
Lab 3 Questions: Value Function Iteration
Investment Finance and Asset Prices ECON 5068

1 Value Function Iteration

Consider the problem of a value maximizing perfectly competitive firm whose operating profit function at time t is given by

$$\pi_t = K_t^\alpha; \quad \alpha > 0 \tag{1}$$

where K_t is the stock of capital at time t and α is the elasticity of profit function w.r.t capital. The firm faces a quadratic adjustment cost of capital given by

$$AC_t = \frac{\phi}{2} I_t^2$$

Dividends, D_t , are defined as operating profits net of adjustment costs and investment costs,

$$D_t = \pi_t - I_t - AC_t$$

Here we have normalized the price of capital to unity. Assume that the firm lives for infinite periods, $t = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, and future period values are discounted using the factor $0 < \beta < 1$. Furthermore, the stock of capital evolves as follows

$$K_{t+1} = (1 - \delta)K_t + I_t$$

where $0 < \delta < 1$ is the depreciation rate.

Write down the Bellman equation and solve for optimal investment policy using the method of Value Function Iteration.