$, equations (24) and (25) are reduced to

$$\lambda_{1,t}^{ip} = E_t \beta_{ip} R_t^l \frac{\lambda_{1,t+1}^{ip}}{\pi_{t+1}} + \lambda_{3,t}^{ip} R_t^l,$$
(26)

and

$$\varepsilon_t^c \varepsilon_t^h \frac{\phi}{h_{ip,t}} + E_t \{ \beta_{ip} \lambda_{1,t+1}^{ip} q_{t+1} (1 - \delta_h) + \lambda_{3,t}^{ip} \theta \varepsilon_t^\theta q_{t+1} \pi_{t+1} (1 - \delta_h) \} = \lambda_{1,t}^{ip} q_t.$$
(27)

The Euler equation for consumption equation (26) for the impatient household indicates that when the borrowing constraint is binding $\lambda_{3,t}^{ip} > 0$, the marginal gain of consuming today $\lambda_{1,t}^{ip}$ exceeds the marginal utility of consuming tomorrow $E_t\beta_{ip}R_t^l \frac{\lambda_{1,t+1}^{ip}}{\pi_{t+1}}$. The larger $\lambda_{3,t}^{ip}$ is, the tighter the borrowing constraint is, and therefore the larger the difference between consuming in the current period with in the future. For the Euler equation for housing consumption equation (27), the rise in $\lambda_{3,t}^{ip}$ will lead to a higher marginal gain of acquiring an additional unit of housing $\lambda_{1,t}^{ip}q_t$. This is because a tighter borrowing constraint (that is, a higher marginal gain of relaxing the constraint) will lead to a higher marginal gain of acquiring an additional unit of housing can be used as collateral to relax the borrowing constraint).

2.2 Financial intermediaries

In the beginning of the period t, the net worth for each financial intermediary (bank) is n_t . The bank will fund capital producers' capital investment k_t and lend mortgage loans l_t to the impatient households by issuing deposits d_t to the patient households, as well as using their own net worth n_t .

We can think of the total assets A_t as the total financial claims the bank buys, thus at the beginning of the period t, the total assets for the bank are

$$A_t = Q_t S_t$$

where $S_t = k_t + l_t$, and Q_t is the price of the claims. The flow of funds equation thus is

$$A_t = Q_t(k_t + l_t) = d_t + n_t.$$
 (28)

Let R_{t+1}^l be the realized return on the financial claims at the end of period t (or at the beginning of period t + 1), and R_{t+1} is the return on the deposits at the end of period t. At the end of the period t, the bank's net worth n_{t+1} is the gross payoff from assets that the bank funded at the beginning of the period, minus borrowing costs

$$n_{t+1} = R_{t+1}^l Q_t S_t - R_{t+1} d_t = R_{t+1}^l Q_t (k_t + l_t) - R_{t+1} d_t,$$
(29)

which can be further expressed as

$$n_{t+1} = (R_{t+1}^l - R_{t+1})Q_t(k_t + l_t) + R_{t+1}n_t$$

Let s_t denote the risk premium – the difference between the lending rate R_t^l and borrowing rate R_t . The existence of the risk premium is due to the fact that the bank faces a limitation of raising deposits from the patient households. If there is no limitation of raising deposits, the interest rate spread will disappear eventually: the increase in the deposits will require a rise in the deposit rate R_{t+1} and the rise in bank's assets will generally leads to a decline in R_{t+1}^l , the rate of return on these assets.

In order to motivate the limitation of raising deposits, I follow [Gertler and Karadi, 2011] and [Gertler and Kiyotaki, 2015], to introduce a moral hazard problem to the banking sector: at the end of the each period t the bank can choose to divert the fraction of κ of assets for personal use. The cost is that the bank can be forced into bankruptcy at the beginning of the next period. In this environment, for the patient households to be willing to lend to the bank, the following incentive constraint must be satisfied:

$$\varepsilon_t^{\kappa} \kappa Q_t S_t \le V_t, \tag{30}$$

that is, the present value of payout from operating the bank, V_t , must exceed the gain of diverting assets. ε_t^{κ} is a shock to the fraction of assets that can be diverted. In equilibrium, diverting funds never happens. The diverting funds shocks, however, can be thought of as an indicator for the vulnerability of the banking sector. During the financial crisis, there was an increased difficulties for banks to obtain funds from depositors since depositors have less confidence in banks' ability of allocating funds properly and efficiently. We can think of diverting funds shock as a sudden rise in riskiness in the banking sector. It follows

$$\log \varepsilon_t^{\kappa} = \rho^{\kappa} \log \varepsilon_{t-1}^{\kappa} + \zeta_t^{\kappa}.$$

There is a threshold level of deposits such as if the deposits received by the bank exceed the threshold, the bank would have the incentive to default. Given this, the patient households will choose not to expand their deposits beyond the threshold and as a result there is interest rate spread between lending and borrowing rates in the model.

Given the financial frictions, the banks have the incentive to accumulate retained earnings in order to eventually only use his internal funds. To limit this possibility, I assume that the banks have finite expected lifetime. In each period, the banks are subject to an i.i.d probability σ of surviving, and a probability of $1 - \sigma$ of exiting. It is assumed that the banks pay dividends only when they exit.⁴ Thus the objective of the banks is to maximize the expected present value of future dividends

$$V_t = E_t \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} [(\beta^p)^i \Lambda_{t,t+i} (1-\sigma) \sigma^{i-1} n_{t+i}],$$

where $\Lambda_{t,t+1} = c_{p,t}/c_{p,t+1}$. This can be expressed recursively as

$$V_t = E_t [\beta^p \Lambda_{t,t+1} (1 - \sigma) n_{t+1} + \beta^p \Lambda_{t,t+1} \sigma V_{t+1}].$$
(31)

The banks' problem thus is: given Q_t , the bank maximizes equation (31) by choosing d_t and S_t , subject to the incentive constraint (30) and the flow of funds constraints (28) and law of motion for net worth (29).

Given that both the objective and constraints of the banks are constant returns to scale, let $\varphi_t = V_t/n_t$, and let $\phi_t = \frac{Q_t S_t}{n_t}$. It can be shown that:⁵

$$\varphi_t = \max \mu_t \phi_t + \upsilon_t \tag{32}$$

where,

$$\mu_t = \beta^p \Lambda_{t,t+1} E_t [(R_{t+1}^l - R_{t+1}) \Omega_{t+1}], \tag{33}$$

$$\upsilon_t = \beta^p \Lambda_{t,t+1} E_t [R_{t+1} \Omega_{t+1}],$$

and

$$\Omega_{t+1} = 1 - \sigma + \sigma \varphi_{t+1}.$$

 μ_t can be thought as the excess marginal value of assets over deposits since it depends on $(R_{t+1}^l - R_{t+1})$, the excess return per unit of assets the banker intermediates. v_t depends on R_{t+1} , the marginal

⁴This assumption is commonly adopted in the works studying financial frictions. For example, [Bernanke et al., 1999] assumed that in each period there is a likelihood that the existing entrepreneurs exit.

⁵See [Gertler and Kiyotaki, 2015] for derivation details.

cost of deposits. Ω_{t+1} can be thought of as a weighted average of marginal values of net worth for the exiting bankers $(1 - \sigma)$ and surviving bankers (σ) . We can write the incentive constraint (30) $\varepsilon_t^{\kappa} \kappa Q_t S_t \leq V_t$ as

$$\varepsilon_t^{\kappa} \kappa Q_t S_t \le \mu_t Q_t S_t + \upsilon_t n_t. \tag{34}$$

When there is no restriction on raising deposit, $\mu_t = 0$. This is because the unlimited arbitrage by banks will drive the excess return $(R_{t+1}^l - R_{t+1})$ to zero. However, as long as the constraint is binding, limits to arbitrage will lead to a positive expected excess return, $R_{t+1}^l > R_{t+1}$. In the model, I restrict that the excess marginal value from continuing to manage assets is positive but less than the marginal benefit from diverting funds, that is,

$$0 < \mu_t < \varepsilon_t^{\kappa} \kappa. \tag{35}$$

When $0 < \mu_t < \varepsilon_t^{\kappa} \kappa$, the incentive constraint is binding:

$$\varepsilon_t^{\kappa} \kappa Q_t S_t = \mu_t Q_t S_t + \upsilon_t n_t. \tag{36}$$

This means that ϕ_t , the maximum asset-to-net worth ratio (leverage) is

$$\phi_t = \frac{Q_t S_t}{n_t} = \frac{\upsilon_t}{\varepsilon_t^{\kappa} \kappa - \mu_t}.$$
(37)

Equation (37) tells that the maximum deposit the bank with net worth n_t is $\phi_t n_t$. The agency problem between the depositors and the banking sector leads to an endogenous leverage constraint for the banks. Furthermore, the tighter the constraint is, the larger the excess return $(R_{t+1}^l - R_{t+1})$ is. In the model, a decline in asset value caused by house prices will tighten the incentive constraint, and thus the excess return (risk premium) is much higher in the crisis period.

Let n_t^e denote the net worth for the existing bankers, and n_t^n for the newly entered bankers. It is assumed that the patient households receive the assets $(1 - \sigma)Q_{t-1}S_{t-1}$ of the existing bankers at the end of period t, and they transfer a fraction $\omega/(1 - \sigma)$ of the receiving transfer to the newly entered bankers in the beginning of the next period. Thus, the total net worth at the beginning of the period t is⁶

$$n_t = n_t^n + n_t^e,$$

with

$$n_t^e = \sigma[(R_{t+1}^l - R_t)\phi_t + R_t]n_{t-1}^e,$$

and

$$n_t^n = \frac{\omega}{1 - \sigma} (1 - \sigma) Q_{t-1} S_{t-1} = \omega Q_{t-1} S_{t-1}.$$

 $^{^{6}\}omega$ is set to a very small number 0.002 as [Gertler and Karadi, 2011].

2.3 Goods and House Producers

2.3.1 Capital Producers

Capital producers operate in a competitive market. Capital production is assumed to be subject to an investment-specific shock, τ_t^k . Capital producers purchase the final goods from retailers, i_t^k , and produce efficient investment goods, $\tau_t^k i_t^k$. I assume that capital producers face investment adjustment costs $S(i_t, i_{t-1})$, such that in steady state S = S' = 0 and $S'' = \chi^k > 0$, and $\chi^k > 0$ is an investment adjustment cost parameter. At the end of period t. The capital producer solves for i_t^k to maximize

$$\max E_t \sum \beta^p \Lambda_{t,t+1} \{ P_t^k [\tau_t^k - S_k(\frac{i_t^k}{i_{t-1}^k})] i_t^k - P_t i_t^k \}$$

where $\Lambda_{t,t+1} = \lambda_{1,t+1}^p / \lambda_{1,t}^p$.⁷ Let the functional form for $S(i_t^k, i_{t-1}^k)$ be

$$S(i_t^k, i_{t-1}^k) = 0.5\chi^k (\frac{i_t^k}{i_{t-1}^k} - 1)^2.$$

The first order condition for i_t^k is

$$\tau_t^k q_t^k = 1 + 0.5q_t^k \chi^k (\frac{i_t^k}{i_{t-1}^k} - 1)^2 + q_t^k \chi^k (\frac{i_t^k}{i_{t-1}^k} - 1)(\frac{i_t^k}{i_{t-1}^k}) - \beta_p \Lambda_{t,t+1} q_{t+1} \chi^k (\frac{i_{t+1}^k}{i_t^k} - 1)(\frac{i_{t+1}^k}{i_t^k})^2$$

where τ_t^k is a shock on the investment technology and follows the first-order autoregressive process:

$$\log \tau_t^k = \rho^{\tau^k} \log \tau_{t-1}^k + \zeta_t^{\tau^k}, \zeta_t^{\tau^k} \sim i.i.d.N(0, \sigma_{\epsilon^{\tau k}}^2).$$

The aggregate stock of capital evolves as follows:

$$k_t = (1 - \delta^k)k_{t-1} + \tau_t^k i_t^k.$$
(38)

2.3.2 House Producers

Similarly, new houses are produced by perfectly competitive firms. The production is subject to housing investment adjustment costs $S_h(i_t^h, i_{t-1}^h)$, such that in the steady state S = S' = 0 and $S'' = \chi^h > 0$, and $\chi^h > 0$ is an investment adjustment cost parameter. The house producer solves for i_t^h to maximize

$$\max E_t \sum \beta^p \Lambda_{t,t+1} [P_t^h h_t^n - P_t i_t^h]$$

The production of new house follows the following technology

$$h_t^n = (1 - S_h(\frac{i_t^h}{i_{t-1}^h}))i_t^h,$$

⁷It is assumed that capital producers, house producers and retailers use the patient households' discount factor in their stochastic discount factor calculation.

Again, we assume that the functional form for $S(i_t^h, i_{t-1}^h)$ is

$$S(i_t^h, i_{t-1}^h) = 0.5\chi^h(\frac{i_t^h}{i_{t-1}^h} - 1)^2$$

The first order condition for i_t^h is

$$q_t = 1 + 0.5q_t \chi^h (\frac{i_t^h}{i_{t-1}^h} - 1)^2 + q_t \chi^h (\frac{i_t^h}{i_{t-1}^h} - 1)(\frac{i_t^h}{i_{t-1}^h}) - \beta \Lambda_{t,t+1} q_{t+1} \chi^h (\frac{i_{t+1}^h}{i_t^h} - 1)(\frac{i_{t+1}^h}{i_t^h})^2.$$

The total house stock evolves

$$h_t = (1 - \delta^h)h_{t-1} + i_t^h.$$
(39)

2.3.3 Wholesale Goods Sector

The wholesale goods are produced by using the following constant-return-to-scale production function technology

$$y_t = A_t k_t^{\gamma} ((n_{p,t})^{\alpha} (n_{ip,t})^{1-\alpha})^{1-\gamma},$$
(40)

where A_t is a shock to technology, which follows

$$\log A_t = \rho^A \log A_{t-1} + \varsigma_t^A.$$

It is assumed that the wholesale goods producers acquire capital from capital producers at the end of t - 1 for use in production in period t. After production, they sell the undepreciated capital in the open market.

The firms borrow from the financial intermediaries for capital acquisition at the rate R_t^l . The firms are competitive and earn zero profits, and at the end of period they pay out the realized return to capital to the intermediaries:

$$E_t R_{t+1}^l = \frac{E_t [r_{t+1}^k + q_{t+1}^k (1-\delta)]}{q_t^k},$$

where r_{t+1}^k is defined below. Thus in each period, these firms maximize the profit by choosing $k_t, n_{p,t}$ and $n_{ip,t}$

$$\max p_t^w y_t - r_t^k k_t - w_{p,t} n_{p,t} - w_{ip,t} n_{ip,t}$$
(41)

and the first-order conditions are

$$p_t^w \gamma \frac{y_t}{k_t} = r_t^k, \tag{42}$$

$$p_t^w \alpha (1-\gamma) \frac{y_t}{n_{p,t}} = w_{p,t},\tag{43}$$

and

$$p_t^w (1 - \alpha)(1 - \gamma) \frac{y_t}{n_{ip,t}} = w_{ip,t},$$
(44)

where p_t^w is the price for the wholesale goods.

2.3.4 Retailers

There are continuum of retailers of mass 1, indexed by j. They buy intermediate goods from wholesale goods producers at p_t^w in a competitive market and differentiate the goods at no costs into $y_t(i)$, and sell $y_t(j)$ at the price $p_t(j)$.

The final goods y_t is the composite of individual variety,

$$y_t = \left[\int_0^1 y_t(j)^{\frac{\varepsilon-1}{\varepsilon}} dj\right]^{\frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon-1}}$$

The price index that minimizes the final producers' cost function is

$$p_t = \left[\int_0^1 p_t(j)^{1-\varepsilon} dj\right]^{\frac{1}{1-\varepsilon}}.$$

The demand function faced by each retailer is given by

$$y_t(j) = \left(\frac{p_t(j)}{p_t}\right)^{-\varepsilon_t} y_t.$$
(45)

Following [Calvo, 1983], in each period, only a fraction $1 - \nu$ of retailers reset their prices, while the remaining retailers keep their prices unchanged. The retailer chooses $p_{i,t}$ to maximize its expected real total profit over the periods during which its prices remain fixed:

$$E_t \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \nu \Delta_{i,t+i}^p \left[\left(\frac{p_{i,t}}{p_{i,t+i}} \right) y_{t+i} - mc_{t+i} y_{t+i}(i) \right],$$

where mc_t is the real marginal cost, namely, the price of wholesale goods relative to the price of sectoral final goods (p_t^w/p_t) . $\Delta_{t,i}^p \equiv \beta_p \lambda_{1,t+1}^p / \lambda_{1,t}^p$ is the stochastic discount factor. Let p_t^* be the optimal price chosen by all firms adjusting at time t.

The first-order condition for the optimal price is:

$$p_{i,t}^* = \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon - 1}\right) \frac{E_t \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \nu^s \Delta_{s,t+s}^p m c_{t+1} y_{t+i} \left(\frac{1}{p_{t+i}}\right)^{-\varepsilon}}{E_t \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \nu^s \Delta_{s,t+s}^p y_{t+i} \left(\frac{1}{p_{t+i}}\right)^{1-\varepsilon}}$$

The aggregate price evolves according to:

$$p_t = [\nu p_{t-1}^{1-\varepsilon} + (1-\nu)(p_t^*)^{1-\varepsilon}]^{\frac{1}{1-\varepsilon}}.$$

2.4 Government

Government expenditures are financed by lump sum tax

 $g_t = t_t$

where g_t follows an AR(1) process,

$$\log g_t = (1 - \rho^g) \log g_{ss} + \rho^g \log g_{t-1} + \zeta_t^g, \zeta_t^g \sim i.i.d.N(0, \sigma_{\zeta g}^2),$$

where $g_{ss} = g_y y_{ss}$ and g_y is the fraction of GDP spent on government spending.

2.5 Monetary Policy

The central bank is assumed to operate according to the standard Taylor Rule. The central bank adjusts the nominal interest rate, R_t , in response to deviations of inflation, π_t , from its steady-state value, π , and output, y_t , from its steady-state level, y.

$$\frac{R_t}{R} = (\frac{R_{t-1}}{R})^{\rho_r} ((\frac{\pi_t}{\pi})^{\rho_\pi} (\frac{y_t}{y})^{\rho_y})^{1-\rho_r} e^{\zeta_t^m},$$

where R, π , and y are the steady-state values of R_t , π_t and y_t , and ζ_t^m is a monetary policy shock which follows

$$\zeta_t^m \sim i.i.d. \ N(0, \sigma_{\zeta^m}).$$

 ρ_{π} , ρ_{y} and ρ_{r} are policy coefficients chosen by the central bank.

2.6 Equilibrium

The equilibrium is an allocation $(h_{p,t}, h_{ip,t}, n_{p,t}, n_{ip,t}, c_{p,t}, c_{ip,t}, i_{p,t}, d_t, l_t, y_t)_{t=0}^{\infty}$ together with the sequence of prices $(w_{p,t}, w_{ip,t}, q_t, P_t, P_t^*, p^w)_{t=0}^{\infty}$ satisfying the first-order conditions, budget constraints, borrowing constraint, and following market clearing conditions:

Goods market:

$$c_{p,t} + c_{ip,t} + q_t(i_{p,t}^h + i_{ip,t}^h) + q_t^k i_t^k + 0.5\chi^k (\frac{i_t^k}{i_{t-1}^k} - 1)^2 + 0.5\chi^h (\frac{i_t^h}{i_{t-1}^h} - 1)^2 + g_t = y_t,$$
(46)

and housing market:

$$h_{ip,t} + h_{p,t} = h_t. aga{47}$$

3 Data and Estimation

In order to provide a quantitative answer to the questions raised in the beginning of the paper, I estimate the model using a Bayesian approach. In what follows, I present the data, the calibrated parameters, the priors and the estimation results.

3.1 Data

I estimate the model using U.S. quarterly data from 1991Q1 to 2014Q1. I use eight time series as observables since the model allows for eight shocks. The time series are: output, investment, consumption, government spending, nominal interest rate, inflation, risk premium and mortgage loan. Appendix C describes the data construction. For the real variables, I detrend the logarithm of each variable using a quadratic trend. The nominal variables are demeaned. The detrended and demeaned data are plotted in Figure 2.





All the real variables are in percentage deviations from the their trends and all the nominal variables are in percentage deviations from their means.

3.2 Calibrated Parameters

Table 1 summarizes the calibrated parameters. I set the discount factor for the patient households to 0.9925, which implies an annualized steady-state deposit rate R_t of 3 percent. For the impatient households, I set the discount factor at 0.94 which, together with the other parameters, implies an annualized steady-state lending rate R_t^l of 4 percent. This gives me the steady-state annual risk premium of 100 basis points, the value used in [Gertler and Karadi, 2011]. I set the weight on leisure in the household utility function ψ at 1 since it only affects the scale of the economy. I also

Household		
Discount factor for patient households	β^p	0.9925
Discount factor for impatient households	β^{ip}	0.94
Relative utility weight of labour	ψ	1
Relative utility weight of housing	ϕ	0.25
Inverse Frisch elasticity of labour supply	η	1
House depreciation rate	δ_h	0.01
Collateral constraint parameter	θ	0.85
Persistence of household debt	$ ho^l$	0.95
Financial intermediaries		
Fraction of assets that can be diverted	κ	0.382
Survival rate of the bankers	σ	0.97
Intermediate good producers		
Capital share	α	0.33
Share of patient households labour income	γ	0.64
Capital depreciation rate	δ	0.025
Government		
Fraction of GDP spent on government spending	g	0.20

Table 1: Calibrated Parameters

pick a Frisch elasticity of labor supply (1/) at 1.⁸

The depreciation rate for houses δ_h is set to 0.01, matching the target of the ratio of residential investment to GDP of 5 percent. I set the loan-to-value ratio θ to 0.85, which is suggested to be the average value for the first time home buyers by [Duca et al., 2011]. I set the housing preference parameters ϕ to 0.25, together with δ_h and θ , implying that the average ratio of market value of housing stock to GDP ratio is 1.3 at an annualized basis.

For the production function, I set the capital share α to 0.33, and wage share of the impatient households $(1 - \gamma)$ to 36 percent, which is the estimate in [Iacoviello, 2005].⁹ The depreciation rate for capital is set to 0.025. I follow [Gertler and Karadi, 2011] for setting the parameters for the banking sector. The fraction of capital that can be diverted κ is set to 0.382, which gives us the steady state leverage about 4.¹⁰ The survival rate of the banks σ is set to 0.97, suggesting that the average duration for a bank to stay in business is about 10 years.

⁸This value is a compromise between microeconometric estimates of the Frisch labor supply (0 to 0.5) and the values used by macroeconomists to calibrate general equilibrium models (2-4).

⁹Other studies, such as [Hall, 2011], and [Justiniano et al., 2015] suggest that the fraction of the liquidity constraint households is much higher, around 60 percent.

¹⁰As in [Gertler and Karadi, 2011], κ , is chosen to deliver a leverage ratio that is a compromise between the high leverage ratio for investment bank and commercial bank (20-40) and the low one for the corporate and non-corporate business sectors (2).

3.3 Priors

I estimate 7 structural parameters, and persistence and standard deviations for 8 exogenous shocks. The priors are displayed in Table 2. I set the priors as loose as possible, and most of them are quite standard.

The Taylor rule inflation ρ_{π} and output coefficients ρ_y are assumed to follow a gamma distribution with mean 1.5 and standard deviation 0.25, and a normal distribution with mean 0.125 and standard deviation 0.15, respectively. For the interest rate smoothing parameter ρ_r , I assume that it follow a beta distribution with mean 0.8 and standard deviation 0.2. The habit persistence parameter b is assumed to fluctuate around 0.6 with a standard error of 0.15. The prior on the adjustment cost parameter for business and housing investment χ^k , χ^k are set to follow a gamma distribution which is around mean 4, and 30 with a standard error of 1.5, respectively. For Calvo parameter v, I assume that it follows a beta distribution of mean 0.6 and standard deviation of 0.15.

The standard errors of the innovations are assumed to follow an inverse-gamma distribution with a mean of 0.005 and two degrees of freedom. The persistence of the AR(1) processes is beta distributed with mean 0.8 and standard deviation 0.2.

3.4 Estimated parameters and smoothed shocks

The last column of Table 2 reports the modes for the estimated model parameters. The Calvo parameter v is found to be 0.71, suggesting price changes every 3.4 quarters. The habit persistence parameter b is estimated at 0.67. The investment adjustment costs parameters χ^k and χ^h are found to be 1.86 and 30.9 respectively. For the monetary policy parameters, the estimates fall within the standard range: the Taylor rule inflation and output parameters are estimated at 2.53 and 0.05 respectively, and the interest rate smoothing parameter is estimated at 0.76.

For the shock parameters, the housing demand shocks are found to be the most volatile with $\zeta_t^h = 0.19$. The loan-to-value ratio shocks exhibits a large volatility as well with $\zeta_t^\theta = 0.13$. The estimated standard deviations for the remaining parameters are ranging from 0.0018 to 0.0163. The government spending shocks are the most persistent shocks with $\rho^g = 0.99$. The banking sector shocks and housing demand shocks are also quite persistent with $\rho^{\kappa} = 0.98$ and $\rho^h = 0.97$.

Figure 3 shows the estimated smoothed values for the shock processes considered in the model. The shaded areas are the NBER recessions. The striking feature is the extreme high value in the banking sector shock during the most recent recession. In addition, the recent recession shows up in the low values in the consumption goods demand shock, the housing demand shock, and the investment-specific shock.

Parameter		Pric	Mode			
Structural Parameters						
$ ho_r$	Taylor rule smoothing	beta	0.80	0.2	0.76	
$ ho_{\pi}$	Taylor rule inflation	gamm	1.5	0.25	2.53	
$ ho_y$	Taylor rule output	norm	0.125	0.15	0.05	
v	Calvo parameter	beta	0.6	0.15	0.71	
b	Habit persistence	beta	0.6	0.2	0.67	
χ^k	Business investment adj. costs	gamm	4	1.5	1.86	
χ^h	Housing investment adj. costs	gamm	30	1.5	30.9	
Shock Proc	esses					
$ ho^A$	Persistence, technology shock	beta	0.8	0.2	0.76	
$ ho^c$	Persistence, consumption demand shock	beta	0.8	0.2	0.59	
$ ho^h$	Persistence, housing demand shock	beta	0.8	0.2	0.97	
$ ho^{ heta}$	Persistence, LTV shock	beta	0.8	0.2	0.78	
$ ho^{\kappa}$	Persistence, banking sector shock	beta	0.8	0.2	0.98	
$ ho^{g}$	Persistence, government shock	beta	0.8	0.2	0.99	
$ ho^{ au^k}$	Persistence, investment specific shock	beta	0.8	0.2	0.82	
ζ^a_t	Std., technology shock	invg	0.005	2	0.0083	
ζ_t^m	Std., monetary policy shock	invg	0.005	2	0.0018	
ζ_t^c	Std., consumption demand shock	invg	0.005	2	0.0273	
ζ_t^h	Std., housing demand shock	invg	0.005	2	0.1977	
ζ^{θ}_t	Std., LTV shock	invg	0.005	2	0.1346	
ζ_t^{κ}	Std., banking sector shock	invg	0.005	2	0.0211	
ζ_t^g	Std., government spending shock	invg	0.005	2	0.0083	
$\zeta_t^{\tau^k}$	Std., investment shock	invg	0.005	2	0.0163	

Table 2: Estimation Results

Notes: invg denotes the inverse gamma distribution



Figure 3: Smoothed Shocks 1991Q1-2014Q1

All the variables are in percentage deviations from their steady-state values.

4 Model Analysis

4.1 Model performance

In this section, I asses the model's performance by comparing the predicted volatilities of the key macro variables with the ones observed in the data, and some most relevant correlations. The first part of Table 3 reports the relative volatilities (normalized by the standard deviation of output) of the key variables in the model and in the data; the second part of the table reports some key correlations. In terms of matching the standard deviations, except for consumption, the model's performance is quite decent. The predicted volatility in business investment (i^k) is quite close to that in the data (3.9 in the model versus 3.7 in the data). The model predicts high volatilities in housing investment (i^h), housing prices (q) and mortgage loans (l), although it over-predicts the volatilities in housing investment and mortgage debt, and under-predicts the fluctuations in housing prices. The predicted volatilities in the remaining nominal variables (nominal interest rate R, inflation π , and risk premium s) are quite close to those in the data as well.

The second panel in Table 3 assesses the performance of the model by comparing some key correlations generated by the model with the ones observed in the data. The model matches well with the fact that risk premium is countercyclical (-0.34 in the model versus -0.31 in the data). The

model also captures well the negative correlation between housing price and risk premium (-0.17 in the model versus -0.22 in the data). The model predicts positive correlations between output and housing price as well as between housing price and mortgage debt, although both of them are under-predicted.

SD		y	С	i^k	i^h	q	l	R	π	s
	Data	1	0.8	3.7	12	9.1	7.1	0.4	0.1	0.1
	Model	1	1.7	3.9	18	4.4	11.9	0.13	0.1	0.13
Correlation			y,s		q, s		y,q		q, l	
	Data	-	0.31	-(0.22		0.52		0.76	
	Model	-	0.34	-(0.17		0.30		0.15	

Table 3: Standard Deviations and Correlations-Model vs. Data

4.2 Variance decomposition and historical decomposition

Forecast error variance decomposition gives information regarding how important an individual shock is. Table 4 reports the variance decomposition at the eight quarters forecast horizon. There are a few things worth mentioning here: first, almost half of the variations in output are explained by the banking sector shock and housing demand shock, the remaining half are split among goods demand, monetary policy, technology and investment-specific shocks. Second, housing demand shocks accounts for about half of the fluctuations in consumption, and almost all the variations in housing investment and housing prices. The latter two variables exhibit very large variations during the sample period. The result suggests that to match these large variations, the model largely relies the exogenous housing demand shock instead of the intrinsic properties of the model. Third, the banking sector shocks account for more than half of the variations in risk premium, and about 30 per cent in business investment. Lastly, the variations in household debt are mainly explained by loan-to-value shock and housing demand shock.

In order to find the driving forces for the decline in GDP in the U.S. during the Great Recession period, I conduct historical decomposition for GDP for the period of 2006Q1-2012Q1 and find that the banking sector shocks and housing demand shocks (together with consumption demand shocks) were the main shocks that caused the deep decline in output (Figure 4). Table 5 offers a more detailed description of the contributions of these three shocks to the decline in output from 2009Q1 to 2009Q4 – the period that the U.S. economy experiences the steepest decline. At the tough 2009Q3, GDP declines about 4.7 per cent. The banking sector shocks and housing demand shocks account for more than half of the decline (1.4 percentage points decline and 1.2 percentage points decline respectively). The consumption demand shocks account for about 2.2 percentage points.

	Banking	LTV	Housing	Con.	Mon.	Tech.	Gov.	Inv.
Output	16.31	0.75	29.57	11.04	15.69	15.1	1.36	10.18
Consumption	1.17	0.36	54.5	40.22	0.29	1.99	1.24	0.22
Business inv.	30.71	1.95	7.18	1.29	16.05	4.72	0.01	38.1
Housing inv.	0.24	0	99.27	0.05	0.16	0.18	0.1	0
House prices	1.02	0.01	97.71	0.21	0.34	0.39	0.05	0.27
HH debt	0.07	66	33.24	0.22	0.44	0	0	0.02
Nor. int. rate	26.78	0.14	13.51	7.89	15.52	18.74	0.04	17.38
Inflation	11.13	0.14	13.72	5.01	34.01	28.4	0.03	7.57
Risk premium	55.52	1.48	14.13	4.2	11.25	6.98	0.04	6.41
Assets prices	14.05	0.23	11.36	2.7	11.65	8.19	0.01	51.81

Table 4: Variance Decomposition – Business Cycle Frequency

Table 5: Historical Decomposition – 2006Q1-2012Q1

Contribution to output	2009Q1	2009Q2	2009Q3	2009Q4
Banking sector shocks	-1.32	-1.59	-1.41	-1.14
Housing demand shocks	-1.38	-0.93	-1.15	-1.07
Consumption demand shocks	-1.89	-2.15	-2.22	-1.61
Data	-2.75	-4.01	-4.71	-3.99

4.3 Model Dynamics and the Role of Banking Sector

In this section, I illustrate the mechanism at work in the model and the role of the banking sector. Given the importance of the housing demand and banking sector shocks, I start with these two shocks. Figure 5 documents the impulse responses of the model to a housing demand shock. The size of the shock is set to a one standard deviation of the estimated shock process, and the direction of the shock is set to produce a decline in output. The blue line represents the response of the baseline model. The shock drives down the housing prices and household debt. Both asset prices and the net worth of the banks (Bank N) decline, resulting a rise in risk premium. Total investment (including both housing and business investments) declines, leading to a decline in output (although total consumption increases counterfactually). The counterfactual response in consumption is due to the switch of demand from housing to consumption goods. After the shock, the patient households reduces their housing demand gradually and increases their demand for consumption goods. In contrast, due to the collateral constraint, the impatient households have to reduce borrowing and cut back housing demand more drastically (leading to a larger counterfactual increase in consumption). Total housing demand and housing investment decline. The reduced borrowing from the impatient household leads a decline of the price of the assets (claims held by the banks). As a result, the net worth of the banking sector decreases and the constraint for the banks to raise deposits tightens. Risk premium rises due to the worsened banks' balance sheet positions. Both housing investment



Figure 4: Sources of the Decline in Output 2006Q1-2012Q1: Historical Decomposition Evidence

and business investment decline due the rise in borrowing costs, resulting a decline in output.

Figure 5 captures what has happened in the recent financial crisis in the U.S.: the collapse in the housing market deteriorates the balance sheet positions of the banks. Banks' net worth declines and mortgage risk premium rises significantly during the crisis. The red line represents the responses of the these variables in the model in which the banking sector is shut off. Compared to the model without the banking sector, output experiences a larger decline in the baseline model. This is because investment declines more due to the rise in risk premium in the baseline model.

Figure 6 shows the impulse response functions of the key variables after a banking sector shock. Given the sudden rise in the fraction of the funds the bank can divert, the incentive constraint of the bank tightens and risk premium rises. The increase in borrowing costs leads to declines in household borrowing. The decline in the borrowing ability for the impatient households leads to the decline in consumption goods and housing demands for the impatient households. However, for the patient households, the reduction in deposits leads to an increase in consumption goods and housing demands. At the aggregate level, the total consumption rises slightly after the shock.¹¹ Housing

¹¹In the model, when the patient households have to reduce deposits, they will either increase consumption or housing. To some shocks, for example, banking sector shocks, this would lead to the counterfactual rise in aggregate consumption in the downturn. One potential remedy to mitigate this effect is to introduce deposit insurance to break the tight link between deposits and banking assets.



Figure 5: Effects of a Negative Housing Demand Shock

All the variables are in percentage deviations from their steady-state values except risk premium and mortgage risk which are in basis points. Bank N denotes bank net worth. IP denotes the impatient households. P denotes patient households. Dep denotes deposits.

price also rises due to the response from the patient households. The increase in risk premium also deters business borrowing, leading to a decline in business investment. Despite the counterfactual response in consumption, output declines after the shock due to the decline in investment.

For the remaining six shocks, I summarize the impulse response functions of the eight most important variables in Figure 7. As for the previous two shocks, the size of each shock is set to a one standard deviation of the estimated shock process and the direction of the shock is set to produce a decline in output. The blue line is for the baseline model and the red line is for the model without the banking sector. A positive LTV shock can be thought of as a shock that loosens lending standards. A sudden increase in the loan-to-value ratio encourages households' borrowing. This results in an increase in household debt, which in turn leads to an increase in banks'assets and net worth. The increase in net worth loosens the incentive constraint the bank faces, and as a result risk premium declines. However the decline in risk premium does not lead to an increase in investment.¹² Output slightly declines due to the decline in investment. An contractionary monetary policy shock pushes down asset prices and banks' net worth, leading to a higher risk premium and a reduction in

¹²This might be because in the case of LTV shock, the rise in consumption depresses the demand for investment. As a result, investment decline despite the decline in risk premium.



Figure 6: Effects of a Negative Banking Sector Shock

All the variables are in percentage deviations from their steady-state values except risk premium and mortgage risk which are in basis points.



Figure 7: Effects of Other Key Shocks

All the variables are in percentage deviations from their steady-state values except risk premium which is in basis points.

household debt. A negative technology shock also reduces asset prices and the net worth of the bank sector, resulting a countercyclical risk premium. Both house prices and household debt decline. A negative shock to the demand for consumption goods depresses the demand for consumption goods but increases the demand for investment goods. Thus, asset prices rise, leading to a rise in the net worth for the banking sector. A negative investment-efficiency shock has a similar effect on risk premium and banks' net worth to a negative demand shock: after the shocks, banks' net worth rises due to the rise in the prices of the assets held by the banks. The mechanism, however, is different. In the case of a negative investment-efficiency shock, the rise in asset prices is due to the decline in supply of capital caused by the reduced efficiency of transforming investment goods. The last row in Figure 7 is a shock that decreases government spending. Consumption and investment rise, leading a increase in asset prices and banks' net worth, which results in an decrease in risk premium.

Comparing the responses of these variables in the baseline model with the model without the banking sector, the impact of including a banking sector is most obvious when the economy is hit by monetary policy shock and investment-specific shock, although the banking sector amplifies one (monetary policy shock) while dampens the other (investment-specific shock). Compared to the model without the banking sector, a contractionary monetary policy shock generates a larger decline

in output. This is because the decline in bank's net worth leads to a rise in risk premium, which further depresses the declines in asset prices and household debt. In contrast, to the investment-specific shock, the financial frictions faced by the banking sector dampens the responses of the model. This is because in the model with banking sector, the increase in the banking sector's net worth and the decline in risk premium dampen the decline in investment and in turn, the decline in output.

5 Effects of Unconventional Monetary Policy

In the previous section, I show that the agency problem between banks and depositors leads to an endogenous capital constraint. The maximum leverage or assets to net worth ratio is

$$\phi_t = \frac{A_t}{n_t} = \frac{\upsilon_t}{\kappa - \mu_t}.$$

Now suppose that the central bank is willing to fund the fraction of ψ_t of assets held by the financial intermediaries, that is,

$$A_t^g = \psi_t A_t.$$

The government issues government debt B, which is equal to $\psi_t A_t$ to fund this activity. The total assets held by the financial intermediaries are

$$A_t^t = \phi_t n_t + \psi_t A_t.$$

Thus, credit injection from the central bank increases the total asset held by the bank. Given that only private assets held by banks are constrained, this is equivalent to increasing banks' ability of raising deposits. The effects of the credit policy are shown in Figures 8 and 9. Figure 8 shows the effect of credit intervention after a housing demand shocks. The additional credit injected by the central bank relaxed the incentive constraint, thus risk premium rises by less in the credit policy model. Neither housing investment nor housing price, however, is affected by the change in risk premium. This is because both of them are mainly driven by the exogenous housing demand shock, and thus the dynamics of these two variables are quite similar in the baseline model and the model with credit policy. The impact of credit intervention is mainly on business investment, which declines by less in the model with credit policy. Figure 9 shows the effect of credit intervention to a banking sector shock. The decline in output is roughly reduced by half (peak decline is 0.27 percent in the baseline model while is 0.17 per cent in the model with credit policy intervention). This is because credit injection from the central bank increases banks' leverage. Risk premium rises by less and housing prices decline by less.



Figure 8: Effects of a Negative Housing Demand Shock: Baseline vs Policy

All the variables are in percentage deviations from their steady-state values except risk premium and mortgage rate which are in basis points.



Figure 9: Effects of a Negative Banking Shock: Baseline vs Policy

All variables are in percentage deviations from their steady-state values except risk premium and mortgage rate which are in basis points.

6 Conclusions

The relationship between housing prices, household debt and monetary policy has been an important topic in the DSGE literature, and it became even more so since the Great Recession. In this paper I added a new dimension: a micro-founded banking sector. This allows the model to link housing prices, households debt and banks' balance sheet positions together. In the model, a shock that drives down housing prices also drives down the value of assets held by the banks, worsening the banks' balance sheet positions. As a results, risk premium rises, which sends the downturn even further. This mechanism captures what happened during the Great Recession in the U.S: the collapse in the housing market leads to a decline in banks' net worth as the banking sector holds significant amount of real estate assets and risk premium rises significantly.

This new dimension also makes the model more suitable for assessing the impact of the unconventional monetary policy, which injects the liquidity directly to the banking sector. I show that the unconventional monetary policy has mitigated the downturn in the U.S.

Although the model is quite successful in matching some key moments in the data, the volatility in consumption is obviously quite large compared to the data. A further investigation of the model specification regarding aggregate consumption is needed.

Appendix A. System of Equations

$$\varepsilon_t^c \frac{1}{c_{p,t} - bc_{p,t-1}} - \beta_p b \varepsilon_{t+1}^c \frac{1}{c_{p,t+1} - bc_{p,t}} - \lambda_{1p,t} = 0$$
(A-1)

$$\lambda_{1,t}^{p} = E_t \beta_p R_t \frac{\lambda_{1,t+1}^{p}}{\pi_{t+1}}$$
(A-2)

$$\frac{\varepsilon_t^c \varepsilon_t^h \phi}{h_{p,t}} + \beta_p \lambda_{1,t+1}^p q_{t+1} (1 - \delta_h) = q_t \lambda_{1,t}^p \tag{A-3}$$

$$\varphi n_{p,t}^{\eta} = \lambda_{1,t}^{p} w_{p,t} \tag{A-4}$$

$$\varepsilon_t^c \frac{1}{c_{ip,t} - bc_{ip,t-1}} - \beta_p b \varepsilon_{t+1}^c \frac{1}{c_{ip,t+1} - bc_{ip,t}} - \lambda_{1,t}^{ip} = 0$$
(A-5)

$$\lambda_{1,t}^{ip} = E_t \beta_{ip} R_t^l \frac{\lambda_{1,t+1}^{ip}}{\pi_{t+1}} + \lambda_{3,t}^{ip} R_t^l - E_t \beta_{ip} \lambda_{3,t+1}^{ip} R_{t+1}^l \rho^l,$$
(A-6)

$$\varepsilon_t^c \varepsilon_t^h \frac{\phi}{h_{ip,t}} + E_t \{ \beta_{ip} \lambda_{1,t+1}^{ip} q_{t+1} (1 - \delta^h) + (1 - \rho^l) \lambda_{3,t}^{ip} \theta \varepsilon_t^\theta q_{t+1} \pi_{t+1} (1 - \delta^h) \} = \lambda_{1,t}^{ip} q_t$$
(A-7)

$$\varphi n_{ip,t}^{\eta} = \lambda_{1,t}^{ip} w_{ip,t} \tag{A-8}$$

$$R_t^l l_{ip,t} = E_t \theta q_{t+1} \pi_{t+1} h_{ip,t} (1 - \delta^h)$$
(A-9)

$$l_t = \rho^l l_{t-1} + (1 - \rho^l) E_t \frac{\theta q_{t+1} \pi_{t+1} h_{ip,t} (1 - \delta^h)}{R_t^l}$$
(A-10)

$$c_{ip,t} + q_t i^h_{ip,t} + R^l_{t-1} \frac{l_{t-1}}{\pi_t} = w_{ip,t} n_{ip,t} + l_t$$
(A-11a)

$$A_{t} = Q_{t}(k_{t} + l_{t}) = d_{t} + n_{t}$$
(A-12)

$$\mu_t = \beta E_t [(R_{t+1}^l - R_{t+1})\Omega_{t+1}]$$
(A-13)

$$v_{dt} = \beta E_t [R_{t+1}\Omega_{t+1}] \tag{A-14}$$

$$\Omega_{t+1} = 1 - \sigma + \sigma(v_{dt+1} + \phi_{t+1}\mu_{t+1})$$
(A-15)

$$n_t^e = \sigma[(R_t^l - R_t)\phi_{t-1} + R_t]n_{t-1}$$
(A-16)

$$n_t^n = \omega A_{t-1} \tag{A-17}$$

$$n = n_t^n + n_t^e \tag{A-18}$$

$$\phi_t = \frac{A_t}{n_t} = \frac{v_{dt}}{\kappa - \mu_t} \tag{A-19}$$

$$\lambda_t^b = \frac{\mu_t}{\theta - \mu_t}.\tag{A-20}$$

$$y_t = A_t k_t^{\alpha} ((n_{p,t})^{\gamma} (n_{ip,t})^{1-\gamma})^{1-\alpha}$$
(A-21)

$$(1-\gamma)\alpha p_t^w \frac{y}{n_{p,t}} = w_{p,t} \tag{A-22}$$

$$(1 - \gamma)(1 - \alpha)p_t^w \frac{y}{n_{ip,t}} = w_{ip,t}$$
 (A-23)

$$p_t^w \alpha \frac{Y_t}{k_t} = r_t^k, \tag{A-24}$$

$$Q_t = q_t^k, \tag{A-25}$$

$$E_t R_{t+1}^l = \frac{E_t [r_{t+1}^k + q_{t+1}^k (1-\delta)]}{q_t^k}$$
(A-26)

$$k_t = (1 - \delta^k) k_{t-1} + \tau_t^k i_t^k$$
(A-27)

$$\tau_t^k q_t^k = 1 + 0.5q_t^k \chi^k (\frac{i_t^k}{i_{t-1}^k} - 1)^2 + q_t^k \chi^k (\frac{i_t^k}{i_{t-1}^k} - 1)(\frac{i_t^k}{i_{t-1}^k}) - \beta_p \Lambda_{t,t+1} q_{t+1} \chi^k (\frac{i_{t+1}^k}{i_t^k} - 1)(\frac{i_{t+1}^k}{i_t^k})^2 \quad (A-28)$$

$$h_t = (1 - \delta^h)h_{t-1} + \tau_t^h i_t^h$$
 (A-29)

$$q_{t} = 1 + 0.5q_{t}\chi^{h}(\frac{i_{t}^{h}}{i_{t-1}^{h}} - 1)^{2} + q_{t}\chi^{h}(\frac{i_{t}^{h}}{i_{t-1}^{h}} - 1)(\frac{i_{t}^{h}}{i_{t-1}^{h}}) - \beta\Lambda_{t,t+1}q_{t+1}\chi^{h}(\frac{i_{t+1}^{h}}{i_{t}^{h}} - 1)(\frac{i_{t+1}^{h}}{i_{t}^{h}})^{2} \quad (A-30)$$

$$p_{i,t}^* = \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon - 1}\right) \frac{E_t \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \nu^s \Delta_{s,t+s}^p m c_{t+1} y_{t+i} (\frac{1}{p_{t+i}})^{-\varepsilon}}{E_t \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \nu^s \Delta_{s,t+s}^p y_{t+i} (\frac{1}{p_{t+i}})^{1-\varepsilon}}$$
(A-31)

$$p_t = [\nu p_{t-1}^{1-\varepsilon} + (1-\nu)(p_t^*)^{1-\varepsilon}]^{\frac{1}{1-\varepsilon}}$$
(A-32)

$$\frac{R_t}{R_{ss}} = \left(\frac{R_{t-1}}{R_{ss}}\right)^{\rho_r} \left(\left(\frac{\pi_t}{\pi_{ss}}\right)^{\rho_\pi} \left(\frac{y_t}{y_{ss}}\right)^{\rho_y}\right)^{1-\rho_r} e^{\epsilon_t^m}$$
(A-33)
$$G_t = t_t$$
(A-34)

$$G_t = t_t \tag{A-34}$$

$$c_{p,t} + c_{ip,t} + q_t(i_{p,t}^h + i_{ip,t}^h) + q_t^k i_t^k + 0.5\chi^k(\frac{i_t^k}{i_{t-1}^k} - 1)^2 + 0.5\chi^h(\frac{i_t^h}{i_{t-1}^h} - 1)^2 = y_t$$
(A-35)

$$h_{ip,t} + h_{p,t} = h_t \tag{A-36}$$

$$\ln(A_t) = \ln(A_{t-1}) + \zeta_t^A$$
 (A-37)

$$\log g_t = (1 - \rho^g) \log g_{ss} + \rho^g \log g_{t-1} + \zeta_t^g, \zeta_t^g \sim i.i.d.N(0, \sigma_{\epsilon^g}^2)$$
(A-38)

$$\log \tau_t^k = \rho_k \log \tau_{t-1}^k + \zeta_t^{\tau^k}, \zeta_t^{\tau^k} \sim i.i.d.N(0, \sigma_{\zeta^{\tau k}}^2).$$
(A-39)

$$\log \varepsilon_t^c = \rho^c \log \varepsilon_{t-1}^c + \zeta_t^c \tag{A-40}$$

$$\log \varepsilon_t^h = \rho^h \log \varepsilon_{t-1}^h + \zeta_t^h \tag{A-41}$$

$$\log \varepsilon_t^{\kappa} = \rho^{\kappa} \log \varepsilon_{t-1}^{\kappa} + \zeta_t^{\kappa}.$$
(A-42)

$$\log \varepsilon_t^{\theta} = \rho^{\theta} \log \varepsilon_{t-1}^{\theta} + \zeta_t^{\theta}.$$

Appendix B: Steady State

$$\pi_{ss} = 1 \tag{A-43}$$

$$R^d = \frac{1}{\beta_p} \tag{A-44}$$

$$R^l = R^d + s \tag{A-45}$$

$$\lambda_3 = \lambda_{1p} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{R^l} - \frac{\beta_{ip}}{\pi}\right)}{\left(1 - \beta_{ip}\rho^l\right)} \tag{A-46}$$

$$\lambda_{1p} = \frac{(1 - \beta_p b)}{(1 - b)c_p} \tag{A-47}$$

$$q = \zeta_3 \frac{c_p}{h_p} \tag{A-48}$$

where

$$\zeta_3 = \frac{\phi(1-b)}{(1-\beta_p(1-\delta_h))(1-\beta_p b)}$$
(A-49)

$$q = \zeta_4 \frac{c_{ip}}{h_{ip}} \tag{A-50}$$

where

$$\zeta_4 = \frac{\phi(1-b)}{\left[1 - \beta_{ip}(1-\delta_h) - \frac{1-\rho^l}{1-\beta\rho^l}(\frac{1}{R^l} - \frac{\beta_{ip}}{\pi})\pi\theta(1-\delta_h)\right](1-\beta_{ip}b)}$$
(A-51)

$$l = \frac{\theta q \pi h_{ip} (1 - \delta_h)}{R^l} \tag{A-52}$$

$$c_{ip} = \frac{\frac{(1-\alpha)(1-\gamma)}{X}}{1 + (\frac{1}{\pi} - \frac{1}{R^l})\theta\pi(1-\delta_h)\zeta_4 + \delta_h\zeta_4}y = \zeta_6 y$$
(A-53)

where

$$\zeta_{6} = \frac{\frac{(1-\alpha)(1-\gamma)}{X}}{1 + (\frac{1}{\pi} - \frac{1}{R^{l}})\theta\pi(1-\delta_{h})\zeta_{4} + \delta_{h}\zeta_{4}}$$
(A-54a)

$$l = \frac{\theta \pi (1 - \delta_h)}{R^l} \zeta_4 c_{ip} \tag{A-55}$$

$$q = Q = q^k = 1 \tag{A-56}$$

$$k = \frac{\gamma}{X(R^l - (1 - \delta))} \tag{A-57}$$

$$i^k = \delta k \tag{A-58}$$

$$A = k + l \tag{A-59}$$

$$\Omega = \frac{1 - \sigma}{1 - \sigma \beta^p R - \sigma \phi \beta^p \tau} \tag{A-60}$$

$$\mu = \beta^p \tau \Omega = \frac{\beta^p \tau (1 - \sigma)}{1 - \sigma \beta^p R - \sigma \phi \beta^p \tau}$$
(A-61)

$$\upsilon_d = \frac{\beta^p R (1 - \sigma)}{1 - \sigma \beta^p R - \sigma \phi \beta^p \tau}.$$
(A-62)

$$\omega = \frac{(1 - \sigma(\tau\phi + R))}{\phi} \tag{A-63}$$

$$n^n = \omega A \tag{A-64}$$

$$n = \frac{n}{1 - \omega\phi} \tag{A-65}$$

$$n^e = n - n^n \tag{A-66}$$

$$d = A - n \tag{A-67}$$

$$g = g_y y \tag{A-68}$$

$$g = t \tag{A-69}$$

$$c_p = \frac{\alpha(1-\gamma)}{X}y + (1-\frac{1}{X})y - (1-\frac{R}{\pi})d - \delta^h h^p + (1-\sigma)n - n^n - t$$
 (A-70)

$$h_p = c_p \zeta_3 \tag{A-71}$$

$$h_{ip} = c_{ip}\zeta_4 \tag{A-72}$$

$$h = h_p + h_{ip} \tag{A-73}$$

$$i^h = \delta^h h \tag{A-74}$$

$$\lambda_{1p} = \frac{(1 - \beta_p b)}{(1 - b)c_p} \tag{A-75}$$

$$\lambda_{1ip} = \frac{(1 - \beta_p b)}{(1 - b)c_{ip}} \tag{A-76}$$

$$n_{ip} = \left[\frac{(1-\gamma)(1-\alpha)y}{(\varphi X)/\lambda_{1ip}}\right]^{\frac{1}{1+\eta}}$$
(A-77)

$$n_p = \left[\frac{(1-\gamma)\alpha y}{(\varphi X)/\lambda_{1p}}\right]^{\frac{1}{1+\eta}}$$
(A-78)

$$w_{ip} = \frac{\varphi n_{ip}^{\eta}}{\lambda_{1ip}} \tag{A-79}$$

$$w_p = \frac{\varphi n_{ip}^{\eta}}{\lambda_{1p}} \tag{A-80}$$

Appendix C. Data Construction

The model is estimated with U.S. quarterly data from 1991Q1 to 2014Q1. I use the following time series as observables. The data is download from FRED – Federal Reserve Economic Data from the St. Louis Fed.

1.Output

Model variable: y_t .

Data: original series: GDPC1, normalized by civilian population and GDP deflator. The series is log trans-formed, and detrended with a quadratic trend.

2. Consumption:

Model: c_t

Data: includes nondurable consumption goods and services. Original series: PCND+PCESVGDPC1, normalized by civilian population and GDP deflator. The series is log trans-formed, and detrended with a quadratic trend

3.Business investment:

Model variable: i_t^k

Data: includes durable consumption goods and private investment. Original series: PCDG+PNFI. Normalized by civilian population and GDP deflator. The series is log transformed, and detrended with a quadratic trend.

4. Housing investment

Model variable: i_t^h

Data: includes durable consumption goods and private investment. Original series: PRFI. Normalized by civilian population and GDP deflator. The series is log transformed, and detrended with a quadratic trend.

5. Mortgage debt

Model variable: l_t

Data: Montage debt outstanding. Original series: MDOAH. Normalized by civilian population and GDP deflator. The series is log transformed, and detrended with a quadratic trend.

6. House prices:

Model variable: q_t

Data: S&P/Case-Shiller Home Price Indices. Original series: USCSCOMHPISA. The series is log transformed, and detrended with a quadratic trend.

7. Risk premium:

Model variable: s_t

Data: Average of risk premium for business loans and residential mortgage loans. Business loan risk premium is constructed using BAA10YM, the difference between BAA and 10 year government bond yields. Residential loans risk premium is constructed using 30 year fixed rate mortgage loan minus the average of 10 year government debt yield and 5 year government debt yield. That is: MORTGAGE30US-1/2*(GS5+GS10).

8. Nominal interest rate Model variable: R_t Data: Effective Federal Funds Rate, FEDFUNDS 9. Inflation Model variable: π_t Data: Quarterly difference of the GDP deflator GDPDEF

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