

CBDC and the operational framework of monetary policy*

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Abstract

We analyze the impact of introducing a central bank-issued digital currency (CBDC) on the operational framework of monetary policy and the macroeconomy as a whole. To this end, we develop a New Keynesian model with heterogeneous banks, a frictional interbank market, a central bank with deposit and lending facilities, and household preferences for different liquid assets. The model is calibrated to replicate the main monetary and financial aggregates in the euro area. Our analysis predicts that CBDC adoption implies a roughly equivalent reduction in banks' deposit funding. However, this 'deposit crunch' has a rather small effect on bank lending to the real economy, and hence on aggregate investment and GDP. This result reflects the parallel impact of CBDC on the central bank's operational framework. For relatively moderate CBDC adoption levels, the reduction in deposits is absorbed by an almost one-to-one fall in reserves at the central bank, implying a transition from a 'floor' system –with ample reserves– to a 'corridor' one. For larger CBDC adoption, the loss of bank deposits is compensated by increased recourse to central bank credit, as the corridor system gives way to a 'ceiling' one with scarce reserves.

Keywords: central bank digital currency, interbank market, search and matching frictions, reserves.

JEL codes: E42, E44, E52, G21.

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1 Introduction

The potential introduction of a central bank digital currency (CBDC) has gained increasing attention in recent years among policymakers and academics. In March 2022, US President Biden’s Executive Order on Ensuring Responsible Development of Digital Assets placed “the highest urgency on research and development efforts into the potential design and deployment options of a United States CBDC”. Similarly, the European Central Bank is analyzing the implications of the potential launch of a “digital euro”, that is, a euro-area CBDC.

While the academic literature has thoroughly analyzed the potential implications of CBDC for financial stability and monetary policy transmission, much less attention has been devoted to its impact on monetary policy implementation and how this is likely to shape the macroeconomic effects of CBDC.¹ Nowadays, most central banks in advanced economies operate a “floor system” in which banks’ demand for liquidity is satiated with an ample supply of central bank reserves (“excess reserves”), and interbank market rates are effectively controlled by the interest rate on overnight deposits at the central bank.² The introduction of a CBDC has the potential to affect the operational framework of monetary policy and the conditions in interbank markets if it brings about a sufficiently large decrease in excess reserves due to the reduction in bank deposits. This, in turn, may have important macroeconomic implications, both in the long run and in the transitional CBDC adoption phase.

This paper analyzes the implications of the introduction of CBDC for the operational framework of monetary policy and for the macroeconomy as a whole. To this end, we introduce CBDC in a tractable New Keynesian model with heterogeneous banks, a frictional interbank market, and central bank standing (deposit and lending) facilities. Our model features banks that differ in the investment opportunities they face, which motivates the

¹See Infante et al. (2022) for a broad revision of the literature on the macroeconomic implications of CBDC.

²For instance, the interest rate on reserve balances (IORB) in the case of the US Federal Reserve, or the deposit facility rate (DFR) in the case of the European Central Bank.

existence of an interbank market. Banks with good investment opportunities borrow in the interbank market so as to finance their lending to firms, which use these funds to invest in productive capital, while those with bad investment opportunities lend in the same market. The interbank market is characterized by search and matching frictions. Every period, lending and borrowing banks search for each other and, upon matching, trade interbank loans, with the central bank's deposit and lending facilities as the outside options. As a result, the equilibrium interbank rate falls inside the interest rate corridor formed by the deposit and lending facility rates. Its actual position within this corridor is determined by the tightness of the interbank market, i.e. by the ratio between demand and supply of interbank funds. Search frictions imply that part of lending banks' liquidity fails to be placed in the interbank market and ends up as reserves in the central bank's deposit facility, whereas part of borrowing banks' funding needs fail to be covered by the interbank market and is satisfied instead by the lending facility.

Demand for CBDC comes from households' preference for holding liquid assets, which in our case are cash, bank deposits, and CBDC. Following recent research, such as Drechsler, Savov, and Schnabl (2017), Di Tella and Kurlat (2021), or Wang (2020), we assume imperfect substitutability between these different assets, which allows for their coexistence despite their potentially different remuneration. Cash and CBDC are issued by the central bank, thus adding to banks' reserve deposits as central bank liabilities. On the asset side, in addition to its lending facility credit, the central bank also holds government bonds.

We calibrate our model to the euro area. We replicate the balance sheet of the Eurosystem and of the consolidated commercial banking sector. The core of our analysis is on the long-run effects of introducing non-remunerated CBDC. In particular, we perform a comparative statics exercise in which we vary households' preferences for CBDC, effectively comparing steady states with a different equilibrium demand for this currency. Our analysis predicts that households' demand for non-CBDC liquidity (bank deposits plus cash) falls essentially one-for-one with CBDC demand, but the bulk of the adjustment

(about three quarters) falls on bank deposits. Therefore, relatively large levels of CBDC adoption come hand in hand with a ‘deposit crunch’ on the banking sector. However, the latter does *not* imply a ‘credit crunch’: even large reductions in deposit funding have rather small effects on bank lending to firms, and therefore on productive investment and GDP. For instance, a level of CBDC adoption equivalent to 20% of GDP reduces bank deposits by 15% of GDP, but this lowers productive capital by less than 1% and GDP by barely 0.3%. At the core of the above result lies the impact that CBDC has in parallel on the central bank’s monetary policy operational framework. Our initial (no CBDC) steady state is consistent with the ‘floor system’ currently implemented by most central banks in advanced economies, characterized by an ample supply of central bank reserves and interbank rates pushed against the remuneration of reserve deposits. For long-run levels of CBDC adoption below 9% of GDP, the reduction in bank deposits is essentially absorbed by an almost one-for-one fall in reserve balances at the central bank. This allows the banking sector to preserve most of its lending to the real economy despite the ‘deposit crunch’. For that range of CBDC demand, the floor system is preserved. As CBDC adoption nears 10% of GDP, the floor system is replaced by a ‘corridor system’, characterized by balanced lending and borrowing activity in the interbank market, a low level of central bank reserves, and interbank market rates around the midpoint of the interest rate corridor. For CBDC adoption levels exceeding 10% of GDP, there are no reserves left to absorb the contraction in bank deposits. Instead, banks replace the lost deposits –and thus continue to preserve most of their lending to firms– by increasing their recourse to the central bank’s credit facility. At those levels of CBDC demand, the corridor system gives way to a ‘ceiling’ system, characterized by scarce (in fact, zero) reserves and interbank rates pushed against the lending facility rate.

While small compared to the impact on the banking sector, the effect of CBDC on real outcomes is nonetheless far from negligible. In other words, CBDC is not neutral in the sense of Brunnermeier and Niepelt (2019). In our model, the non-neutrality of CBDC is a consequence of the lower average return of households’ optimal liquidity basket due

to the larger share of (non-remunerated) CBDC, which entails a reduction in households' savings. The reduction in households' savings leads to a decline in investment and physical capital, which reduces output and consumption, and increases real interest rates. These effects are larger the larger the CBDC take-up is.

The central bank may adopt different policies aimed at maintaining the floor system by increasing the amount of reserves.³ These include (i) an expansion of government bonds purchases, and (ii) targeted lending operations (TLOs) aimed at supplying subsidized funds to the banking sector. Targeted lending operations are characterized by a remuneration rate, and an allowance which links the maximum amount of funds a bank can obtain to the size of its loan portfolio. We characterize the increase in government bond purchases and the size of the targeted lending allowance necessary to maintain excess reserves constant at their level prior to the introduction of CBDC. We show that, under both of these policies, long-run real outcomes are the same as in the baseline scenarios without floor system-preserving policies, and they only imply a reshuffling of assets and liabilities between commercial banks and the central bank.

Brunnermeier and Niepelt (2019) analyze the equivalence between public and private money, in the sense that the introduction of CBDC has no macroeconomic impact as the loss in deposits by commercial banks can be compensated by direct lending from the central bank. This result does not hold when the CBDC is not remunerated, as discussed above, because the introduction of CBDC changes the return on the household's optimal liquidity basket. However, if CBDC is remunerated at an interest rate that does not alter households' aggregate savings decisions, the equivalence result can be recovered in a floor system. Interestingly, the equivalence result only holds while the floor system is preserved: if there is too much substitution of bank deposits by CBDC and the monetary framework shifts to a corridor system, the increase in the central bank payments to households due to the remuneration of CBDC ceases to be exactly compensated by the reduction

³We do not discuss the rationale that central banks may have to preserve the operations of a floor system, as it goes beyond the scope of the paper. An analysis of the relevant trade-offs associated with different operational frameworks can be found in Bianchi and Bigio (2022) or Arce, Nuño, Thaler, and Thomas (2020) .

in the amount of reserves, changing the seigniorage flows from the central bank to the government. This has fiscal implications that distort households' decisions, though the overall impact is quantitatively small.

Finally, we turn to the study of the transitional dynamics. We start with a situation without CBDC and consider the transitions to a steady state with a positive demand for CBDC. This scenario is characterized by a steady decline in output and capital, for the reasons explained above, which leads to a temporary fall in inflation. Interestingly, this induces a temporary surge in demand for cash: despite the desire to partially substitute cash and deposits by CBDC, households find it optimal to temporarily increase their cash holdings in order to profit from the increase in real returns in a deflationary environment.

Related literature. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first paper to analyze quantitatively the implications of CBDC for the operational framework of monetary policy. There have been, notwithstanding, early studies, such as Infante et al. (2022), Meaning et al. (2021), or Malloy et al. (2022), discussing some of the issues raised by us about the effects of CBDC on interbank rates.

A related literature, such as Fernández-Villaverde et al. (2021), Schilling et al. (2020) or Frascini et al. (2021) study the links between CBDC and quantitative easing policies using stylized two or three period models. Frascini et al. (2021), in particular, find that the equivalence result of Brunnermeier and Niepelt (2019) holds in their model as long as the cost of issuing CBDC for the central bank is equal to the cost of issuing bank deposits for commercial banks. The reason why this result differs from our finding, namely that equivalence requires a lower remuneration of CBDC compared to deposits, is that Frascini et al. (2021) abstract from cash. Böser and Gersbach (2020) develop a framework in which switching from deposits to CBDC exposes banks to runs and analyze the role of central bank collateral requirements in shaping banks' liquidity management.⁴

Another strand of the literature focuses on the consequences of CBDC design for

⁴The potential of CBDC as a source of runs on bank deposits has also been analyzed in Bindseil (2020), Keister and Monnet (2022), Kumhof and Noone (2021), Muñoz and Soons (2022), and Williamson (2022a).

monetary policy and macroeconomic outcomes. Bordo and Levin (2017) argue that an interest-bearing CBDC replacing physical cash could remove the constraints imposed by the effective lower bound on monetary policy rates. Niepelt (2020) studies a two-tiered monetary system with central bank reserves and analyzes the impact of a CBDC on the implicit subsidies for banks derived from liquidity provision. Burlon et al. (2022) characterize the optimal level of CBDC in circulation and explore the welfare effects of different rules for its remuneration. Barrdear and Kumhof (2022) and Jiang and Zhu (2021) also assess the role of CBDC remuneration rules as a monetary policy tool. Assenmacher et al. (2021, 2022) introduce a CBDC in a New Monetarist model and analyze its remuneration, as well as collateral haircuts and quantity constraints. Other aspects of CBDC design, such as those regarding privacy, are analyzed by Ahnert, Hoffmann, and Monnet (2023), Garratt and van Oordt (2021), and Agur, Ari, and Dell’Ariccia (2022). Implications of CBDC design for international (monetary policy) spillovers are analyzed by Ferrari Minneso, Mehl, and Stracca (2022), Cova et al. (2022), Ikeda (2020, 2022), and Kumhof et al. (2023).

Our paper also relates to the strand of the literature on the effect of CBDC on bank intermediation. Keister and Sanches (2022) show how substitution between CBDC and deposits could raise banks’ funding costs and decrease investment, and how CBDC design could compensate for this effect. Andolfatto (2020), Chiu et al. (forthcoming) and Hemingway (2022) analyze the effect of CBDC on deposit markets characterized by imperfect competition. Piazzesi and Schneider (2022) and Whited, Wu, and Xiao (2022) study the impact of the substitution between CBDC and deposits when banks face complementarities between their deposit taking and loan origination activities. Williamson (2022b) compares CBDC and bank deposits as means of payments, their role as safe assets, and their implications for banks’ incentive problems.

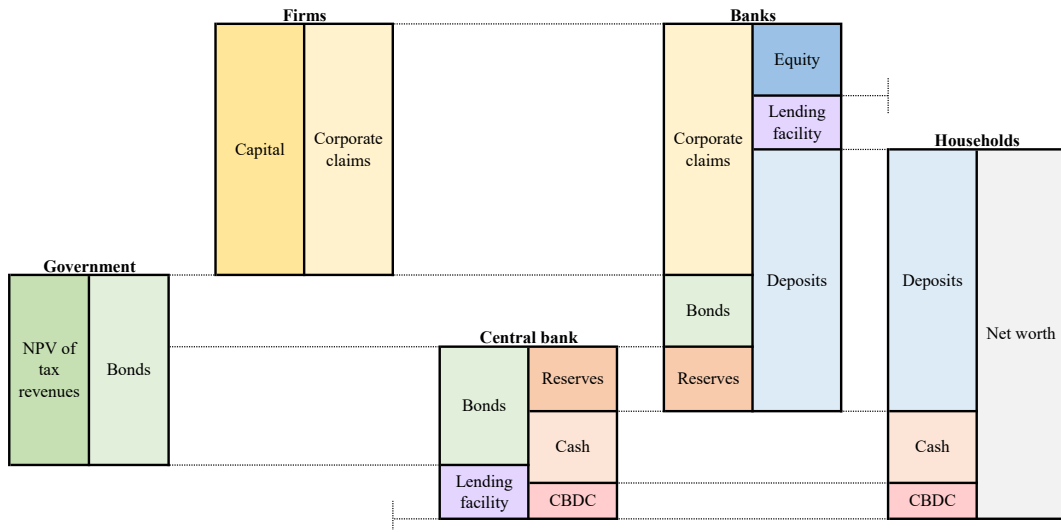
Finally, our paper is also related to the literature analyzing the operational framework of monetary policy, such as Afonso and Lagos (2015), Armenter and Lester (2017), Bianchi and Bigio (2022) or Bigio and Sannikov (2021). In particular, we model the interbank

market as in Arce, Nuño, Thaler, and Thomas (2020).

2 Model

Time is discrete. The economy is composed of households, non-financial firms (intermediate-good firms, final-good producers and retailers), banks, the central bank and the government. Figure 1 depicts the balance sheets of the different consolidated sectors of the economy.

Figure 1: Balance sheets of the different consolidated sectors of the model economy.



2.1 Households

The representative household's utility is

$$\mathbb{E}_0 \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t [u(C_t) + v(L_t) - g(H_t)],$$

where C_t is consumption, L_t is a CES aggregator over liquid assets, H_t is labor supply and β is the household's discount factor. Households can save in the form of bank deposits, the real value of which is denoted by D_t , in the form of cash, with *real* value M_t , and in the form of *central bank-issued digital currency* (CBDC), the real value of which is denoted by D_t^{DC} . They also build new capital goods K_t using the technology

$$K_t = \left[1 - S \left(\frac{I_t}{I_{t-1}} \right) \right] I_t + (1 - \delta) \Omega_{t-1} K_{t-1},$$

where I_t are final goods used for investment purposes, and $(1 - \delta) \Omega_{t-1} K_{t-1}$ is depreciated effective capital repurchased from firms after production in period t ; in the latter term, δ is the depreciation rate and Ω_{t-1} is an effective capital index, to be defined below, which the household takes as given. The function S satisfies $S(1) = S'(1) = 0$ and $S''(1) \equiv \zeta > 0$. Liquid assets (deposits, cash, and CBDC) are assumed to be imperfect substitutes, and enter in the household's preferences through a CES aggregator:

$$L_t = \left[(D_t)^{\frac{\varepsilon-1}{\varepsilon}} + \eta_M (M_t)^{\frac{\varepsilon-1}{\varepsilon}} + \eta_{DC} (D_t^{DC})^{\frac{\varepsilon-1}{\varepsilon}} \right]^{\frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon-1}},$$

with $\eta_M, \eta_{DC} \geq 0$, and $\varepsilon > 1$.⁵ The budget constraint of the household is

$$\begin{aligned} C_t + I_t + D_t + M_t + D_t^{DC} &= W_t H_t + \frac{R_{t-1}^D}{P_t/P_{t-1}} D_{t-1} + \frac{1}{P_t/P_{t-1}} M_{t-1} + \frac{R_{t-1}^{DC}}{P_t/P_{t-1}} D_{t-1}^{DC} \\ &\quad + Q_t^K \left[1 - S \left(\frac{I_t}{I_{t-1}} \right) \right] I_t + \sum_{s=R,B} \Pi_t^s - T_t, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where P_t is the aggregate price level, R_{t-1}^D is the gross nominal deposit rate, R_{t-1}^{DC} is the gross nominal remuneration on CBDC holdings, W_t is the real wage, Q_t^K is the real price of capital goods, $\{\Pi_t^s\}_{s=R,B}$ are lump-sum real dividend payments from the household's ownership of retailers ($s = R$) and banks ($s = B$), and T_t are lump-sum taxes. The first

⁵Similar preferences over liquid assets with imperfect degree of substitutability have been used by Drechsler et al. (2017), Di Tella and Kurlat (2021), and Wang (2020), among others. Imperfect substitution between CBDC and other forms of money can arise from heterogeneous preferences over anonymity and security, and from network effects, as in Agur, Ari, and Dell'Ariceia (2022). We think about imperfect substitutability as capturing heterogeneous preferences for the different types of liquid assets across households.

order conditions (FOCs) for deposits, cash and CBDC are given respectively by:

$$1 - \frac{v'(L_t)}{u'(C_t)} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial D_t} = \mathbb{E}_t \Lambda_{t,t+1} \frac{R_t^D}{1 + \pi_{t+1}}, \quad (2)$$

$$1 - \frac{v'(L_t)}{u'(C_t)} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial M_t} = \mathbb{E}_t \Lambda_{t,t+1} \frac{1}{1 + \pi_{t+1}}, \quad (3)$$

$$1 - \frac{v'(L_t)}{u'(C_t)} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial D_t^{DC}} = \mathbb{E}_t \Lambda_{t,t+1} \frac{R_t^{DC}}{1 + \pi_{t+1}}, \quad (4)$$

where $\Lambda_{t,t+1} = \beta \frac{u'(C_{t+1})}{u'(C_t)}$ is the stochastic discount factor and $\pi_t \equiv P_t/P_{t-1} - 1$ is the inflation rate. The FOCs for labor supply and investment are standard (see Appendix B).

2.2 Intermediate good firms

We assume that intermediate good firms (and banks) are segmented across a continuum of ‘islands’, indexed by $j \in [0, 1]$. The representative firm on island j is perfectly competitive and produces units of the intermediate good, Y_t^j , according to a Cobb-Douglas technology,

$$Y_t^j = Z_t (\omega_{t-1}^j K_{t-1}^j)^\alpha (L_t^j)^{1-\alpha}, \quad (5)$$

where Z_t is an exogenous aggregate total factor productivity (TFP) process, L_t^j is labor, K_{t-1}^j is the pre-determined stock of installed capital, and ω_{t-1}^j is an island-specific shock to effective capital.

The timing is as follows: At the end of period $t - 1$ each firm j learns the realization of the shock to next period’s effective capital, ω_{t-1}^j . These shocks are iid over time and across islands, and have cumulative distribution function $F(\omega)$. At this point each firm needs to install capital on its island, which it buys from the household at unit price Q_{t-1}^K . In order to finance this purchase, the firm must obtain funding from its local bank. As in Gertler and Kiyotaki (2010) and Gertler and Karadi (2011), we assume that the firm sells to the bank one unit of equity A_{t-1}^j per unit of capital acquired: $A_{t-1}^j = K_{t-1}^j$. Equity is a perfectly state-contingent claim on the future return from one unit of capital and is

traded at price $Q_{t-1}^{A,j}$. By perfect competition, the price of the capital good and of equity coincide ($Q_{t-1}^K = Q_{t-1}^{A,j}$), and therefore $Q_{t-1}^K K_{t-1}^j = Q_{t-1}^K A_{t-1}^j$. Finally, at the beginning of period t , the firm hires labor and produces.

Each firm j chooses labor in order to maximize operating profits, $P_t^Y Y_t^j - P_t W_t L_t^j$, subject to (5), where P_t^Y is the nominal price of the intermediate good. The first order condition with respect to labor implies that the effective capital-labor ratio is equalized across islands,

$$\frac{\omega_{t-1}^j K_{t-1}^j}{L_t^j} = \left(\frac{W_t}{MC_t (1 - \alpha) Z_t} \right)^{1/\alpha}, \quad (6)$$

for all j , where $MC_t \equiv P_t^Y / P_t$ is the inverse of the average gross markup of final goods prices over the intermediate good price, as explained below. The firm's nominal profits then equal $P_t^Y Y_t^j - P_t W_t L_t^j = P_t R_t^k \omega_{t-1}^j K_{t-1}^j$, where

$$R_t^k \equiv \alpha MC_t Z_t \left[\frac{(1 - \alpha) MC_t Z_t}{W_t} \right]^{(1-\alpha)/\alpha}$$

is the common real return on effective capital. After production, the firm sells the depreciated effective capital $(1 - \delta) \omega_{t-1}^j K_{t-1}^j$ to households at unit price Q_t^K . The total real cash flow from the firm's investment project equals the sum of operating profits and proceeds from the sale of depreciated capital,

$$R_t^k \omega_{t-1}^j K_{t-1}^j + (1 - \delta) Q_t^K \omega_{t-1}^j K_{t-1}^j. \quad (7)$$

Since capital is financed entirely by equity, the cash flow in (7) is paid off entirely to the lending bank.

2.3 Banks

On each island there exists a representative bank. Only the bank on island j has the technology to obtain perfect information about firms on that island, monitor them, and

enforce their contractual obligations.⁶ This effectively precludes firms from obtaining funding from other sources, including households or other banks. As indicated before, banks finance firms' investment in the form of perfectly state-contingent debt, A_t^j . After production in period $t + 1$, island j 's firm pays the bank the entire cash flow from the investment project,

$$[R_{t+1}^k + (1 - \delta) Q_{t+1}^K] \omega_t^j A_t^j = \frac{R_{t+1}^k + (1 - \delta) Q_{t+1}^K}{Q_t^K} \omega_t^j Q_t^K A_t^j.$$

The gross return on the bank's investment in real assets ($Q_t^K A_t^j$) is thus the product of an aggregate component,

$$R_{t+1}^A \equiv \frac{R_{t+1}^k + (1 - \delta) Q_{t+1}^K}{Q_t^K},$$

and an island-specific component, ω_t^j . Besides investing in the local firm, the bank may borrow or lend funds in the *interbank market* by means of one-period nominal loans. Because the interbank market is frictional, each bank will generally not be able to borrow or lend as much as desired. Let $B_t^{+,j}$ and $B_t^{-,j}$ denote the real amount of *desired* borrowing and lending on the interbank market, respectively, by island j 's bank at time t , with $B_t^{+,j}, B_t^{-,j} \geq 0$. For each unit of desired lending the bank receives a noncontingent gross nominal return R_t^L at the beginning of period $t + 1$, whereas each unit of desired borrowing costs the bank the noncontingent gross nominal rate R_t^B at the beginning of $t + 1$. Both rates are taken as given by the bank. Later we will see how they are determined.⁷ As of now it suffices to know that in equilibrium $R_t^B \geq R_t^L$. The bank can also purchase *nominal Treasury bonds*, with nominal return R_{t+1}^G . We denote by $B_t^{G,j}$ the real market value of the bank's government bond portfolio at the end of period t . Finally, the bank takes a real amount D_t^j of *deposits* from the household, which as mentioned before pay a gross nominal return R_t^D .

Combining all these elements, the bank's real net earnings at the start of the following

⁶The costs of these activities for the bank are assumed to be negligible.

⁷In particular, they are both a function of the central bank's deposit and lending facility rates, and of the actual interbank market rate.

period, denoted by E_{t+1}^j , are given by

$$E_{t+1}^j = R_{t+1}^A \omega_t^j Q_t^K A_t^j + \frac{R_t^L B_t^{-,j} - R_t^B B_t^{+,j}}{1 + \pi_{t+1}} + \frac{R_{t+1}^G}{1 + \pi_{t+1}} B_t^{G,j} - \frac{R_t^D}{1 + \pi_{t+1}} D_t^j. \quad (8)$$

In each period t the sequence of events is as follows. The bank starts the period with net earnings E_t^j . We assume that the bank pays a fraction $1 - \varsigma \in (0, 1)$ of its earnings to households as dividends. The remaining fraction ς is retained as post-dividend equity, denoted by $N_t^j = \varsigma E_t^j$.⁸ Following the dividend payment, but *before* learning the shock to the local firm's capital productivity in the next period (ω_t^j), the bank takes deposits D_t^j from households. The deposits market then closes, after which the island-specific shock ω_t^j is realized. Upon observing it, the bank then chooses how much to invest in the local firm ($Q_t^K A_t^j$) and in government bonds ($B_t^{G,j}$), and how much to borrow or lend in the interbank market ($B_t^{+,j}, B_t^{-,j}$), subject to its balance sheet constraint,

$$Q_t^K A_t^j + B_t^{-,j} + B_t^{G,j} = N_t^j + D_t^j + B_t^{CB,j} + B_t^{+,j}. \quad (9)$$

Finally, banks face an exogenous leverage constraint,

$$Q_t^K A_t^j \leq \phi N_t^j, \quad (10)$$

with $\phi > 1$;⁹ and they can not short-sell assets ($A_t^j, B_t^{+,j}, B_t^{G,j} \geq 0$) or lend negative amounts ($B_t^{-,j} \geq 0$).

The bank maximizes the expected discounted stream of dividends, $\mathbb{E}_t \sum_{t=1}^{\infty} \Lambda_{t,t+s} (1 - \varsigma) E_{t+s}^j$. The problem can be expressed recursively as a two-stage problem within each period, whereby the bank first chooses deposits and then, after the realization of the

⁸In equilibrium, this specification is equivalent to assuming that banks do not pay dividends but each period a constant fraction $1 - \varsigma$ of randomly selected banks close for exogenous reasons and pay their accumulated net worth to the household as dividends. For models using specifications similar to the latter, see e.g. Gertler and Karadi (2011) and Nuño and Thomas (2017).

⁹We are assuming that government bonds or interbank lending do not enter the leverage constraint in equation (10). This is completely inconsequential. As we show below, in equilibrium the banks for which the leverage constraint binds choose *not* to invest in bonds or interbank loans. Conversely, the leverage constraint is slack for those banks which choose to invest in bonds or interbank loans.

idiosyncratic shock, chooses the remaining balance-sheet items,

$$V_t(N_t^j) = \max_{D_t^j \geq 0} \int \bar{V}_t(N_t^j, D_t^j, \omega) dF(\omega),$$

$$\bar{V}_t(N_t^j, D_t^j, \omega_t^j) = \max_{A_t^j \geq 0, B_t^{G,j} \geq 0, B_t^{+,j} \geq 0, B_t^{-,j} \geq 0} \mathbb{E}_t \Lambda_{t+1} [(1 - \varsigma) E_{t+1}^j + V_{t+1}(\varsigma E_{t+1}^j)],$$

subject to equations (8), (9) and (10).

Next we assume an implicit restriction on parameters, which ensures that in equilibrium the interbank market will be active:

Assumption 1: We assume that parameters are such that the following inequality holds in equilibrium for all t : $D_t \leq (\phi - 1) N_t$.

The first inequality guarantees that $B_t^{+,j} > 0$ for banks with high ω_t^j . This imposes a restriction on the values ψ can take. Intuitively, if ψ is high enough, borrowing banks would only borrow from the central bank up to the leverage constraint and would not go to the interbank market. I.e., this assumption is necessary for the interbank market to exist. These conditions simplify the solution of the banks problem, since they avoid additional case distinctions. Given these assumptions, the solution of the bank's problem is given by an investment policy,¹⁰

$$A_t^j = \begin{cases} \phi N_t^j / Q_t^K, & \text{if } \omega_t^j > \omega_t^B, \\ (N_t^j + D_t^j) / Q_t^K, & \text{if } \omega_t^L \leq \omega_t^j \leq \omega_t^B, \\ 0, & \text{if } \omega_t^j < \omega_t^L, \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

and a demand policy for interbank borrowing,

$$B_t^{+,j} = \begin{cases} (\phi - 1) N_t^j - D_t^j, & \text{if } \omega_t^j \geq \omega_t^B, \\ 0, & \text{if } \omega_t^j < \omega_t^B. \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

¹⁰See Arce et al. (2020) for a proof of this result .

where

$$\omega_t^B \equiv \frac{\mathbb{E}_t \left[\tilde{\Lambda}_{t,t+1} R_t^B / (1 + \pi_{t+1}) \right]}{\mathbb{E}_t \left[\tilde{\Lambda}_{t,t+1} R_{t+1}^A \right]}, \quad \omega_t^L \equiv \frac{\mathbb{E}_t \left[\tilde{\Lambda}_{t,t+1} R_t^L / (1 + \pi_{t+1}) \right]}{\mathbb{E}_t \left[\tilde{\Lambda}_{t,t+1} R_{t+1}^A \right]}, \quad (13)$$

$\tilde{\Lambda}_{t,t+1} \equiv \Lambda_{t,t+1} (1 - \varsigma + \varsigma \lambda_{t+1}^N)$ is the adjusted discount factor, and λ_t^N is the marginal value of equity. Demand for government bonds and interbank lending satisfies

$$B_t^{G,j} = B_t^{-j} = 0, \quad \text{if } \omega_t^j \geq \omega_t^L, \\ B_t^{G,j} + B_t^{-j} = N_t^j + D_t^j, \quad (B_t^{G,j}, B_t^{-j}) \geq 0, \quad \text{if } \omega_t^j < \omega_t^L. \quad (14)$$

Banks' individual demand for deposits satisfies:

$$D_t^j \in [0, (\phi - 1)N_t^j].$$

The ex-ante return on government bonds and the return on interbank lending satisfy a no-arbitrage condition,

$$\mathbb{E}_t \left(\tilde{\Lambda}_{t,t+1} \frac{R_{t+1}^G}{1 + \pi_{t+1}} \right) = \mathbb{E}_t \left(\tilde{\Lambda}_{t,t+1} \frac{R_t^L}{1 + \pi_{t+1}} \right). \quad (15)$$

Finally, the nominal deposit rate equals

$$R_t^D = [1 - F(\omega_t^B)] R_t^B + F(\omega_t^L) R_t^L \\ + [F(\omega_t^B) - F(\omega_t^L)] \frac{\mathbb{E}(\omega \mid \omega_t^L \leq \omega \leq \omega_t^{CB}) \mathbb{E}_t \left[\tilde{\Lambda}_{t,t+1} R_{t+1}^A \right]}{\mathbb{E}_t \left[\tilde{\Lambda}_{t,t+1} / (1 + \pi_{t+1}) \right]}. \quad (16)$$

In summary, according to their island-specific return realization ω_t^j , banks endogenously split into the following three groups:

- On islands where the local firm draws an idiosyncratic shock above the *borrowing threshold* ω_t^B , the local bank borrows from the interbank market so as to invest in

the firm up to the leverage constraint.

- On islands where the local firm draws an idiosyncratic shock below the *borrowing threshold* ω_t^B but above the *lending threshold* ω_t^L , the local bank does not borrow or lend in the interbank market, and invests its equity, deposits and central bank loans in the local firm.
- On islands where the local firm draws an idiosyncratic shock below the *lending threshold* ω_t^L , the local bank lends its resources (equity and deposits) in the interbank market and to the government, with both investments offering the same *ex ante* return according to equation (15).¹¹

This implies that the leverage constraint is always binding for the more productive banks, while it is slack for the less productive ones.

Notice also that, according to equation (16), the unit cost of taking deposits at the beginning of the period – i.e. the deposit rate – equals the expected benefit across realizations of ω_t^j . For high-profitability banks ($\omega_t^j > \omega_t^B$) that are leverage-constrained, an additional unit of deposits allows them to reduce their interbank borrowing, thus saving $\frac{R_t^B}{1+\pi_{t+1}}$. For low-profitability banks ($\omega_t^j < \omega_t^L$), each additional unit of deposits is invested in interbank lending or government bonds, which yields $\frac{R_t^L}{1+\pi_{t+1}}$. For intermediate-profitability banks ($\omega_t^L \leq \omega_t^j \leq \omega_t^B$), each additional unit of deposits is invested in the local firm, with an average idiosyncratic return of $\mathbb{E}(\omega \mid \omega_t^L \leq \omega \leq \omega_t^B)$.¹²

2.4 The interbank market

We model the interbank market following Arce et al. (2020) as a decentralized, over-the-counter (OTC) market in the spirit of Afonso and Lagos (2015), Armenter and Lester

¹¹Notice that for these banks the demand for government bonds $B_t^{G,j}$ versus interbank lending $B_t^{-,j}$ is undetermined at the individual level, as both assets are equally profitable *ex ante*. However, it *will* be determined at the aggregate level as explained later on.

¹²Since the bank's problem is locally linear in deposits D_t^j , the banks optimal conditions do not pin down the individual amount of deposit taking but instead the equilibrium deposit rate: By equation (16) in equilibrium the bank breaks even *ex ante*, so it is indifferent between taking one more unit of deposits or not. The only requirement is that all banks satisfy $0 \leq D_t^j \leq (\phi - 1) N_t^j$.

(2017), or Bianchi and Bigio (2022). Search frictions imply that the market does not automatically clear. Rather, borrowing and lending orders engage in directed search.

As shown in equation (12), banks with $\omega_t^j > \omega_t^B$ borrow in the amount $B_t^{+,j} = (\phi - 1) N_t^j - D_t^j \geq 0$, whereas according to equation (14) those with $\omega_t^j < \omega_t^L$ lend in the amount $B_t^{-,j} = (N_t^j + D_t^j) - B_t^{G,j} \geq 0$. The mass of borrowing and lending orders are thus given respectively by

$$\Phi_t^B \equiv \int_0^1 B_t^{+,j} dj = \int_{j:\omega_t^j > \omega_t^B} [(\phi - 1) N_t^j - D_t^j] dj = [1 - F(\omega_t^B)] [(\phi - 1) N_t - D_t], \quad (17)$$

$$\Phi_t^L \equiv \int_0^1 B_t^{-,j} dj = \int_{j:\omega_t^j < \omega_t^L} [(N_t^j + D_t^j) - B_t^{G,j}] dj = F(\omega_t^L) (N_t + D_t) - B_t^G, \quad (18)$$

where $N_t \equiv \int_0^1 N_t^j dj$ is aggregate bank equity, $B_t^G \equiv \int_{j:\omega_t^j < \omega_t^L} B_t^{G,j} dj$ are aggregate bank holdings of government bonds, and in last equality of each equation we have used the fact that ω_t^j is distributed independently from N_t^j and D_t^j .

Borrowing and lending orders are matched according to a matching function $\Upsilon(\Phi_t^L, \Phi_t^B)$. We assume that Υ is $C^1(\mathbb{R}_+^2)$, weakly increasing and concave in both arguments. We also assume that it satisfies $0 \leq \Upsilon(x, y) \leq \min(x, y)$, and that it has constant returns to scale. Given constant returns to scale, each lending order finds a borrowing order with probability

$$\frac{\Upsilon(\Phi_t^L, \Phi_t^B)}{\Phi_t^L} = \Upsilon\left(1, \frac{\Phi_t^B}{\Phi_t^L}\right) \equiv \Gamma^L\left(\frac{\Phi_t^B}{\Phi_t^L}\right), \quad (19)$$

in which case it earns the interest rate R_t^{IB} ; otherwise the unit of funds is deposited at the central bank and earns the *deposit facility rate*, R_t^{DF} . Similarly, each borrowing order finds a lending order with probability

$$\frac{\Upsilon(\Phi_t^L, \Phi_t^B)}{\Phi_t^B} = \Upsilon\left(\frac{1}{\Phi_t^B/\Phi_t^L}, 1\right) \equiv \Gamma^B\left(\frac{\Phi_t^B}{\Phi_t^L}\right), \quad (20)$$

in which case it pays the interest rate R_t^{IB} ; otherwise the unit of funds must be borrowed from the central bank at the *lending facility rate*, R_t^{LF} , with $R_t^{LF} > R_t^{DF}$. Let $\theta_t \equiv \Phi_t^B/\Phi_t^L$

denote the ratio of borrowing to lending, which we henceforth refer to as interbank market *tightness*. Thus, the matching probability for lending (borrowing) orders Γ^L (Γ^B) is increasing (decreasing) in market tightness.

Given the above matching probabilities, the expected return on each lending and borrowing order is given respectively by

$$\Gamma^L(\theta_t)R_t^{IB} + (1 - \Gamma^L(\theta_t))R_t^{DF} \equiv R_t^L,$$

$$\Gamma^B(\theta_t)R_t^{IB} + (1 - \Gamma^B(\theta_t))R_t^{DF} \equiv R_t^B.$$

We assume competitive search in the interbank market. This assumption allows the model to deliver a natural explanation for the relationship observed in the euro area and other advanced economies between excess reserves and the spread between short-term interbank rates and the interest on reserves. The equilibrium interbank interest rate is given by

$$R_t^{IB} = \varphi(\theta_t) R_t^{DF} + (1 - \varphi(\theta_t)) R_t^{LF}, \quad (21)$$

where

$$\varphi(\theta_t) \equiv \frac{d\Gamma^L(\theta_t)}{d\theta} \frac{\theta_t}{\Gamma^L(\theta_t)} = \frac{\partial \Upsilon(\Phi_t^L, \Phi_t^B)}{\partial \Phi_t^B} \frac{\Phi_t^B}{\Upsilon(\Phi_t^L, \Phi_t^B)} \in (0, 1), \quad (22)$$

is the elasticity of the matching probability for lending orders with respect to market tightness –which in turn equals the elasticity of the matching function with respect to the number of borrowing orders.

The equilibrium interest rate for matched orders is a weighted average of the respective outside return/cost: the deposit facility rate R_t^{DF} and the lending facility rate R_t^{LF} . The weight on the former is given by the elasticity $\varphi(\theta_t)$. Under an appropriately specified matching function, this weight *decreases* with the tightness of the interbank market. Intuitively, as the ratio between borrowing and lending orders increases and the interbank market becomes tighter, it becomes harder for borrowers to find lenders, so the former must offer rates that are higher and hence closer to the lending facility rate. Conversely,

in a slack interbank market with abundant lending orders, lenders must accept rates that are lower and hence closer to the deposit facility rate. Since excess reserves effectively are a measure of interbank market slackness, this setup provides a simple explanation for the downward-sloping relationship between excess reserves and the spread between the interbank rate and the interest on reserves observed in the euro area and other major advanced economies.

2.5 Final good producers

A competitive representative final good producer aggregates a continuum of differentiated retail goods indexed by $i \in [0, 1]$ using a Dixit-Stiglitz technology, $Y_t = \left(\int_0^1 Y_{i,t}^{(\epsilon-1)/\epsilon} di \right)^{\epsilon/(\epsilon-1)}$, where $\epsilon > 1$ is the elasticity of substitution across retail goods. Cost minimization implies

$$Y_{i,t} = \left(\frac{P_{i,t}}{P_t} \right)^{-\epsilon} Y_t \equiv Y_t^d(P_{i,t}), \quad (23)$$

where $P_t = \left(\int_0^1 P_{i,t}^{1-\epsilon} di \right)^{1/(1-\epsilon)}$ is a price index. Total spending in intermediate inputs then equals $\int_0^1 P_{i,t} Y_{i,t} di = P_t Y_t$. Free entry implies zero profits, such that the equilibrium price of the final good is exactly P_t .

2.6 Retail goods producers

We assume that the monopolistic competition occurs at the retail level. Retailers purchase units of the intermediate good, transform them one-for-one into retail good varieties, and sell these to final good producers. Each retailer i sets a price $P_{i,t}$ as in the sticky price model of Calvo (1983) taking as given the demand curve $Y_t^d(P_{i,t})$ and the price of the intermediate good, P_t^y . Specifically, during each period a fraction of firms $(1 - \theta)$ are allowed to change prices, whereas the other fraction, θ , do not change. Retailers that are able to change prices in period t choose a new optimal price in order to maximize its

expected discounted stream of profits,

$$\max_{P_{i,t}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \theta^k \mathbb{E}_t \left[\Lambda_{t,t+k} \left(\frac{P_{i,t}}{P_{t+k}} - MC_{t+k} \right) \left(\frac{P_{i,t}}{P_{t+k}} \right)^{-\epsilon} Y_{t+k} \right]. \quad (24)$$

The first-order condition is standard, with all time- t price-setters choosing a common price P_t^* . The price level P_t evolves according to $P_t^{1-\epsilon} = \theta P_{t-1}^{1-\epsilon} + (1-\theta) (P_t^*)^{1-\epsilon}$.

2.7 Central Bank

Interest rate policy. The central bank sets three nominal policy rates (all expressed in gross terms): the deposit facility rate R_t^{DF} , the lending facility rate R_t^{LF} , and (once CBDC is introduced) the CBDC remuneration rate R_t^{DC} . We assume that the policy rates are set such that: (i) a constant corridor of width $\chi > 0$ is maintained between the deposit facility rate and the lending facility rate, i.e.

$$R_t^{LF} = R_t^{DF} + \chi, \quad (25)$$

(ii) CBDC is remunerated at a rate of 0, and (iv) the central bank's operational target, which we assume to be the interbank rate, achieves a certain target level. This target level is described by a conventional Taylor rule,

$$R_t^{IB} = \rho R_{t-1}^{IB} + (1-\rho) (\bar{R}_{ss} + v\pi_t), \quad (26)$$

where \bar{R}_{ss} is the steady-state nominal interbank rate, $\rho \in (0, 1)$ is the interest-rate smoothing parameter, and $v > 1$ determines the response to deviations in net inflation from target (assumed to be zero). Combining equation (21) and (25), we obtain the following relationship between the operational target and the deposit facility rate: $R_t^{IB} = R_t^{DF} + (1-\varphi_t)\chi$, where $\varphi_t \equiv \varphi(\theta_t)$. Using this and the Taylor rule (26), we can then find the deposit facility

rate that implements the desired level for the operational target,

$$R_t^{DF} = \rho [R_{t-1}^{DF} + (1 - \varphi_{t-1}) \chi] + (1 - \rho) (\bar{R}_{ss} + v\pi_t) - (1 - \varphi_t) \chi. \quad (27)$$

Balance sheet policy. The central bank also chooses the real market value of its government bond holdings, $B_t^{G,CB}$. We assume that it is a constant fraction of the ratio of total government bonds outstanding to steady-state GDP

$$B_t^{G,CB} = \varrho \bar{B}_t, \quad (28)$$

where \bar{B}_t is the real market value of government debt outstanding.

The central bank's assets are government bonds, $B_t^{G,CB}$, and loans to banks extended by its marginal lending facility, i.e. the mass of borrowing orders that did not find matches in the interbank market: $\Phi_t^B (1 - \Gamma_t^B)$. Its liabilities are households' cash and digital currency holdings, M_t and D_t^{DC} respectively, and banks' reserves at its deposit facility, i.e. the mass of interbank lending orders that did not find a match: $\Phi_t^L (1 - \Gamma_t^L)$. We assume that the central bank accumulates no equity and pays all profits to the government.¹³ The central bank's *balance sheet*, expressed in real terms, is therefore

$$B_t^{G,CB} + \Phi_t^B (1 - \Gamma_t^B) = \Phi_t^L (1 - \Gamma_t^L) + M_t + D_t^{DC}. \quad (29)$$

Finally, the central bank's real profits are

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_t^{CB} = & \frac{R_t^G}{1+\pi_t} B_{t-1}^{G,CB} + \frac{R_{t-1}^{LF}}{1+\pi_t} \Phi_{t-1}^B (1 - \Gamma_{t-1}^B) \\ & - \frac{R_{t-1}^{DF}}{1+\pi_t} \Phi_{t-1}^L (1 - \Gamma_{t-1}^L) - \frac{1}{1+\pi_t} M_{t-1} - \frac{R_{t-1}^{DC}}{1+\pi_t} D_{t-1}^{DC}. \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

¹³In case of central bank losses, these are assumed to be covered by the Treasury.

2.8 Government

The budget constraint of the government expressed in real terms is given by

$$\bar{B}_{t-1} \frac{R_t^G}{1 + \pi_t} = \bar{B}_t + T_t + \Pi_t^{CB}.$$

Without loss of generality, the debt-to-GDP ratio is assumed to be held constant at a certain level: $\bar{B}_t/Y_t = \bar{b}$.

2.9 Aggregation, market clearing and equilibrium

An equilibrium in this model is defined as a set of state-contingent functions for prices and quantities such that all agents' optimization problems are solved and markets clear. Appendix A derives the aggregation and market clearing conditions. Appendix B.1 lists the complete set of conditions that have to hold in equilibrium for aggregate variables.

3 Monetary policy implementation frameworks

In this section we compare the properties of a corridor system, in which the interbank rate lies in the middle of the corridor formed by the interest rates of the central bank's standing facilities, with those of a floor (ceiling) system, in which the interbank rate is pushed against at the floor (ceiling) of such corridor.

3.1 Floor and ceiling systems

A *floor system* is characterized by an interbank rate that sits at the floor of the policy rates corridor, i.e., it is equal or close to the deposit facility rate, $R_t^{IB} \approx R_t^{DF}$. From equation (21), this is the case when $\varphi(\theta_t) \rightarrow 1$, which occurs when $\theta_t \rightarrow 0$, i.e. when the interbank market becomes arbitrarily *slack*, such that the amount of lending orders is large compared to the amount of borrowing orders. From equations (20) and (19), this implies $\Gamma^B(\theta_t) \rightarrow 1$ and $\Gamma^L(\theta_t) \rightarrow 0$, i.e. all borrowing orders are matched with lending

ones, while most lending orders fail to be matched. Lending orders in excess of the total volume of borrowing orders end up at the central bank’s deposit facility as reserves. This is a regime characterized by a structural surplus of bank reserves at the central bank.

Conversely, a *ceiling system* is characterized by an interbank rate that hits the ceiling of the policy rates corridor, i.e. it is equal or close to the lending facility rate, $R_t^{IB} \approx R_t^{LF}$. This is the case when $\varphi(\theta_t) \rightarrow 0$, which occurs when $\theta_t \rightarrow \infty$, i.e., when the interbank market becomes arbitrarily *tight*. This implies $\Gamma^L(\theta_t) \rightarrow 1$ and $\Gamma^B(\theta_t) \rightarrow 0$, i.e. all lending orders are matched with borrowing ones –such that there are no bank reserves at the deposit facility– while most borrowing orders fail to be matched. Borrowing needs in excess of the total volume of lending orders are met by the central bank through its the lending facility. This is a regime characterized by a structural deficit of bank liquidity, in which the banking sector as a whole obtains funding from the central bank but holds no reserves against it.

A corollary of this is that, both in a floor and ceiling system, all interbank lending (borrowing) orders –whether matched or not– end up earning (costing) the interbank rate R_t^{IB} . Therefore, recourse to central bank standing facilities implies enjoying neutral lending or borrowing conditions *vis-à-vis* interbank market conditions.

3.2 Corridor system

A *corridor system* is characterized by an interbank market rate that trades around the middle of the central bank’s standing facility rates, i.e. $R_t^{IB} \approx \frac{R_t^{DF} + R_t^{LF}}{2}$. This is the case when $\varphi(\theta_t) \approx \frac{1}{2}$, which in turn requires the central bank’s balance sheet to be relatively ‘lean’. To see this, assume that central bank bond holdings are just large enough to support its cash and (once in place) CBDC liabilities: $B_t^{G,CB} = M_t + D_t^{DC}$. From the central bank’s balance sheet constraint, equation (29), outstanding amounts in both standing facilities must then be the same: $\Phi_t^B (1 - \Gamma_t^B) = \Phi_t^L (1 - \Gamma_t^L)$. Market clearing in the interbank market requires $\Phi_t^B \Gamma_t^B = \Phi_t^L \Gamma_t^L$, implying $\Phi_t^B = \Phi_t^L$, or equivalently $\theta_t = 1$, i.e. perfectly balanced interbank borrowing and lending orders. Under the natural assumption that

the matching function satisfies $\varphi(1) = \frac{1}{2}$,¹⁴ or at least $\varphi(1) \approx \frac{1}{2}$, this lean balance sheet regime delivers a corridor system.

In turn, $\theta_t = 1$ implies that $\Gamma_t^L = \Gamma_t^B = \Upsilon(1, 1)$, the value of which depends on the assumed matching function. Arce et al. (2020) define a matching technology as *match-efficient* if it satisfies $\Upsilon(x, x) = x$, such that if both sides of the market are equally sized, then all searchers are matched to trading partners. Under our assumption that Υ has constant returns to scale, match-efficiency is equivalently defined as $\Upsilon(1, 1) = 1$. Therefore, in the special case of match-efficiency, $\Gamma_t^L = \Gamma_t^B = 1$, such that all interbank borrowing and lending orders are matched, and no recourse is made to either the deposit or lending facility.¹⁵

More generally, matching technologies that are not match-efficient imply matching probabilities lower than 1, i.e. some trading orders on both sides of the interbank market fail to find a counterpart, such that there is recourse to both central bank facilities in equilibrium. Since in the corridor system the interbank rate lies in the midpoint of the rate corridor, non-matched lending orders deposited at the central bank earn a lower return than the interbank rate, and non-matched liquidity needs satisfied by lending facility credit cost more than the interbank rate. This hurts the profitability of the banking sector as a whole, which is effectively taxed when accessing the central bank standing facilities under a corridor system.

4 Calibration

We calibrate the model to the euro area. In particular, we calibrate the model's initial (pre-CBDC) equilibrium in order to broadly replicate the monetary conditions expected to prevail in a few years time.¹⁶ Given our focus on the operational framework, we assume,

¹⁴This will be the case in our numerical analysis.

¹⁵In our numerical analysis, our calibrated matching function will be close to match-efficiency, implying matching probabilities close to 1 and therefore relatively small volumes of central bank reserves and central bank credit on both sides of the banking sector's consolidated balance sheet.

¹⁶This way, we isolate our analysis from the effect of recent shocks (pandemic, energy crisis) on current euro area monetary conditions (policy interest rates, Eurosystem balance-sheet size, etc.)

in line with market and analysts' expectations for the coming years, that in the initial equilibrium the ECB continues to operate under a 'floor system', in which interbank rates, R_t^{IB} , are pegged to the deposit facility rate, R_t^{DF} . This implies that the balance sheet should be larger than in a 'corridor system', but smaller than the current levels.

We assume standard preferences over consumption, liquidity, and labor: $u(C_t) = \log(C_t)$, $v(L_t) = \vartheta \log(L_t)$, and $g(L_t) = L_t^{1+\kappa}/(1+\kappa)$. We also use a standard quadratic specification for investment adjustment costs: $S(x) = \frac{\iota}{2}(x-1)^2$, where ι is a scale parameter. Idiosyncratic shocks are assumed to be log-normally distributed with parameters μ and σ . The matching function is as in den Haan et al. (2000),

$$\Upsilon(\Phi_t^L, \Phi_t^B) = \frac{\Phi_t^L \Phi_t^B}{\left((\Phi_t^L)^\lambda + (\Phi_t^B)^\lambda\right)^{1/\lambda}}.$$

In calibrating the parameters in the production function (α, δ) , the utility function (β, κ) , the New Keynesian elements $(\theta, \epsilon, \iota, \nu, \rho)$, and bank's dividend ratio (ς) , we follow Arce et al. (2020), which in turn take the values from Gertler and Karadi (2011) and Primiceri et al. (2006). The parameter ε that determines the elasticity of substitution between the different types of liquid assets held by the household is taken from Di Tella and Kurlat (2021).

The mean of the iid shocks to island specific capital efficiency μ is set such that the steady state capital efficiency Ω_{ss} is normalized to 1. The matching function parameter λ is calibrated such that the model reproduces the empirical relationship between excess reserves over GDP and the interbank-deposit facility rate spread, following Arce et al. (2020).

We choose the parameters ϑ and ϱ (respectively, the parameter determining households preference for liquidity and the fixed amount of government bonds held by the central bank) to match the medium-term level of the deposit facility rate (at 1%) and the medium term size of the ECB asset purchases programs (at 19.5% of GDP), as forecasted by the

Table 1: Calibrated parameter values

| Parameter | | Value | Target |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------|--|
| α | Capital share | 0.33 | Arce et al. (2020) |
| δ | Depreciation | 0.025 | " |
| β | Discount factor | 0.995 | " |
| κ | Inverse Frisch elasticity | 0.276 | " |
| ε | Liquidity elasticity of substitution | 6.6 | Di Tella and Kurlat (2021) |
| θ | Calvo frequency parameter | 0.779 | Arce et al. (2020) |
| ϵ | Markup | 4.167 | " |
| ι | Investment adjustment costs | 1.728 | " |
| ν | Taylor rule inflation | 1.5 | " |
| ρ | Taylor rule persistence | 0.8 | " |
| ς | Bank dividend ratio | 0.975 | " |
| μ | Mean of idiosyncratic shocks | -0.019 | Normalize $\bar{\Omega} = 1$ |
| σ | Std of idiosyncratic shocks | 0.0029 | Share of interbank claims (18% of total assets) |
| ϕ | Leverage constraint | 15.45 | Steady-state equity ratio (7.3% of total assets) |
| λ | Interbank matching function | 178 | Elasticity of DFR–IB spread to excess reserves |
| ϑ | Household liquidity preference | 0.033 | Steady-state DFR (1% annualized) |
| ϱ | Government debt held by CB | 0.3128 | CB steady-state bond holdings (19.5% of GDP) |
| χ | Policy rates wedge | 0.25% | Corridor width (1% annualized) |
| \bar{b} | Government debt ratio | 2.49 | Government debt over GDP (62.3% of GDP) |
| η_M | Relative weight of cash | 2.49 | Banknotes in circulations (12.3% of GDP) |
| η_{DC} | Relative weight of CBDC | 0 | No CBDC in baseline |
| ψ | TLO allowance | 0 | No TLOs in baseline |

Table 2: Aggregate commercial banking sector balance sheet

| Assets | | Liabilities | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Claims on non-financial firms | 66.1% (208.5%) | Deposits | 74.7% (235.6%) |
| Government bonds | 13.6% (42.9%) | Interbank liabilities | 18% (56.8%) |
| Interbank claims | 18.0% (56.8%) | Equity | 7.3% (23.0%) |
| Reserves at the central bank | 2.3% (7.2%) | | |
| Total Assets | 100% (315.5%) | Total liabilities | 100% (315.5%) |

Note: Numbers between brackets are in percentage of GDP.

Table 3: Central bank balance sheet

| Assets | | Liabilities | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Government bonds | 100% (19.5%) | Cash | 63.1% (12.3%) |
| | | Reserves from banks | 36.9% (7.2%) |
| Total Assets | 100% (19.5%) | Total liabilities | 100% (19.5%) |

Numbers between brackets are in percentage of GDP.

ECB Survey of Monetary Analysts in April 2022.¹⁷ The parameter defining the corridor width χ is set to 0.25% per quarter, which implies an annualized corridor width of one percentage point. The remaining parameters η_M , \bar{b} , and σ are set to match, respectively, (i) the banknotes in circulation as a percentage of GDP (12.3%), (ii) the outstanding level of government debt as a percentage of GDP (62.3%)¹⁸, and (iii) the share of interbank claims in the consolidated banking sector balance sheet in the euro area by the end of 2019 (18%) according to ECB data.¹⁹

The leverage ratio ϕ is 15.45, so that equity is a 7.3% of total assets of the consolidated commercial banking sector. We also consider a baseline value of η_{DC} of zero, so that households hold no CBDC. Tables 4 and 4 display the balance sheet of the aggregate commercial banking sector and the central bank in the model.

¹⁷In particular, we calibrate the steady-state value of the DFR to the expected value in the long-run (from 2029 onwards) and the stock of bonds to the sum of the asset purchase programs to the expected value in 2031.

¹⁸The government debt to GDP ratio we obtain (\bar{b}) reflects only the debt held by the banks and the central bank. To compute it we use the projections for 2031 in the 2022 European Commission's Debt Sustainability Monitor. We assume that the share of government debt held by the banks plus the share held by the central bank in 2031 will be the same as in the latest observation available.

¹⁹ECB MFI aggregated balance sheet data (BSI - MFI Balance Sheet Items). Available at: <https://sdw.ecb.europa.eu/browse.do?node=9691115>.

5 On the long-run implications of CBDC

This section analyzes the long-run economic implications of introducing CBDC under different scenarios. Given the uncertainty about the future take-up of CBDC, we consider a wide range of values of the parameter η_{DC} , which determines the households' preferences for CBDC holdings and, in turn, their equilibrium demand.

5.1 Scenario analysis

The first scenario, based on the baseline parameterization presented above, analyzes the effects in the (zero-inflation) steady state of introducing an unremunerated CBDC. In this case, depicted in Figure 2, higher demand for CBDC results in a reduction in the demand for cash and deposits from the household (panel a). The reason is that cash, deposits, and CBDC are partial substitutes, and the increase in the demand of one of them implies a relative reduction in the demand of the others. To see, that, consider the steady-state version of the Euler equations (2-4):

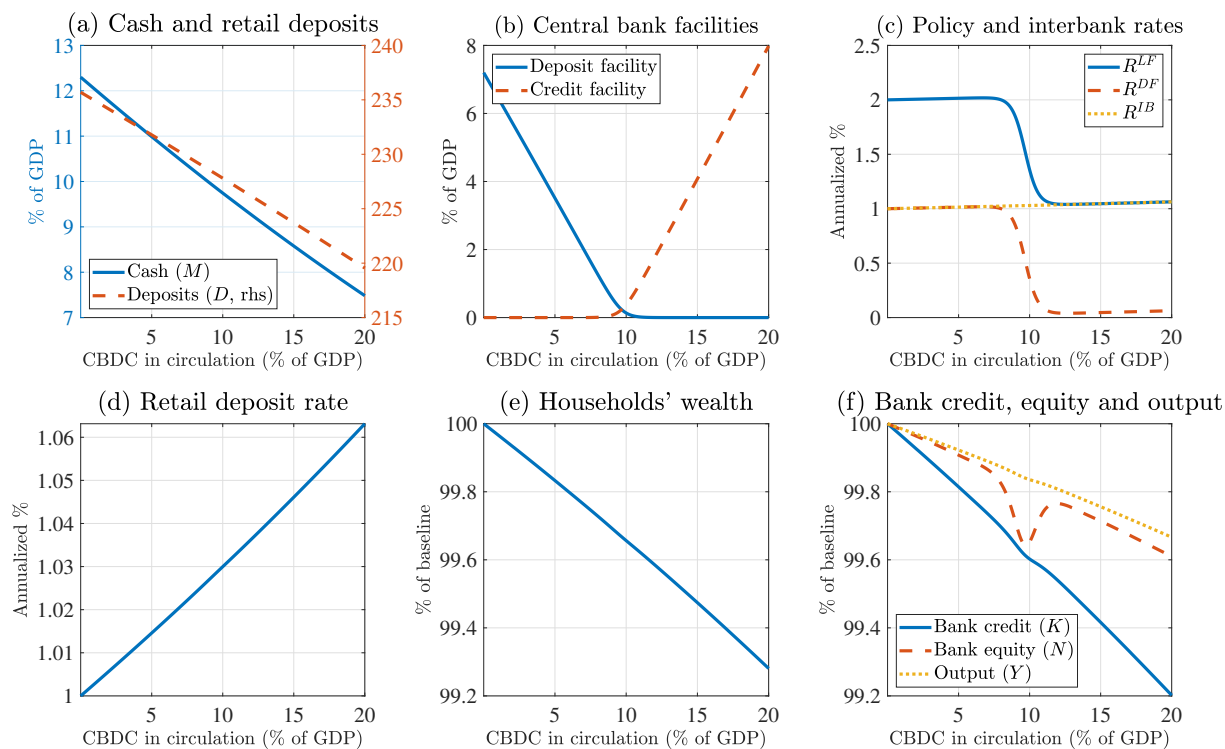
$$1 - \frac{v'(L)}{u'(C)} (L/D)^{\frac{1}{\varepsilon}} = \beta R^D, \quad 1 - \frac{v'(L)}{u'(C)} \eta_M (L/M)^{\frac{1}{\varepsilon}} = \beta, \quad 1 - \frac{v'(L)}{u'(C)} \eta_{DC} (L/D^{DC})^{\frac{1}{\varepsilon}} = \beta, \quad (31)$$

which we can combine to obtain

$$\frac{D^{DC}}{M} = \left(\frac{\eta_{DC}}{\eta_M} \right)^{\varepsilon}, \quad \frac{D^{DC}}{D} = \left(\frac{(1 - \beta R^D) \eta_{DC}}{1 - \beta} \right)^{\varepsilon}.$$

The first equation implies that an increase in η_{DC} translates directly into an increase in the ratio of CBDC over cash, with a (log) slope proportional to the elasticity of substitution between liquid assets. The second equation offers a similar result for the ratio of CBDC over deposits, with the particularity that, in this case, the return on deposits, R^D , operates in the opposite direction.

Figure 2: Steady-state endogenous variables as a function of the demand for CBDC



Note: The demand for CBDC is varied by changing the parameter η_{DC} which determines the household's preferences for CBDC holdings. Variables presented as "annualized %" refer to annualized percentage points; those presented as "% of GDP" refer to percentages of annualized output; and those presented as "% of baseline" refer to percentages of the corresponding value in the baseline model without CBDC.

As shown by the figure, the bulk of the adjustment falls on bank deposits, in a proportion of about 3 to 4. For instance, CBDC adoption amounting to 20% of GDP is accompanied by reductions in deposits and cash holdings of about 15% and 5% of GDP, respectively.

For a CBDC adoption level of up to 9% of GDP, the reduction in the volume of retail deposits brings about a nearly equivalent reduction in the level of excess reserves held by the banking sector (solid blue line, panel b). According to our calibration, when the volume of excess reserves falls below 1% of GDP (which happens for a CBDC take-up around 8% of GDP), the conditions in the interbank market change: banks are not 'satiated' in reserves anymore. It is at this point that the central bank is forced to decrease its policy rates in order to keep its stance unchanged, in a way that the interbank rate lifts off from the floor of the corridor (dashed red line, panel c). Eventually, if the demand

for CBDC is even larger than that (around 10% of GDP), it makes banks' recourse to the lending facility large enough (dashed red line, panel b) so that the decrease in policy rates makes the interbank rate hit the ceiling of the corridor and the relevant policy rate becomes the lending facility rate (solid blue line, panel c). The operational framework would be that of a 'ceiling system', in which there would be a structural lack of liquidity in interbank markets. According to our estimations, and absent any other policy intervention, that would happen for a CBDC take-up larger than 11% of GDP.

The total volume of households' assets, $\mathcal{W} = M + D + D^{DC}$, decreases almost linearly by -0.7% of GDP as CBDC increases from 0 to 20% (panel e). In order to understand this, notice that the household's budget constraint (1) can be expressed as

$$C + \mathcal{W} = WH + R^{\mathcal{W}}\mathcal{W} + \sum_{s=R,B} \Pi^s - T,$$

where $R^{\mathcal{W}} = R^D D/\mathcal{W} + M/\mathcal{W} + D^{DC}/\mathcal{W}$ is the *return on liquidity*. As the share of D^{DC} over total assets increases, and given that its remuneration is zero, the return on liquidity would decrease except if the return on deposits, R^D , increases to compensate for this. As shown in panel d of Figure 2, the deposit rate increases, for reasons explained below, but this increase is tiny (around 6 bps) compared with the decline in the share of deposit over household's assets (which falls 6 pp, from around 95% in the baseline before CBDC is introduced). The decline in the return on liquidity explains why households save less on the aggregate, and hence the decline in total household assets \mathcal{W} .

The volume of household assets is ultimately linked, via the financial system, to the stock of physical capital operated by firms. The consolidated (steady-state) balance sheet of the financial sector, including the central bank, is²⁰

$$K + B^G = \mathcal{W} + N. \tag{32}$$

²⁰Notice that in the steady state the price of corporate claims equals $Q = 1$, such that bank holdings of those claims are $QK = K$.

For given bank equity, a fall in household assets, \mathcal{W} , leads to a decline in bank lending to firms, K , given the fact that the level of government debt outstanding, B^G , is constant. This is amplified by the fact that bank equity is not constant, but also falls as CBDC take-up increases. To understand this, notice that in a floor system both borrowing and lending rates are close to the deposit facility rate, and hence $\omega^B \approx \omega^L$.²¹ There is then a link between aggregate capital and bank equity (eq. 36), which, in steady state, simplifies to

$$\begin{aligned} K &= \phi [1 - F(\omega^B)] N_t + [F(\omega^B) - F(\omega^L)] (N + D) / (1 - \psi) \\ &\approx \phi [1 - F(\omega^B)] N. \end{aligned} \tag{33}$$

Thus the reduction in aggregate capital due to the fall in deposits also brings about a fall in bank equity (by a factor $\frac{1}{\phi[1-F(\omega^B)]} < 1$, which in our calibration is approximately 0.1). The decline in capital and bank equity can be seen in panel f of Figure 2. The reduction in capital leads to an increase in its return, which in turn, lifts the deposit and interbank interest rates (panels c and d), which increase almost linearly by 6 basis points as the demand for CBDC goes from 0 to 20% of GDP. As stated above, this tiny increase is not enough to compensate for the fall in the average return to households' savings. Finally, the lower stock of physical capital brings about a reduction in output (panel f), which decreases almost linearly by 0.3%, when the demand for CBDC goes from 0 to 20% of GDP.

Interestingly, the fall in bank equity follows an inverse hump-shape around the region in which the interbank rate lies in the middle of the policy rates' corridor. This is because, when the central bank operates a corridor system, those banks that fail to find a match in the interbank market are forced to resort to the central bank facilities, where borrowing is more expensive (the marginal lending facility is above the interbank rate) and deposits offer a lower remuneration (the deposit facility rate is below the interbank rate). This hurts banks' profitability and depresses the aggregate level of bank equity. This does not happen when the central bank operates a floor (ceiling) system, in which all lending (borrowing)

²¹See Arce et al. (2020) for a proof of this result.

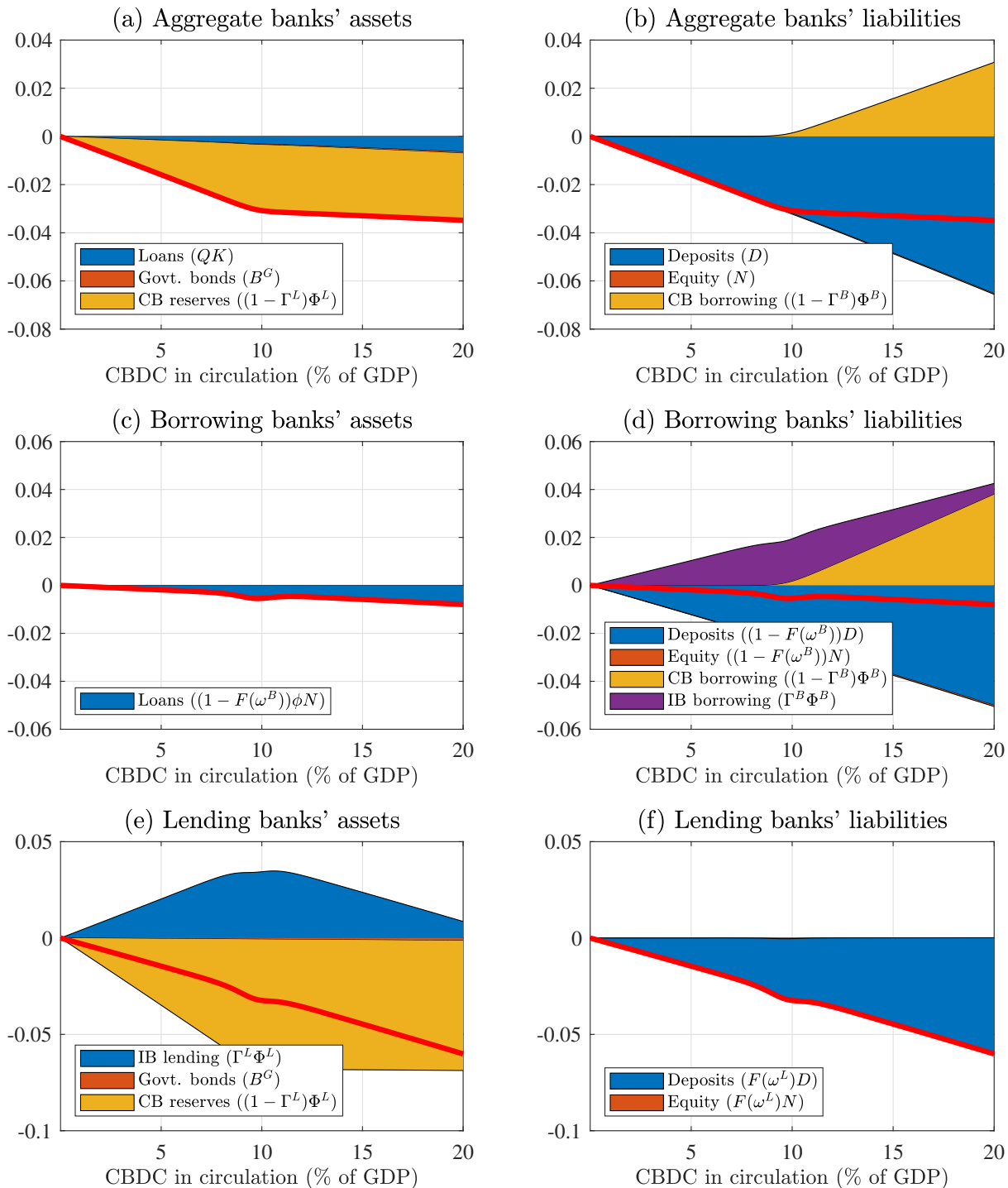
banks find a partner in the interbank market and all borrowing (lending) banks that trade with the central bank do so at the same rate that prevails in the interbank market. The fall in lending and output when the central bank moves to a corridor system, however, is not as pronounced as the fall in bank equity, since it is partly compensated by a fall in ω^L , i.e. the fraction of banks that decide to lend their funds in the interbank market instead of investing in productive firms, reflecting the lower remuneration for lending orders that fail to find a match and thus end up at the central bank's deposit facility.

To further understand the effects of the introduction of CBDC on *bank intermediation*, Figure 3 depicts the response of the different components of banks' balance sheet. Panels a and b do so for the consolidated balance sheet of the banking sector as a whole. For intermediate levels of CBDC adoption (of up to 9% of GDP), the fall in deposit liabilities is absorbed by an almost one-for-one reduction in reserves at the central bank. Crucially, this allows the banking system to preserve most of its lending to firms. Once CBDC adoption reaches 9%, reserves become sufficiently scarce for the operational framework to change from a floor to a corridor system. For CBDC adoption larger than 10% of GDP, there are no more reserves left to absorb the impact of the CBDC-induced deposit crunch. Instead, banks start borrowing from the central bank's lending facility. Again, this allows banks to limit the impact of CBDC on their lending to the real economy.

This response in consolidated assets and liabilities, however, masks differing responses between borrowing and lending banks. Having no reserves to begin with, borrowing banks compensate their loss of deposits by borrowing more in the interbank market and, for sufficiently large CBDC adoption, also by borrowing more from the central bank (panel d). This allows them to preserve their lending to firms (panel c). By contrast, lending banks respond to their deposit loss (panel f) by reducing their central bank reserves; in fact, they do so by *more* than the actual fall in deposits, as they use part of their liquidity to increase their lending in the interbank market (panel e). For sufficiently large demand for CBDC, however, lending banks run out reserves, and additional deposit outflows are met with a cutback in interbank lending. It is at this point that borrowing banks start

borrowing from the central bank lending facility, and that the tightening in the interbank market drives the transition from the corridor to the ceiling system. .

Figure 3: Banks' balance sheet variables as a function of the demand for CBDC



5.2 Central bank policies to maintain a floor system

We next analyze the implications of different central bank policies aimed at maintaining a floor system. We do not discuss the rationale that central banks may have to preserve the operations of a floor system, as it goes beyond the scope of the paper. We will focus on two different policies: (i) an expansion of asset purchases; and (ii) the use of subsidized central bank targeted loans remunerated at the deposit facility rate R_t^{DF} . What these policies have in common is that they involve maintaining a sufficiently high level of reserves held by commercial banks.

The first policy, an expansion of *asset purchases*, consists of finding the value of the parameter ϱ , which determines the fraction of the outstanding debt of the government that is held by the central bank, and that is kept fixed in our baseline exercises in the previous subsection, that keeps the level of aggregate reserves constant at their pre-CBDC level.

The second policy consists of introducing *targeted lending to banks* remunerated at a subsidized rate $R_t^{CB} \leq R_t^{DF}$ from which banks can borrow up to a maximum allowance. This allowance is assumed to equal a constant fraction ψ of the banks' lending to firms.²² The demand for targeted loans is then equal to the maximum allowance for lending banks:

$$B_t^{CB,j} = \begin{cases} \psi Q_t^K A_t^j, & \text{if } \omega_t^j \geq \omega_t^L, \\ 0, & \text{if } \omega_t^j < \omega_t^L. \end{cases} \quad (34)$$

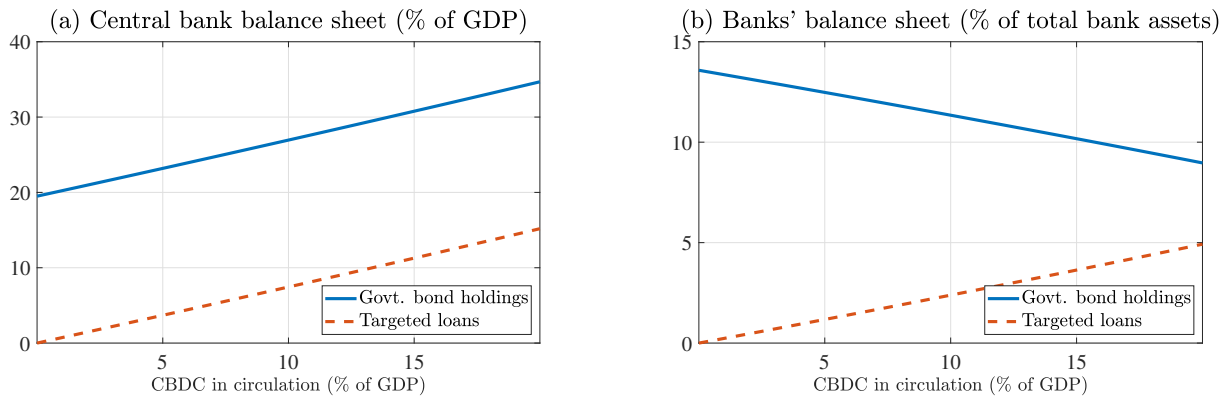
In this subsection we assume that this remuneration equals the deposit facility rate, $R_t^{CB} = R_t^{DF}$, and we find the value of the allowance parameter ψ that keeps the level of aggregate reserves constant at their pre-CBDC level.

Figure 4 depicts the size of both policies necessary to keep reserves constant at their pre-CBDC level. When CBDC demand goes from 0 to 20% of GDP, government bonds held by the central bank need to almost double their size in order to keep excess reserves

²²The introduction of this new liability in banks' balance sheets requires recomputing the optimal banking problem laid out in Section 2. We have done so and the complete set of equations is included in Appendix B.

constant at their level around 7% of GDP (solid blue line panel a). This means that the holdings of the central bank need to go from 30% to around 56% of the total stock of outstanding government debt, highlighting an obvious limitation of this policy: its size is constrained by the total amount of debt issued by the government. Meanwhile, bond holdings in the balance sheet of commercial banks drop from 14% to below 9% of their total assets (panel b).

Figure 4: Policies aimed at keeping the level of excess reserves constant



Note: The demand for CBDC is varied by changing the parameter η_{DC} which determines the household's preferences for CBDC holdings. The size of the policies presented above is the one that, for a given demand for CBDC, keep the level of excess reserves constant at their pre-CBDC level.

The necessary increase in central bank targeted loans as a percentage of GDP is of the same size (15 pp, dashed red line in panel a) as the necessary asset purchase expansion, since one additional unit of central bank loans and one additional unit of government bonds held in the balance sheet of the central bank both result in the same increase in reserves on its liability side. The share of these loans in the balance sheet of the central bank would need to be as high as 40%, representing as much as 5% of commercial banks' liabilities (panel b), when the demand for CBDC goes from 0 to 20% of GDP.

Both of these policies do not have any real effects on prices or allocations in the steady state, and they only imply a reshuffling of the assets and liabilities of commercial banks and the central bank. This can be directly seen in equation (32), which links physical capital and public bonds to bank equity and households' wealth.

From the point of view of the profits of the central bank (eq. 30)

$$\Pi^{CB} = R^G B^{G,CB} + R^{LF} \Phi^B (1 - \Gamma^B) + (R^{DF} - \chi^{CB}) B^{CB} - R^{DF} \Phi^L (1 - \Gamma^L) - M - D^{DC},$$

the reason why these policies do not affect the real economy is the following. In a floor system with an efficient matching function there is no recourse to the central bank lending facility ($\Gamma^B \approx 1$) as liquidity is abundant and banks can always borrow at lower rates. Furthermore, the yield on government bonds R^G is equal to the deposit facility rate R^{DF} when the central bank operates a floor system. Assuming that targeted loans are remunerated at the DFR (i.e., $\chi^{CB} = 0$) profits are then

$$\Pi^{CB} = R^{DF} [B^{G,CB} + B^{CB} - \Phi^L (1 - \Gamma^L)] - M - D^{DC}, \quad (35)$$

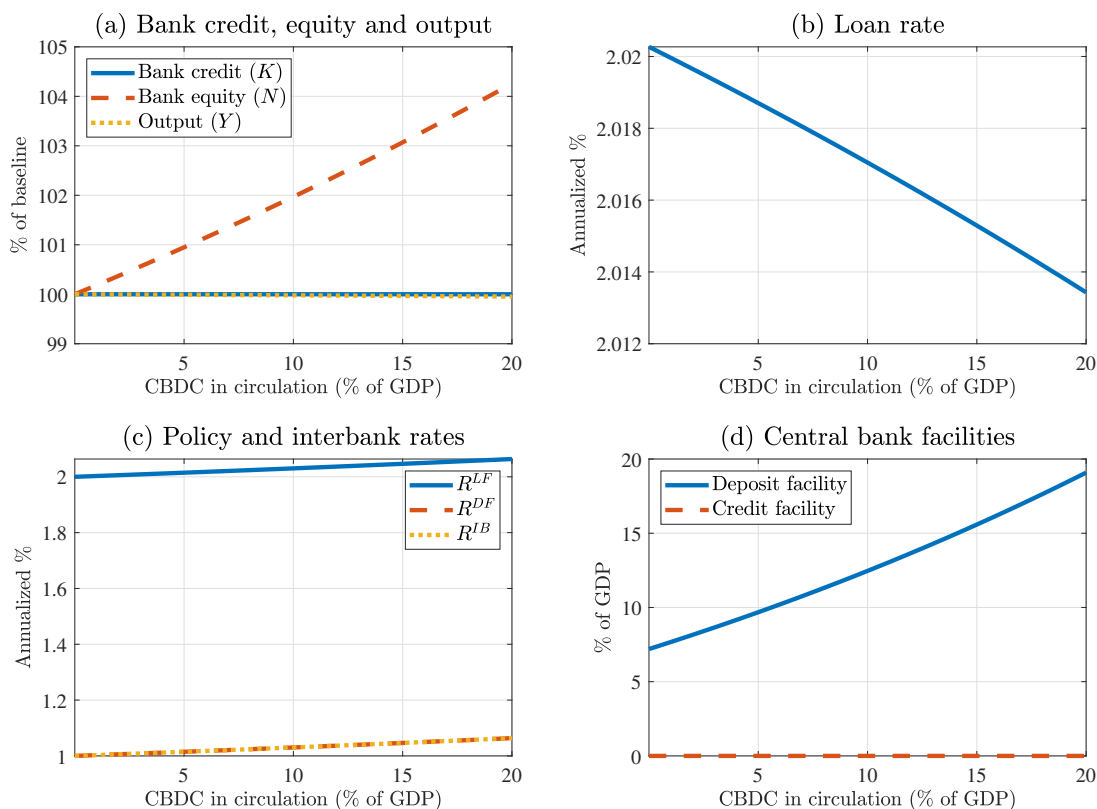
which can be combined with the central bank balance sheet (29) in a floor system, $B^{G,CB} + B^{CB} = \Phi^L (1 - \Gamma^L) + M + D^{DC}$, to obtain

$$\Pi^{CB} = (R^{DF} - 1) (M + D^{DC}).$$

Thus, any change in the composition of the central bank balance sheet in a floor system in terms of asset purchases and loans keeps central bank profits constant (again, provided that targeted loans are remunerated at the DFR). From the point of view of the banking sector, an expansion in asset purchases implies swapping government bond holdings with central bank reserves. Again, these are remunerated at the same rate. Targeted loans, when remunerated at the deposit facility rate, have no impact on banks' profits since their increase is matched with an increase of excess reserves on the asset side and, once more, these two are remunerated at the same rate. Since none of these policies have an effect on households' savings either, it is straightforward to see that these policies have no further effect on prices or quantities in the long run. Of course these results are contingent to operating a floor system in the first place.

Subsidized lending to banks below the deposit facility rate can insulate banks from the increase in the cost of deposit funding when an unremunerated CBDC is introduced. This is shown in Figure 5, which presents the results of subsidizing credit at a rate one p.p. (in annualized terms) below the deposit facility rate. The exercise consists of choosing the parameter ψ , which determines the size of the *allowance* of banks in relation to their loan portfolio, that leaves the aggregate amount of bank credit constant with respect to its pre-CBDC level, for each equilibrium demand for CBDC.

Figure 5: Steady-state endogenous variables as a function of the demand for CBDC with central bank subsidized lending



Note: The demand for CBDC is varied by changing the parameter η_{DC} which determines the household's preferences for CBDC holdings. Variables presented as "annualized. p.p." refer to annualized percentage points; those presented as "% of GDP" refer to percentages of annualized output; and those presented as "% of baseline" refer to percentages of the corresponding value in the baseline model without CBDC.

Subsidized lending increases banks' profitability, and thus raises the amount of bank equity (panel a). The resulting lower cost of external funding for banks allows them to sustain the same amount of credit while also slightly lowering loan rates (panel b). The fall in GDP is substantially lower than in the case without additional policies depicted in

Figure 2. This policy allows the central bank to continue operating a floor system (panel c). As the demand for CBDC increases, the amount of reserves goes up with respect to their baseline level (panel d) as a result of the increasing use of targeted loans.

5.3 CBDC remuneration and the equivalence result

Brunnermeier and Niepelt (2019) make an important contribution by showing how the introduction of CBDC can be neutral, in the sense that it does not affect macroeconomic aggregates. They refer to it as “equivalence of private and public money”. The intuition provided by Brunnermeier and Niepelt (2019) is that the central bank can substitute the loss in commercial banks’ deposits due to CBDC with direct loans to the banks, in what they call “making central bank’s implicit lender-of-last-resort guarantee explicit”. As we have seen in the previous section, central bank loans (TLOs) are not enough to preserve the neutrality in our model. The reason is that in their framework the equivalence result hinges on “wealth neutrality”, that is, it requires that the introduction of CBDC does not change the wealth distribution nor tighten or relax means-of-payment constraints. This assumption is violated in the case of an unremunerated CBDC for the reasons exposed above. We can, however, demonstrate that there exist a remuneration rate of CBDC, \bar{R}^{DC} , that does not distort households’ savings decisions and thus does not change households’ wealth $D + M + D^{DC}$ at the aggregate level *while operating a floor system*. This wealth neutral rate is the one that keeps constant the return on households’ savings.

Let X and X' be the steady-state values of variable X_t before and after CBDC is introduced, respectively. Then, the wealth-neutral remuneration rate of CBDC \bar{R}^{DC} is the one that satisfies that the return on liquidity, R^W , does not change:

$$\frac{R^D D + M}{\mathcal{W}} = \frac{R^D D' + M' + \bar{R}^{DC} D^{DC}}{\mathcal{W}'}$$

Note that R^D appears both on the left and the right hand side of the equation since, by definition, the wealth neutral remuneration rate of CBDC is the one that does not change

prices and allocations (so that $\mathcal{W} = \mathcal{W}'$). After rearranging:

$$\bar{R}^{DC} = \frac{R^D \Delta D + \Delta M}{\Delta D + \Delta M},$$

where $\Delta X = X' - X$. Note that we have used the fact that, when the level of wealth remains constant, the increase in CBDC should equal the fall in cash and deposits $D^{DC} = \Delta D + \Delta M$.

The central bank profits in steady state in this case (eq. 35) is

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi^{CB} &= R^{DF} [B^{G,CB} - \Phi^L (1 - \Gamma^L)] - M' - \bar{R}^{DC} D^{DC} \\ &= R^{DF} [M' + D^{DC}] - M' - (R^D D + M - R^D D' - M') \\ &\approx R^{DF} (\mathcal{W} - D') - (R^{DF} D + M - R^{DF} D') \\ &= R^{DF} \mathcal{W} - (R^{DF} D + M) = (R^{DF} - 1) M, \end{aligned}$$

where in the second line we have employed the definition of \bar{R}^{DC} and the central bank balance sheet (29) in a floor system, in the third line we have applied the fact that, in a floor system $R^D \approx R^{DF}$, and the definition of aggregate wealth, and in the last line we employ the fact that aggregate wealth does not change, and hence it equals $\mathcal{W} = M + D$. The central bank profits are then equal to those in the case without CBDC.

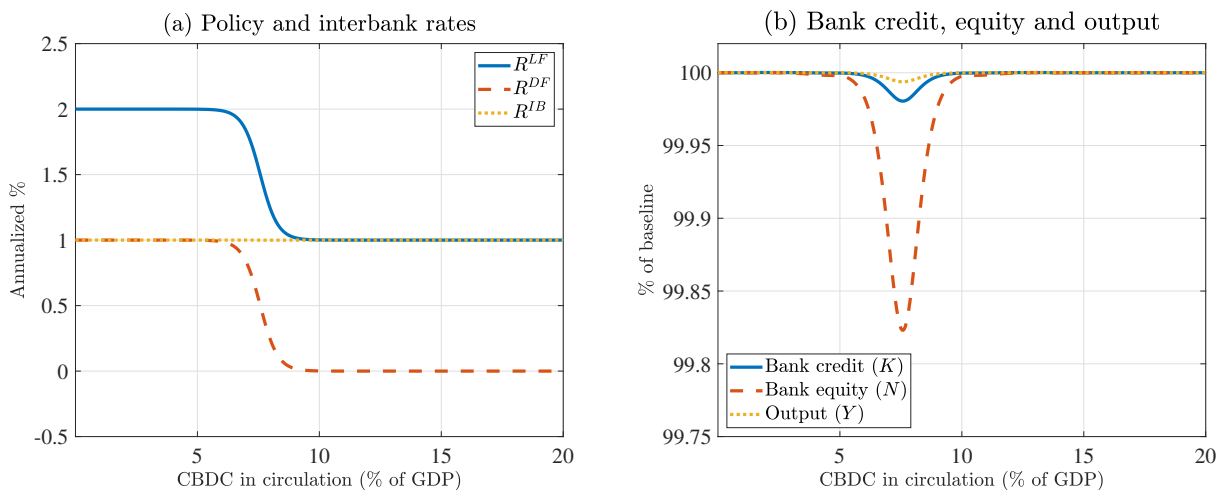
When CBDC is remunerated at this rate \bar{R}^{DC} , an increase in the demand for CBDC does not have any long-run effect on prices and allocations, and simply results in a swap between the assets and liabilities held by the different agents in the economy. An increase in the demand for CBDC reduces retail deposits and cash holdings from households. The reduction in deposits on the liability side of the banking sector is matched by an equal reduction in reserves. Since both deposits and reserves are remunerated at the same rate in equilibrium, the effect on bank profits is neutral.

Notice that this result hinges on the assumption of a floor system. If the floor is abandoned, the return on bonds and deposits will differ from the DFR, and there is a non-zero recourse to the marginal lending facility. In this case, central bank profits will

differ from those without CBDC.

Figure 6 shows how, in the region in which CBDC take-up ranges from 6 to 9% of GDP, the central bank operates a corridor system (panel a), and there is a moderate decrease in bank equity, loans, and output (panel b).

Figure 6: Steady-state endogenous variables as a function of the demand for CBDC with a neutral rate CBDC



Note: The demand for CBDC is varied by changing the parameter η_{DC} which determines the household's preferences for CBDC holdings. Variables presented as "annualized. p.p." refer to annualized percentage points; those presented as "% of GDP" refer to percentages of annualized output; and those presented as "% of baseline" refer to percentages of the corresponding value in the baseline model without CBDC.

6 Transitional dynamics

This section analyzes the transitional dynamics after unexpectedly introducing an unrewarded CBDC. The long run scenario is characterized by a steady-state take-up for CBDC of 5% of GDP, lower than the cut-off to abandon the floor system.

The economy is initially at the steady-state without CBDC, outlined in the Calibration section above. In period one (each period corresponds to a quarter), the introduction of CBDC is announced and, from then on, the preference parameter evolves according to the following law of motion:

$$\eta_{DC,t} = \rho_{DC}\eta_{DC,t-1} + (1 - \rho_{DC})\bar{\eta}_{DC},$$

where $\bar{\eta}_{DC}$ is the terminal value of the parameter in the new steady state after the introduction of CBDC, and $\rho_{DC} \in [0, 1)$ is the persistence of the preference parameter. We assume $\rho_{DC} = 0.9$, so that the transition to the steady state takes around 60 quarters (or 15 years).

Figure 7: Transition to a new steady state

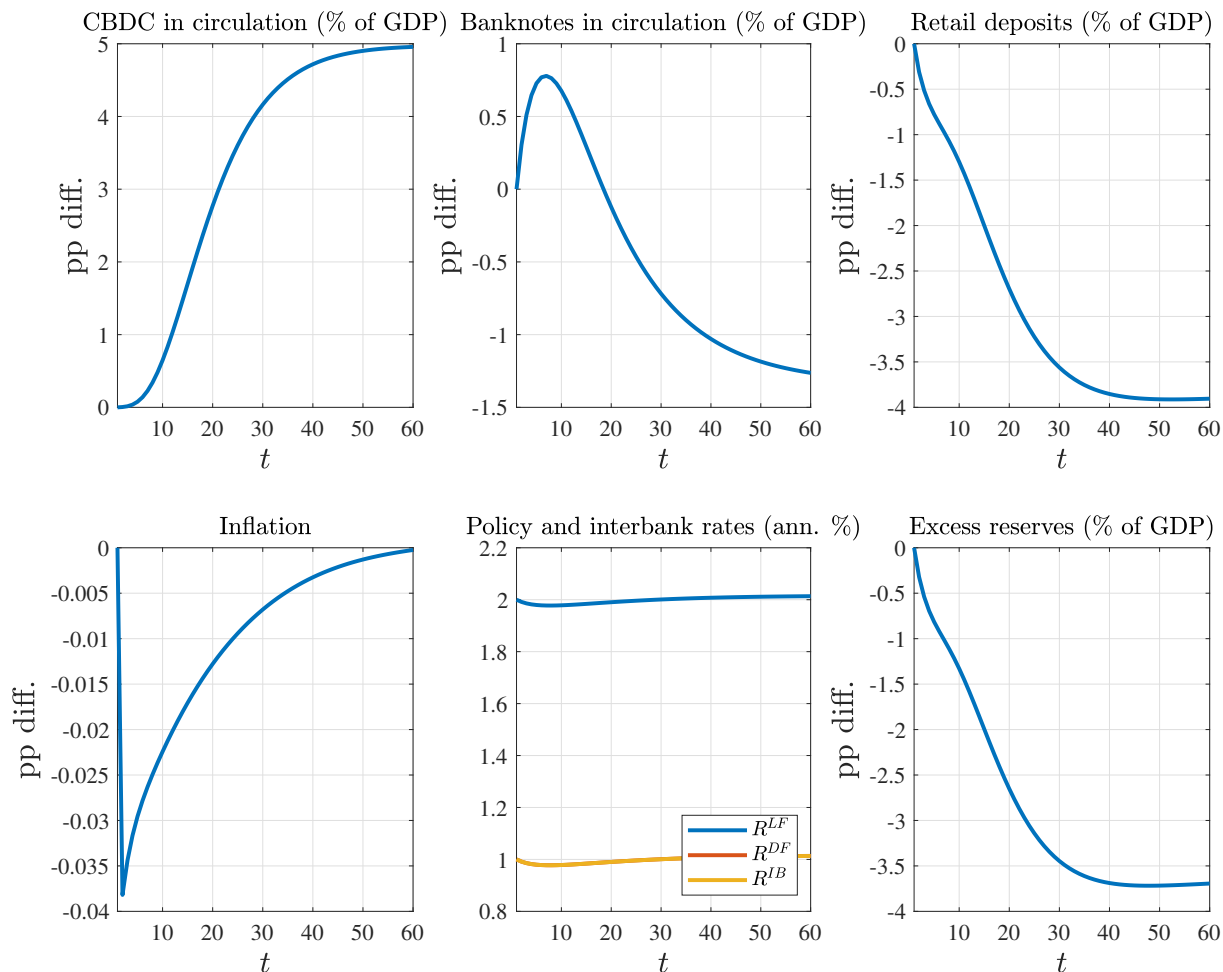


Figure 7 displays the transition to the new steady state. As explained in the previous section, the introduction of unremunerated CBDC (panel a) reduces the size of the commercial banking sector, in detriment to the central bank. This implies a reduction in the volume of physical capital and output, which leads to a fall in inflation (panel d), which forces the central bank to temporarily reduce its policy rates (panel e).

Notice how the decline in inflation and nominal rates interacts with the adoption of

CBDC along the transition path. In particular, the decline in inflation increases the real return of cash (and CBDC), while in the case of deposits, this effect is muted by the fall in nominal rates. This leads to a temporary surge in the demand for cash (panel b) in the first decade after the announcement of the introduction of CBDC. As time goes by, the steady return of inflation to its target and the increase in the preferences towards CBDC reverse the initial surge in cash, and the latter declines below its initial volume towards its long-run equilibrium. Deposits, however, decline over the whole period (panel c).

Summing up, the transitional dynamics yield interesting insights. Despite the long-run decline in cash and deposits, and the negative effects on output and consumption, both cash and consumption increase during the first decade of circulation due to the deflationary impact of the CBDC announcement.

7 Conclusions

This paper studies the impact of CBDC on the operational framework of monetary policy. It shows how CBDC adoption implies a roughly equivalent reduction in banks' deposit funding. However, this 'deposit crunch' has a rather small effect on bank lending to the real economy, and hence on aggregate investment and GDP. This result reflects the parallel impact of CBDC on the central bank's operational framework.

Given the uncertainty about the reasons to adopt CBDC, we have been pragmatic, assuming that CBDC will render different "liquidity services" to households than cash or deposits. One natural extension would be to extend our model with microfoundations for money in the spirit of Lagos and Wright (2005), as in Keister and Sanches (2022) and Keister and Monnet (2022), so that CBDC adoption becomes endogenous.²³ We leave that for future research.

²³Marbet (2023) develops an heterogeneous agents quantitative model which combines New Monetarist and New Keynesian elements in which the role of money as medium of exchange breaks monetary super-neutrality, and discusses how the introduction of a CBDC could bring long-run monetary neutrality back.

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Appendix

A. Aggregation, market clearing and equilibrium

Market clearing for capital requires that total supply by households, K_t , equals total demand by intermediate firms, $\int_0^1 K_t^j dj$. Since $K_t^j = A_t^j$ on each island j the capital stock K_t equals total demand for firms' assets by banks, $\int_0^1 A_t^j dj$. We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} K_t &= \int_{j:\omega_t^j > \omega_t^B} \frac{\phi N_t^j}{Q_t^K} dj + \int_{j:\omega_t^j \in [\omega_t^L, \omega_t^B]} \frac{N_t^j + D_t^j}{(1-\psi)Q_t^K} dj \\ &= \frac{\phi[1-F(\omega_t^B)]N_t + [F(\omega_t^B) - F(\omega_t^L)](N_t + D_t)/(1-\psi)}{Q_t^K}, \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

where in the second equality we have used the fact that ω_t^j is independently distributed from N_t^j and D_t^j .

Labor market clearing requires that household's labor supply L_t equals firms' total labor demand, $\int_0^1 L_t^j dj$. To calculate the latter, we start by using (6) to solve for individual labor demand L_t^j and we then aggregate across firms: $\int_0^1 L_t^j dj = \left(\frac{(1-\alpha)Z_t MC_t}{W_t}\right)^{1/\alpha} \int_0^1 \omega_{t-1}^j K_{t-1}^j dj$. To solve for $\int_0^1 \omega_{t-1}^j K_{t-1}^j dj$, we use again Lemma 1 and $K_t^j = A_t^j$ to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \omega_t^j K_t^j dj &= \frac{\phi N_t}{Q_t^K} \int_{\omega_t^B} \omega dF(\omega) + \frac{N_t + D_t}{(1-\psi)Q_t^K} \int_{\omega_t^L}^{\omega_t^B} \omega dF(\omega) \\ &= \frac{\phi N_t}{Q_t^K} [1 - F(\omega_t^B)] \mathbb{E}(\omega \mid \omega \geq \omega_t^B) \\ &\quad + \frac{N_t + D_t}{(1-\psi)Q_t^K} [F(\omega_t^B) - F(\omega_t^L)] \mathbb{E}(\omega \mid \omega_t^L \leq \omega < \omega_t^B), \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the fact that ω_t^j is independently distributed from N_t^j, D_t^j .

Using (36), we can express the above equation more compactly as

$$\int_0^1 \omega_t^j K_t^j dj = \Omega_t K_t, \quad (37)$$

where

$$\Omega_t \equiv \frac{\phi [1 - F(\omega_t^B)] \mathbb{E}(\omega \mid \omega \geq \omega_t^B)}{\phi [1 - F(\omega_t^B)] + \frac{N_t + D_t}{(1-\psi)N_t} [F(\omega_t^B) - F(\omega_t^L)]} + \frac{\frac{N_t + D_t}{(1-\psi)N_t} [F(\omega_t^B) - F(\omega_t^L)] \mathbb{E}(\omega \mid \omega_t^L \leq \omega < \omega_t^B)}{\phi [1 - F(\omega_t^B)] + \frac{N_t + D_t}{(1-\psi)N_t} [F(\omega_t^B) - F(\omega_t^L)]} \quad (38)$$

is an index of capital efficiency.²⁴ Labor market clearing then requires

$$L_t = \left(\frac{(1-\alpha) Z_t M C_t}{W_t} \right)^{1/\alpha} \Omega_{t-1} K_{t-1}. \quad (39)$$

Aggregate supply of the intermediate good equals $\int_0^1 Y_t^j dj$. Equations (6) and (39) imply that the effective capital-labor ratio $\omega_{t-1}^j K_{t-1}^j / L_t^j$ equals $\Omega_{t-1} K_{t-1} / L_t$ for all firms. From equation (5), we then have

$$\int_0^1 Y_t^j dj = Z_t \left(\frac{L_t}{\Omega_{t-1} K_{t-1}} \right)^{1-\alpha} \int_0^1 \omega_{t-1}^j K_{t-1}^j dj = Z_t L_t^{1-\alpha} (\Omega_{t-1} K_{t-1})^\alpha,$$

where in the second equality we have used (37). Using (23), aggregate demand of the intermediate good equals $\int_0^1 Y_{i,t} di = Y_t \int_0^1 \left(\frac{P_{i,t}}{P_t} \right)^{-\epsilon} di = Y_t \Delta_t$, where $\Delta_t \equiv \int_0^1 (P_{i,t}/P_t)^{-\epsilon} di$ is an index of relative price dispersion. Market clearing for the intermediate good therefore requires

$$Y_t = \frac{Z_t}{\Delta_t} L_t^{1-\alpha} (\Omega_{t-1} K_{t-1})^\alpha.$$

Aggregate supply of the final good must equal consumption and investment demand by households,

$$Y_t = C_t + I_t.$$

Market clearing for government bonds requires supply to equal demand by private banks and the central bank,²⁵

$$\bar{B}_t = B_t^G + B_t^{G,CB}.$$

Finally, we can aggregate equation (8) across banks and use $N_t^i = \zeta E_t^j$ to find an expression

²⁴In the limiting case in which $\omega_{t-1}^B = \omega_{t-1}^L \equiv \bar{\omega}_{t-1}$, Ω_t collapses to $\mathbb{E}(\omega \mid \omega \geq \bar{\omega}_{t-1})$.

²⁵Notice that we have implicitly assumed that the household cannot hold government bonds. This assumption is innocuous, since in equilibrium the household will always prefer deposits over bonds.

for aggregate bank equity,

$$\frac{N_t}{\varsigma} = R_t^A \Omega_{t-1} Q_{t-1}^K K_{t-1} + \frac{R_{t-1}^L}{1 + \pi_t} \Phi_{t-1}^L + \frac{R_t^G}{1 + \pi_t} B_{t-1}^G - \frac{R_{t-1}^D}{1 + \pi_t} D_{t-1} - \frac{R_{t-1}^{CB}}{1 + \pi_t} B_{t-1}^{CB} - \frac{R_{t-1}^B}{1 + \pi_t} \Phi_{t-1}^B,$$

where we have used (37) and $A_{t-1}^j = K_{t-1}^j$ to substitute for $\int_0^1 \omega_{t-1}^j A_{t-1}^j dj$ ($= \Omega_{t-1} K_{t-1}$).

We define an equilibrium in this model as a set of state-contingent functions for prices and quantities such that all agents' optimization problems are solved and markets clear. Appendix B.1 lists the conditions that have to hold in equilibrium for aggregate variables.

B. Complete set of equations

We display below the complete set of equations of the model. We define $p_t^* \equiv P_t^*/P_t$.

B.1 Transitional dynamics

- Households

$$1 - \frac{v'(L_t)}{u'(C_t)} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial D_t} = \Lambda_{t,t+1} \frac{R_t^D}{1 + \pi_{t+1}}, \quad (40)$$

$$1 - \frac{v'(L_t)}{u'(C_t)} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial M_t} = \Lambda_{t,t+1} \frac{1}{1 + \pi_{t+1}}, \quad (41)$$

$$1 - \frac{v'(L_t)}{u'(C_t)} \frac{\partial L_t}{\partial D_t^{DC}} = \Lambda_{t,t+1} \frac{R_t^{DC}}{1 + \pi_{t+1}}, \quad (42)$$

$$W_t = \frac{g'(H_t)}{u'(C_t)}, \quad (43)$$

$$\Lambda_{t,t+1} = \beta \frac{u'(C_{t+1})}{u'(C_t)} \quad (44)$$

$$1 = Q_t^K \left[1 - S \left(\frac{I_t}{I_{t-1}} \right) - S' \left(\frac{I_t}{I_{t-1}} \right) \frac{I_t}{I_{t-1}} \right] + \Lambda_{t,t+1} Q_{t+1}^K S' \left(\frac{I_{t+1}}{I_t} \right) \left(\frac{I_{t+1}}{I_t} \right)^2, \quad (45)$$

$$K_t = \left[1 - S \left(\frac{I_t}{I_{t-1}} \right) \right] I_t + (1 - \delta) \Omega_{t-1} K_{t-1} \quad (46)$$

$$L_t = \left[\eta_D (D_t)^{\frac{\varepsilon-1}{\varepsilon}} + \eta_M (M_t)^{\frac{\varepsilon-1}{\varepsilon}} + (1 - \eta_M - \eta_D) (D_t^{DC})^{\frac{\varepsilon-1}{\varepsilon}} \right]^{\frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon-1}} \quad (47)$$

- Firms

$$Y_t = \frac{Z_t}{\Delta_t} H_t^{1-\alpha} (\Omega_{t-1} K_{t-1})^\alpha, \quad (48)$$

$$1 = \theta (1 + \pi_t)^{\epsilon-1} + (1 - \theta) (p_t^*)^{1-\epsilon}, \quad (49)$$

$$p_t^* = \frac{\Xi_t^1}{\Xi_t^2}, \quad (50)$$

$$\Xi_t^1 = \frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon - 1} X_t Y_t + \theta \mathbb{E}_t \Lambda_{t,t+1} (1 + \pi_{t+1})^\epsilon \Xi_{t+1}^1, \quad (51)$$

$$\Xi_t^2 = Y_t + \theta \mathbb{E}_t \Lambda_{t,t+1} (1 + \pi_{t+1})^{\epsilon-1} \Xi_{t+1}^2, \quad (52)$$

$$\Delta_t = (1 - \theta) (p_t^*)^{-\epsilon} + \theta (1 + \pi_t)^\epsilon \Delta_{t-1}, \quad (53)$$

$$R_t^A = \frac{R_t^k + (1 - \delta) Q_t^K}{Q_{t-1}^K}, \quad (54)$$

$$R_t^k = \alpha X_t Z_t \left[\frac{(1 - \alpha) X_t Z_t}{W_t} \right]^{(1-\alpha)/\alpha}, \quad (55)$$

$$H_t = \left(\frac{(1 - \alpha) Z_t X_t}{W_t} \right)^{1/\alpha} \Omega_{t-1} K_{t-1}. \quad (56)$$

- Banks

$$Q_t^K K_t = \left\{ \phi N_t [1 - F(\omega_t^B)] + \frac{N_t + D_t}{1 - \psi} [F(\omega_t^B) - F(\omega_t^L)] \right\}, \quad (57)$$

$$B_t^{CB} = \left\{ \psi \phi N_t [1 - F(\omega_t^B)] + \frac{\psi}{1 - \psi} (N_t + D_t) [F(\omega_t^B) - F(\omega_t^L)] \right\} \quad (58)$$

$$N_t = \varsigma \left[\begin{array}{l} R_t^A Q_{t-1}^K \Omega_{t-1} K_{t-1} - \frac{R_{t-1}^B}{1 + \pi_t} \Phi_{t-1}^B - \frac{R_{t-1}^{CB}}{1 + \pi_t} B_{t-1}^{CB} + \\ \frac{R_{t-1}^L}{1 + \pi_t} \Phi_{t-1}^L + \frac{R_t^G}{(1 + \pi_t)} B_{t-1}^G - \frac{R_{t-1}^D}{(1 + \pi_t)} D_{t-1} \end{array} \right], \quad (59)$$

$$\omega_t^B = \frac{R_t^B}{R_{t+1}^A (1 + \pi_{t+1})}, \quad (60)$$

$$\omega_t^L = \frac{R_t^L}{R_{t+1}^A (1 + \pi_{t+1})}, \quad (61)$$

$$R_{t+1}^G = R_t^L. \quad (62)$$

$$R_t^D = \frac{[1 - F(\omega_t^B)] R_t^B + F(\omega_t^L) R_t^L + [F(\omega_t^B) - F(\omega_t^L)] R_{t+1}^A (1 + \pi_{t+1}) \mathbb{E}[\omega_t | \omega_t^B > \omega_t > \omega_t^L]}{[1 - F(\omega_t^B)] R_t^B + F(\omega_t^L) R_t^L + [F(\omega_t^B) - F(\omega_t^L)] R_{t+1}^A (1 + \pi_{t+1}) \mathbb{E}[\omega_t | \omega_t^B > \omega_t > \omega_t^L]}. \quad (63)$$

- Interbank market

$$\Phi_t^B = [N_t(\phi(1 - \psi) - 1) - D_t] [1 - F(\omega_t^B)], \quad (64)$$

$$\Phi_t^L = (N_t + D_t) F(\omega_t^L) - B_t^G, \quad (65)$$

$$\Gamma_t^B = \Upsilon\left(\frac{\Phi_t^L}{\Phi_t^B}, 1\right), \quad (66)$$

$$\Gamma_t^L = \Upsilon\left(1, \frac{\Phi_t^B}{\Phi_t^L}\right), \quad (67)$$

$$R_t^B = \varphi_t \Gamma_t^B R_t^{DF} + [1 - \varphi_t \Gamma_t^B] R_t^{LF}, \quad (68)$$

$$R_t^L = (1 - \varphi_t) \Gamma_t^L R_t^{LF} + (1 - (1 - \varphi_t) \Gamma_t^L) R_t^{DF}, \quad (69)$$

$$\varphi_t = \frac{1}{(\Phi_t^B / \Phi_t^L)^\lambda + 1} \quad (70)$$

- Central bank

$$R_t^{LF} = R_t^{DF} + \chi \quad (71)$$

$$R_t^{DF} = \rho(R_{t-1}^{DF}) + (1 - \rho) [\bar{R} + v(\pi_t - \bar{\pi})], \quad (72)$$

$$R_t^{CB} = R_t^{DF} - \chi^{CB} \quad (73)$$

$$R_t^{DC} = R_t^{DF} + \chi^{DC} \quad (74)$$

$$b_t^{G,CB} + B_t^{CB} + \Phi_t^B (1 - \Gamma_t^B) = \Phi_t^L (1 - \Gamma_t^L) + M_t + D_t^{DC}, \quad (75)$$

$$B_t^{G,CB} = \varrho \bar{B}_t, \quad (76)$$

- Government

$$\bar{B}_t = B_t^{G,CB} + B_t^G, \quad (77)$$

$$\bar{B}_t / Y_t = \bar{b}, \quad (78)$$

$$R_t^G = \frac{\zeta + (1 - \zeta) Q_t^G}{Q_{t-1}^G}. \quad (79)$$

- Aggregate constraint

$$\Omega_t \equiv \frac{\phi [1 - F(\omega_t^B)] \mathbb{E}(\omega \mid \omega \geq \omega_t^B) + \frac{N_t + D_t}{(1-\psi)N_t} [F(\omega_t^B) - F(\omega_t^L)] \mathbb{E}(\omega \mid \omega_t^L \leq \omega < \omega_t^B)}{\phi [1 - F(\omega_t^B)] + \frac{N_t + D_t}{(1-\psi)N_t} [F(\omega_t^B) - F(\omega_t^L)]} \quad (80)$$

$$Y_t = C_t + I_t. \quad (81)$$

There are 42 equations and 42 endogenous variables: $Y_t, Q_t^K, I_t, C_t, K_t, N_t, W_t, H_t, \Lambda_{t,t+1}, X_t, \pi_t, p_t^*, \Xi_t^1, \Xi_t^2, \Delta_t, R_t^A, R_t^k, R_t^L, R_t^B, R_t^{DF}, R_t^{LF}, R_t^G, R_t^D, \Gamma_t^B, \Gamma_t^L, \Phi_t^L, \Phi_t^B, \varphi_t, \omega_t^B, \omega_t^L, B_t^{G,CB}, B_t^G, \bar{B}_t, D_t, \Omega_t, Q_t^G, L_t, M_t, D_t^{DC}, R_t^{DC}, \omega_t^{CB}, B_t^{BC}, R_t^{BC}$.

B.2 Steady-state with zero inflation

- Households

$$\begin{aligned} \beta R^D &= 1 - \frac{v'(L)}{u'(C)} \frac{\partial L}{\partial D}, \\ \beta &= 1 - \frac{v'(L)}{u'(C)} \frac{\partial L}{\partial M}, \\ \beta R^{DC} &= 1 - \frac{v'(L)}{u'(C)} \frac{\partial L}{\partial D^{DC}}, \\ \Lambda &= \beta, \\ W &= \frac{g'(H)}{u'(C)}, \\ Q &= 1, \\ I &= K [1 - (1 - \delta) \Omega]. \end{aligned}$$

- Firms

$$\begin{aligned}
Y_t &= (\Omega K)^\alpha H^{1-\alpha}, \\
\Delta &= 1, \\
p^* &= 1, \\
\Xi^1 &= \frac{\epsilon}{(\epsilon-1)(1-\theta\beta)} XY, \\
\Xi^2 &= \frac{Y}{(1-\theta\beta)}, \\
X &= \frac{(\epsilon-1)}{\epsilon}, \\
R^k &= \alpha X Z \left[\frac{(1-\alpha)(\epsilon-1)Z}{W\epsilon} \right]^{(1-\alpha)/\alpha}, \\
R^A &= R^k + (1-\delta), \\
H &= \left(\frac{(1-\alpha)Z(\epsilon-1)}{W\epsilon} \right)^{1/\alpha} \Omega K.
\end{aligned}$$

- Banks

$$\begin{aligned}
K &= \left\{ \phi N [1 - F(\omega^B)] + \frac{N+D}{1-\psi} [F(\omega^B) - F(\omega^L)] \right\}, \\
B^{CB} &= \left\{ \psi \phi N [1 - F(\omega^B)] + \frac{\psi}{1-\psi} (N+D) [F(\omega^B) - F(\omega^L)] \right\} \\
N &= \varsigma \left[\begin{array}{c} R^A \Omega K - R^B \Phi^B - R^{CB} B^{CB} + \\ R^L \Phi^L + R^G B^G - R^D D \end{array} \right], \\
\omega^B &= \frac{R^B}{R^A}, \\
\omega^L &= \frac{R^L}{R^A}, \\
R^G &= R^L, \\
R^D &= \frac{[1 - F(\omega^B)] R^B + F(\omega^L) R^L + [F(\omega^B) - F(\omega^L)] R^A \mathbb{E}[\omega | \omega^B > \omega > \omega^L]}{[F(\omega^B) - F(\omega^L)] R^A \mathbb{E}[\omega | \omega^B > \omega > \omega^L]}.
\end{aligned}$$

- Interbank market

$$\begin{aligned}
\Phi^B &= [N(\phi(1-\psi) - 1) - D](1 - F(\omega^B)), \\
\Phi^L &= (N + D)F(\omega^L) - B^G \\
\Gamma^B &= \Upsilon\left(\frac{\Phi^L}{\Phi^B}, 1\right), \\
\Gamma^L &= \Upsilon\left(1, \frac{\Phi^B}{\Phi^L}\right), \\
R^B &= \bar{R} - \Gamma^B \varphi \chi, \\
R^L &= \bar{R} - (1 - (1 - \varphi)\Gamma^L) \chi, \\
\varphi &= \frac{1}{(\Phi^B/\Phi^L)^\lambda + 1}
\end{aligned}$$

- Central bank

$$\begin{aligned}
R^{LF} &= \bar{R}, \\
R^{DF} &= \bar{R} - \chi, \\
R^{CB} &= R^{DF} - \chi^{CB} \\
R^{DC} &= R^{DF} + \chi^{DC} \\
b^{G,CB} + B^{CB} + \Phi^B(1 - \Gamma^B) &= \Phi^L(1 - \Gamma^L) + M + D^{DC}, \\
B^{G,CB} &= \varrho \bar{B}.
\end{aligned}$$

- Government

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{B} &= B^{G,CB} + B^G, \\
\bar{B}/Y &= \bar{b}, \\
Q^G &= \frac{\zeta}{(R^L + \zeta - 1)}.
\end{aligned}$$

- Aggregate constraint

$$\Omega = \frac{\phi [1 - F(\omega^B)] \mathbb{E}(\omega \mid \omega \geq \omega^B) + \frac{N+D}{N(1-\psi)} [F(\omega^B) - F(\omega^L)] \mathbb{E}(\omega \mid \omega^L \leq \omega < \omega^B)}{\phi [1 - F(\omega^B)] + \frac{N+D}{N(1-\psi)} [F(\omega^B) - F(\omega^L)]},$$

$$Y = C + I.$$