Macroeconomics

Aggregate Supply & Demand

Roadmap

- Where we’ve been…
- Aggregate supply
- Aggregate demand
- Aggregate supply AND demand
- Applications

Where we’ve been…

- Where we’ve been: business cycle data
  - Properties: some things are more cyclical than others
  - Indicators: procyclical and countercyclical, leading and lagging
- Where we’re headed: business cycle theory
  - Adapt supply/demand diagram to whole economy
  - Why does the economy fluctuate?
  - What should we do about it?

Demand – AND supply

- Unifying framework
- First half
  - AS/AD model: the industry standard
- Second half:
  - What changed, supply or demand?
  - What should we do about it?

Two perspectives (“Field of dreams” version)

- Supply is what matters
  - If you build it, people will buy it
  - All we had prior to 1930
- Demand is what matters
  - If there’s demand, someone will build it
  - Response to Depression (John Maynard Keynes and others)
  - Paul Krugman (“mister stimulus”)
- What we do
  - Supply AND demand
Aggregate supply and demand

- Adapt supply/demand diagram to whole economy
- Axes
  - P is price level
  - Y is real GDP
    - Usually interpreted as inflation and GDP growth
- Curves
  - Supply is about production of goods
  - Demand is about purchases of goods

Aggregate supply

Aggregate supply I

- Supply is about production
- Classical version ["long run"]
- Production function
  \[ Y = A K^\alpha L^{1-\alpha} \]
- At any point in time
  - A is given [but may change over time]
  - K is given [but may change over time]
  - L reflects "equilibrium" in labor market
- Y must therefore be "given" [and AS* vertical]

Aggregate supply I

- Reminder:
  \[ Y = A K^\alpha L^{1-\alpha} \]
- Over time, what happens when these change?
  - A?
  - K?
  - L?
- How do we represent this in the diagram?
Aggregate supply I

- Oil prices
- An increase is like a drop in TFP
- Why?
  - Think about total payments to capital, labor, and oil producers
  - If more goes to oil producers, there’s less for capital and labor
  - Our measure of output is payments to capital and labor, so it’s gone down
  - If oil producers are local the lost revenue would show up there, but if they’re abroad, local output falls
  - That’s just like a fall in productivity: AS shifts left

Aggregate supply II

- Keynesian version [“short run”]
- Production function
  \[ Y = A K^\alpha L^{1-\alpha} \]
- At any point in time
  - A, K given
  - Simple version: nominal wage “sticky”
  - Increase in P reduces real wage, firms hire more workers
  - More L implies more Y = AS curve slopes upward
- Wage eventually adjusts, bringing us back to AS*
Aggregate demand

- Basic version
  - Quantity theory generates inverse relation between $P$ and $Y$
    
    \[
    MV = PY
    \]
    
    \[
    P = MV / Y
    \]
  - Given $(M,V)$, high $Y$ associated with low $P$
  - What happens if $M$ rises?

Review: quantity theory

- Recall our production function for transactions
  
  \[
  MV = PY
  \]
  
  - $M =$ stock of money in circulation (quantity of currency)
  - $V =$ velocity (how often a unit of currency is used in a year)
  - $P =$ price level (the GDP deflator or other price index)
  - $Y =$ real GDP
Aggregate demand

- Sophisticated version (more than we need)
  - Increase in money supply drives down interest rate
  - At lower interest rate, demand rises for interest-sensitive products: cars, houses, plant and equipment
  - More on the interest rate next week
  - Other demand increase also shift AD to the right (government spending, optimism of firms and consumers)
    [we take this on faith, don’t have time for more]

Aggregate demand: shifts

- What happens to aggregate demand if we
  - Increase M?
  - Increase G?
  - Increase something that changes consumption or investment demand (“confidence”? “animal spirits”?)

Aggregate demand

Aggregate demand: shifts

Aggregate demand: shifts

Aggregate demand: shifts
**Aggregate supply & demand**

**Equilibrium**

- Equilibrium: where supply and demand cross
  - But which one?
- Short-run equilibrium
  - Where AS and AD cross
- Long-run equilibrium
  - Where AS* and AD cross
- Not essential, but: how do we get from one to the other?

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**Equilibrium**

\[ \begin{align*}
\text{Equilibrium} & : \\
Y & = \text{P} \\
\text{AS} & \cap \text{AD} \\
\text{AS*} & \cap \text{AD} \\
Y^* & = \text{Y} \\
\end{align*} \]

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**Equilibrium**

- Start at A
  - At A, real wage is too high
    [How do we know that? Y is below Y*]
- End at B – but how do we get there?
  - Wage too high, so let’s say it falls
  - That moves AS to the right until it crosses AS* at B
  - Wages “sticky,” not stuck forever
  - At lower wage, firms hire more workers, output rises

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**Equilibrium: summary**

- Short-run equilibrium
  - Where AS and AD cross
- Long-run equilibrium
  - Where AS* and AD cross
Applications of the AS/AD model

Applications

- Increase money supply M
- Increase government purchases G
- Increase productivity A
- Increase price of oil

Applications

- Action plan
  - Start somewhere: curves (AS*, AS, AD)
  - Where are the short-run and long-run equilibria?
  - Suggest an application – which curve shifts?
  - What are the new short-run and long-run equilibria?
  - What happens to Y and P?

Application: more money

- Increase supply of money
- Which curve shifts? Which way?
- What happens to Y and P?

Application: more money
Application: more money

- Start at A: short run and long run equilibrium
- More money: AD shifts right
- New short-run equilibrium at B
  - Higher prices, higher output
- New long-run equilibrium at C
  - Higher prices, output unchanged (!)
- Why? Does this make sense to you?

Application: more money

- How does this compare to our analysis of hyperinflations?
- Hyperinflation
  - More money generates higher prices
- AS/AD
  - Short run: higher prices AND higher output
  - Long run: only higher prices

Application: more money

- Mervyn King on monetary stimulus:
  - Monetary policy supports demand and output by encouraging households and businesses to switch demand from tomorrow to today. But when tomorrow becomes today, an even larger stimulus is required to bring forward more spending from the future. This has gone on for four years now; tomorrow has become not just today but yesterday. Obviously, this cannot continue indefinitely.
  - Do you agree? Why or why not?

Application: fiscal stimulus

- Increase government purchases
- Which curve shifts? Which way?
- What happens to Y and P?

Application: fiscal stimulus
Application: fiscal stimulus

- Analysis same as previous one
  - AD shifts right
  - Short run impact: Y and P both rise
  - Long run impact: only P rises

Application: fiscal stimulus

- Do we need more of it?
  - Krugman: we should have more stimulus
  - What’s the argument?

Application: fiscal stimulus

- How powerful is fiscal stimulus?
  - The “multiplier” m: if G goes up $1, Y goes up $m
  - Estimates range from 0 to 2
  - Best guess: multiplier around one, maybe a little less
  - Takes 1-2 years to implement

- What about tax cuts?
  - Estimate 70-75% of temporary tax cuts are saved
  - Hence: not much of an increase in demand

- Where does this leave Krugman?

Application: fiscal stimulus

- Should we hire people to do nothing?
  - Pro argument: generates value through multiplier
  - Con argument: it’s a waste of resources
Application: fiscal stimulus

• Via Greg Mankiw

Application: fiscal stimulus

• John Maynard Keynes joke #2
  – John Maynard Keynes walks into a Starbucks, buys a grande, and pours it into the trash. He orders another and pours it into the trash. His grandkids pay the bill.

Application: fiscal stimulus

• David Cameron @ NYU, March 16, 2012
  – Q: Is Keynesianism dead?
  – A: I don’t think there’s a huge difference between our approaches [stimulus in the US, austerity in the UK]. We both want growth. We both want to deal with our deficits.
  – As for Keynes: Of course government can stimulate economic activity. But when you’re borrowing around 10% of your GDP, as we were in 2010, when the markets are beginning to ask, are you going to pay your debts? In that case, stimulus could raise interest rates and slow the economy. So I think you need to be practical.

Application: productivity

• Increase productivity A
• Which curve shifts? Which way?
• What happens to Y and P?
Application: more productivity

- Start at A: short-run and long-run equilibrium
- More productivity: AS and AS* shift right
- New short-run equilibrium at B
  - Lower prices, higher output
- New long-run equilibrium at C
  - Even lower prices, higher output
- Why? Does this make sense to you?

Application: higher oil prices

- Increase oil prices
- Which curve shifts? Which way?
- What happens to Y and P?

Application: higher oil prices

- Start at A: short run and long run equilibrium
- Higher oil prices: AS and AS* shift left
- New short-run equilibrium at B
  - Higher prices, lower output
- New long-run equilibrium at C
  - Even higher prices, lower output
- Why? Does this make sense to you?

Aggregate supply: higher oil prices

What have we learned?

- Aggregate supply and demand is the analyst standard
  - Supply refers to production, affected by productivity, oil prices, etc
  - Demand refers to purchases, affected by money supply, government purchases, consumer/business confidence, etc
- Summary
  - In the long run, output is determined by the production function (the first half of the course)
  - In the short run, things like the money supply and government purchases also matter (this part of the course)
Macroeconomics
Policy in the AS/AD Model

Roadmap
- AS/AD review
- Abe’s three arrows
- Where do business cycles come from?
- Policy goals and responses
- What happened?

AS/AD review
- Aggregate supply and demand
  - Supply concerns the production of goods
  - Demand concerns purchases of goods
- How to use them
  - Short-run equilibrium: where AS and AD cross
  - Long-run equilibrium: where AS* and AD cross
- What shifts them
  - AD: money supply, government purchases, “optimism”
  - AS & AS*: productivity, capital stock, oil prices
  - Rule of thumb: AS and AS* shift left/right by the same amount

AS/AD review

Where is the short-run equilibrium?
Long-run equilibrium?

Where is the short-run equilibrium?
Long-run equilibrium?
Abe’s three arrows

- What are they?
- Do they affect supply or demand?
  - Shift the relevant curve
- What is their impact?
  - Short term?
  - Long term?

Where do business cycles come from?

Inflation and growth

- Reminder: interpret axes as inflation and GDP growth
- Why do inflation and growth change?
- Shifts in AS and AD?
- Which one? How can you tell?

Inflation and growth

- Would you expect to see high growth associated with high or low inflation? Why?
- How would inflation and growth be related if
  - Most shifts were in aggregate demand?
  - Most shifts were in aggregate supply?
- Where do you see demand “shocks”?
- Where do you see supply “shocks”? 
Inflation and growth

- Do we see mostly supply or demand shocks?

Policy goals and responses

- Most countercyclical policies affect demand
  - If the problem is with supply, we’re out of luck
    [although lots of things increase productivity over time]
The idea (continued)

- Monetary policy should respond differently to changes in output that result from supply and demand shifts
- Accommodate one, offset the other
- Intuitive when you understand it – not before!

Policy goals and responses

- What are our policy goals?
  - Low inflation or stable prices [why?]
  - Output at or near Y* [invisible hand again]
- How would we reach them?
  - Typically monetary policy, which shifts AD
  - Could use fiscal policy, too, but it takes longer to implement

Policy goals and responses

- What happens if demand shifts right?
  - What might do this?
  - Are things better or worse?

Policy goals and responses

- What happens if demand shifts left?
  - What might do this?
  - Are things better or worse?
Policy goals and responses

- How should we respond to a demand shift?
  - What should we do?
  - How would we do it?
  
- What should policy do?
  - Reverse it ("offset"): use (say) monetary policy to shift demand back to A
  - Does this make sense to you?

Now do the same thing with supply shifts
- Same logic, but keep your eyes open for something new
- What happens if supply shifts right?
  - What might do this?
  - Are things better or worse?
**Policy goals and responses**

- What happens if supply shifts left?
  - What might do this?
  - Are things better or worse?

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**Policy goals and responses**

- How should we respond to a supply shift?
  - What should we do?
  - How should we do it?

**Reminder:** policy goals are

- Stable prices
- Output at or near $Y^*$

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**Policy goals and responses**

- How should we respond to a supply shift?
  - Reinforce (“accommodate”): shift AD in same direction as AS

**Does this make sense?**
Policy goals and responses

What should policy do?
- Reinforce (“accommodate”): shift AD in same direction as AS
- Does it make sense to lower output further?

Why is C good?

What happened?

Our mission
- Use AS/AD to interpret history
- Identify source of shock: supply or demand?
- Recommend the appropriate policy

What happened?

In the mid 1970s?
- GDP growth low, inflation jumped up

In the early 1980s
- Double-dip recession, inflation fell sharply

In the late 1990s?
- GDP growth high, inflation remained low

In the early 2000s?
- Fear of deflation, aggressive monetary expansion
What happened in the mid-1970s?

• In the mid 1970s?
  – GDP growth low, inflation jumped up

• Order of events
  – OPEC raised oil prices from $15 to $30
  – Output fell
  – Inflation soared – and stayed up

• How did this work? Shift in supply or demand?

What happened in mid-1970s?

• Standard interpretation of 1970s inflation
  – OPEC was a shift left in AS/AS*
  – Fed should therefore accommodate, shift AD left
  – If so, we would have seen a drop in \( Y \) but stable prices
  – But the Fed shifted AD right, raising inflation sharply
  – Long-run output response the same in both cases
What happened in the early 1980s?

In the early 1980s?
- Double dip recession, inflation dropped sharply
- Order of events
  - Volcker appointed head of Fed, charged with killing inflation
  - Reduced money growth, interest rates rose sharply
  - After a year or two, inflation dropped
- How did this work? Shift in supply or demand?

- In the late 1990s?
  - The economy is booming
  - Is it “overheating”?
  - What should the Fed do?
- Recall:
  - If high demand, Fed should reverse it
  - If high supply, Fed should accommodate
  - Which was it? How can you tell?
What happened in the early 2000s?

- In the early 2000s
  - The economy recovered nicely from “dot-com crash”
  - Inflation low – deflation on the horizon?
  - Fed expanded money supply aggressively
- Questions
  - Avoided deflation, inflation jumped up
  - Low interest rates facilitated cheap leverage
  - Good idea or bad?

Deflation summary

- Deflation = negative inflation (falling prices)
- Evidence
  - Deflation associated with bad economic performance: US in 1930s in the US, Japan in 1990s
  - Also with good performance: US in 1880s, many others
- Theoretical mechanism
  - Unexpected deflation benefits lenders, hurts borrowers
  - Therefore bad?

What have we learned?

- Shifts to supply and demand move GDP growth and inflation around
- AS/AD model suggests we should
  - “Offset” demand shifts
  - “Accommodate” supply shifts
- How can we tell them apart?
  - Ask yourself whether inflation and GDP growth are moving in the same direction or not

Something to think about

- Should corporations pay more tax?
- People?
- Why? Why not?