

# An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Mathematics and Statistics - McMaster University  
Joint work with Omneia Ismail (McMaster)

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# The quest to understand banking crises

- Financial crises in the past 800 years encompass:

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

# The quest to understand banking crises

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An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

## Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

# The quest to understand banking crises

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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# The quest to understand banking crises

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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# The quest to understand banking crises

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

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Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

# The quest to understand banking crises

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An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

# The quest to understand banking crises

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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# The quest to understand banking crises

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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# The quest to understand banking crises

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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- Financial innovation and integration leads to highly interconnected, complex and potentially fragile banking systems.

# The quest to understand banking crises

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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- However, the principles that govern individual prudence do not necessarily apply to systems as a whole.
- Financial innovation and integration leads to highly interconnected, complex and potentially fragile banking systems.
- Systemic crises are essentially stories of contagion, interdependence, interaction and trust - Kirman (2010).

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

- Both advanced and emerging countries had serial banking crises since 1800 with strikingly comparable features.

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An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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# Episodes of Banking Crises

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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- Consider also 40 emerging countries episodes (36 post and 4 pre-WWII).

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An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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- Also the US in 2008 for comparison.

# Incidence of banking crises

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

Region or group	Share of years in banking crises since independence or 1800	Number of banking crises
Africa	12.5	1.7
Asia	11.2	3.6
Europe	6.3	5.9
Latin America	4.4	3.6
North America	11.2	10.5
Oceania	4.8	2.0
Advanced economies	7.2	7.2
Emerging economies	8.3	2.8

Table: Reinhart and Rogoff (2009) - Table 10.5

An  
agent-based  
model for  
bank  
formation,  
bank runs and  
interbank  
networks

Matheus R.  
Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises  
throughout  
history

DSGE x ABM

The  
pre-banking  
society

Bank  
formation

Bank runs

Interbank  
networks

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- Current account deficits/GDP increases prior to the crises
- Drop in real housing prices has 4 to 6 years duration.
- Drop in real equity prices has shorter duration (V-shaped recovery)
- Real GDP growth slows in years  $t - 3, t - 2, t - 1$ , stays near zero in  $t, t + 1, t + 2$  and positive again by  $t + 3$
- Real public debt increases on average by 86% by  $t + 3$

# Capital mobility and banking crises

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

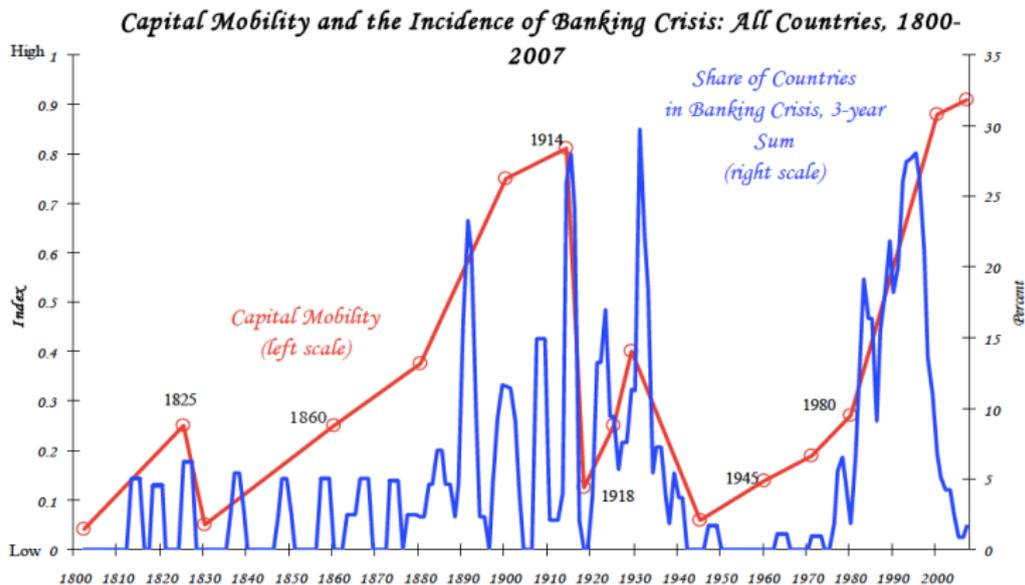


Figure: Reinhart and Rogoff (2009) - Figure 10.1

# Current account balance/GDP and banking crises in advanced economies (1945-2008)

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

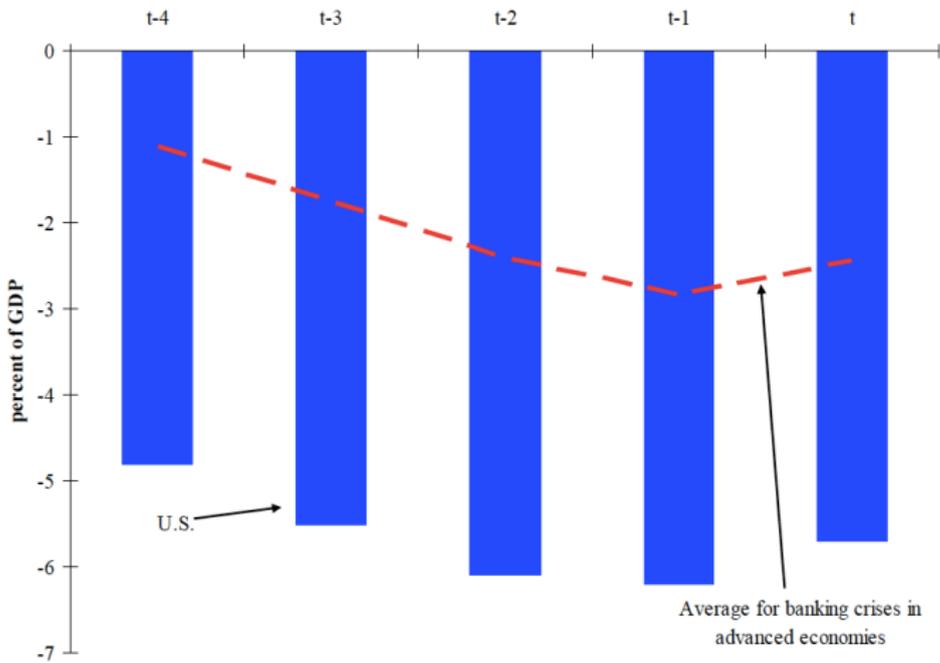


Figure: Reinhart and Rogoff (2009) - Figure 13.5



# Real housing prices and banking crises in advanced economies (1945-2008)

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

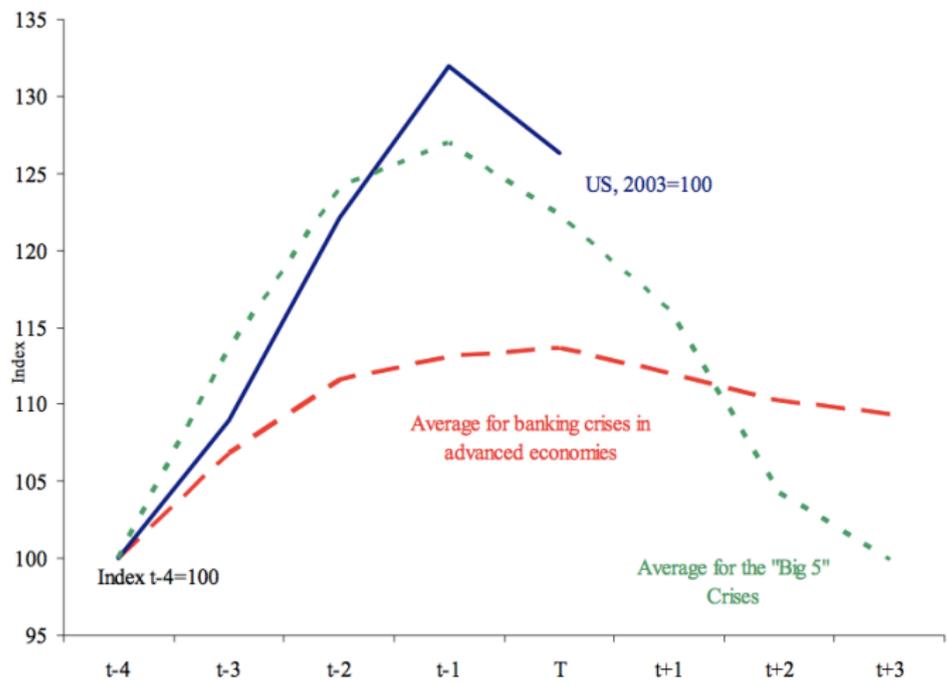


Figure: Reinhart and Rogoff (2009) - Figure 13.3

# Equity prices and banking crises in advanced economies (1945-2008)

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

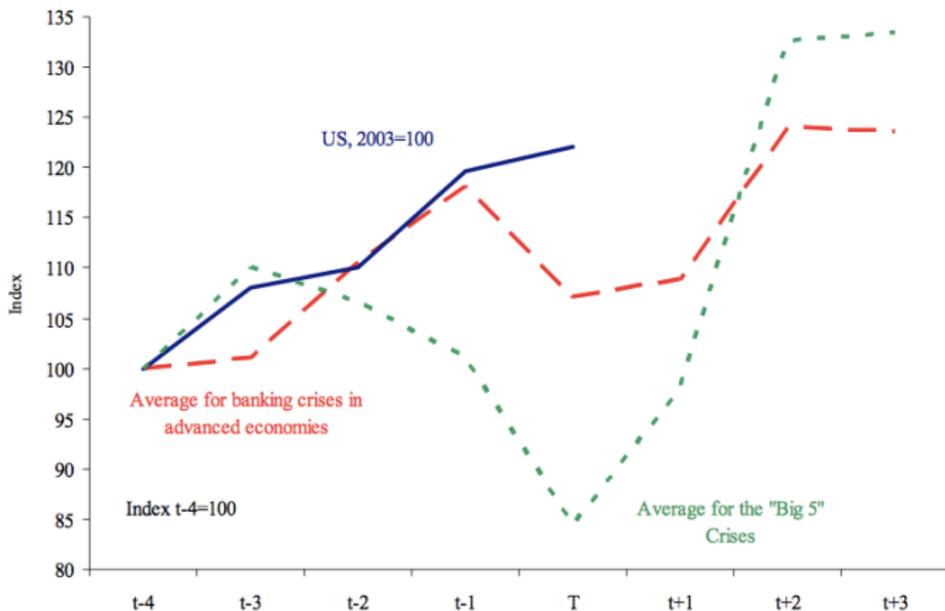


Figure: Reinhart and Rogoff (2009) - Figure 13.4

# Growth in real GDP per capita and banking crises in advanced economies (1945-2008)

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

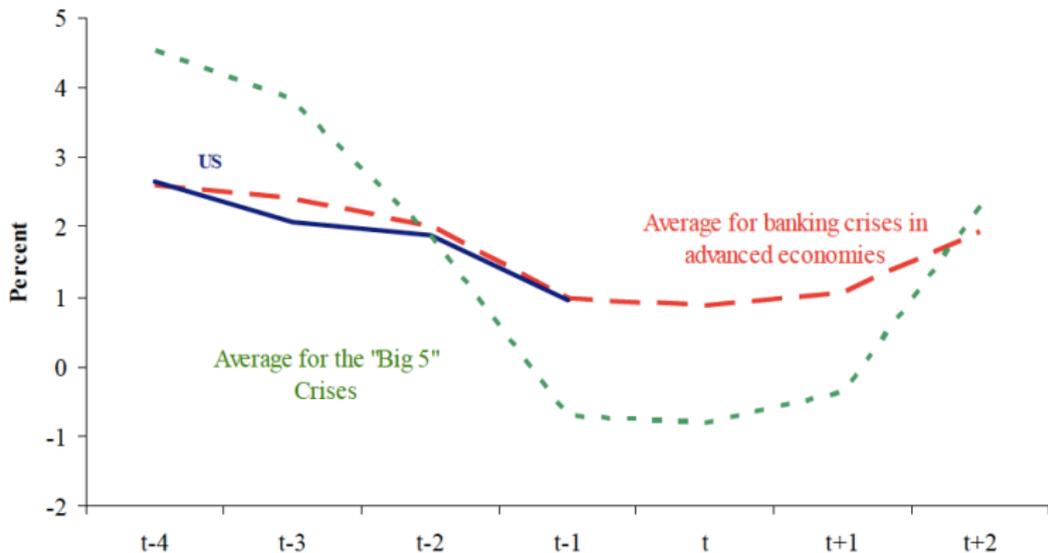


Figure: Figure 13.6 in RR

# Central government debt and banking crises in advanced economies (1945-2008)

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

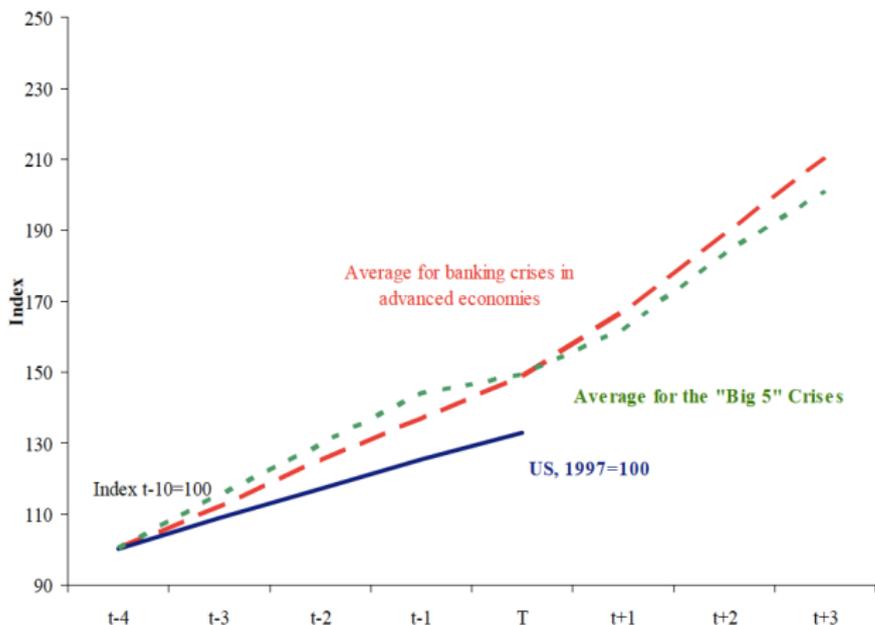


Figure: Reinhart and Rogoff (2009)- Figure 13.7

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

- Seeks to explain the aggregate economy using theories based on strong microeconomic foundations.

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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- Seeks to explain the aggregate economy using theories based on strong microeconomic foundations.
- Collective decisions of rational individuals over a range of variables for both present and future.
- All variables are **assumed** to be simultaneously in equilibrium.
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- Money is neutral in its effect on real variables.
- Largely ignores uncertainty by simply subtracting risk premia from all risky returns and treat them as risk-free.

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- K. Arrow (1986): “In the aggregate, the hypothesis of rational behavior has in general no implications.”
- R. Solow (2006): “Maybe there is in human nature a deep-seated perverse pleasure in adopting and defending a wholly counterintuitive doctrine that leaves the uninitiated peasant wondering what planet he or she is on.”

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- Hierarchical structures (i.e, banks are agents, but so are their clients, as well as the government).
- Equilibrium is just one possible outcome, not assumed a priori.
- Dynamic reactions can modify both existing interactions and the structure of the links.

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- For example, an asset can pay  $1 \leq r_1 \leq r_2$  at dates  $T = 0, 1, 2$ .

# Liquidity preferences

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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- At time  $t = 0$ , consumers don't know in which future date they will consume.
- The consumer's expected utility is

$$\omega U(r_1) + (1 - \omega)U(r_2),$$

where  $\omega$  is the proportion of early consumers (type 1).

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- Sufficiently risk-averse consumers prefer the liquid asset.

# Example: Diamond (2007)

- Let  $A = (r_1 = 1, r_2 = 2)$  represent an illiquid asset and  $B = (r_1 = 1.28, r_2 = 1.813)$  a liquid one.

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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- By comparison, the expected utility from holding the liquid asset is

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- Observe, however, that risk-neutral investors would prefer the illiquid asset, since:

$$E[A] = 1.75 > 1.68 = E[B]$$

- Consider an economy with dates  $T = 0, 1, 2$  and consumer preferences given by

$$U(c_1, c_2) = \begin{cases} u(c_1) & \text{with prob } \omega \\ u(c_2) & \text{with prob } 1 - \omega \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

# Liquidity risk sharing with public information

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- Agents are endowed with one unit of the numeraire at time 0 and must decide either to hold it or to invest in an illiquid asset  $(1, R)$ .
- Denoting the consumption of agent of type  $i$  at time  $k$  by  $c_k^i$  the optimal risk sharing for *publicly* observed preferences is

$$c_1^2 = c_2^1 = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$u'(c_1^1) = Ru'(c_2^2) \quad (3)$$

$$\omega c_1^1 + (1 - \omega) \frac{c_2^2}{R} = 1 \quad (4)$$

# A model for banks - Diamond and Dybvig (1983)

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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- Fortunately, the optimal solution satisfies the self-selection condition  $1 < c_1^1 < c_2^2 < R$ , which in turn implies that there is a contract that implements it as a Nash equilibrium.

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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- Suppose now that a bank offers a fixed claim  $r_1$  per unit deposited at time 0.

# A model for banks - Diamond and Dybvig (1983)

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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- Denoting by  $f$  the total fraction of withdrawers, we see that  $r_1 = c_1^1$  and  $f = \omega$  is such equilibrium.
- However, it is clear that  $f = 1$  (run) is also an equilibrium.

- Consider  $N$  heterogeneous agents with liquidity preferences at times  $t_k$  given by independent uniform random variables  $\omega^i$  on  $[0, 1]$ : if  $\omega^i < p$ , agent  $i$  is said to be of type 1 (impatient), otherwise it is said to be of type 2 (patient).

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- At  $t_{k+1}$ , define

$$\tilde{\omega}_k^i = \omega^i + (-1)^{b_k^i} \frac{\varepsilon_k^i}{2}, \quad (5)$$

where  $b_k^i \in \{0, 1\}$  are Bernoulli random variables and  $\varepsilon_k^i$  are uniformly distributed on  $[0, 1]$ . Setting  $q = 2p - 1/2$ , agent  $i$  is then deemed to be impatient if  $\tilde{\omega}^i < q$  and patient otherwise.

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- Because of anticipated shocks, individuals explore the society searching to partners to exchange investments.

- We impose some constraints on the individual capacity to go around and seek other individuals to trade.

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- This reflects the inherited limited capability of information gathering and environment knowledge of individual agents.
- We use a combination of Von Neumann and Moore neighborhood:

5	1	6
2	X	3
7	4	8

# Matching example

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Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

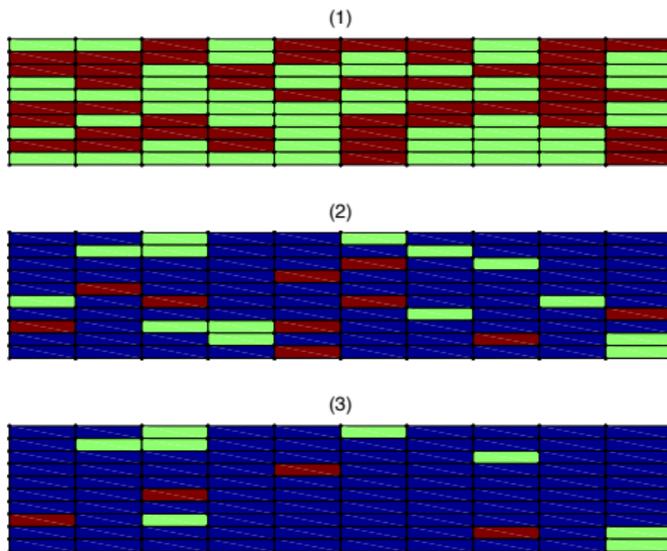


Figure: Society, preference shock, and search for partners.

- We follow the inductive reasoning proposed by Arthur (2000) for individuals with bounded rationality dealing with complex environments.

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

# Inductive reasoning

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

- We follow the inductive reasoning proposed by Arthur (2000) for individuals with bounded rationality dealing with complex environments.
- We assume agents make predictions using a memory of 5 periods.

# Inductive reasoning

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

- We follow the inductive reasoning proposed by Arthur (2000) for individuals with bounded rationality dealing with complex environments.
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# Inductive reasoning

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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An

agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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An

agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

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An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

- Each predictor makes one of the following forecasts:

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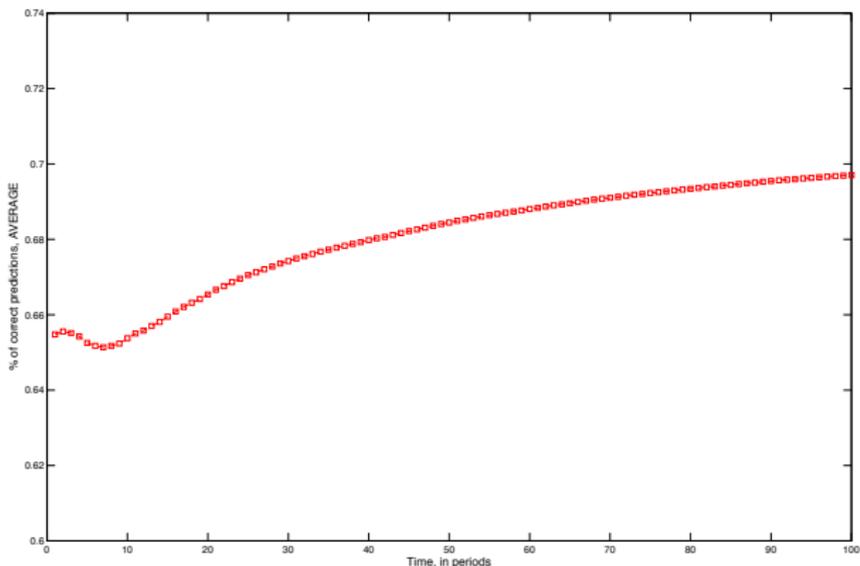
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- Each predictor makes one of the following forecasts:
  - 1 N = agent will not need a partner
  - 2 G = agent will need a partner and will find one
  - 3 B = agent will need a partner and will not find one
- Depending on the realized outcome, a predictor's strength gets updated by

$$\Delta S = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if the forecast is correct} \\ -1 & \text{if the forecast is incorrect} \end{cases}$$

# Learning simulation

We use 400 persons over a time span of 100 periods in a simulation with 100 realizations:



An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

- Introduction
- Banking crises throughout history
- DSGE x ABM
- The pre-banking society
- Bank formation
- Bank runs
- Interbank networks

# To join or not to join a bank

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

- Suppose that agents need to decide between the liquid asset  $(1, 1)$ , the illiquid asset  $(r < 1, R > 1)$  or joining the bank and receiving  $(c_1 > 1, c_2 < R)$ .

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- Suppose that agents need to decide between the liquid asset  $(1, 1)$ , the illiquid asset  $(r < 1, R > 1)$  or joining the bank and receiving  $(c_1 > 1, c_2 < R)$ .
- For example, an agent who current has late preferences might have the following payoff table:

	forecast	strength	payoff (join)	payoff (not join)
1	N	-2	$c_2$	R
2	G	0	$c_1$	1
3	N	+1	$c_2$	R
4	B	-1	$c_1$	r
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- The decision is based on the weighted sum of payoffs.

- We follow the work of Howitt and Clower (1999, 2007) on the emergence of economic organizations.

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

- We follow the work of Howitt and Clower (1999, 2007) on the emergence of economic organizations.
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- The bank is established if there are  $x_k^i$  and  $y_k^i$  such that  $x_k^i + y_k^i \leq 1$  and

$$y_k^i = c_1 W_k^i$$

$$R x_k^i = c_2 (1 - W_k^i),$$

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- Individuals become aware of bank existence only if the bank lies in their neighbourhood
- In addition we give the bank the reach of its new members

# Experiment: bank formation

An  
agent-based  
model for  
bank  
formation,  
bank runs and  
interbank  
networks

Matheus R.  
Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises  
throughout  
history

DSGE x ABM

The  
pre-banking  
society

Bank  
formation

Bank runs

Interbank  
networks

# Experiment (continued): established banks

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

Day 100

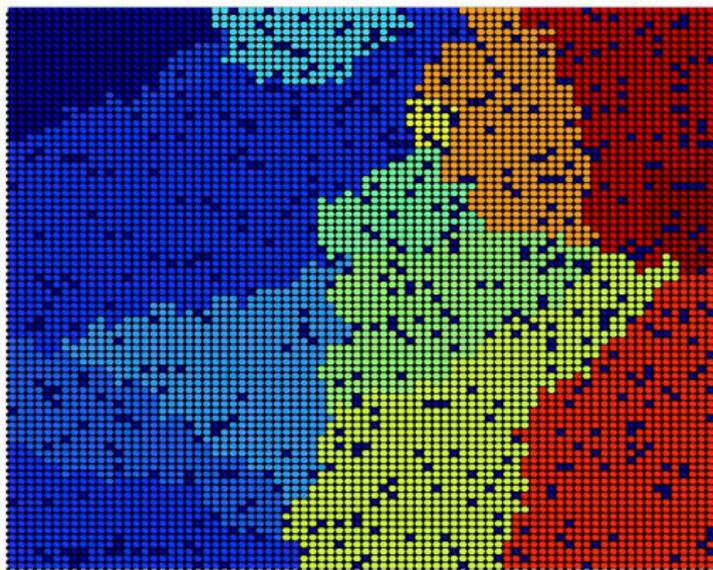


Figure: Banks at  $T=100$  with  $c_1 = 1.1$ ,  $c_2 = 1.5$  and  $R = 2$

# Experiment (continued): number of depositors

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

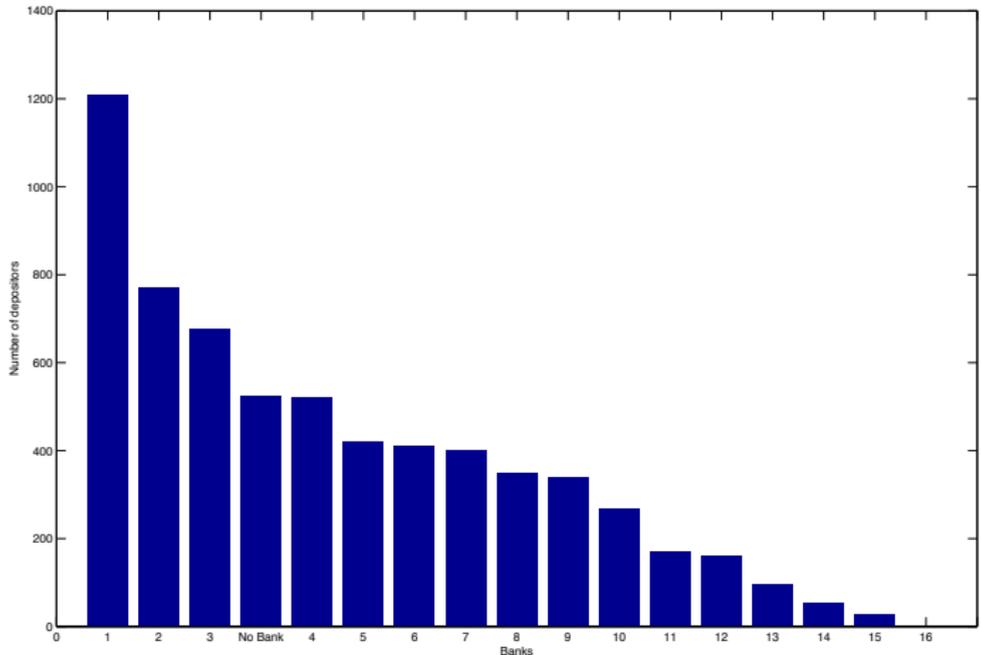
DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks



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- We say that a bank is subject to a run if late consumers receive less than  $c_1$  at the end of the period.
- If a bank survives at period  $k$ , it updates the estimate of early consumers according to

$$W_{k+1}^i = W_k^i + \alpha(\bar{W}_k^i - W_k^i) \quad (6)$$

reflecting adaptation through a parameter  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ .

# Experiment: bank formation and runs

An  
agent-based  
model for  
bank  
formation,  
bank runs and  
interbank  
networks

Matheus R.  
Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises  
throughout  
history

DSGE x ABM

The  
pre-banking  
society

Bank  
formation

Bank runs

Interbank  
networks

# Experiment: established banks (with possible runs)

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

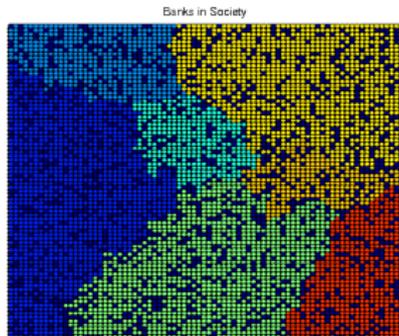
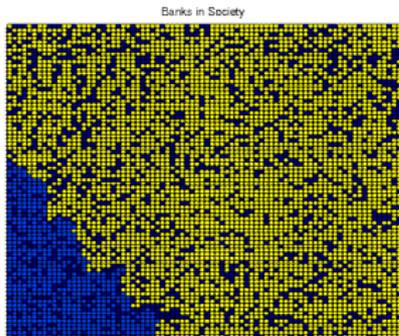
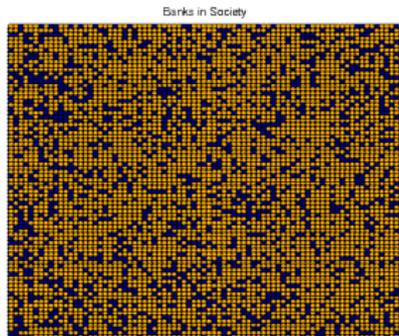
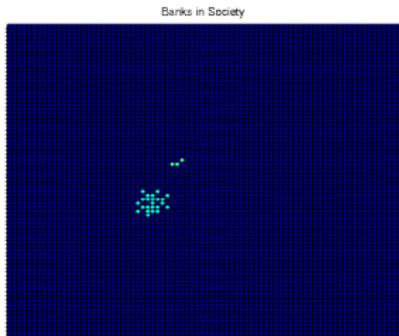
DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks



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- In addition, they deem the estimate to be adequate if the fraction of reserves lost in a given period is less than a certain threshold.
- They use the same set of predictors as clients to forecast the adequacy of their estimates as being 'adequate', 'inadequate' or 'undetermined'.
- Banks with inadequate or undetermined estimates have an incentive to exchange deposits with other banks and try to protect their reserves.

# Experiment: adequacy of estimates through time

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

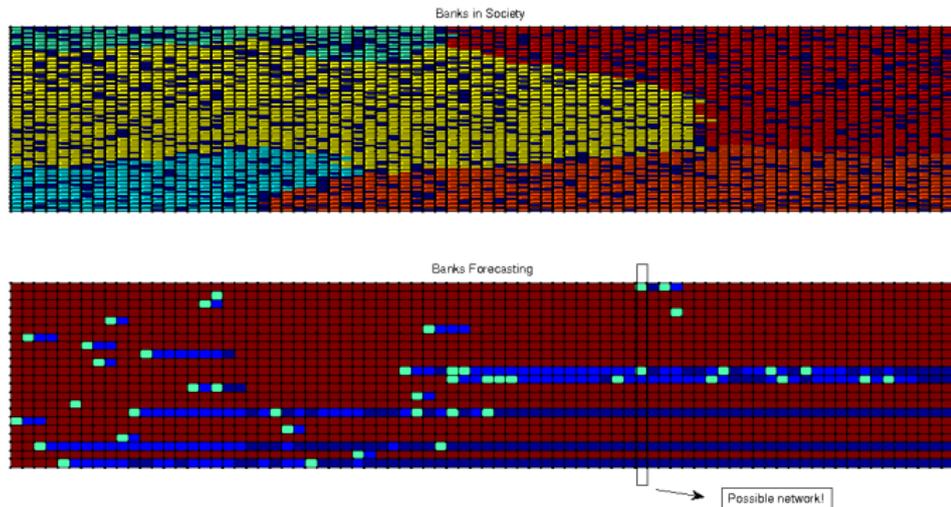


Figure: Banks at  $T=100$  with  $c_1 = 1.1$ ,  $c_2 = 1.5$  and  $R = 2$  and adequacy of estimates over time.

# Experiment: possible network

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

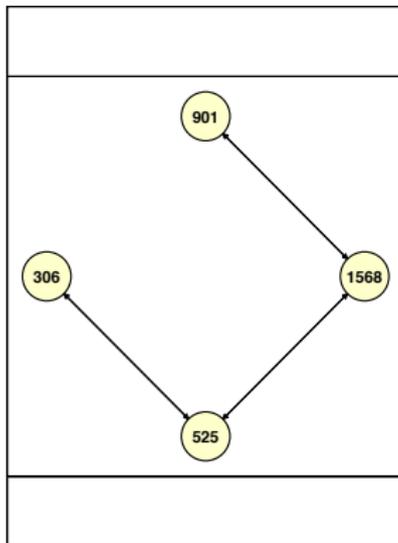


Figure: Snapshot of possible interbank loans

# Number of established banks with and without interbank links

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

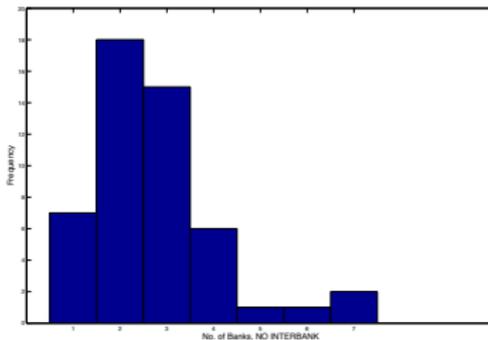
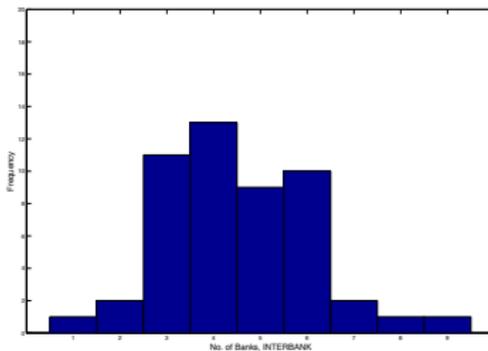
DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks



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  - 3 Randomly select  $2M^2$  cells around the base to form a community
  - 4 Alter half of the communities to early preferences and half of the communities to late preferences.

# Examples of correlated liquidity shocks

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

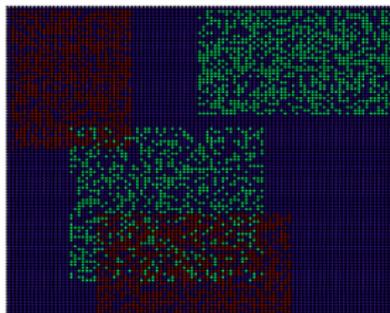
The pre-banking society

Bank formation

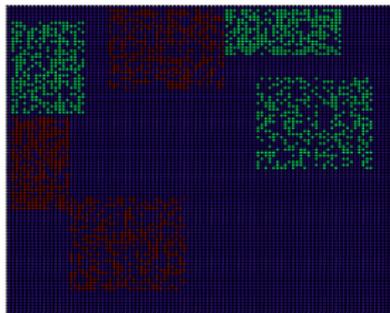
Bank runs

Interbank networks

Communities



Communities





# Experiment: bank formation and runs with correlated shocks

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

# Experiment: adequacy of estimates through time (with correlated shocks)

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

Bank runs

Interbank networks

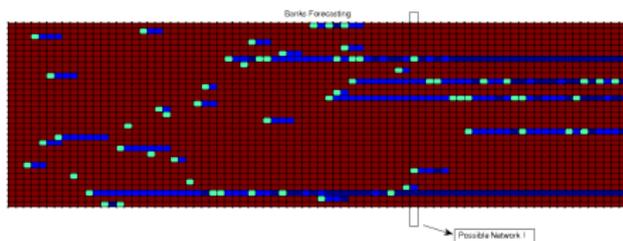
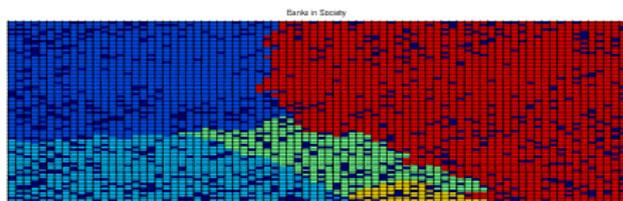


Figure: Banks at  $T=100$  with  $c_1 = 1.1$ ,  $c_2 = 1.5$  and  $R = 2$  and adequacy of estimates over time.

# Number of established banks under correlated shocks

An agent-based model for bank formation, bank runs and interbank networks

Matheus R. Grasselli

Introduction

Banking crises throughout history

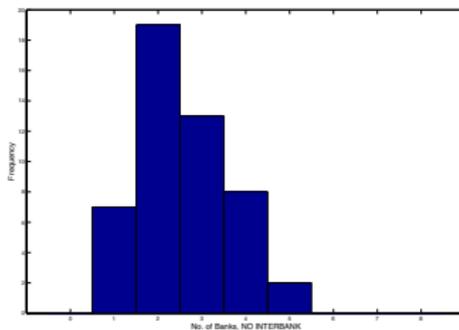
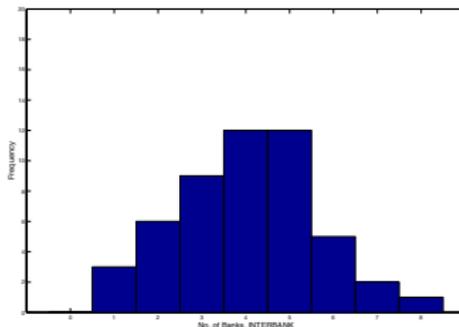
DSGE x ABM

The pre-banking society

Bank formation

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- Ultimately want to adjust model parameters to reproduced different observed networks and use it as a testbed for policy implications.