The Effects of Macroeconomic Shocks on Asset Prices

By explicitly including the MP and IS curves in the aggregate demand and supply analysis, we can analyze the response of asset prices, in particular real interest rates and stock prices, to the macroeconomic shocks we discussed in the chapter. We start by using aggregate supply and demand analysis along with the MP and IS curves to explain the impact of demand and supply shocks on real interest rates, inflation, and aggregate output. Then, using a standard formula for valuation of stocks, we use our results to determine the impact of these shocks on stock prices.

**IMPACT OF DEMAND SHOCKS ON REAL INTEREST RATES, INFLATION, AND OUTPUT**

Demand shocks are of two types: those that occur from shocks to monetary policy, and those that occur from shocks to spending.

**Monetary Policy Shocks**

Suppose the economy is initially at point 1 in all three panels of Figure 1, where inflation is at \( \pi_1 \), aggregate output is at \( Y_1 = Y^p \), and the real interest rate is at \( r_1 \). Suppose now that the Federal Reserve decides to autonomously ease monetary policy by lowering real interest rates at any given inflation rate. As we can see in panel (a) of Figure 1, this monetary policy action results in a downward shift of the monetary policy curve from \( MP_1 \) to \( MP_2 \). This monetary policy shock does not cause the IS curve to change in panel (b), although it does lead to a movement along this IS curve. As we saw in Chapter 21, the aggregate demand curve in panel (c) shifts out to the right from \( AD_1 \) to \( AD_2 \) because the lower real interest rate at any given inflation rate leads to higher investment spending and net exports, thereby increasing equilibrium output at each inflation rate. The rightward shift in the aggregate demand curve then moves the economy to point 2 in all three panels, with a higher rate of inflation at \( \pi_2 \) and higher output at \( Y_2 \), and as we can see from the IS curve in panel (b), a lower real interest rate at \( r_2 \).

As we saw in the chapter, because output is now above potential, the short-run aggregate supply curve in panel (c) will shift up until it reaches \( AS_3 \). The economy will move to point 3, where aggregate output is now back at potential and inflation has risen to \( \pi_3 \). From the IS curve in panel (b), we can see that the real interest rate is back at \( r_1 \) because output is back at \( Y_1 = Y^p \).
The Effects of Macroeconomic Shocks on Asset Prices

Figure 1: Response to an Autonomous Monetary Easing

The Fed’s decision to lower interest rates at any given inflation rate shifts the monetary policy curve in panel (a) from $MP_1$ to $MP_2$ and shifts the aggregate demand curve in panel (c) to the right to $AD_2$, because the lower real interest rate at any given inflation rate leads to higher investment spending and net exports. The economy moves to point 2 in all three panels, with a higher rate of inflation at $\pi_2$ and higher output at $Y_2$, and as can be seen from the IS curve in panel (b), a lower real interest rate at $r_2$, because $Y_2$ is greater than $Y^p$, the short-run aggregate supply curve will now shift upward until it reaches $AS_3$, and the economy will move to point 3, where aggregate output is now back at potential and inflation has risen to $\pi_3$. The real interest rate is back at $r_1$ because output is back at $Y_1 = Y^p$.
The conclusion from this exercise is that an autonomous monetary policy easing reduces real interest rates and raises aggregate output temporarily but not permanently. On the other hand, the inflation rate does rise permanently.

This result illustrates the point that monetary policy authorities can affect real interest rates in the short run, but they do not control real interest rates in the long run. Indeed, as we see in panel (b), the long-run real interest rate is determined by the IS curve when output is at $Y^p$.

**Spending Shocks**

Spending shocks can be caused by changes in fiscal policy (changes in taxes or government purchases) or by autonomous changes in consumption expenditure, investment spending, or net exports. Let’s see what happens when there is a positive spending shock, either because government purchases increase or because business optimism leads to an increase in investment. Because monetary policy is unchanged, the MP curve in panel (a) of Figure 2 does not shift. The IS and AD curves in panels (b) and (c), however, shift to the right, as we learned in Chapters 20 and 21, because increased spending causes equilibrium output to increase at any given inflation and real interest rate. The economy moves to point 2 in panel (c), with output and inflation higher at $Y_2$ and $\pi_2$, respectively. Because inflation is higher, we see from panels (a) and (b) that the real interest rate has risen to $r_2$. Then, as we saw in the previous example, the aggregate supply curve shifts up to $AS_3$, and the economy moves to point 3. Output returns to potential, but notice that because inflation rises to $\pi_3$, the real interest rate rises even further to $r_3$ in panels (a) and (b).

We can conclude that positive spending shocks lead to higher real interest rates in both the short and long runs. Positive spending shocks lead to higher output in the short run but not in the long run, and lead to higher inflation in both the short run and the long run.

**IMPACT OF SUPPLY SHOCKS ON REAL INTEREST RATES, INFLATION, AND OUTPUT**

Now we look at what happens when temporary and permanent supply shocks occur.

**Temporary Supply Shocks**

We examine a temporary supply shock resulting from a rise in oil prices (as in the chapter) in Figure 3. The supply shock leads to an upward shift in the aggregate supply curve from $AS_1$ to $AS_2$ in panel (c), but does not lead to a shift in the MP or IS curves in panels (a) and (b). When the economy moves to point 2, where output has fallen to $Y_2$ and inflation has risen to $\pi_2$, we see that the real interest rate has risen to $r_2$ at point 2 on both the MP and IS curves in panels (a) and (b). Then, as we saw in the text, in the long run the aggregate supply curve will shift back down to $AS_1$ and the economy will return to point 1 in all of the panels, so that inflation, output, and the real interest rate return to their initial levels.

Our conclusion is as follows: A temporary supply shock that raises prices will cause the real interest rate to rise in the short run but not in the long run. Although the temporary supply shock causes inflation to rise and output to fall in the short run, it has no long-run impact on either of these variables.
A positive spending shock shifts the IS and AD curves to the right, to IS$_2$ in panel (b) and to AD$_2$ in panel (c). The economy moves to point 2, with output and inflation higher at Y$_2$ and π$_2$, respectively. Because inflation is higher, we see from panels (a) and (b) that the real interest rate in the short run has risen to r$_2$. Because Y$_2$ is greater than Y$^P$, the short-run aggregate supply curve then shifts up to AS$_3$, and the economy moves to point 3. Output returns to potential, but because inflation rises to π$_3$, the real interest rate rises even further to r$_3$. 
The temporary negative supply shock leads to an upward shift in the aggregate supply curve to AS₂ in panel (c). When the economy moves to point 2, where output has fallen to Y₂ and inflation has risen to π₂, the interest rate rises to r₂ at point 2 on both the MP and IS curves in panels (a) and (b). Because Y₂ is less than Y𝑃, in the long run, the aggregate supply curve will shift back down to AS₁ and the economy will return to point 1, where inflation, output, and the real interest rate will return to their initial levels.
Permanent Supply Shocks

In Figure 4, we look at a permanent negative supply shock. In this case, in panel (c), the long-run supply curve shifts leftward from $LRAS_1$ to $LRAS_2$ while the short-run aggregate supply curve shifts up from $AS_1$ to $AS_2$. Again, however, neither the MP nor the IS curve shifts in panels (a) and (b). When the economy moves to point 2 in all three panels, inflation rises to $\pi_2$, output falls to $Y_2$, and the real interest rate rises to $r_2$.

A permanent negative supply shock leads to higher real interest rates in both the short and the long run. It also results in lower output in both the long and short runs, and higher inflation in both the long and short runs.

IMPACT OF SHOCKS ON THE STOCK MARKET

To assess the impact of these shocks on the stock market, we use the generalized dividend model, discussed in Chapter 7. The model states that the value of a share of stock should equal the present discounted value of future dividends. We write the model as follows:

$$P_0 = \sum_{t=1}^{\infty} \frac{D_t}{(1 + r^*)^t} \quad (1)$$

where
- $P_0$ = the current price of the stock, where the zero subscript refers to time period zero—that is, the present
- $D_t$ = the dividend paid at time $t$
- $k^e$ = the required return on investments in equity

Future dividends should be positively related to overall economic activity and thus to aggregate output, while the required rate of return on stocks that we use to discount the future dividends should move positively with the real interest rate. Armed with these facts, we can now determine how demand and supply shocks affect stock prices.

Monetary Policy Shocks

We saw in Figure 1 that an autonomous monetary policy easing lowers real interest rates and raises output in the short run. In Equation 1, lower real interest rates reduce the denominator and higher output increases the numerator, thereby raising stock prices. We get the following result: An autonomous monetary policy easing should raise stock prices.

Spending Shocks

In Figure 2, we saw that a positive spending shock leads to both higher output and higher real interest rates in the short run, and to higher real interest rates in the long run. Here, the effects on stock prices are unclear. The higher output value would increase the numerator in Equation 1 and would therefore raise stock prices, whereas the higher real interest rate values would increase the denominator and thereby cause stock prices to fall. The effect of a positive spending shock on stock prices is ambiguous.
FIGURE 4
Response to a Permanent Negative Supply Shock

In panel (c), the permanent negative supply shock shifts the long-run supply curve to the left to LRAS2, while the short-run aggregate supply curve shifts up to AS2. When the economy moves to point 2, inflation rises to π_2 while output falls to Y_2. The higher inflation rate is then associated with a higher real interest rate r_2, as shown in panels (a) and (b).

Step 1. A permanent negative supply shock shifts LRAS leftward and AS upward.

Step 2. Increasing inflation in the long run.

Step 3. Increasing real interest rates in the long run.

Step 4. Decreasing output in the long run.
Temporary Supply Shocks
In Figure 3, we saw that a temporary negative supply shock causes output to fall in the short run and real interest rates to rise. The denominator in Equation 1 would get larger while the numerator would get smaller, both of which would lower stock prices. **A temporary negative supply shock should cause stock prices to fall.**

Permanent Supply Shocks
A permanent negative supply shock causes output to fall in both the short and long runs, as we saw in Figure 4. Furthermore, such a shock results in a higher real interest rate in both the short and long runs. The decrease in the numerator and increase in the denominator of Equation 1 likely would be much larger than in the case of a temporary supply shock, because the effects of a permanent shock are long-lasting. **A permanent negative supply shock causes stock prices to fall even more than they would if the supply shock were temporary.**

We see from our analysis in this appendix that macroeconomic shocks have an important impact on financial markets. But this relationship works the other way, too: We saw in Chapter 12 earlier that financial shocks can have major effects on the macroeconomy.