

The Mortgage Credit Channel of Macroeconomic Transmission

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Introduction

- ▶ Mortgage markets are big.
 - US: nearly 70% of household credit, more than half of annual GDP.
- ▶ Empirical research shows strong associations between mortgage credit and macro variables.
- ▶ But still a lot we don't know about core mechanisms connecting mortgage credit, house prices, economic activity:
 - Relationship between interest rates and house prices?
 - Macro impact of mortgage refinancing?
 - Causes of recent boom-bust?
- ▶ Mortgage markets are complex, macro models usually abstract from details.
 - This paper: [institutional features matter for dynamics](#).

Introduction

- ▶ **Main question:** if and how mortgage credit **issuance** amplifies and propagates shocks.
 - **Mortgage credit channel.**
- ▶ **Approach:** General equilibrium framework centered on two important but largely unstudied features of US mortgage markets:
 1. Size of new loans limited by **payment-to-income** (PTI) constraint, alongside loan-to-value (LTV) constraint.
 2. Borrowers hold long-term, fixed-rate loans and can **choose to prepay** existing loans and replace with new ones.

Main Findings

Main Finding #1: When calibrated to US mortgage microdata, novel features amplify transmission from interest rates into debt, house prices, economic activity.

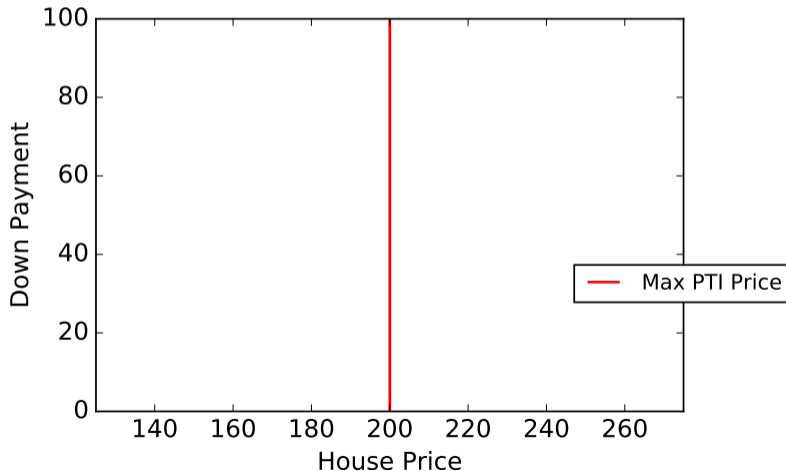
- ▶ Initial source: PTI limits are highly sensitive to nominal interest rates.
 - Change by $\sim 8\%$ in response to 1% change in nominal rates.
- ▶ Key propagation mechanism: changes in which constraint is binding for borrowers move house prices (**constraint switching effect**).
 - Price-rent ratios rise by 3% after persistent 1% fall in nominal rates.

Main Finding #2: PTI liberalization appears essential to boom-bust.

- ▶ Partially sufficient: 35% of observed rise in price-rent ratios, 33% of the rise in debt-household income from PTI relaxation alone.
- ▶ Necessary: other forces (LTV liberalization, house price expectations) dramatically dampened without loose PTI.

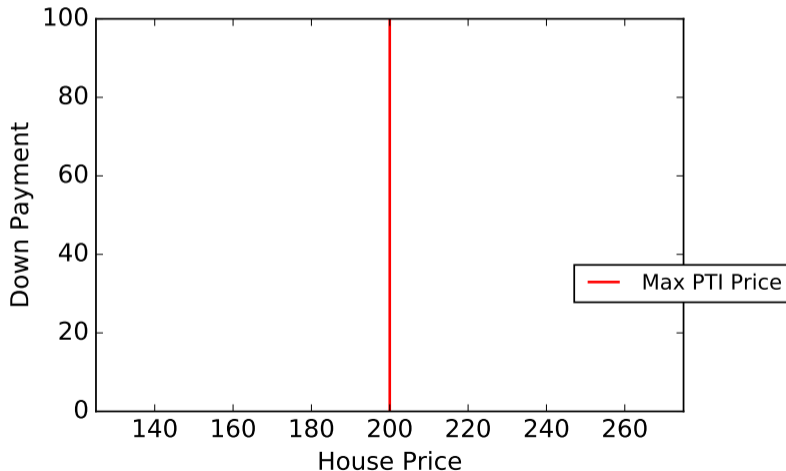
Simple Example

- ▶ Consider homebuyer who wants large house, minimal down payment. Faces PTI limit of 28%, LTV limit of 80%.



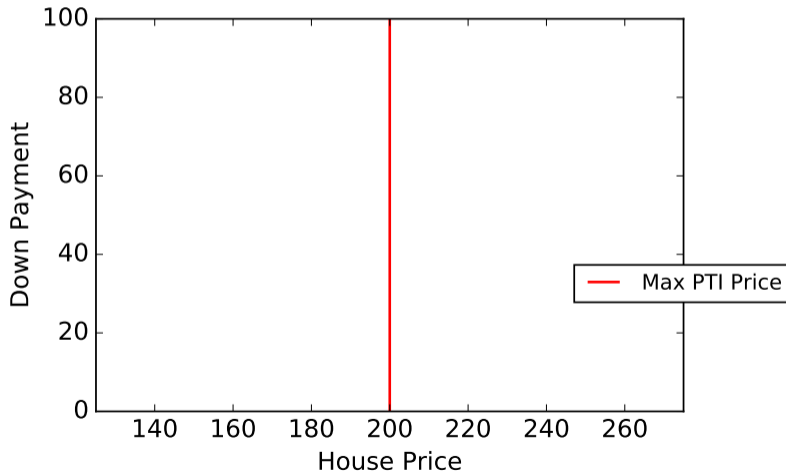
Simple Example

- ▶ At income of \$50k per year, 28% PTI limit \implies max monthly payment of \sim \$1,200.



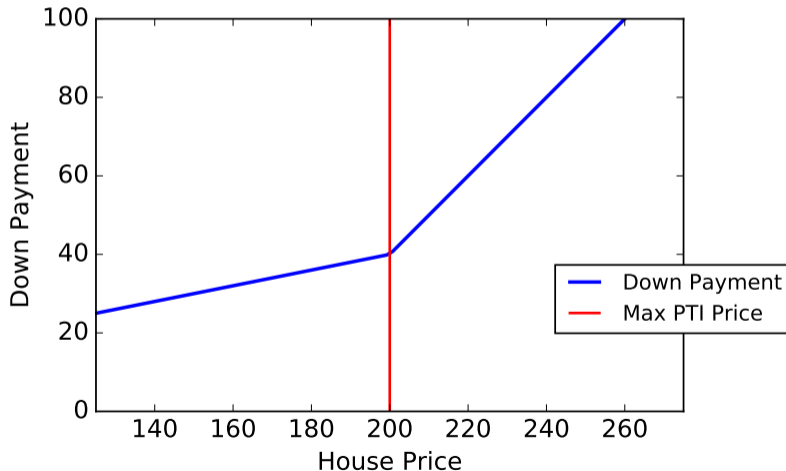
Simple Example

- ▶ At 6% interest rate, \$1,200 payment \implies maximum PTI loan size \$160k. Plus 20% down payment \implies house price of \$200k.



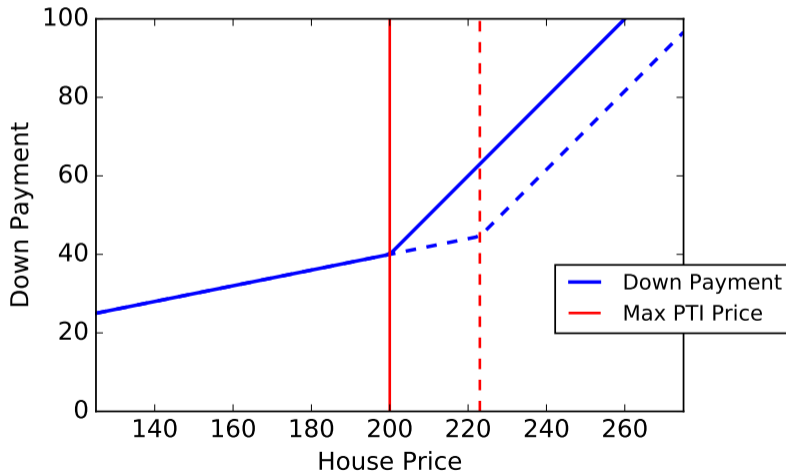
Simple Example

- ▶ Kink in down payment at price \$200k. Below this point size of loan limited by LTV, above by PTI. Kink likely optimum for homebuyers.



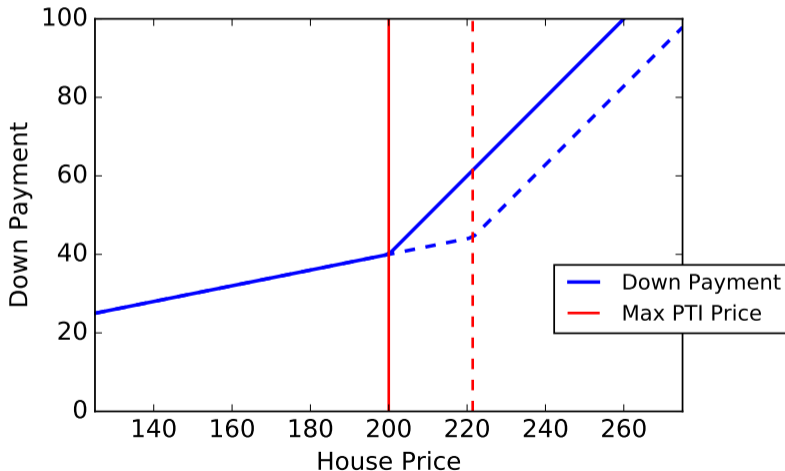
Simple Example

- ▶ Interest rates fall from 6% to 5%. Borrower's max PTI now limits loan to \$178k (rise of 11%). Kink price now \$223k, housing demand increases.



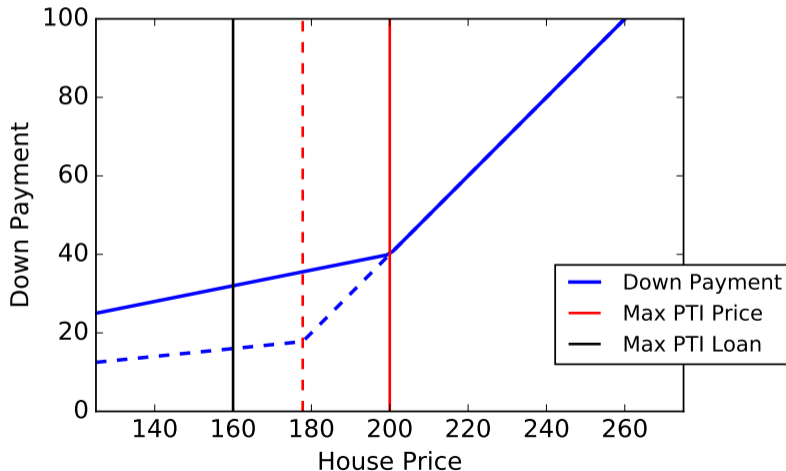
Simple Example

- ▶ Increasing the maximum PTI ratio from 28% to 31% has a similar effect to fall in rates, increases max loan size and corresponding price.



Simple Example

- ▶ In contrast, increasing maximum LTV ratio from 80% to 90% means that \$160k loan associated with only \$178k house. Housing demand **falls**.



Model

Model Overview

- ▶ Borrowing \implies impatient borrowers/patient savers. [▶ Details](#)
 - TANK model with representative agent for each type.
- ▶ Mortgage debt \implies durable housing. [▶ Details](#)
 - Divisible, cannot change stock without prepaying mortgage.
 - Fixed housing stock, saver housing demand, no rental market.
- ▶ Realistic mortgages \implies long-term, fixed-rate, prepayable [▶ Details](#)
 - Endogenous fraction ρ_t prepay, update balance and interest rate.
- ▶ Movements in long rates \implies Taylor rule, shock to inflation target $\bar{\pi}_t$ (nominal), “term premium” shock (real).
 - Any shock to real rates or term premia should activate channel.
- ▶ Effects on real economy \implies labor supply, sticky prices, TFP shocks.

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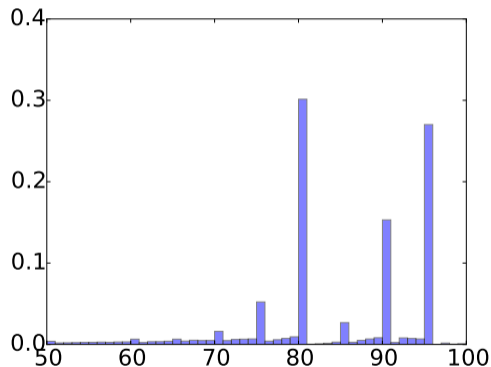
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Credit Limits

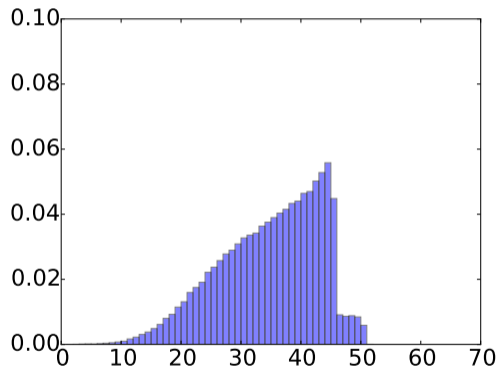
- ▶ Borrowers face two credit limits **at origination only**.
- ▶ **Loan-to-value** constraint: $m_{i,t}^* \leq \theta^{LTV} p_t^h h_{i,t}^*$.
 - Widely studied in the literature.
 - Key property: moves with house prices.
 - $\bar{m}_{i,t}^{LTV} \equiv \theta^{LTV} p_t^h h_{i,t}^*$.
- ▶ **Payment-to-income** constraint: $(q_t^* + \alpha) m_{i,t}^* \leq (\theta^{PTI} - \omega) \cdot \text{income}_{i,t}$.
 - Real constraint affecting all US borrowers, largely unstudied in macro.
 - Key property: moves with interest rates (elasticity $\simeq 8$).
 - $\bar{m}_{i,t}^{PTI} \equiv (\theta^{PTI} - \omega) \cdot \text{income}_{i,t} / (q_t^* + \alpha)$.
- ▶ Overall limit: $m_{i,t}^* \leq \min \left(\bar{m}_{i,t}^{LTV}, \bar{m}_{i,t}^{PTI} \right)$.

LTV and PTI in the Data

- ▶ LTV limits show up as large single-bin spikes at various institutional limits.



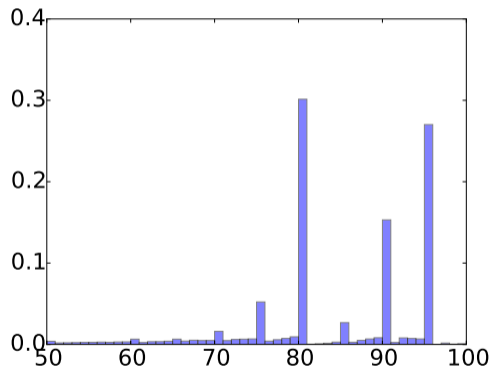
(a) CLTV Histogram: 2014 Q3



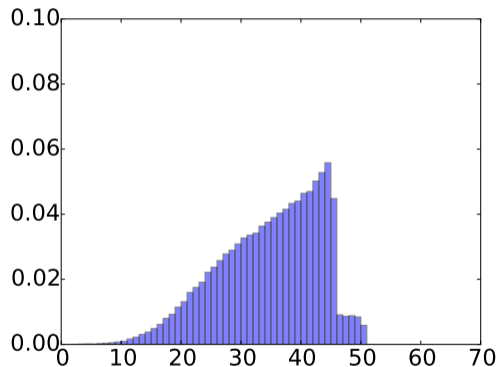
(b) PTI Histogram: 2014 Q3

LTV and PTI in the Data

- ▶ PTI ratios instead look like truncated distribution. Are borrowers constrained?



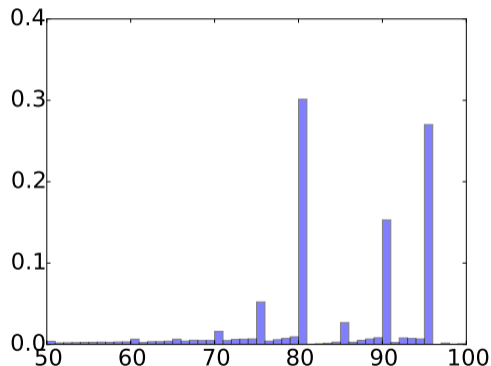
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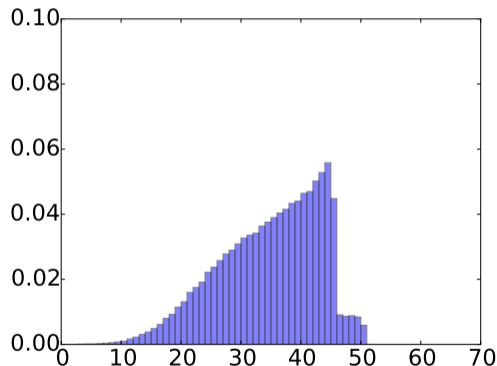
(b) PTI Histogram: 2014 Q3

LTV and PTI in the Data

- Interpretation: some borrowers search for a house that exactly satisfies both limits, but may end up with one a little smaller. Then max out LTV.



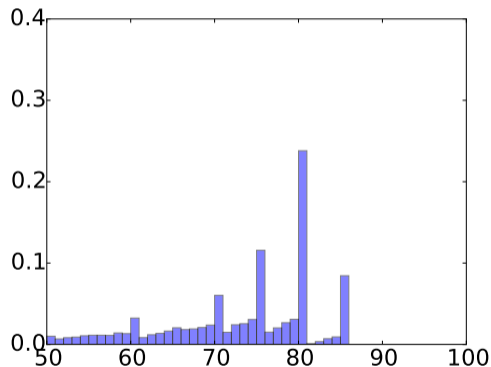
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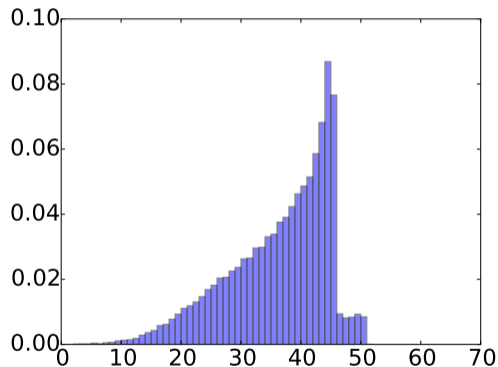
(b) PTI Histogram: 2014 Q3

LTV and PTI in the Data

- ▶ Support for theory: PTI bunching larger in cash-out refinances, where no housing search occurs (even though LTVs lower).



(a) CLTV Histogram: 2014 Q3



(b) PTI Histogram: 2014 Q3

Representative Borrower's Housing Decision

- ▶ Housing optimality condition, **unconstrained or no LTV**:

$$p_t^h = \frac{u_{b,t}^h / u_{b,t}^c + \mathbb{E}_t \left\{ \Lambda_{b,t+1} p_{t+1}^h \left[1 - \delta \right] \right\}}{1}$$

- ▶ $\Lambda_{b,t+1}$ is borrower stochastic discount factor, μ_t is multiplier on credit constraint.
- ▶ C_t (“collateral value”) is marginal value of relaxing constraint via extra \$1 of house value:

$$C_t \equiv \mu_t F_t^{LTV} \theta^{LTV}$$

where F_t^{LTV} is fraction constrained by LTV.

- ▶ Note: p_t^h is the price of housing used to collateralize a new loan.

Representative Borrower's Housing Decision

- ▶ Housing optimality condition, $\rho_{t+1} = 1$ (one-period debt), LTV only:

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Representative Borrower's Housing Decision

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Representative Borrower's Housing Decision

- ▶ Housing optimality condition, **Benchmark model**:

$$p_t^h = \frac{u_{b,t}^h / u_{b,t}^c + \mathbb{E}_t \left\{ \Lambda_{b,t+1} p_{t+1}^h \left[1 - \delta - (1 - \rho_{t+1}) C_{t+1} \right] \right\}}{1 - C_t}$$

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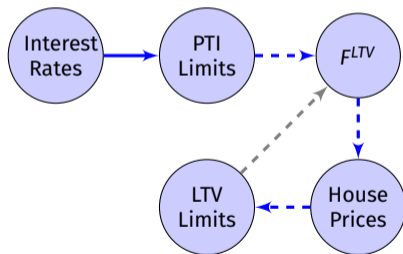
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Constraint Switching Effect

- ▶ When rates fall, PTI limits loosen.
- ▶ Borrowers switch from PTI- to LTV-constrained, increasing F_t^{LTV} .
- ▶ House prices rise, also loosening LTV limits.

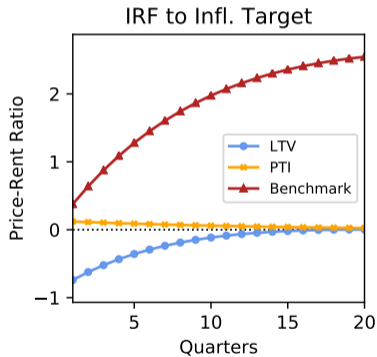
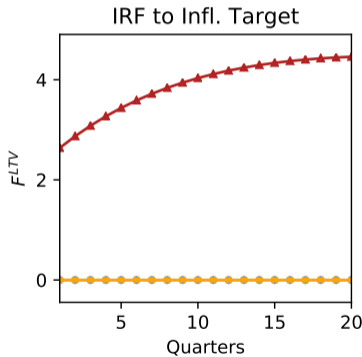
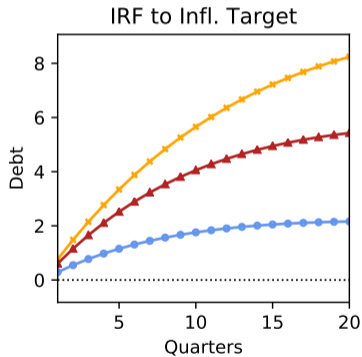


Comparison of Models

- ▶ **Main Result #1:** Strong transmission from interest rates into debt, house prices, economic activity.
- ▶ **Experiment:** compare propagation of shocks in economies that differ by credit limit:
 1. **LTV Economy:** LTV constraint only.
 2. **PTI Economy:** PTI constraint only.
 3. **Benchmark Economy:** Both constraints, applied borrower by borrower.
- ▶ **Computation:** Linearize model to obtain impulse responses.

Constraint Switching Effect (Inflation Target Shock)

- ▶ IRF to near-permanent -1% (annualized) fall in nominal rates.



▶ More Series

▶ Exog. Prepay Version

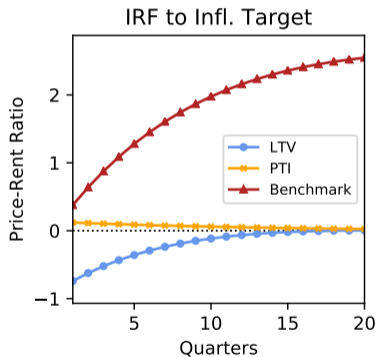
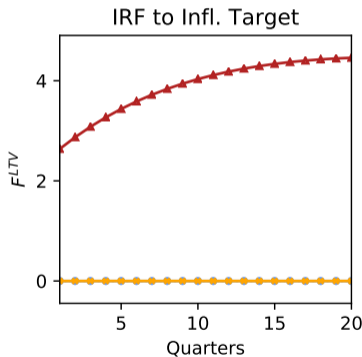
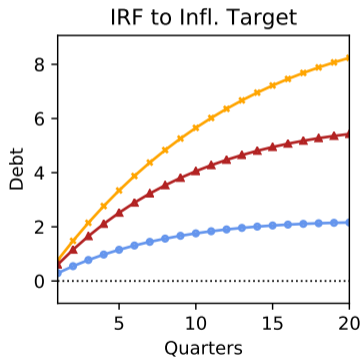
▶ TFP IRFs

▶ Credit Standards IRFs

▶ 43% PTI

Constraint Switching Effect (Inflation Target Shock)

- ▶ Debt response of Benchmark Economy closer to PTI Economy even though most borrowers constrained by LTV (73% in steady state).



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Credit Standards and the Boom-Bust

▶ **Main Result #2:** PTI liberalization essential to the boom-bust.

- So far, have been treating maximum ratios θ^{LTV} , θ^{PTI} as fixed, but credit standards can change.
- Fannie/Freddie origination data: substantial increase in PTI ratios in boom.

▶ Fannie Mae Docs

▶ News Article

▶ Time Series

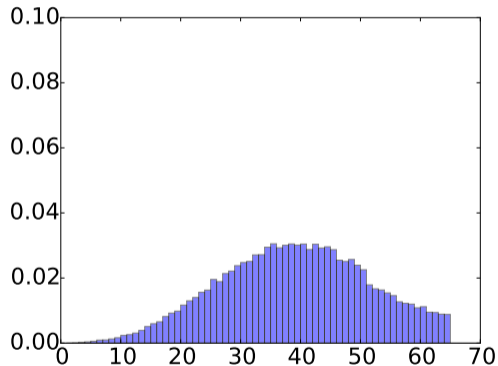
▶ **Experiment:** unexpectedly change parameters, unexpectedly return to baseline 36Q later (1998 Q1 - 2007 Q1).

1. **PTI Liberalization:** θ^{PTI} from 0.36 \rightarrow 0.54.
2. **LTV Liberalization:** θ^{LTV} from 0.85 \rightarrow 0.99.

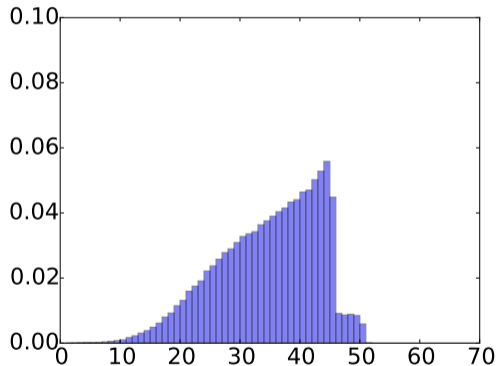
▶ Computation: nonlinear transition paths.

Credit Standards and the Boom-Bust

- ▶ Fannie Mae data: PTI constraints appear to bind after bust but not during boom.



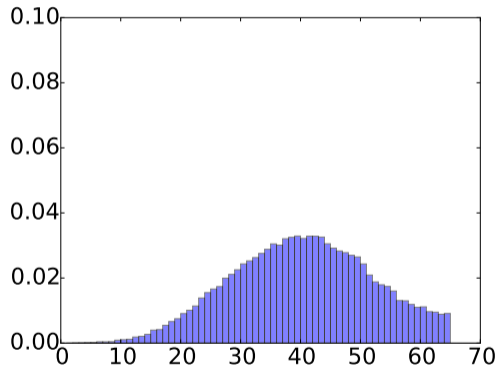
(a) PTI Histogram: 2006 Q1



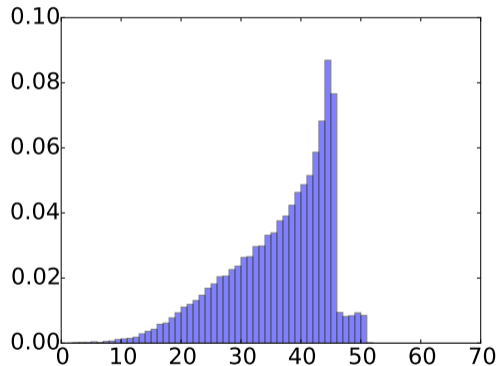
(b) PTI Histogram: 2014 Q3

Credit Standards and the Boom-Bust

- ▶ Cash-out refi plots even more striking.



(a) PTI Histogram: 2006 Q1



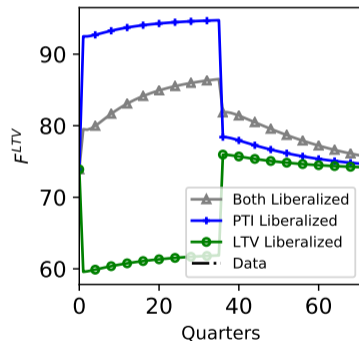
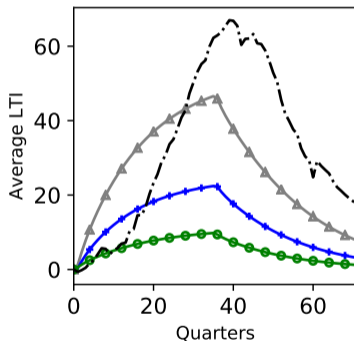
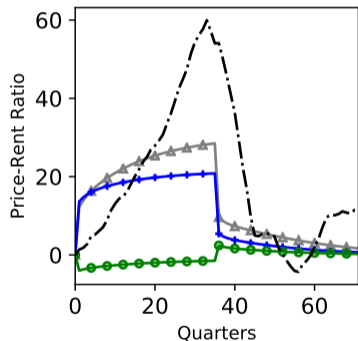
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 - Fannie/Freddie origination data: substantial increase in PTI ratios in boom. [▶ Time Series](#)
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- ▶ Experiment: unexpectedly change parameters, unexpectedly return to baseline 36Q later.
 1. **PTI Liberalization:** θ^{PTI} from 0.36 \rightarrow 0.58.
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- ▶ Computation: nonlinear transition paths.

Credit Liberalization Experiment

- ▶ LTV liberalization generates small rise in debt-to-household income (10% of observed).
Price-rent ratios **fall** (-1% of observed).



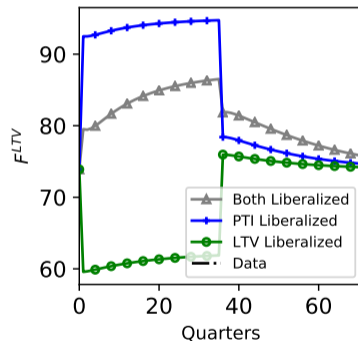
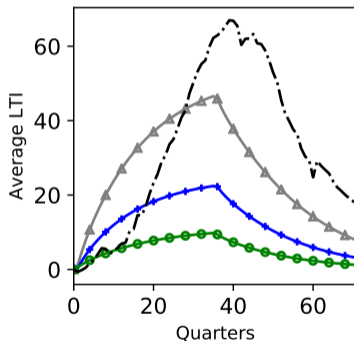
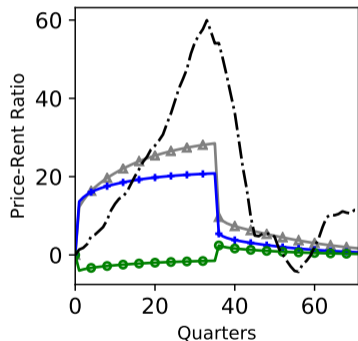
▶ More Series

▶ LTV Intuition

▶ PTI Intuition

Credit Liberalization Experiment

- ▶ PTI liberalization generates large boom in price-rent ratios (35% of observed), debt-household income (33% of observed).



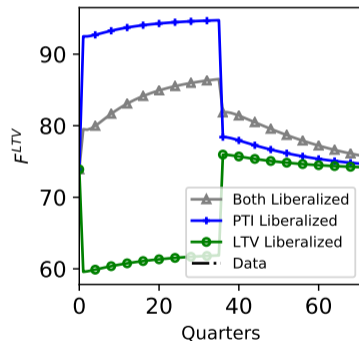
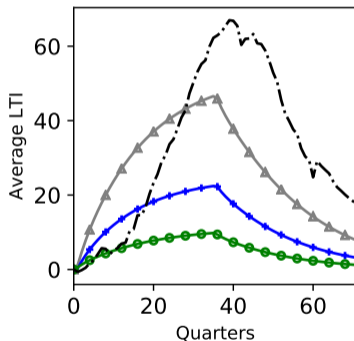
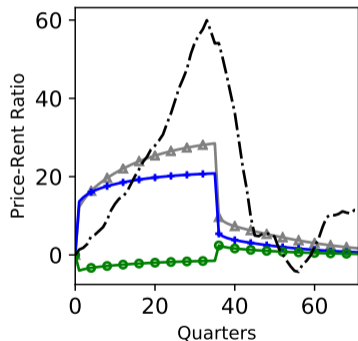
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Credit Liberalization Experiment

- ▶ Liberalizing both shows that loose PTI amplifies LTV, but increases debt much more than prices.



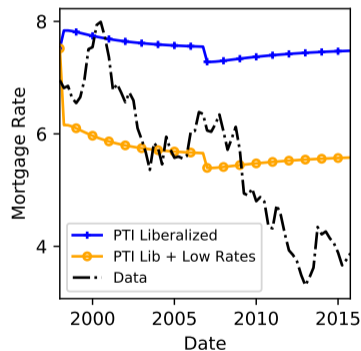
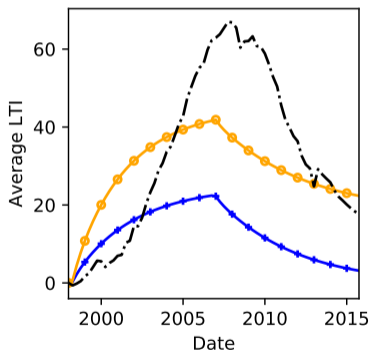
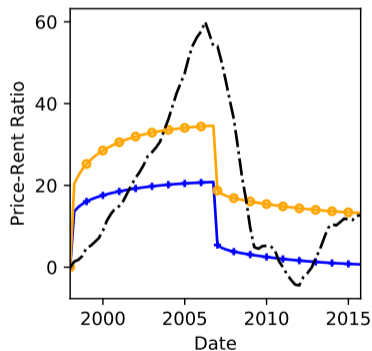
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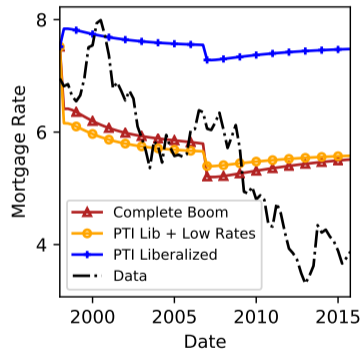
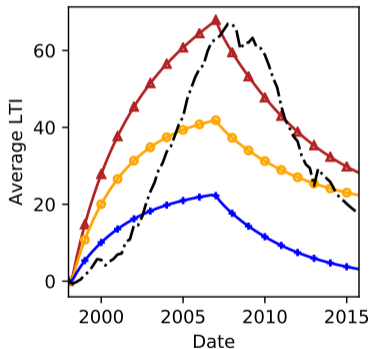
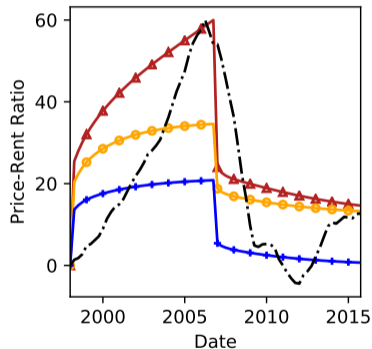
Explaining the Boom

- ▶ Add observed drop in mortgage rates: 0.82% fall in expected inflation, 1.08% fall in real rates. Captures 58% of price-rent, 62% of LTI increases.



Explaining the Boom

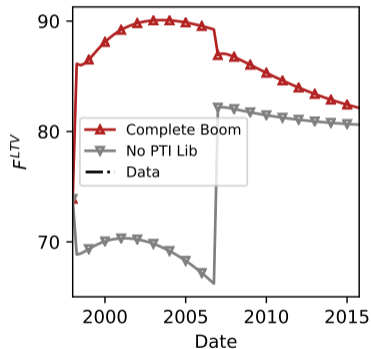
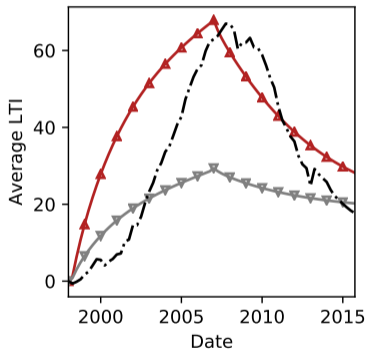
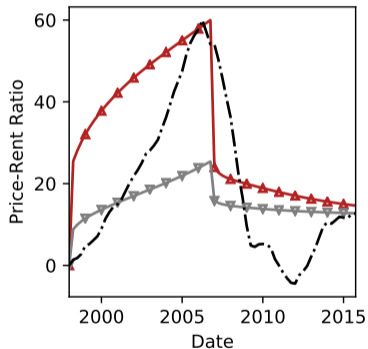
- ▶ Overoptimistic HP beliefs (anticipated 24% increase in utility) small increase in LTV limit (85% → 88%) can explain remaining share.



▶ More Series

Macroprudential Policy

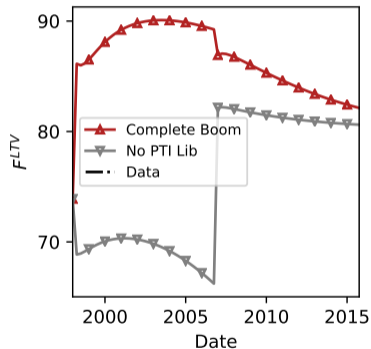
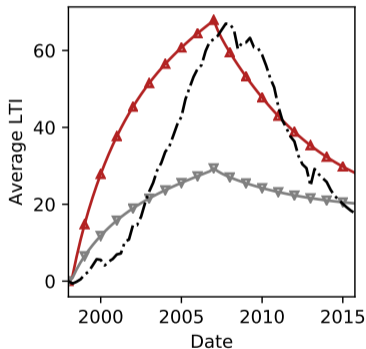
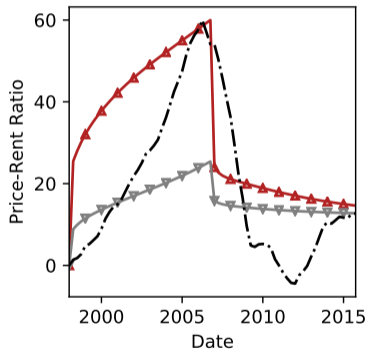
- ▶ But without PTI liberalization, other forces severely diminished, explain only 58% of price-rent, 52% of debt-income \implies **necessary condition**.



▶ More Series

Macroprudential Policy

- Implication: PTI limit, not LTV limit, more effective **macroprudential policy** for limiting boom-bust cycles.



► More Series

Conclusion

- ▶ Macro model with two novel features:
 - Payment-to-income constraint.
 - Endogenous prepayment of long-term debt.
- ▶ Novel transmission channel from interest rates into credit, house prices, economic activity.
 - Credit, house prices through constraint switching effect.
 - Output through frontloading effect ([see paper](#)).
 - Monetary policy more effective, but may pose tradeoff ([see paper](#)).
- ▶ PTI liberalization appears essential to boom-bust.
 - Necessary and partially sufficient.
 - Cap on PTI ratios, not LTV ratios more effective macroprudential policy.

APPENDIX

Representative Borrower's Problem

- ▶ State variables: principal balance m_{t-1} , mortgage payment x_{t-1} , housing stock $h_{b,t-1}$.
- ▶ Control variables: nondurable consumption $c_{b,t}$, labor supply $n_{b,t}$, prepayment rate ρ_t , size of new houses $h_{b,t}^*$, size of new loans m_t^* .
- ▶ Budget constraint:

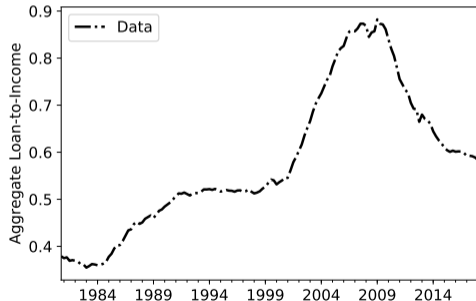
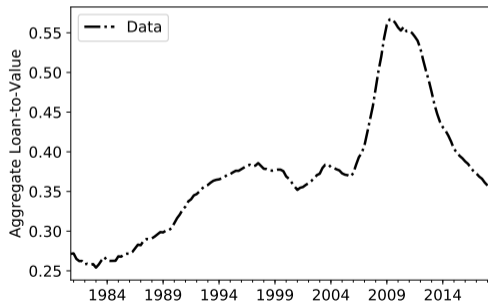
$$\begin{aligned}
 c_{b,t} \leq & \underbrace{\rho_t(m_t^* - (1 - \nu)\pi_t^{-1}m_{t-1})}_{\text{new issuance}} - \underbrace{(\pi_t^{-1}x_{t-1} - \tau\pi_t^{-1}(x_{t-1} - \nu m_{t-1}))}_{\text{mortgage payment}} \\
 & + \underbrace{(1 - \tau)w_t n_{b,t}}_{\text{labor income}} - \underbrace{\delta p_t^h h_{b,t-1}}_{\text{maintenance}} - \underbrace{\rho_t p_t^h (h_{b,t}^* - h_{b,t-1})}_{\text{net housing purchases}} \\
 & - \underbrace{(\text{Cost}(\rho_t) - \text{Rebate}_t) m_t^*}_{\text{transaction costs}} + T_{b,t}
 \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Credit constraint:

$$m_t^* \leq \int \min(\bar{m}_{i,t}^{LTV}, \bar{m}_{i,t}^{PTI}) d\Gamma_e(e_i)$$

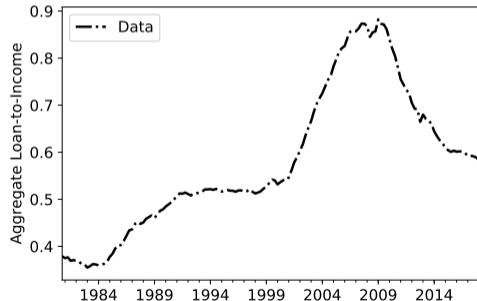
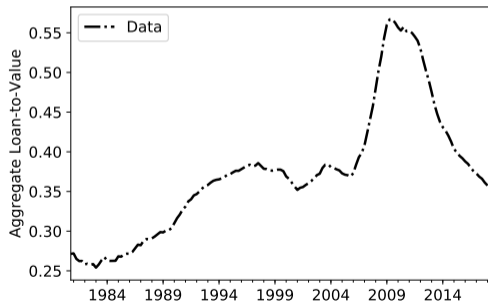
Matching Debt Dynamics

- ▶ Calibrate transaction cost distribution (average prepayment rate and sensitivity to macro conditions) to match debt dynamics.
- ▶ These dynamics cannot be matched by existing models.
- ▶ $ITV_t = (\text{total debt}) / (\text{total value})$. $ITL_t = (\text{total debt}) / (\text{total disp. inc.})$



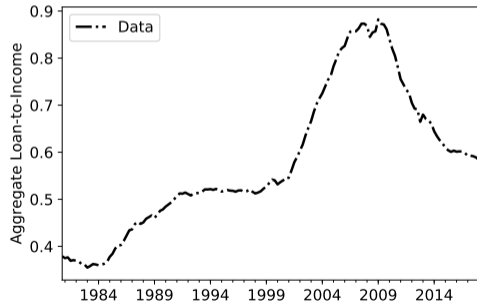
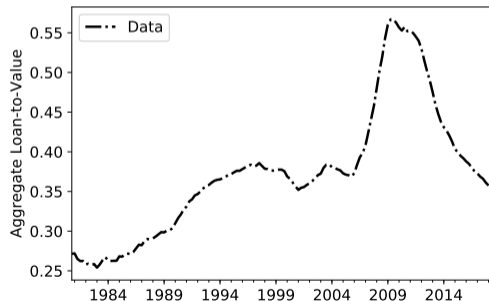
Matching Debt Dynamics

- ▶ General specification: $LTV_t = \rho_t LTV_t^* + (1 - \rho_t)(1 - \nu_t)G_t^{-1}LTV_{t-1}$
- ▶ ν_t is amortization, G_t is house value growth.
- ▶ Most macro-housing models have a law of motion of this form, specifying ρ_t and LTV_t^* .



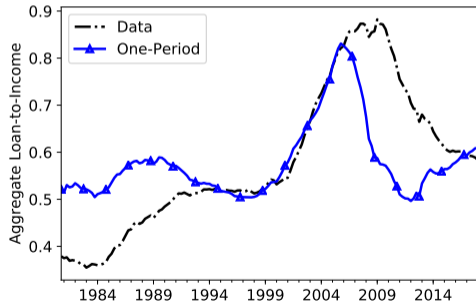
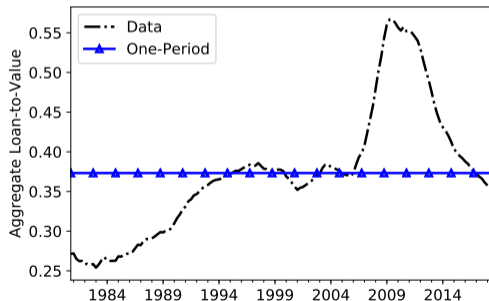
Matching Debt Dynamics

- ▶ General specification: $LTV_t = \rho_t LTV_t^* + (1 - \rho_t)(1 - \nu_t)G_t^{-1}LTV_{t-1}$
- ▶ ν_t is amortization, G_t is house value growth.
- ▶ Exercise: feed in *true* path of G_t , compare implied \widehat{LTV}_t and \widehat{LTI}_t .



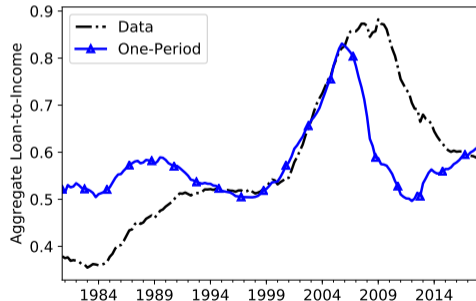
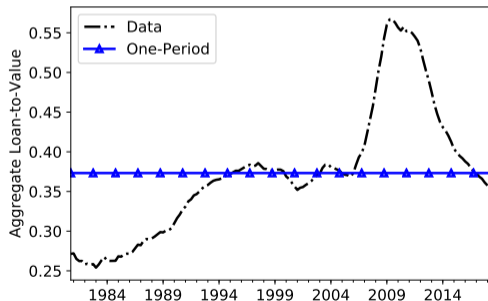
Traditional Models

- ▶ General specification: $LTV_t = \rho_t LTV_t^* + (1 - \rho_t)(1 - \nu_t)G_t^{-1}LTV_{t-1}$
- ▶ Most traditional is one-period debt: $\rho_t = 1, LTV_t^* = \overline{LTV}^*$.
- ▶ Fit \overline{LTV}^* to minimize $\|LTV_t - \widehat{LTV}_t\|$.



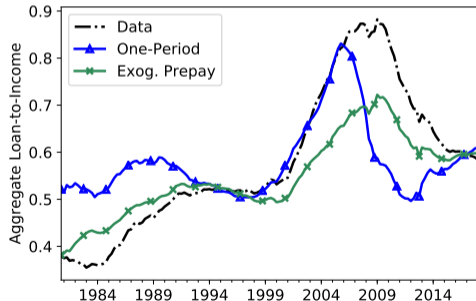
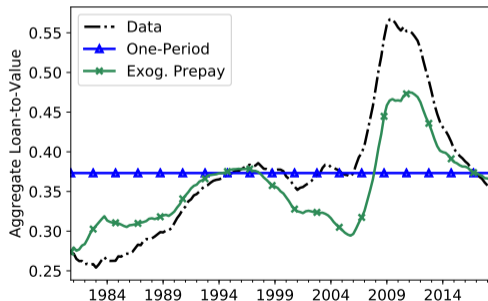
Traditional Models

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- ▶ Most traditional is one-period debt: $\rho_t = 1, LTV_t^* = \overline{LTV}^*$.
- ▶ Fits reasonably well during boom (high turnover), but deleveraging too fast in bust, pre-boom leverage too high



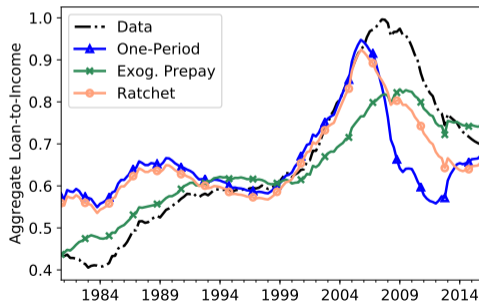
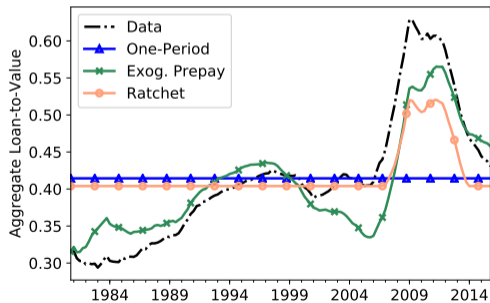
Traditional Models

- ▶ General specification: $LTV_t = \rho_t LTV_t^* + (1 - \rho_t)(1 - \nu_t)G_t^{-1}LTV_{t-1}$
- ▶ Constant prepayment: $\rho_t = \bar{\rho}$, $LTV_t^* = \overline{LTV}^*$. Choose $\bar{\rho}$ for best fit.
- ▶ Performs better during pre-boom period, but seriously understates debt accumulation in boom



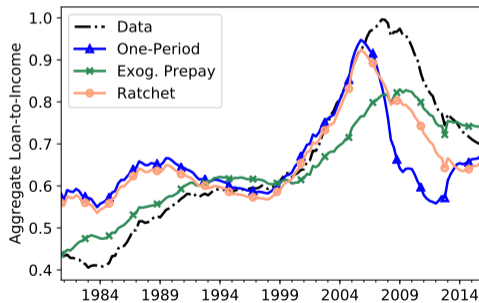
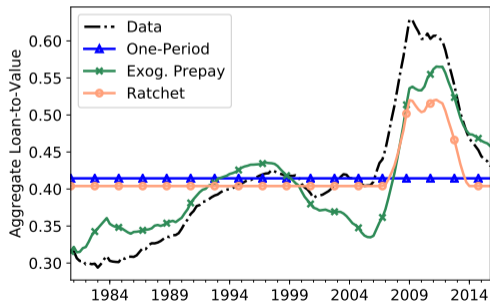
Traditional Models

- ▶ General specification: $LTV_t = \rho_t LTV_t^* + (1 - \rho_t)(1 - \nu_t)G_t^{-1}LTV_{t-1}$
- ▶ “Ratchet”: $\rho_t = 1$ if $\overline{LTV}^* > (1 - \nu_t)G_t^{-1}LTV_{t-1}$, otherwise $\rho_t = 0$.
- ▶ Fit \overline{LTV}^* to match data from 1998 on.



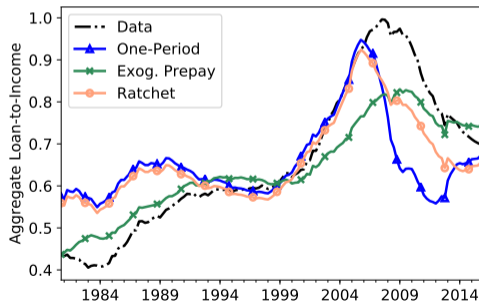
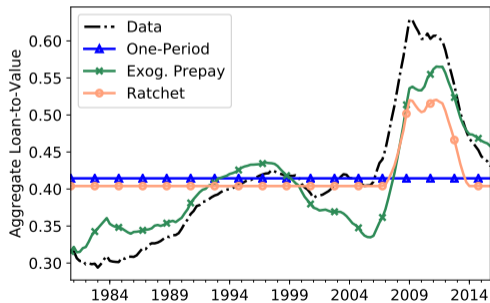
Traditional Models

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- ▶ “Ratchet”: $\rho_t = 1$ if $\overline{LTV}^* > (1 - \nu_t)G_t^{-1}LTV_{t-1}$, otherwise $\rho_t = 0$.
- ▶ Performs reasonably during boom-bust, but says nothing about pre-period.



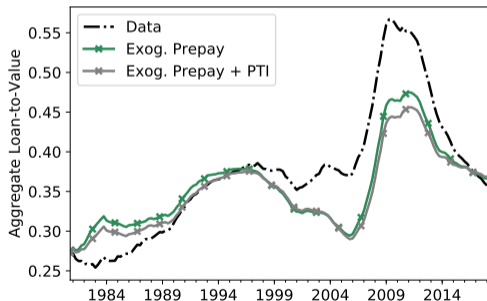
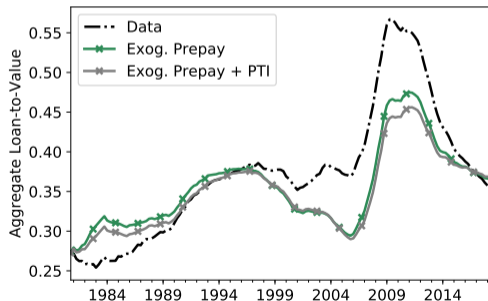
Traditional Models

- ▶ General specification: $LTV_t = \rho_t LTV_t^* + (1 - \rho_t)(1 - \nu_t)G_t^{-1}LTV_{t-1}$
- ▶ “Ratchet”: $\rho_t = 1$ if $\overline{LTV}^* > (1 - \nu_t)G_t^{-1}LTV_{t-1}$, otherwise $\rho_t = 0$.
- ▶ Overall, existing models cannot reproduce leverage dynamics.



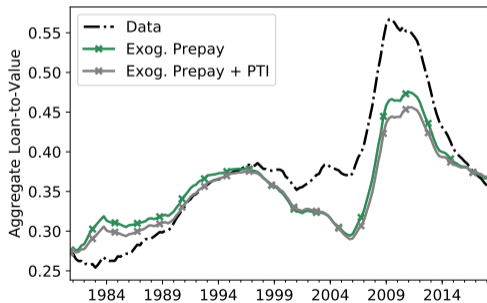
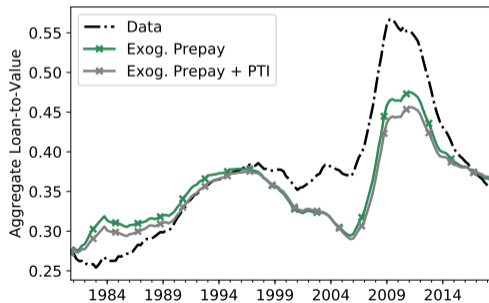
Adding PTI Limits

- ▶ General specification: $LTV_t = \rho_t LTV_t^* + (1 - \rho_t)(1 - \nu_t)G_t^{-1}LTV_{t-1}$
- ▶ This paper introduces PTI limits and endogenous prepayment.
- ▶ Start by imposing PTI limit as in model to create endogenous LTV_t^* .



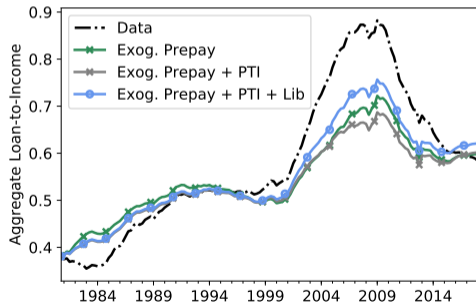
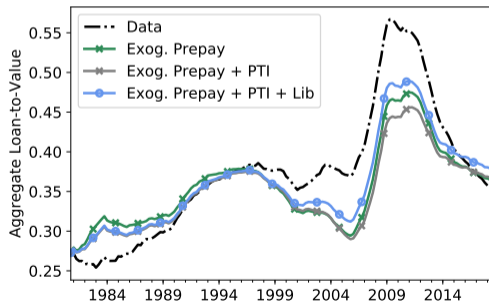
Adding PTI Limits

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- ▶ This paper introduces PTI limits and endogenous prepayment.
- ▶ Fit actually becomes *worse*. PTI limit implies tight constraint in boom that doesn't match the data.



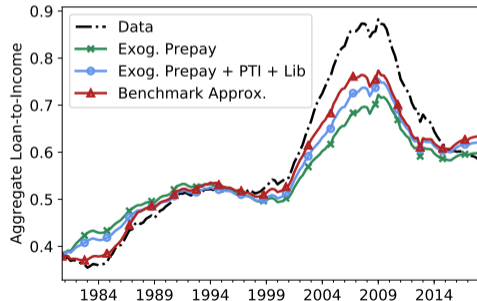
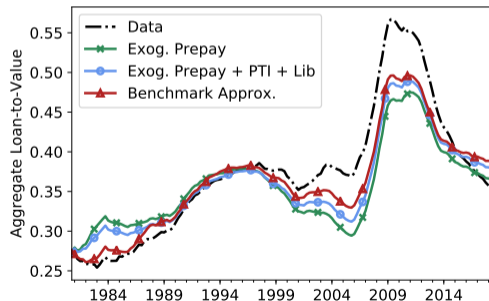
Adding PTI Limits

- ▶ General specification: $LTV_t = \rho_t LTV_t^* + (1 - \rho_t)(1 - \nu_t)G_t^{-1}LTV_{t-1}$
- ▶ Incorporating observed relaxation of PTI limits in boom improves fit, generating much larger debt boom.



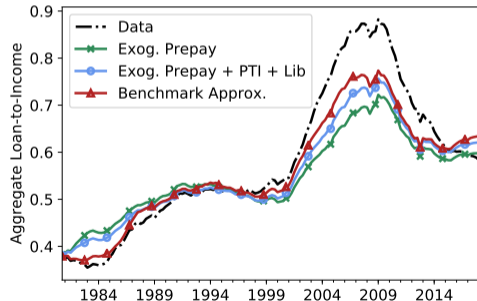
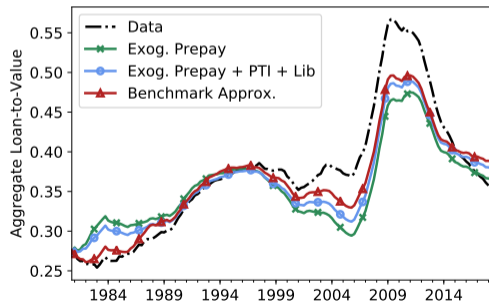
Full Benchmark

- ▶ General specification: $LTV_t = \rho_t LTV_t^* + (1 - \rho_t)(1 - \nu_t)G_t^{-1}LTV_{t-1}$
- ▶ Finally, incorporate (approximately) endogenous prepayment, fit transaction cost parameters $(\mu_{\kappa}, \sigma_{\kappa})$.
- ▶ Improved empirical fit matches boom (high ρ_t), early 1980s (low ρ_t).



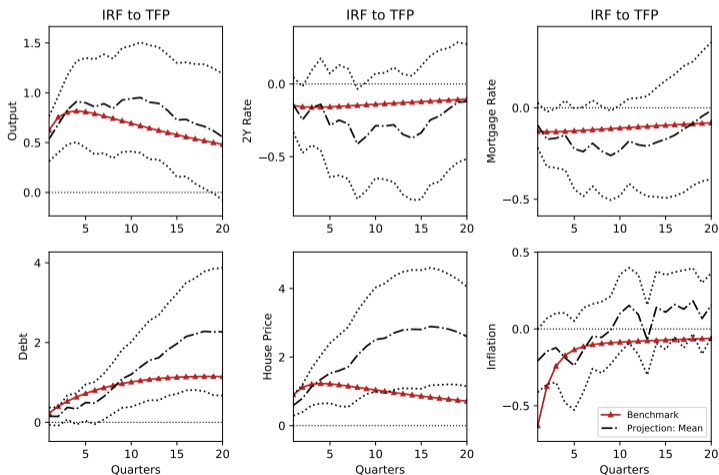
Full Benchmark

- ▶ General specification: $LTV_t = \rho_t LTV_t^* + (1 - \rho_t)(1 - \nu_t)G_t^{-1}LTV_{t-1}$
- ▶ Finally, incorporate endogenous prepayment.
- ▶ Use these transaction cost parameters so model inherits empirical performance.



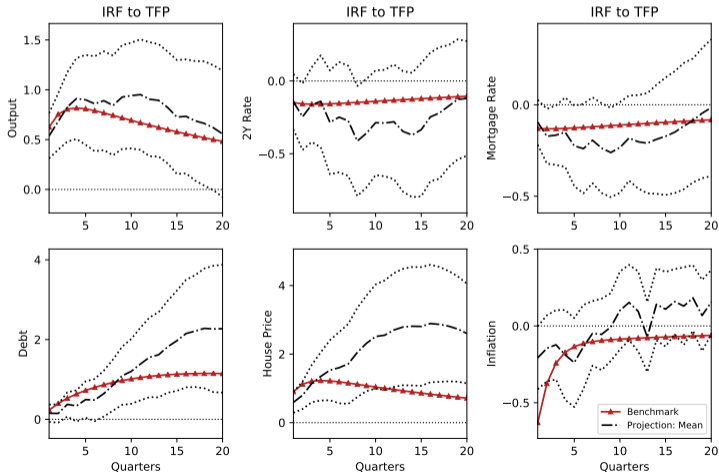
Model vs. Local Projections

- ▶ Compare TFP shocks in model and data (local projections).



▶ Back

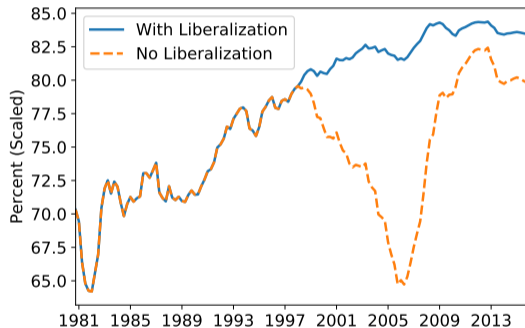
Model vs. Local Projections



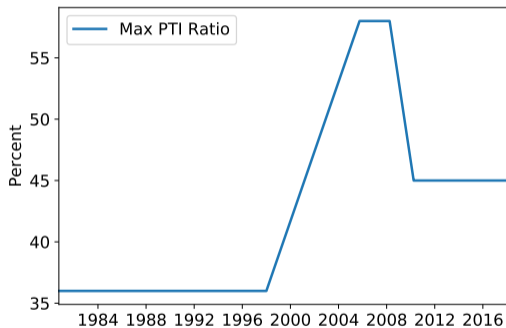
▶ Back

Adding PTI Limits

- ▶ Without PTI liberalization, deep tightening of LTV_t^* in boom.



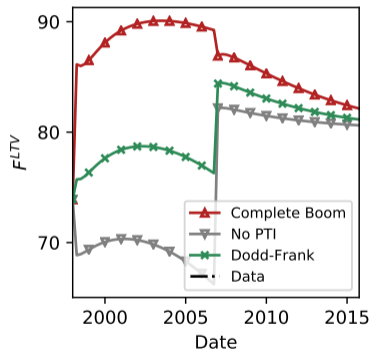
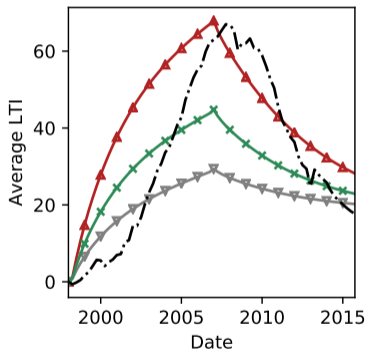
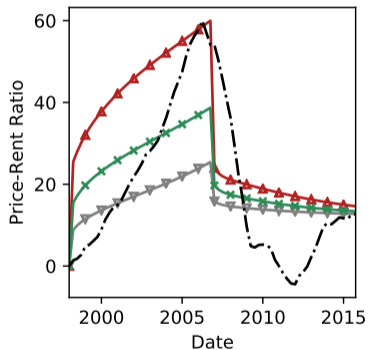
(a) Implied LTV_t^* (Scaled)



(b) θ_t^{LTV} : Liberalization

Macroprudential Policy

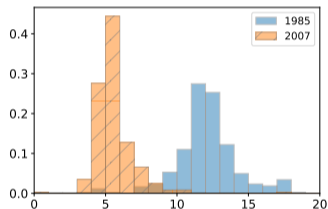
- ▶ Liberalizing PTI only to Dodd-Frank limit of (36% → 43%) would have made a big difference (down to 75% of price-rent, 72% of debt-income).



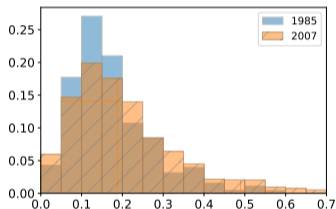
▶ More Series

Historical Ratios (AHS)

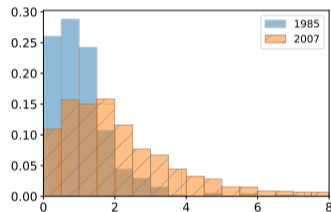
► Cross-section of recent mortgages (3 Years). [► Back](#)



(a) Interest Rates



(b) PTI Ratios



(c) LTI Ratios

Demographics and Preferences

- ▶ Two types of infinitely lived agents:
 - ▶ Family of **borrowers** (b) with measure χ_b .
 - ▶ Family of **savers** (s) with measure $\chi_s = 1 - \chi_b$.
- ▶ Both types provide labor: $n_t = n_{b,t} + n_{s,t}$, taxed at rate τ .
- ▶ Complete set of contracts over consumption and housing services traded **within** each family, but **not across** families.
- ▶ Separable, expected utility preferences over consumption, housing services, and labor supply (for $j \in \{b, s\}$):

$$V_{j,t} = \log(c_{j,t}/\chi_j) + \xi \log(h_{j,t}/\chi_j) - \eta \frac{(n_{j,t}/\chi_j)^{1+\varphi}}{1+\varphi} + \beta_j \mathbb{E}_t V_{j,t+1}$$

- ▶ Borrowers are more impatient than savers: $\beta_b < \beta_s$.
 - Motivation to borrow.

Asset Technology

Housing:

- ▶ Divisible, owned by both types, requires maintenance cost.
- ▶ Cannot change housing stock without prepaying mortgage.
- ▶ Fixed housing stock \bar{H} , saver demand \bar{H}_s .
 - Total collateral value, not price, crucial to constraints.
 - Price effects are upper bound.

One-Period Bonds

- ▶ Nominal risk-free bond in zero net supply with rate R_t .
- ▶ No short positions/borrowing in one-period bond \implies traded by savers only in equilibrium.

▶ Back

Asset Technology

Mortgages:

- ▶ Only source of borrowing in the economy.
- ▶ Long-term nominal bonds with fixed interest rates.
 - See paper for adjustable-rate version.
- ▶ Originated with principal balance m_t^* , borrower repays fraction ν of principal each period.
- ▶ Contract specifies fixed coupon rate q_t^* (interest + principal), saver receives

$$$(1 - \nu)^k(1 - \tau_{q,t})q_t^*m_t^*$$$

at all $t + k$ until prepayment.

- ▶ $\tau_{q,t}$ is a “tax” on all mortgage payments from a given vintage of loan.
 - Cheap way of introducing shocks to term premium.
- ▶ Borrower pays $$(1 - \nu)^k q_t^* m_t^*$, which is tax deductible.$

Idiosyncratic Heterogeneity

1. **Income shocks:** An endogenous fraction of borrowers (those with low enough income draws) are constrained by PTI, the rest by LTV.
 - Equivalent to any shock that creates dispersion in house value-to-income ratio. [▶ Details](#)
[▶ PTI by Income](#)
 - Effect: smooth out constraint, dampen mechanism.
2. **Prepayment cost shocks:** An endogenous fraction of borrowers (those with low enough costs) prepay their loans.
 - Simplifying assumption: borrower must choose whether to prepay based only on aggregate state. [▶ Details](#) [▶ Redistribution Effects](#)
 - Can still respond to: average existing rate vs. new rate, total extractable equity, forward looking expectations.

Income Shocks

- ▶ Want heterogeneity so that endogenous fraction are constrained by PTI.
- ▶ Idiosyncratic labor efficiency shocks $e_{i,t} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \Gamma_e$, so individual borrower's income is

$$\text{income}_{i,t} = w_t n_{b,t} e_{i,t}.$$

- ▶ Shocks affect only credit limits, not consumption or labor supply (due to insurance, timing).
 - Equivalent to any shock causing variation in house price/income ratios.
- ▶ PTI binds for

$$e_{i,t} \leq \bar{e}_t \equiv \frac{\theta^{ltv} p_t^h h_t}{(\theta^{pti} - \omega) w_t n_{b,t} / (q_t^* + \alpha)}.$$

- ▶ Fraction constrained by LTV:

$$F_t^{ltv} = 1 - \Gamma_e(\bar{e}_t).$$

Income Shocks

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- ▶ Fraction constrained by LTV:

$$F_t^{ltv} = 1 - \Gamma_e(\bar{e}_t).$$

Monetary Policy

- ▶ Monetary policy follows a Taylor rule with time-varying inflation target.

$$\begin{aligned}\log R_t = & \log \bar{\pi}_t + \phi_r(\log R_{t-1} - \log \bar{\pi}_{t-1}) \\ & + (1 - \phi_r) \left[\log \bar{R}^{real} + \psi_\pi(\log \pi_t - \log \bar{\pi}_t) \right]\end{aligned}$$

for

$$\log \bar{\pi}_t = (1 - \phi_{\bar{\pi}}) \log \pi^{ss} + \phi_{\bar{\pi}} \log \bar{\pi}_{t-1} + \varepsilon_{\bar{\pi},t}.$$

- ▶ Why consider near-permanent policy shocks?
 - “Level factor” shocks needed to move long-term nominal rates.
 - But movements in term premia would also be amplified.
 - With ARMs, amplification of transitory monetary policy shocks.

Productive Technology

- ▶ Embed in simple New Keynesian environment (e.g., Gali (2008)).
- ▶ Intermediate goods producers operate the linear production function

$$y_t(i) = a_t n_t(i)$$

where a_t is productivity, and $n_t(i)$ are labor hours.

- ▶ TFP process a_t :

$$\log a_{t+1} = \phi_a \log a_t + \varepsilon_{a,t+1}.$$

- ▶ Monopolistic intermediate producers with Calvo price rigidity (can't reset price with probability ζ_p). [▶ Details](#)

Calibration: Key Parameters

Parameter	Name	Value	Internal	Target/Source
<i>Demographics and Preferences</i>				
Fraction of borrowers	χ_b	0.35	N	SCF
Income dispersion	σ_e	0.411	N	Fannie Mae
Borr. discount factor	β_b	0.95	N	Standard
Saver discount factor	β_s	0.993	Y	Real rate = 3% (ann.)
Borr. housing preference	ξ	0.292	Y	SCF
<i>Housing and Mortgages</i>				
Mortgage amortization	ν	1/120	N	30-year duration
Max PTI ratio	θ^{pti}	0.36	N	See text
Max LTV ratio	θ^{ltv}	0.85	N	See text
Issuance cost mean	μ_{κ}	0.350	Y	$\rho_{ss} = 4.5\%$
Issuance cost scale	S_{κ}	0.139	Y	See text
PTI offset (taxes, etc.)	α	0.003	Y	$q_{ss}^* + \alpha = 10.6\%$ (ann.)
PTI offset (other debt)	ω	0.08	N	See text
<i>Exogenous Shocks</i>				
TFP (pers.)	ϕ_a	0.9641	N	Garriga et al. (2015)
Taylor rule (inflation)	ψ_{π}	1.5	N	Standard

Frontloading Effect

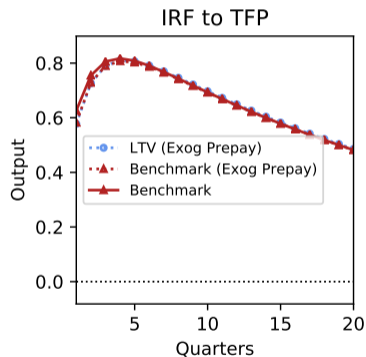
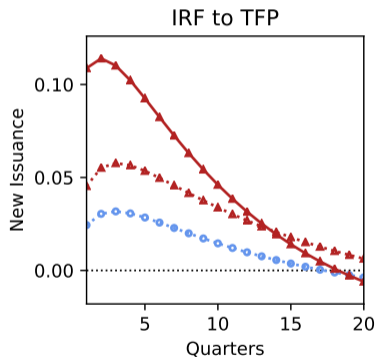
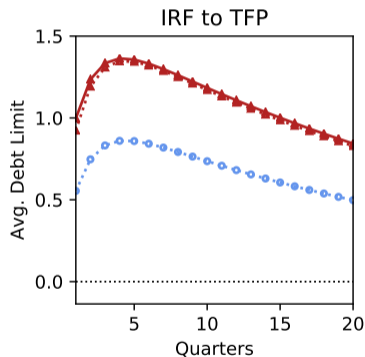
- ▶ Endogenous prepayment critical to transmission into real activity.
- ▶ New Keynesian models: demand can affect output, but depends on timing.
 - Spending must occur in short run, before intermediate firms reset prices.
- ▶ Exogenous prepayment: debt limits change with rates, but few borrowers take advantage right away.
 - Most new spending too far in the future to affect output.
- ▶ Endogenous prepayment: wave of new issuance when rates fall.
 - **Frontloaded** spending generates large output effects.

Frontloading Effect

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Frontloading Effect (TFP Shock)

- TFP shock lowers nominal rates (deflationary) and raises labor income \implies loosens PTI limits.



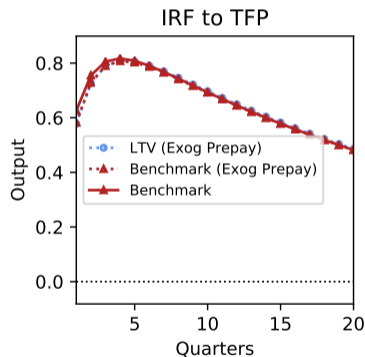
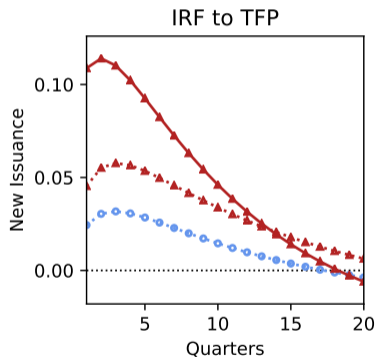
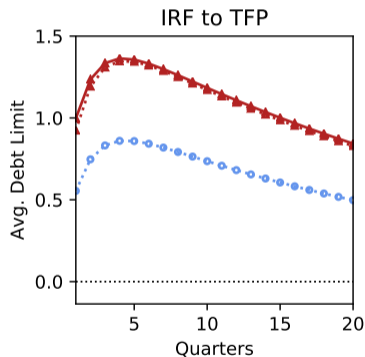
▶ More Series

▶ π^* IRFs

▶ 43% PTI

Frontloading Effect (TFP Shock)

- ▶ Effects large: output response to 1% TFP shock increased by 52% (0.50 to 0.76) on impact.



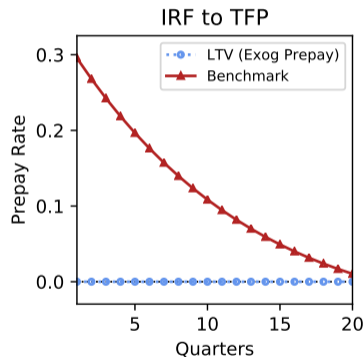
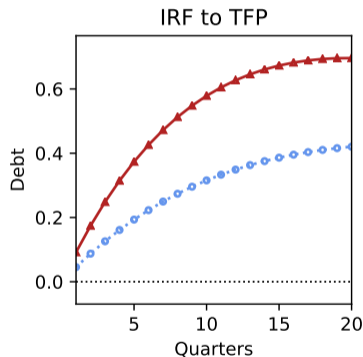
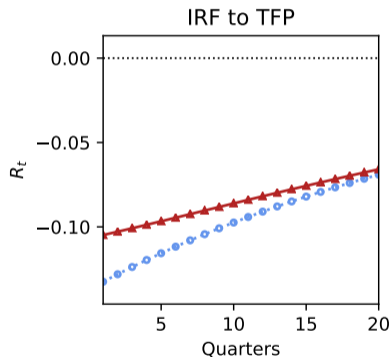
▶ More Series

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▶ 43% PTI

Inflation Stabilization (TFP Shock)

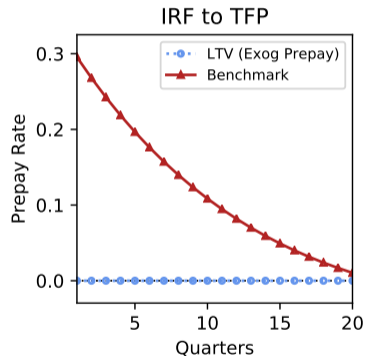
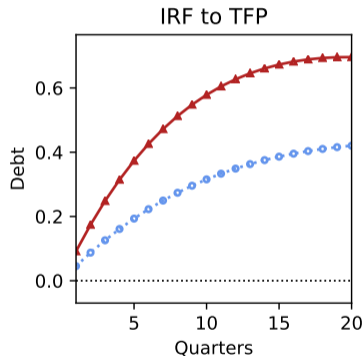
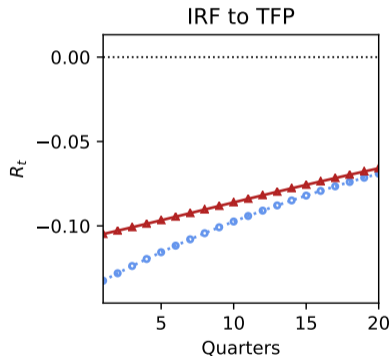
- ▶ Monetary policy experiment: how much does central bank need to move policy rate to **fully stabilize** inflation, $\pi_t = \bar{\pi}$?



▶ More Series

Inflation Stabilization (TFP Shock)

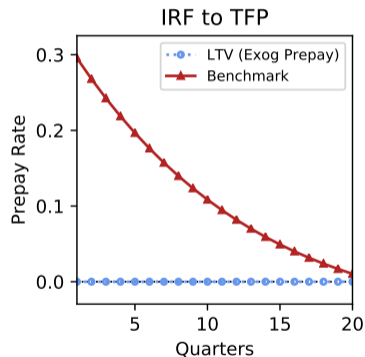
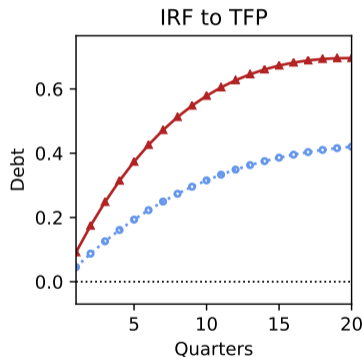
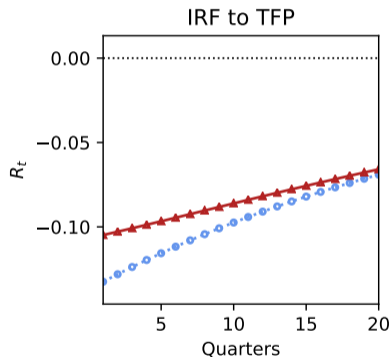
- ▶ Monetary policy “stronger” under Benchmark model: smaller movement in policy rate required to stabilize.



▶ More Series

Inflation Stabilization (TFP Shock)

- ▶ But **smaller** movement in policy rate comes with **larger** movement in debt. Potential trade-off for policymakers.



▶ More Series

Intensive Margin: Credit Constraints

- ▶ Actual 2015 underwriting standards from Fannie Mae (“DTI” = PTI).

Standard Eligibility Requirements - Manual Underwriting						
Excludes: Refi Plus, HomeStyle Renovation, and HomeReady						
			Maximum DTI ≤ 36%		Maximum DTI ≤ 45%	
Transaction Type	Number of Units	Maximum LTV, CLTV, HCLTV	Credit Score/LTV	Minimum Reserves	Credit Score/LTV	Minimum Reserves
Principal Residence						
Purchase Limited Cash- Out Refinance	1 Unit	FRM: 95% ARM: 90%	FRM: 680 if > 75% FRM: 620 if ≤ 75% ARM: 680 if > 75% ARM: 640 if ≤ 75%	0	700 if > 75% 640 if ≤ 75%	0
			660 if > 75%	6	FRM: 680 if > 75% FRM: 620 if ≤ 75% ARM: 680 if > 75%	2
	2 Units	FRM: 85% ARM: 75%	680 if > 75% 640 if ≤ 75%	6	700 if > 75% 660 if ≤ 75%	6
					680 if > 75% 640 if ≤ 75%	12
	3-4 Units	FRM: 75% ARM: 65%	660	6	680	6
					660	12

Loan Level Price Adjustments

- ▶ PTI not priced, strictly a limit.

Table 1: All Eligible Mortgages (excluding MCM) – LLPA by Credit Score/LTV Ratio

Representative Credit Score	LTV Range								
	Applicable for all mortgages with terms greater than 15 years								
	< 60.00%	60.01 – 70.00%	70.01 – 75.00%	75.01 – 80.00%	80.01 – 85.00%	85.01 – 90.00%	90.01 – 95.00%	95.01 – 97.00%	SFC
≥ 740	0.000%	0.250%	0.250%	0.500%	0.250%	0.250%	0.250%	0.750%	N/A
720 – 739	0.000%	0.250%	0.500%	0.750%	0.500%	0.500%	0.500%	1.000%	N/A
700 – 719	0.000%	0.500%	1.000%	1.250%	1.000%	1.000%	1.000%	1.500%	N/A
680 – 699	0.000%	0.500%	1.250%	1.750%	1.500%	1.250%	1.250%	1.500%	N/A
660 – 679	0.000%	1.000%	2.250%	2.750%	2.750%	2.250%	2.250%	2.250%	N/A
640 – 659	0.500%	1.250%	2.750%	3.000%	3.250%	2.750%	2.750%	2.750%	N/A
620 – 639	0.500%	1.500%	3.000%	3.000%	3.250%	3.250%	3.250%	3.500%	N/A
< 620 ⁽¹⁾	0.500%	1.500%	3.000%	3.000%	3.250%	3.250%	3.250%	3.750%	N/A

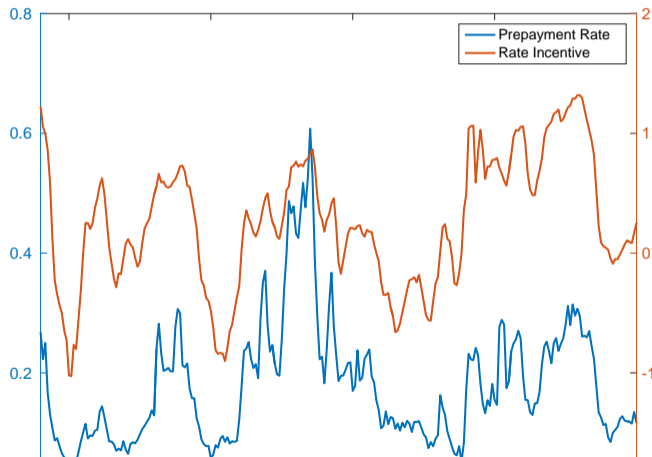
(1) A minimum required credit score of 620 applies to all mortgage loans delivered to Fannie Mae in accordance with the *Selling Guide*; exceptions to this requirement are limited to loans in which all borrowers have nontraditional credit.

▶ [Back to Intro](#)

▶ [Back to Credit Limits](#)

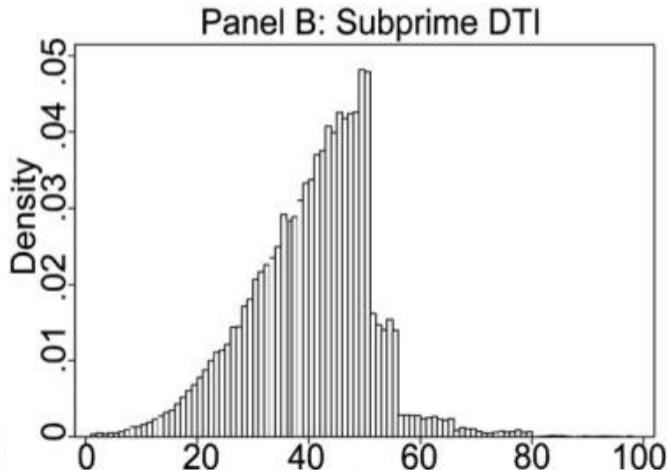
Prepayment Rates

- ▶ Fraction prepaying small, but volatile and highly responsive to interest rate incentives.



Subprime PTIs

- ▶ Plot from Foote, Gerardi, Willen (2009) shows subprime PTIs bunch at 50 and 55.



LTV and PTI in the Data

► Individual borrower's process:

1. Given income, interest rates, compute max loan size $\bar{m}_{i,t}^{pti}$.
2. Given max loan size, compute min house price associated with this loan:
 $p_t^h \bar{h}_{i,t} = \bar{m}_{i,t}^{pti} / \theta_t^{ltv}$.
3. Search for house such that $h_{i,t} \leq \bar{h}_{i,t}$.
4. Obtain largest possible loan given house value:

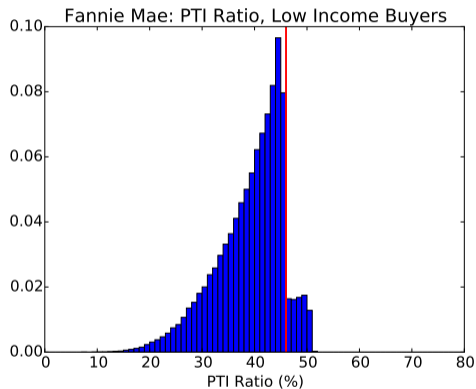
$$m_{i,t}^* = \bar{m}_{i,t}^{ltv} = \theta_t^{ltv} p_t^h h_{i,t} < \theta_t^{ltv} p_t^h \bar{h}_{i,t} = \bar{m}_{i,t}^{pti}$$

- Result: LTV exactly at limit, PTI slightly below.
- Why asymmetry? Can choose house price, not income/rates.

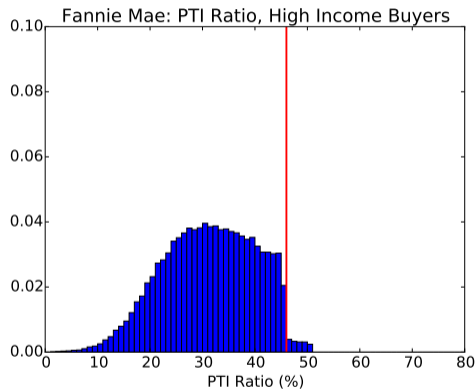
► Back

PTI by Income

- ▶ PTI appear more binding for low income. High (low) income is top (bottom) quartile.



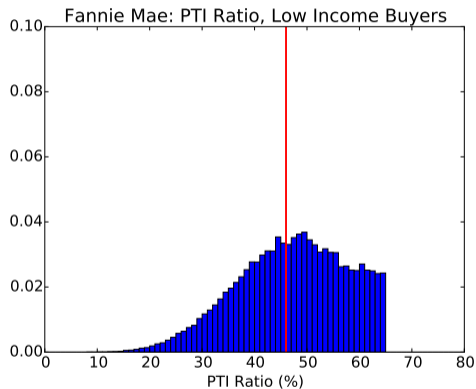
(a) PTIs: 2014 Q3 (Low Income)



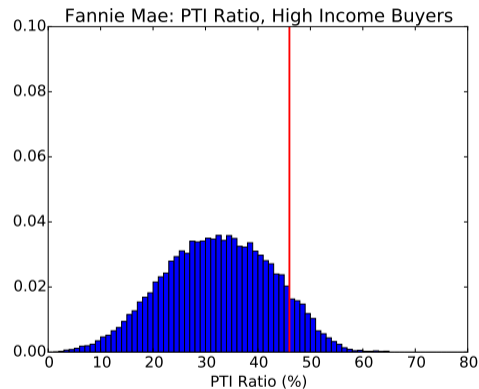
(b) PTIs: 2014 Q3 (High Income)

PTI by Income

- ▶ Very high PTIs for low-income borrowers at height of boom.



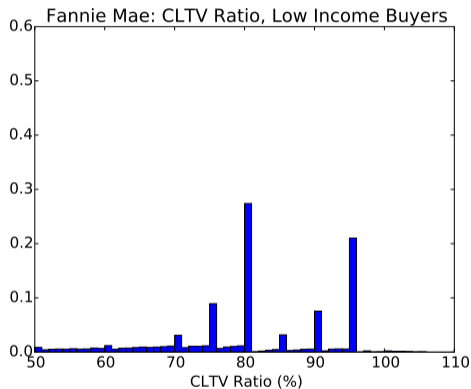
(a) PTIs: 2006 Q1 (Low Income)



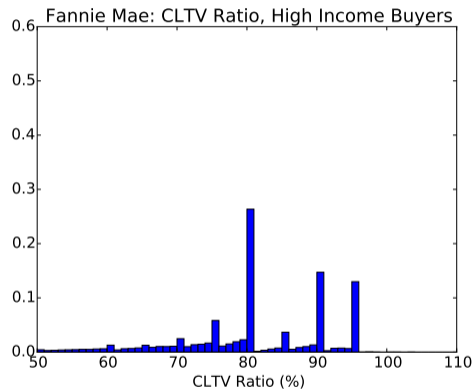
(b) PTIs: 2006 Q1 (High Income)

CLTV by Income

- ▶ In contrast, CLTVs look very similar across income groups during boom and bust.



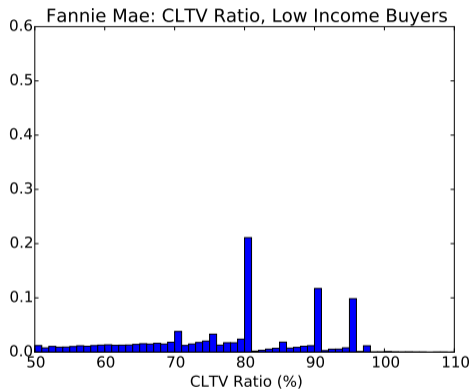
(a) CLTVs: 2014 Q3 (Low Income)



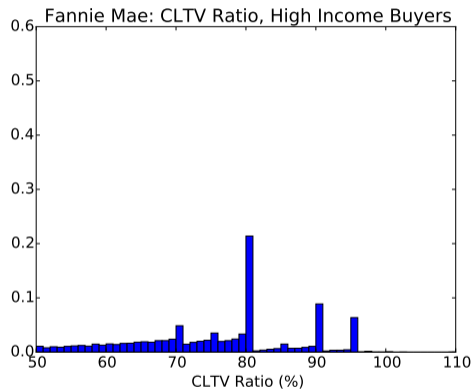
(b) CLTVs: 2014 Q3 (High Income)

CLTV by Income

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(a) CLTVs: 2006 Q1 (Low Income)



(b) CLTVs: 2006 Q1 (High Income)

Prepayment

► Prepayment:

- Borrower pays remaining principal to lender, cancels future payments.
- Borrower can immediately take out new loan, adjust housing holdings.

► Transaction cost shocks:

- Borrower must pay cost $\kappa_{i,t} m_t^*$, to obtain a new loan where $\kappa_{i,t} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \Gamma_\kappa$.
- If $\kappa_{i,t} \leq \bar{\kappa}_{i,t}$, then the borrower executes transaction, prepays.

► Timing within the period:

1. Borrowers choose labor supply $n_{b,t}$, threshold transaction cost $\bar{\kappa}_t$, target house size h_t^* (conditional on prepaying).
2. Borrowers draw $\kappa_{i,t}$, prepay if $\kappa_{i,t} \leq \bar{\kappa}_t$.
3. Borrowers draw $e_{i,t}$, obtain new loan of size $m_{i,t}^* = \min(\bar{m}_{i,t}^{ltv}, \bar{m}_{i,t}^{pti})$.
4. Insurance claims are paid out, equalizing consumption across borrowers.

Credit or Redistribution?

- ▶ Prepayment has two effects:
 - Allows borrower to obtain **new** debt (credit channel).
 - Changes payments on **existing** debt (redistribution channel).
- ▶ Unlike previous work (Rubio (2011), Calza et al. (2013), Auclert (2015)), this framework can generate large redistributions in fixed-rate mortgage environment from prepayment.
- ▶ However, impact on aggregate demand is very small.
- ▶ Key is **persistence** of transfers.
 - Impatient borrower consumes out of **current** income, while patient saver consumes out of **permanent** income.
 - But with FRMs, prepayment leads to constant change in payments each month for decades.
 - Changes in current and permanent income nearly identical \implies offsetting consumption responses.

Aggregation

- ▶ Aggregate laws of motion:

$$m_t = \rho_t m_t^* + (1 - \rho_t)(1 - \nu)\pi_t^{-1} m_{t-1}$$

$$x_t = \rho_t q_t^* m_t^* + (1 - \rho_t)(1 - \nu)\pi_t^{-1} x_{t-1}$$

$$h_{b,t} = \rho_t h_{b,t}^* + (1 - \rho_t) h_{b,t-1}.$$

▶ Back

Borrower Optimality

- ▶ Labor supply ($n_{b,t}$) condition:

$$w_t = -\frac{u_{b,t}^n}{u_{b,t}^c}.$$

- ▶ New loan size (m_t^*) condition:

$$1 = \Omega_{b,t}^m + q_t^* \Omega_{b,t}^x + \mu_t$$

where μ_t is multiplier, $\Omega_{b,t}^m$ and $\Omega_{b,t}^x$ are marginal continuation costs of extra unit of face value debt and promised payments:

$$\Omega_{b,t}^m = \mathbb{E}_t \left\{ \Lambda_{b,t+1}^{\$} \left[(1 - \nu) \rho_{t+1} + (1 - \nu)(1 - \rho_{t+1}) \Omega_{b,t+1}^m \right] \right\}$$

$$\Omega_{b,t}^x = \mathbb{E}_t \left\{ \Lambda_{b,t+1}^{\$} \left[1 + (1 - \nu)(1 - \rho_{t+1}) \Omega_{b,t+1}^x \right] \right\}$$

and $\Lambda_{b,t+1}^{\$}$ is the nominal SDF.

Borrower Optimality

- ▶ Prepayment optimality condition:

$$\rho_t = \Gamma \left((m_t^*)^{-1} \left\{ \underbrace{(1 - \Omega_{b,t}^m)(m_t^* - (1 - \nu)\pi_t^{-1}m_{t-1})}_{\text{new debt}} - \underbrace{\Omega_{b,t}^x(q_t^* m_t^* - (1 - \nu)\pi_t^{-1}x_{t-1})}_{\text{new payments}} \right\} \right).$$

- ▶ $\Omega_{b,t}^m$ and $\Omega_{b,t}^x$ are the marginal costs of extra unit of principal balance and promised payment:

$$\Omega_{b,t}^m = \mathbb{E}_t \left\{ \Lambda_{b,t+1}^{\$} \left[(1 - \nu)\rho_{t+1} + (1 - \nu)(1 - \rho_{t+1})\Omega_{b,t+1}^m \right] \right\}$$
$$\Omega_{b,t}^x = \mathbb{E}_t \left\{ \Lambda_{b,t+1}^{\$} \left[1 + (1 - \nu)(1 - \rho_{t+1})\Omega_{b,t+1}^x \right] \right\}.$$

▶ Back

Saver's Problem

- ▶ Budget constraint:

$$c_{s,t} \leq \Pi_t + w_t n_{s,t} - \underbrace{\rho_t(m_t^* - (1 - \nu)\pi_t^{-1}m_{t-1})}_{\text{New Issuance}} + \pi_t^{-1}(1 - \tau_{q,t})x_{t-1} \\ - p_t^h(h_{s,t} - (1 - \delta)h_{s,t-1}) - R_t^{-1}b_t + b_{t-1}.$$

- ▶ Optimality conditions:

$$(b) : \quad 1 = R_t \mathbb{E}_t \left[\Lambda_{s,t+1}^{\$} \right]$$

$$(m^*) : \quad 1 = \Omega_{s,t}^m + \Omega_{s,t}^x (q_t^* - \tau_{q,t})$$

- ▶ $\Omega_{s,t}^m$ and $\Omega_{s,t}^x$ are the marginal benefits of extra unit of principal balance and promised payment:

$$\Omega_{s,t}^m = \mathbb{E}_t \left\{ \Lambda_{s,t+1}^{\$} \left[(1 - \nu)\rho_{t+1} + (1 - \nu)(1 - \rho_{t+1})\Omega_{s,t+1}^m \right] \right\}$$

$$\Omega_{s,t}^x = \mathbb{E}_t \left\{ \Lambda_{s,t+1}^{\$} \left[1 + (1 - \nu)(1 - \rho_{t+1})\Omega_{s,t+1}^x \right] \right\}.$$

Equilibrium Definition

A competitive equilibrium in this model is defined as a sequence of endogenous states $(m_{t-1}, q_{t-1}, h_{b,t-1}, h_{s,t-1})$, allocations $(c_{j,t}, n_{j,t}, h_{j,t})$, mortgage market quantities (m_t^*, ρ_t) , and prices $(\pi_t, w_t, p_t^h, R_t, q_t^*)$ such that:

1. Given prices, $(c_{b,t}, n_{b,t}, h_{b,t}^*, m_t^*, \rho_t)$ solve the borrower's problem.
2. Given prices and borrower refinancing behavior, $(c_{s,t}, n_{s,t}, h_{s,t}, m_t^*)$ solve the saver's problem.
3. Given wages and consumer demand, π_t is the outcome of the intermediate firm's optimization problem.
4. Given inflation and output, R_t satisfies the monetary policy rule.
5. The resource, bond, and housing markets clear:

$$y_t = c_{b,t} + c_{s,t} + x_t^h,$$

$$h_t = \bar{H},$$

$$b_{s,t} = 0$$

$$h_{s,t} = \bar{H}_s.$$

Calvo Pricing

Solution to intermediate firm's problem:

$$y_t = \left[\int y_t(i)^{\frac{\lambda-1}{\lambda}} di \right]^{\frac{\lambda}{\lambda-1}} = \frac{a_t n_t}{\Delta_t}$$
$$\mathcal{N}_t = y_t \left(\frac{mc_t}{mc^{ss}} \right) + \zeta_p \mathbb{E}_t \left[\Lambda_{s,t+1} \left(\frac{\pi_{t+1}}{\pi^{ss}} \right)^\lambda \mathcal{N}_{t+1} \right]$$
$$\mathcal{D}_t = y_t + \zeta_p \mathbb{E}_t \left[\Lambda_{s,t+1} \left(\frac{\pi_{t+1}}{\pi^{ss}} \right)^{\lambda-1} \mathcal{D}_{t+1} \right]$$
$$\tilde{p}_t = \frac{\mathcal{N}_t}{\mathcal{D}_t}$$
$$\pi_t = \pi^{ss} \left[\frac{1 - (1 - \zeta_p) \tilde{p}^{1-\lambda}}{\zeta_p} \right]^{\frac{1}{\lambda-1}}$$
$$\Delta_t = (1 - \zeta_p) \tilde{p}^{-\lambda} + \zeta_p (\pi_t / \pi^{ss})^\lambda \Delta_{t-1}$$

where \mathcal{N}_t and \mathcal{D}_t are auxiliary variables, \tilde{p}_t is the ratio of the optimal price for resetting firms relative to the average price, and Δ_t is price dispersion. [▶ Back](#)

Calibration: Other Parameters

Parameter	Name	Value	Internal	Target/Source
<i>Demographics and Preferences</i>				
Borr. housing preference	ξ	0.25	Y	Davis and Ortalo-Magne (2011)
Disutility of labor scale	η_b	8.189	Y	$n_{b,ss} = 1/3$
Disutility of labor scale	η_s	5.662	Y	$n_{s,ss} = 1/3$
Inv. Frisch elasticity	φ	1.0	N	Standard
Tax rate	τ	0.204	N	Elenev et al. (2016)
<i>Productive Technology</i>				
TFP (mean)	μ_a	1.099	Y	$y_{ss} = 1$
TFP (pers.)	ϕ_a	0.9641	N	Garriga et al. (2015)
Variety elasticity	λ	6.0	N	Standard
Price stickiness	ζ	0.75	N	Standard
<i>Monetary Policy</i>				
Steady state inflation	π_{ss}	1.0075	N	3% (ann.)
Taylor rule (inflation)	ψ_π	1.5	N	Standard
Taylor rule (smoothing)	ϕ_r	0.89	N	Campbell et al. (2014)
Trend infl (pers.)	$\phi_{\bar{\pi}}$	0.994	N	Garriga et al. (2015)

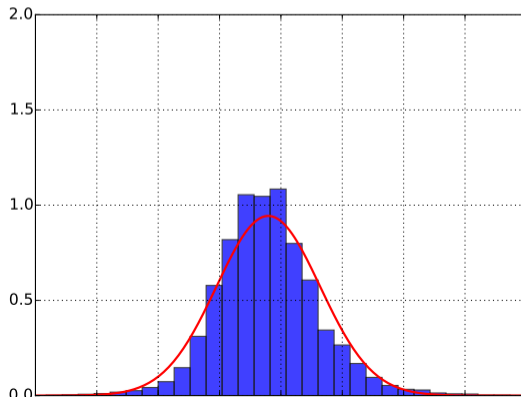
Calibration: Fraction of Borrowers

- ▶ Calibrate borrower/saver division to match 2001 Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF).
- ▶ Borrowers in the model: have house and mortgage but no liquid assets, save in home equity.
 - Match to households in 2001 SCF with less than one month's income in liquid assets (Kaplan and Violante (2014)) with a mortgage (24.3%).
 - Use housing preference ξ to match housing wealth / income for borrowers.
- ▶ Savers in the model: unconstrained agents with liquid assets.
 - Match to households in 2001 SCF with more than one month's income in liquid assets (45.4%).
- ▶ Remove households with no liquid assets and no mortgage (mostly renters) who are not represented in the model and normalize: $\chi_b = 0.35$.

▶ Back

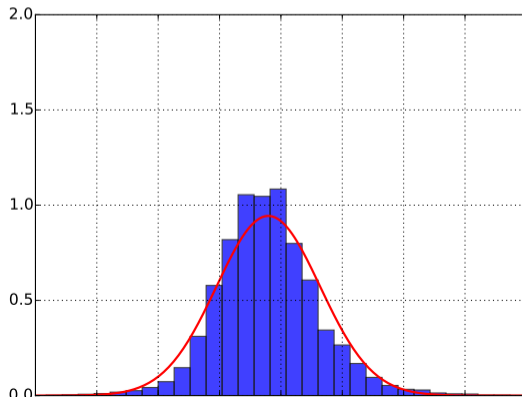
Calibration: Income Shock Distribution

- ▶ Parameterize e_j shocks to be lognormal, only need to calibrate σ_e .



Calibration: Income Shock Distribution

- ▶ Choose σ_e to match cross-sectional dispersion of $\log \text{value}_{i,t} - \log \text{income}_{i,t}$ in Fannie Mae loan-level origination data (average over 2000-2014).
 - This ratio determines which constraint is binding, given aggregates.



Calibration: Issuance Costs

- ▶ Choose Γ_{κ} so that approx. annualized prepayment rate $\widetilde{cpr}_t = 4\rho_t$ has a logistic functional form:

$$\widetilde{cpr}_t = \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(-\frac{\kappa - \mu_{\kappa}}{s_{\kappa}}\right)}.$$

- ▶ To calibrate s_{κ} , estimate prepayment regression

$$\text{logit}(cpr_{i,t}) = \gamma_{0,t} + \gamma_1(q_t^* - \bar{q}_{i,t-1}) + e_{i,t}$$

using pool-level MBS data (Fannie Mae 30-Year FRMs, 1994-2015).

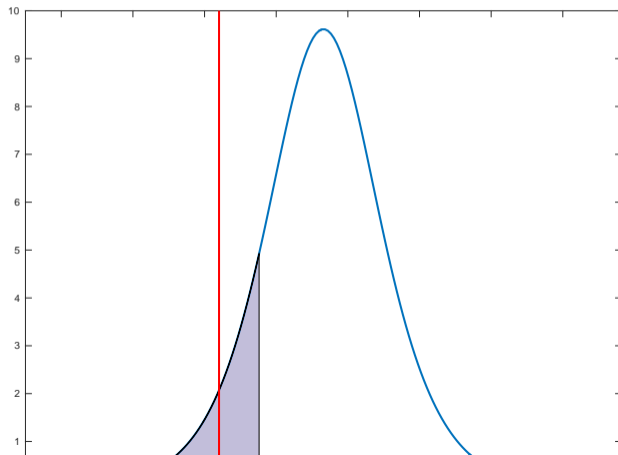
- ▶ Choose s_{κ} so that model equation

$$\text{logit}(\widetilde{cpr}_t) = \gamma_{0,t} - \frac{\Omega_{b,t}^x}{s_{\kappa}} \left(q_t^* - \bar{q}_{t-1} \frac{(1-\nu)\pi_t^{-1}m_{t-1}}{m_t^*} \right)$$

satisfies $\Omega_b^x/s_{\kappa} = \hat{\gamma}_1$ in steady state.

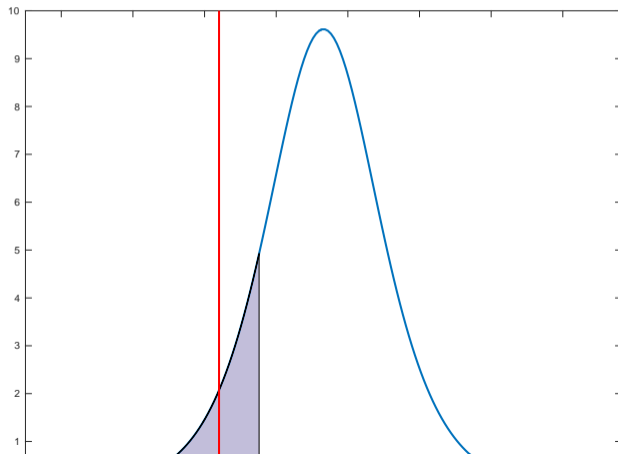
Calibration: Issuance Costs

- ▶ Given s_{κ} can choose μ_{κ} to match average prepayment rates on the same MBS series.



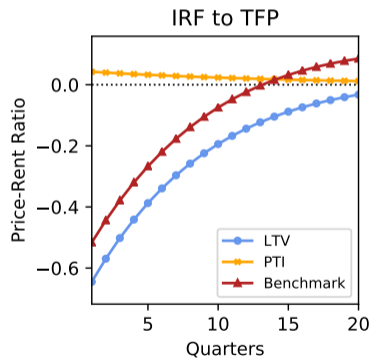
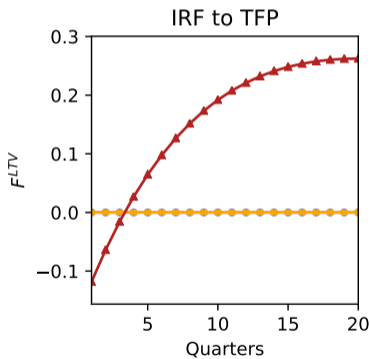
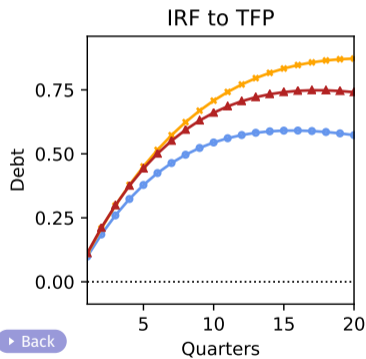
Calibration: Issuance Costs

- ▶ Resulting costs are high (threshold prepayer pays 13.8%, average prepayer pays 11%). Needed to match “inertial” behavior.



Constraint Switching Effect (TFP Shock)

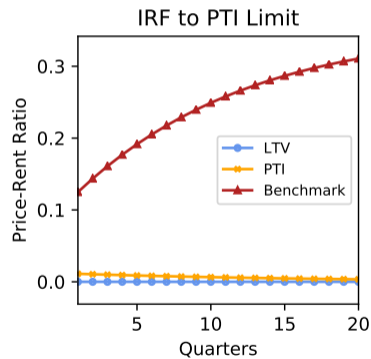
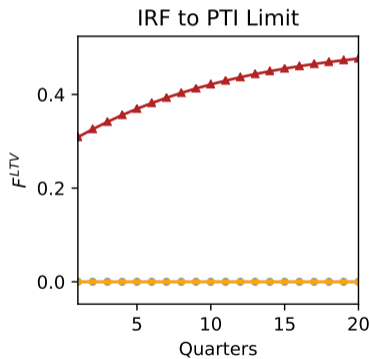
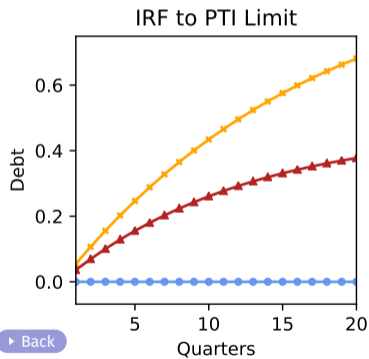
- ▶ TFP shock lowers nominal rates (deflationary) and raises labor income \implies loosens PTI limits.



▶ Back

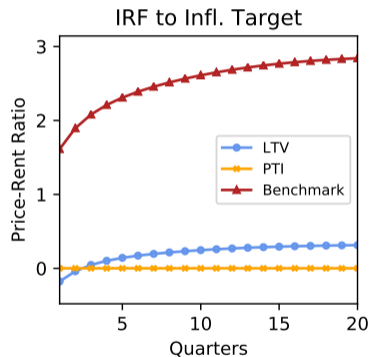
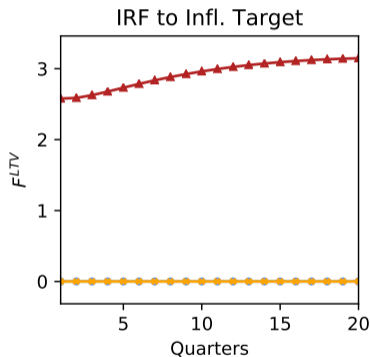
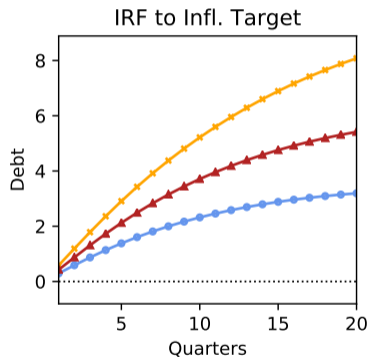
Credit Liberalization: PTI

- ▶ Loosening PTI (10%) causes increase in collateral value, house prices and price-rent ratios **rise** in Benchmark model.



Constraint Switching Effect (Monetary Policy Shock)

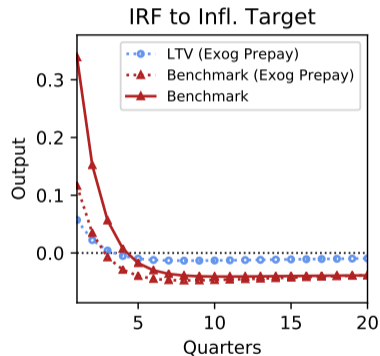
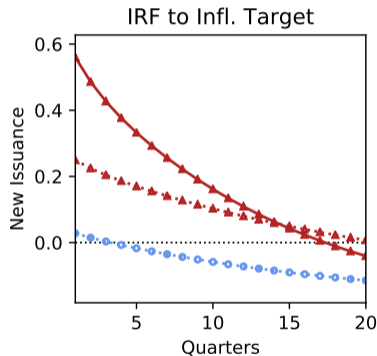
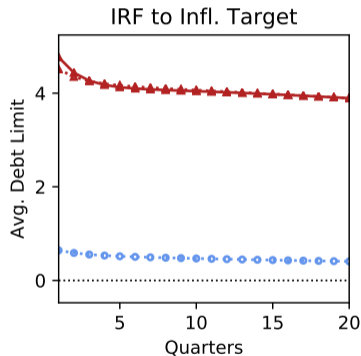
- ▶ $\theta^{pti} = 43\%$ (Dodd-Frank): only 11% constrained by PTI.



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Frontloading Effect (Monetary Policy Shock)

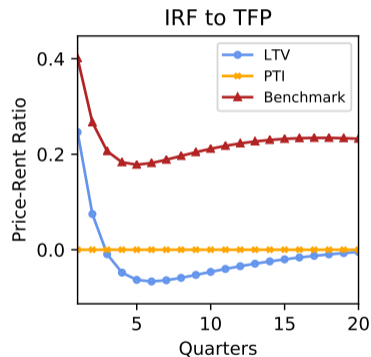
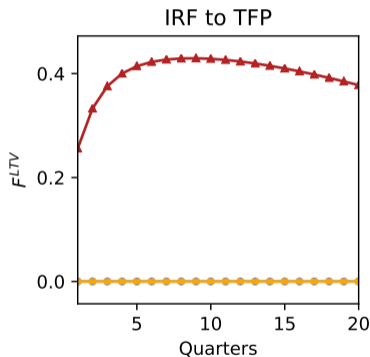
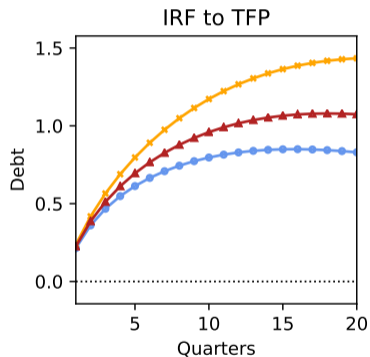
- ▶ Large response of output to -1% near-permanent monetary policy shock.



▶ Back

Frontloading Effect (TFP Shock)

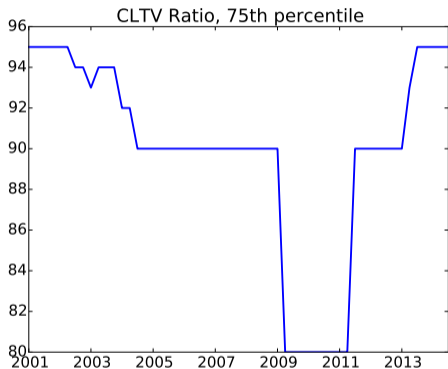
- ▶ $\theta^{pti} = 43\%$ (Dodd-Frank): only 13% constrained by PTI.



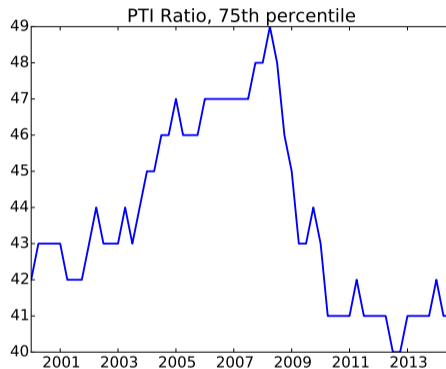
▶ Back

Credit Standards and the Boom-Bust

- ▶ Large rise in PTI ratios relative to CLTV ratios.

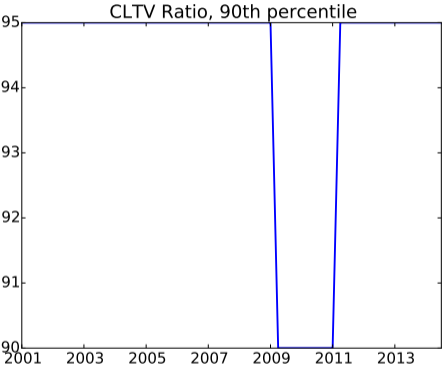


(a) CLTV: 75th Percentile

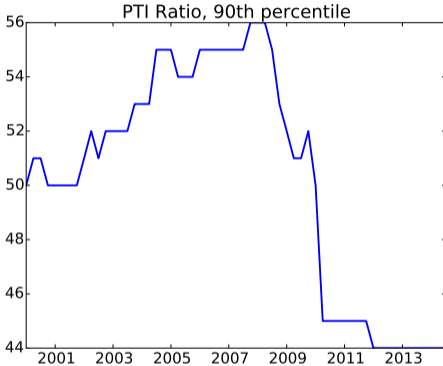


(b) PTI: 75th Percentile

Credit Standards and the Boom-Bust



(a) CLTV: 90th Percentile



(b) PTI: 90th Percentile

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Credit Standards and the Boom-Bust

Fannie Mae 2007 Selling Guide

- ▶ Although we have established a benchmark qualifying debt-to-income ratio, we recognize that often there are legitimate reasons for exceeding this guideline. Therefore, **a lender may use a ratio that is higher than our benchmark guideline**, as long as its assessment of the comprehensive risk of the mortgage identifies and documents factors that justify the higher ratio...**Our benchmark debt-to-income ratio is 36 percent of the borrower's monthly income.**

Fannie Mae 2009 Selling Guide

- ▶ For manually underwritten loans, **Fannie Mae's benchmark total debt-to-income ratio is 36%** of the borrower's stable monthly income. **The benchmark can be exceeded up to a maximum of 45% with strong compensating factors...** For loan casefiles underwritten through DU [Desktop Underwriter], DU determines the maximum allowable debt-to income ratio based on the overall risk assessment of the loan casefile. **DU will apply a maximum allowable total expense ratio of 45%**, with flexibilities offered up to 50% for certain loan casefiles with strong compensating factors.

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Credit Standards and the Boom-Bust

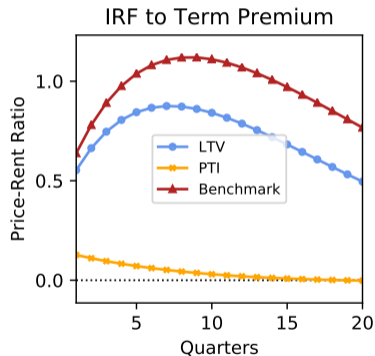
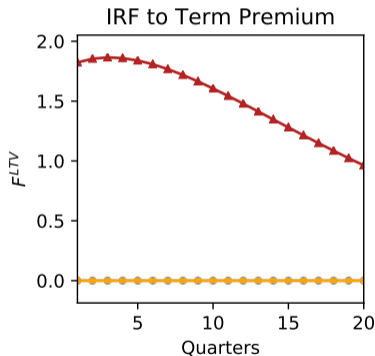
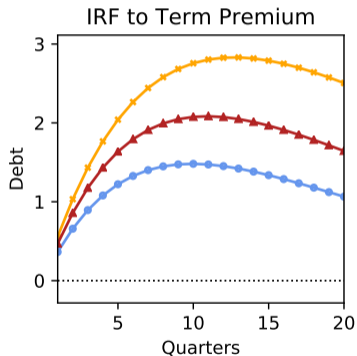
“A New Method for Evaluating Your Debt” (Los Angeles Times: January 28, 2002)

- ▶ “In the 1970s and 1980s, a common rule of thumb was that your mortgage-related payments shouldn’t eat up more than 25% of your monthly household income. During the late 1980s and into the 1990s, that rule began to stretch into the 31% to 33% range and sometimes higher.”
- ▶ “In the 1990s, acceptable ratios began creeping above 40%. Late in the decade, even [Freddie Mac confirmed that it no longer had hard and fast rules on total monthly debt to monthly income ratios](#), and lenders reported selling loans to Freddie with debt-to-income ratios of 55% and higher.”

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Constraint Switching Effect (Term Premium Shock)

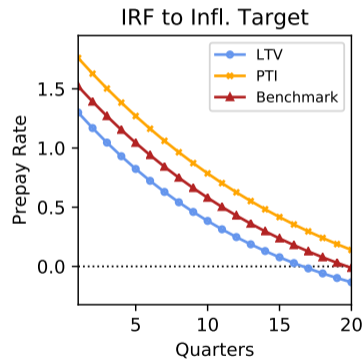
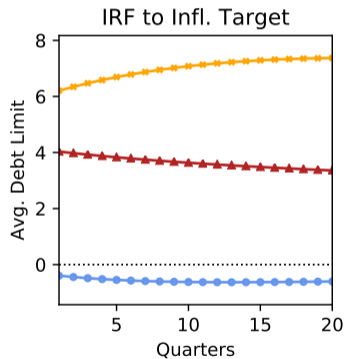
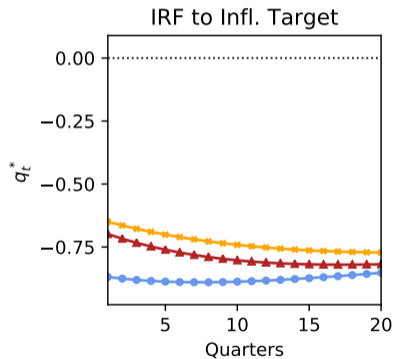
- ▶ Shock to term premium (real cost of debt) affects LTV economy much more, but still observe differential response.



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Constraint Switching Effect (Inflation Target Shock)

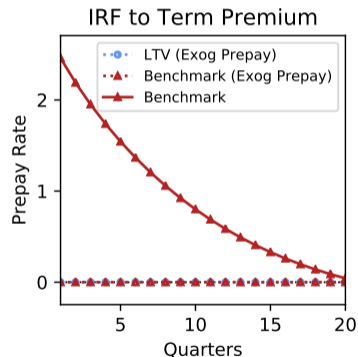
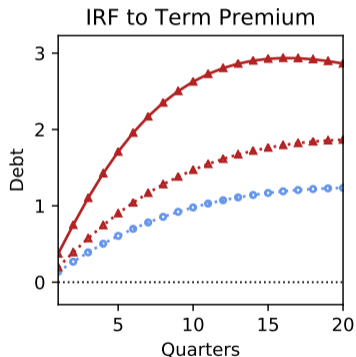
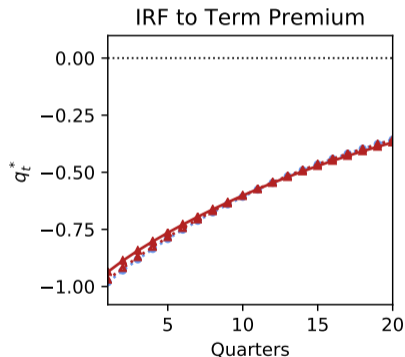
- ▶ Inflation target shock: additional variables.



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Frontloading Effect (Term Premium Shock)

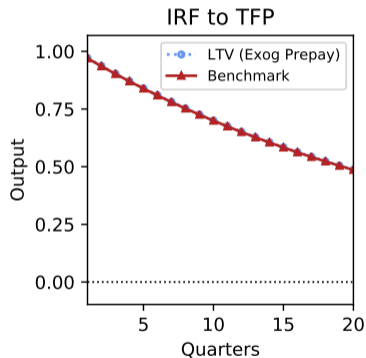
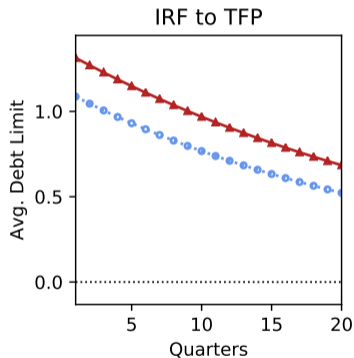
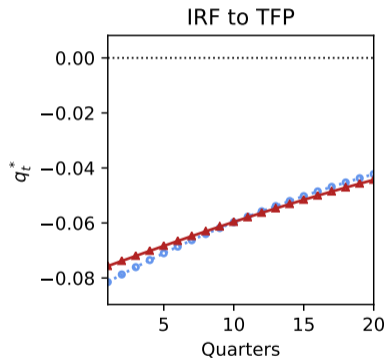
- ▶ Term premium shock: additional variables.



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Inflation Stabilization (TFP Shock)

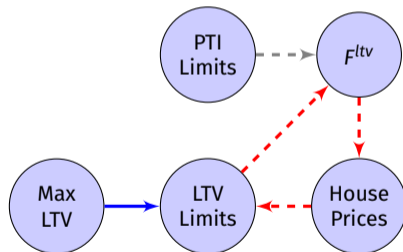
- ▶ Monetary policy experiment: how much does central bank need to move policy rate to **fully stabilize** inflation, $\pi_t = \bar{\pi}$?



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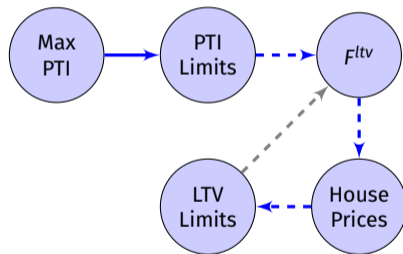
Credit Liberalization Experiment (Intuition)

- ▶ Changes to LTV standards cannot explain the boom-bust with PTI limits at traditional levels.
 - Direct effect: PTI constraints limit debt boom.
 - GE effect: constraint switching limits house price boom.



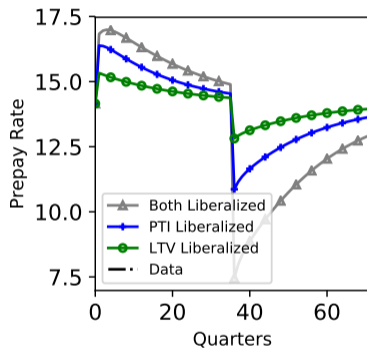
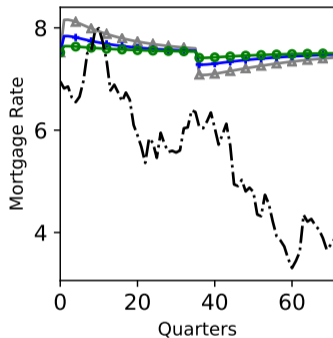
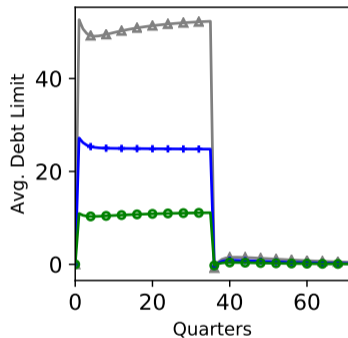
Credit Liberalization Experiment (Intuition)

- ▶ Relaxation of PTI standards increases house prices, price-rent ratios through constraint switching effect.
- ▶ High house prices relax LTV limits \implies large increase in debt.



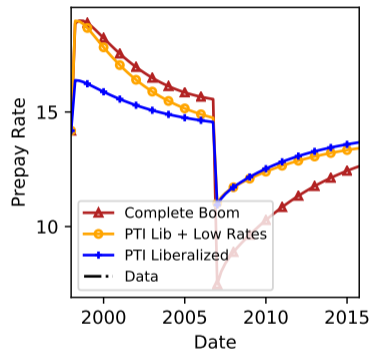
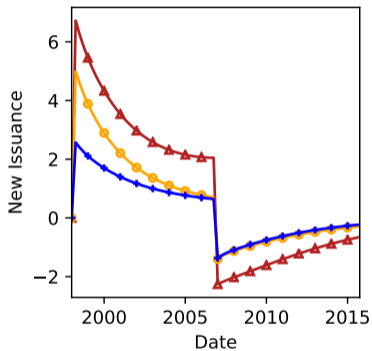
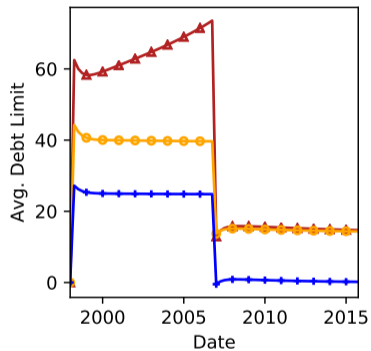
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Credit Liberalization Experiment (Additional Series)



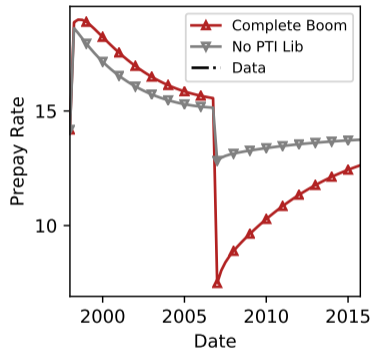
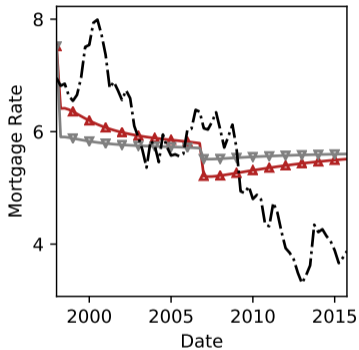
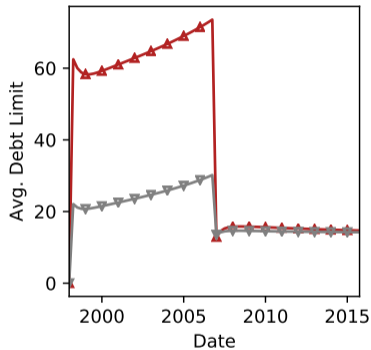
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Explaining the Boom (Additional Series)



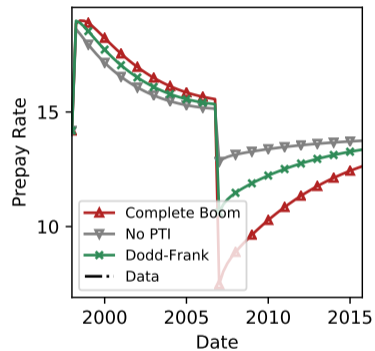
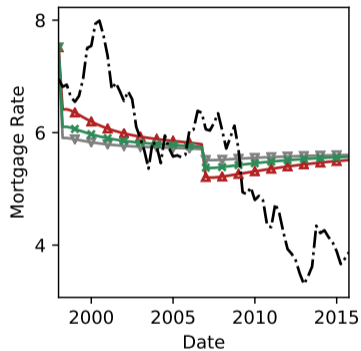
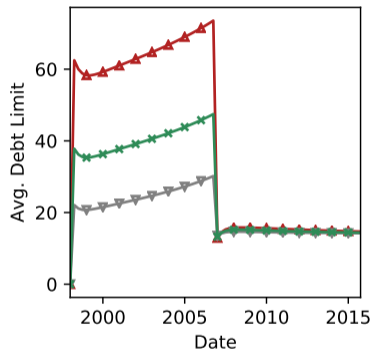
▶ Back

Explaining the Boom (Additional Series)



▶ Back

Explaining the Boom (Additional Series)



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