

The Transition- Dynamics from Government Money only to Differentiated (Crypto-) Currency Competition



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Why do people need and hold money?

Menger (1871), Mann (1971), Hayek (1990), Berentsen & Schär (2018)

- Cash purchases, holding reserves for future payments, standard of deferred payments, reliable unit of account
- Transaction function - facilitates trading

Is currency better supplied by monopoly or competition?

Friedman (1960), Hayek (1990), White (2015)

- Benevolence vs. profit-maximization

How do people adapt an (alternative) currency?

Kiyotaki & Wright (1993), Luther (2016), Alzahrani & Daim (2019)

- Network effect
- Changes in money holdings and behaviour



State and analyse transition dynamics in a New Monetarist Model

*Lagos & Wright (2003, 2005), Williamson & Wright (2010), Waknis (2017),
Fernández-Villaverde & Sanches (2016)*

Specifics of Cryptocurrencies

- Number of Altcoins rose rapidly
- Different characteristics
 - Anonymity
 - Transaction time
 - Transaction costs
 - Volatility/ Stability
 - ...
- Wider functionality
 - Smart contracts (dapps, DeFi, tokenisation)
- Different reasons to hold and use a cryptocurrency
- Blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies keep improving



A New Monetarist Model

The Life of the Agents

$[0,1]$ -continuum of agents
discrete time



Agents decide how much to **work**, **trade** & **consume** to maximize utility with discount factor $\beta \in (0,1)$

Day-Market DM

- Decentralized Market
- Random bilateral matching
- Specialized good q

period t

$$\begin{aligned}
 V(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t) = & \alpha \sigma \mu_t \psi_t \int \{u[q(\mathbf{m}_t, \tilde{\mathbf{m}}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)] + W[\mathbf{m}_t - \mathbf{d}_t(\mathbf{m}_t, \tilde{\mathbf{m}}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)]\} dF(\tilde{\mathbf{m}}_t) \\
 & + \alpha \sigma \mu_t \psi_t \int \{-c[q(\tilde{\mathbf{m}}_t, \mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)] + W[\tilde{\mathbf{m}}_t + \mathbf{d}(\tilde{\mathbf{m}}_t, \mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)]\} dF(\tilde{\mathbf{m}}_t) \\
 & + \alpha \delta \int B(\mathbf{m}_t, \tilde{\mathbf{m}}_t, \mathbf{s}_t) dF(\tilde{\mathbf{m}}_t) \\
 & + (1 - 2\alpha \sigma \mu_t \psi_t - \alpha \delta) W(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)
 \end{aligned}$$

Night-Market CM

- Centralized Market
- General good x

$$\begin{aligned}
 W(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t) = & \max_{x, H, \mathbf{m}_{t+1}} \{U(x) - AH + \beta V(\mathbf{m}_{t+1}, \mathbf{s}_{t+1})\} \\
 \text{s.t. } & x = \omega H + \phi_t \mathbf{m}_t + \mathbf{y}_t \mathbf{m}_t - \tau - \phi_t \mathbf{m}_{t+1}
 \end{aligned}$$

A New Monetarist Model

The Role of Money



The use of money is not necessary but may enhance trading!

Day-Market DM

- **Single-coincidence meeting:** period t
pay/ receive money for specialized good q
- **Double-coincidence meeting:**
barter trade

- Agents decide how much money they want to hold and save for the next period m_{t+1}
- Optimal portfolio choice equilibrium condition:

$$\beta(\phi_{t+1}^i + y_{t+1}^i)\{1 + l^i[q_{t+1}(m_{t+1}, s_{t+1})]\} = \phi_t^i$$

$$l^i[q(m_t, s_t)] \equiv \alpha \sigma \mu_t^i \left(\frac{u'[q_t(m_t, s_t)]}{c'[q_t(m_t, s_t)]} - 1 \right)$$

Night-Market CM

- Pay for or barter trade the general good x

ϕ_t^i ... value of currency i at time t
 y_t^i ... additional-value of currency i at time t
 l_t^i ... liquidity premium of currency i at time t

A New Monetarist Model Equilibria

Only one Government Currency

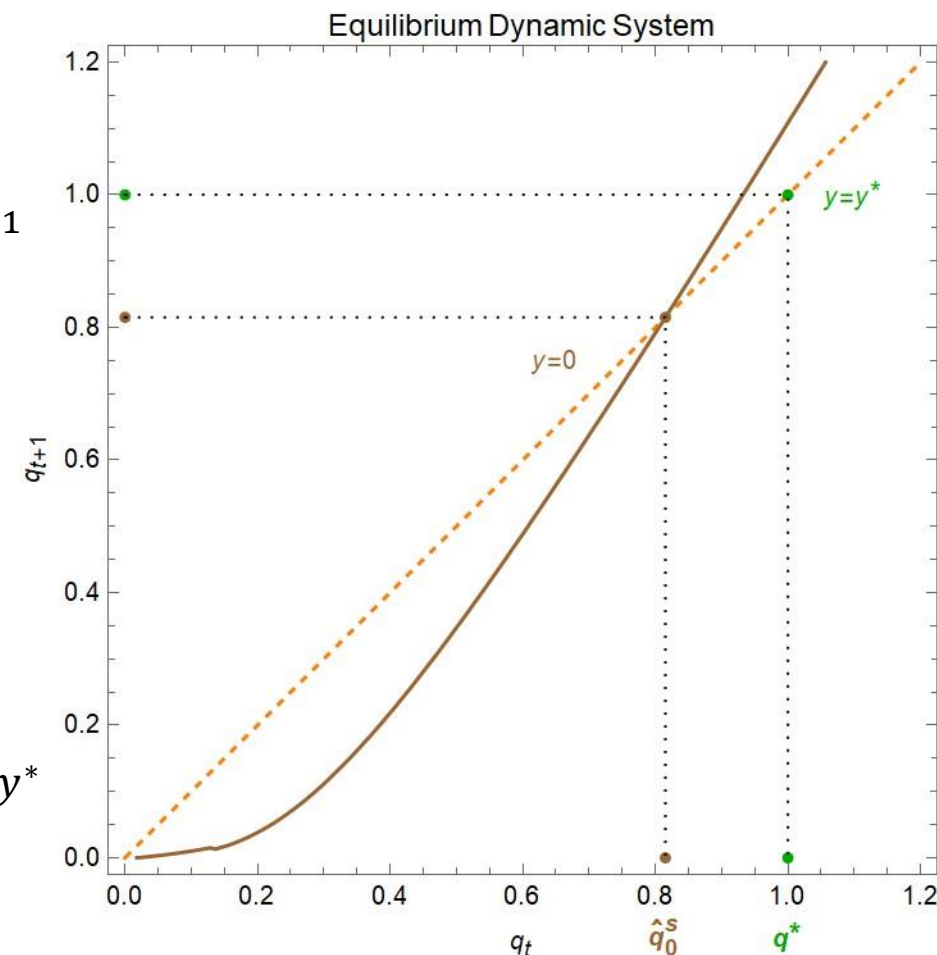
$$\beta\phi_{t+1}^g \{1 + l^g[\hat{q}_{t+1}^s(m_{t+1}, s_{t+1})]\} = \phi_t^g$$

- Steady state trading output \hat{q}_0^s with price stability $\phi_t^g = \phi_{t+1}^g$
- BUT: trading activity lower than socially optimal
- BUT: equilibrium trajectory with declining trading activity and declining money value, i.e. inflation

(Crypto-) Currency Competition

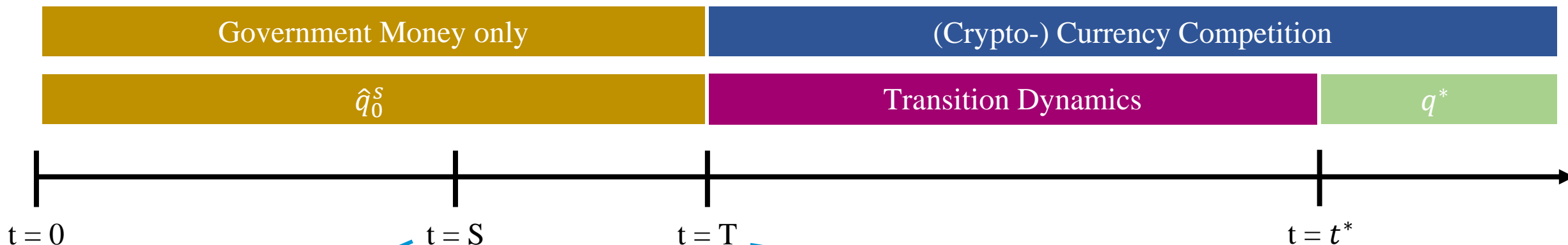
$$\beta(\phi^i + y^*) \{1 + l^i[q^*(m_{t+1}, s_{t+1})]\} = \phi^i$$

- Unique steady state socially optimum trading output q^*
- Cryptocurrencies provide maximum feasible additional value y^*
- Cryptocurrencies stable value $\phi_t^c = \phi_{t+1}^c$
- Government currency stable deflation rate $\rho^* = \frac{\phi_{t+1}^g}{\phi_t^g} > 1$



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Evolving Competition



$t = S$: Cryptocurrency becomes available in the economy

- Low initial acceptability $\mu_S^c \ll \mu^g = 1$
- Network effect prevents circulation in equilibrium
- But not perfect substitutes



Different characteristics and additional services can compensate lower acceptability

$t = T$: Cryptocurrency starts circulating in equilibrium

- The lower the initial acceptability, the higher the necessary additional value for the agents

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Transition Dynamics

Technology improves

→ Additional service grows

$$n(y_t^c) = \frac{y_{t+1}^c - y_t^c}{y_t^c} = \frac{G(y_t^c)}{y_t^c} - 1 \geq 0 \quad \forall t \geq S$$

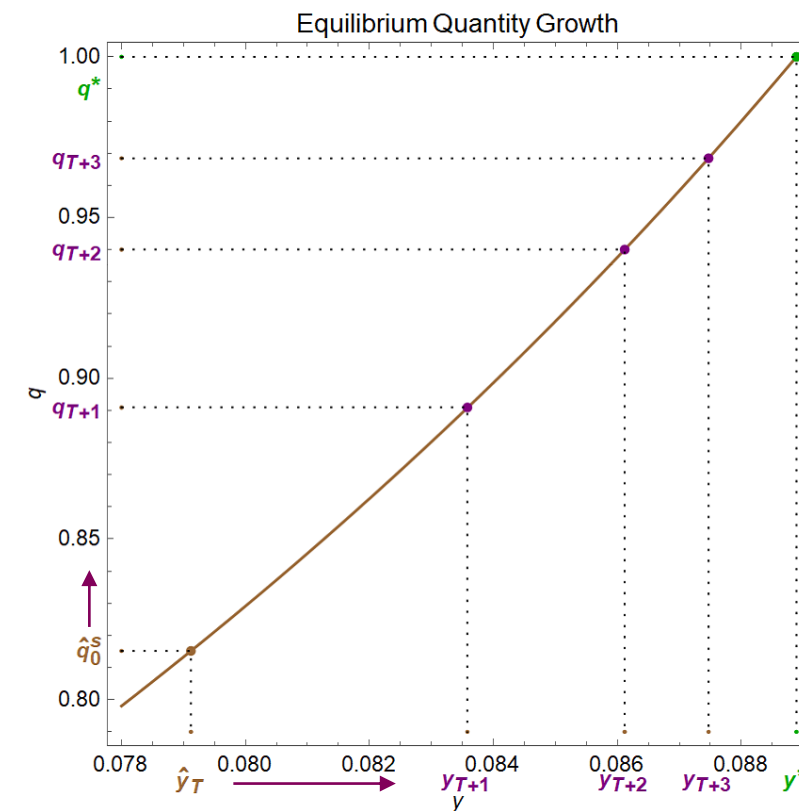
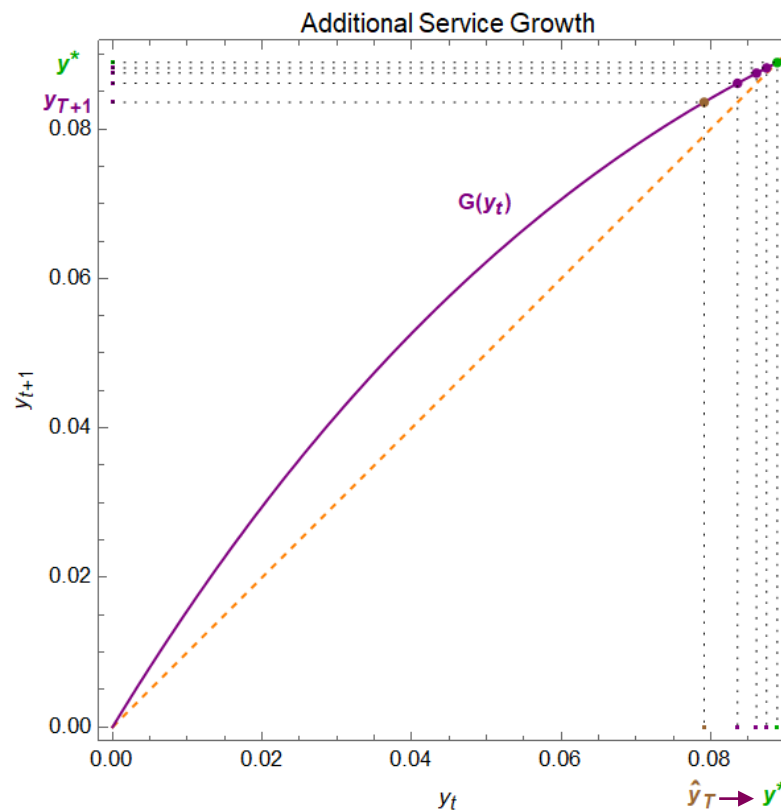
$$G(y_t^c) \geq y_t^c > 0 \quad \forall y_t^c \leq y^* \quad (\text{positive})$$

$$n(y_t^c) \geq n(y_{t+1}^c) \geq 0 \quad (\text{decreasing})$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} n(y_t^c) = 0 \quad (\text{tends to zero})$$

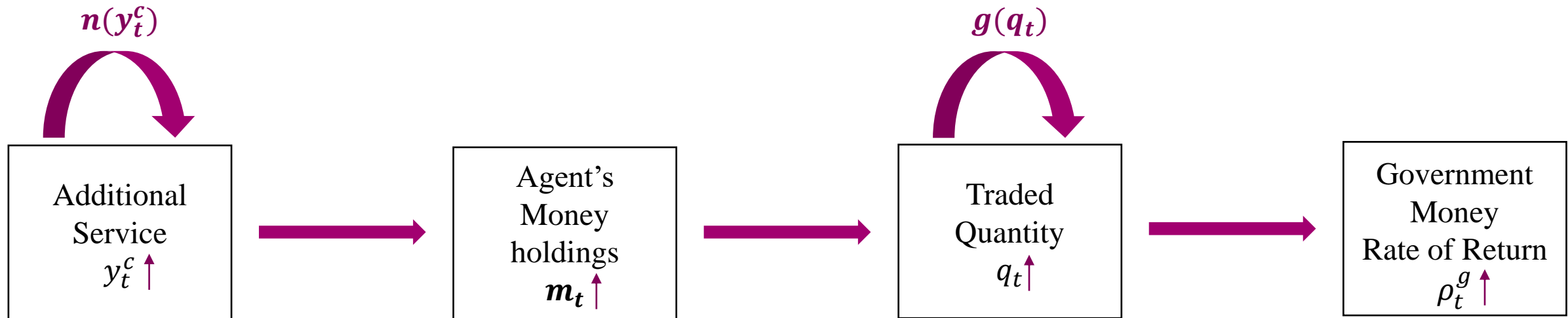
$$\exists y_\infty^* \text{ s.t. } y_t \leq y_\infty^* \quad \forall t \quad (\text{bounded})$$

→ Trading output increases



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Transition Dynamics II



According to these dynamics the economy converges to the first-best unique steady state equilibrium:

- Cryptocurrency performs the best it can y^*
- Cryptocurrency is stable $\phi_t^c = \phi_{t+1}^c$
- Socially optimum trading output q^*
- Government currency stable deflation rate $\rho^* = \frac{\phi_{t+1}^g}{\phi_t^g} > 1$ (Friedman rule on currency)



A New Monetarist Model

Various Different Competing Cryptocurrencies

- Fundamental dynamics and properties persist
- Free-entry and market clearing condition need to be fulfilled
- Need to provide enough additional value to compensate different lower acceptability
 - The more they are accepted, the lower is the necessary additional value to start circulating
 - If not sufficient, they do not get valued in economy equilibrium
- → Some cryptocurrencies may fail and lose their business in the perfect competitive currency environment

- Same *amount* of additional value does not imply same additional value
- Circulating cryptocurrencies can differ in their characteristics and services provided

- In first-best equilibrium with y^* all cryptocurrencies perform the best they can

A New Monetarist Model

Growing Acceptability

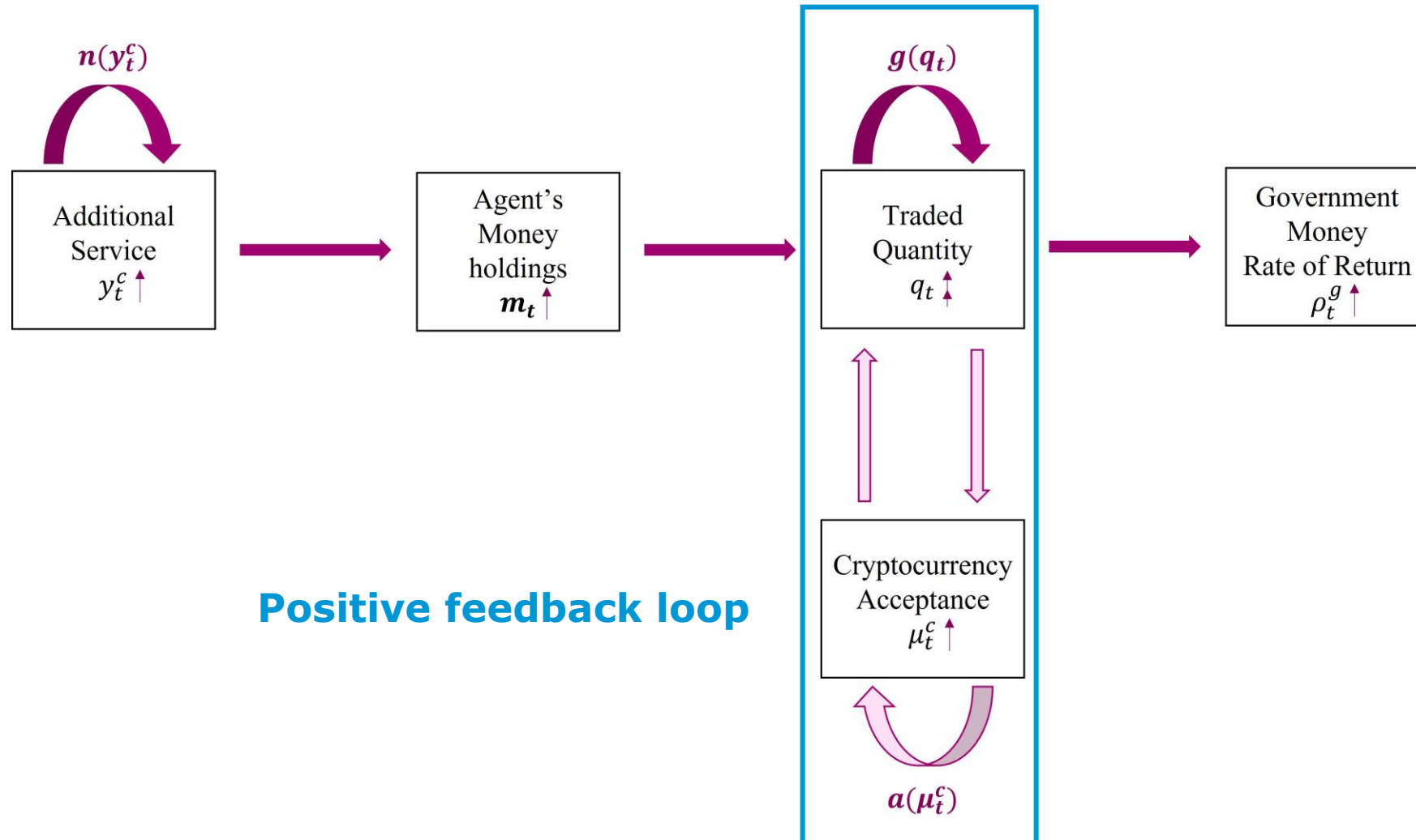
- Assume agents observe the enhanced trading activity through cryptocurrencies
 - Learn about new possibilities
 - More agents decide to accept this currency
- Assume acceptability of this currency increases related to output growth with one period lag

$$g(q_t) = \frac{q_{t+1} - q_t}{q_t} = \frac{q_{t+1}}{q_t} - 1 \geq 0 \quad \forall t \geq T$$

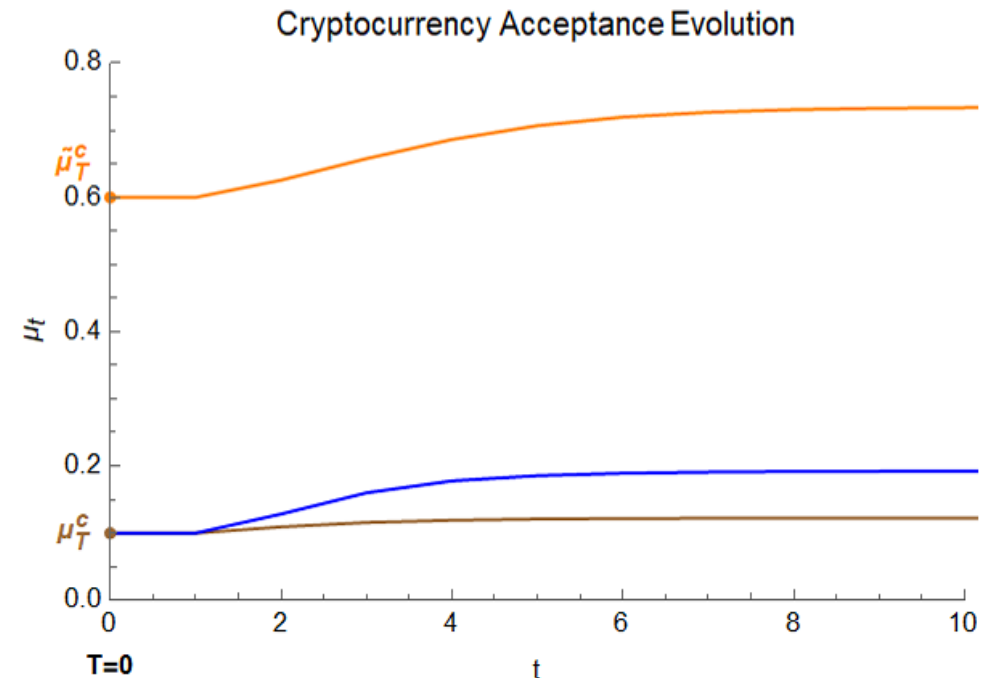
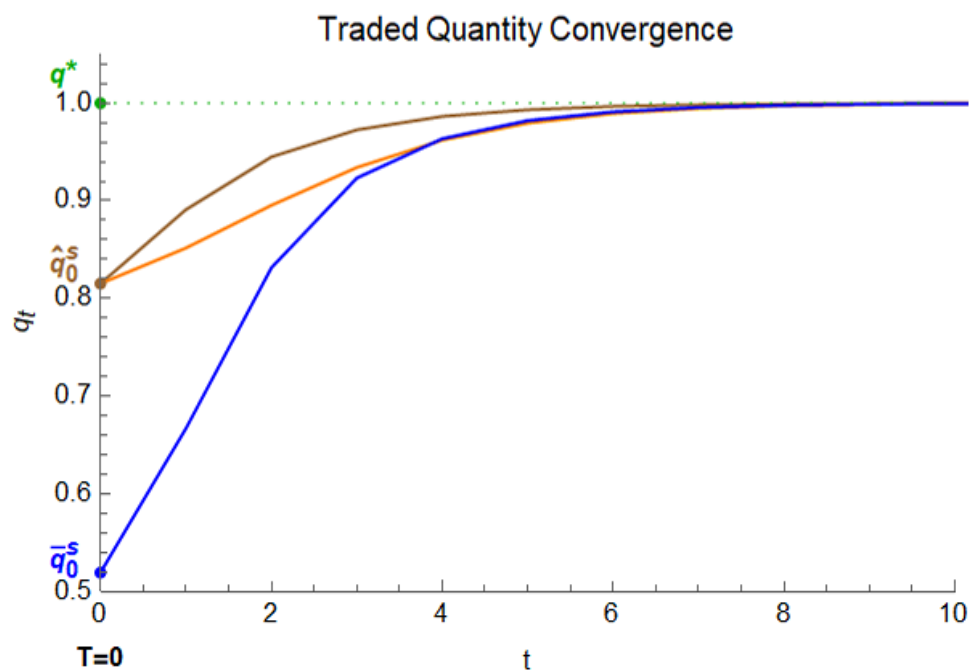
$$a(\mu_t^c) = \frac{\mu_{t+1}^c - \mu_t^c}{\mu_t^c} \equiv A[g(q_{t-1})] \geq 0 \quad \forall t \geq T + 1$$

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Transition Dynamics III



A New Monetarist Model Simulation



- Overall, economically struggling economies gain more from (crypto-) currency competition
- Overall, cryptocurrency acceptability does not rise that much
- Cryptocurrencies establish themselves as various niche monies with different characteristics

- Economy can profit from differentiated (crypto-) currency competition through increased money holdings and enhanced trading activity
- Main drivers for cryptocurrency adoption and economy transition are the different characteristics and value-added services of cryptocurrencies and technology growth to overcome strong network effects
- Cryptocurrencies establish themselves as various niche monies serving different consumer's needs
- (Crypto-) currency competition can lead to cryptocurrency price stability and a stable government money deflation rate

BUT:

- Model builds upon restrictive assumptions and simplifications
- Deflation generally not seen as desirable outcome for monetary policy
- Systemic and network risks in highly interconnected systems
- Further research needed

Thank you for your attention!



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Appendix

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- Quasi-linear utility function of the agents in the economy

$$\mathcal{U}(q, x, H) = u(q) - c(q) + U(x) - AH$$

Furthermore, we assume that $u(q)$, $c(q)$ and $U(x)$ are C^n with $n \geq 2$, $u' > 0$, $u'' < 0$, $c' > 0$, $c'' \geq 0$, $u(0) = c(0) = 0$, $U' > 0$, $U'' \leq 0$ and there exists $q^* \in (0, \infty)$ s.t. $u'(q^*) = c'(q^*)$ as well as a $x^* \in (0, \infty)$ s.t. $U'(x^*) = 1$ and $U(x^*) > x^*$.

- Dummy variable vor agent's currency holding

$$\psi_t^i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } m_t^i > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } m_t^i = 0 \end{cases}$$

Appendix

Single-coincidence meeting

Centralized Nash bargaining problem, buyer has full bargaining power $\theta = 1$

$$\max_{q,d} [u(q) + W(\mathbf{m} - \mathbf{d}, \mathbf{s}) - W(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{s})]^\theta [-c(q) + W(\tilde{\mathbf{m}} + \mathbf{d}, \mathbf{s}) - W(\tilde{\mathbf{m}}, \mathbf{s})]^{1-\theta}$$

$$s.t. \mathbf{d} \leq \mathbf{m}$$

$$\max_{q,d} [u(q) - (\phi + \mathbf{y})\mathbf{d}]$$

$$s.t. \mathbf{d} \leq \mathbf{m}$$

$$s.t. -c(q) + (\phi + \mathbf{y})\mathbf{d} \geq 0$$

$$q(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t) = \begin{cases} \hat{q}(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t) & \text{if } (\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t)\mathbf{m}_t < c(q^*) \\ q^* & \text{if } (\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t)\mathbf{m}_t \geq c(q^*) \end{cases}$$

$$(\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t)\mathbf{d}_t(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t) = \begin{cases} (\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t)\mathbf{m}_t & \text{if } (\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t)\mathbf{m}_t < c(q^*) \\ c(q^*) & \text{if } (\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t)\mathbf{m}_t \geq c(q^*) \end{cases}$$

Appendix

Double-coincidence meeting

Symmetric Nash bargaining problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{q_1, q_2, \Delta} & [u(q_1) - c(q_2) - (\phi + \mathbf{y})\Delta][u(q_2) - c(q_1) + (\phi + \mathbf{y})\Delta] \\ \text{s.t.} & -m_2 \leq \Delta \leq m_1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Delta = \lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 0$$

$$q_1 = q_2 = q^*$$

$$u'(q^*) = c'(q^*)$$

$$B(\mathbf{m}, \tilde{\mathbf{m}}, \mathbf{s}) = u(q^*) - c(q^*) + W(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{s})$$

Appendix

Bellman's equation

$$\begin{aligned}
 V(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t) = & \max_{\mathbf{m}_{t+1}} \{ -\phi_t \mathbf{m}_{t+1} + \beta V(\mathbf{m}_{t+1}, \mathbf{s}_{t+1}) \} \\
 & + U(x^*) - x^* + \nu(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t) \\
 & + (\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t) \mathbf{m}_t - \tau
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\nu(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t) = \begin{cases} \alpha \sigma \mu_t \psi_t \{ u[\hat{q}(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)] - (\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t) \mathbf{m}_t \} \\ + \alpha \sigma \mu_t \psi_t \int \{ -c[\hat{q}(\tilde{\mathbf{m}}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)] + (\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t) \tilde{\mathbf{m}}_t \} dF(\tilde{\mathbf{m}}) & \text{if } (\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t) \mathbf{m}_t < c(q^*) \\ + \alpha \delta \{ u(q^*) - c(q^*) \} \\ \\ \alpha (\sigma \mu_t \psi_t + \delta) \{ u(q^*) - c(q^*) \} & \text{if } (\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t) \mathbf{m}_t \geq c(q^*) \end{cases}$$

Appendix

Optimal portfolio choice

$$\frac{\partial V(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)}{\partial m_{t+1}^i} = -\phi_t^i + \beta V^{i'}(\mathbf{m}_{t+1}, \mathbf{s}_{t+1}) \leq 0$$

$$\frac{\partial V(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)}{\partial m_t^i} = \begin{cases} \alpha \sigma \mu_t^i (\phi_t^i + y_t^i) \frac{u^{i'}[\hat{q}(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)]}{c^{i'}[\hat{q}(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)]} + (1 - \alpha \sigma \mu_t^i) (\phi_t^i + y_t^i) & \text{if } (\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t) \mathbf{m}_t < c(q^*) \\ (\phi_t^i + y_t^i) & \text{if } (\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t) \mathbf{m}_t > c(q^*) \end{cases}$$

$$l^i[q(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)] \equiv \alpha \sigma \mu_t^i \left(\frac{u'[\hat{q}_t(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)]}{c'[\hat{q}(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)]} - 1 \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial V(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)}{\partial m_t^i} = (\phi_t^i + y_t^i) \{1 + l^i[q(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)]\}$$

$$\beta (\phi_{t+1}^i + y_{t+1}^i) \{1 + l^i[q_{t+1}(\mathbf{m}_{t+1}, \mathbf{s}_{t+1})]\} = \phi_t^i$$

$$l^i[q(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)] \begin{cases} \neq 0 & \text{if } (\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t) \mathbf{m}_t < c(q^*) \\ = 0 & \text{if } (\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t) \mathbf{m}_t > c(q^*) \end{cases}$$

Appendix

Government money

$$b_t^g \equiv \phi_t^g M_t^g$$

budget constraint yields

$$\phi_t^g M_t^g + \tau_t = \phi_t^g M_{t-1}^g$$

return on government money is

$$\rho_t^g \equiv \frac{\phi_t^g}{\phi_{t-1}^g}$$

Appendix

Private currency issuers

$$\sum_{t=S}^{\infty} \beta^t x_t^c$$

$$x_t^c = \phi_t^c \Delta M_t^c + y_t^c \Delta M_t^c - \sum_{i \neq c} \phi_t^i \Delta M_t^i - \sum_{i \neq c} y_t^i \Delta M_t^i$$

$$b_t^c \equiv (\phi_t^c + y_t^c) M_t^c$$

Appendix

Money equilibrium

- Money supply

$$\sum_{i=1}^N b_t^i = b_t^g + \sum_{c=1}^C b_t^c = \phi_t^g M_t^g + (\phi_t^c + y_t^c) M_t^c \quad \forall t$$

- Money demand

$$\sum_{i=1}^N b_t^i = z[\hat{q}_t(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t)]$$

Definition 1. Any equilibrium satisfies (12) and (19) with the boundary condition $\beta(\phi_{t+1}^i + y_{t+1}^i) \leq \phi_t^i$ and $b_t^i \geq 0 \forall i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ where

$q(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t) = \hat{q}(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t) \leq q^*$ and $\mathbf{d}(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t) = \mathbf{m}_t \leq \mathbf{m}_t^*$ with $\mathbf{m}_t^* \equiv \frac{c(q^*)}{(\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t)}$ at all time subject to the monetary policy the government implements and the optimal behaviour of the cryptocurrency issuers.

Proposition 1. An equilibrium with only one government money in circulation yields a monetary steady state equilibrium $0 < \hat{q}^s < q^*$ delivering price stability $(\rho^g, \rho_{+1}^g) = (1, 1)$ as well as a nonmonetary steady state $(\rho^g, \rho_{+1}^g) = (0, 0)$ with $\hat{q} = 0$. Furthermore there exists an equilibrium trajectory where $\hat{q}_t \rightarrow 0 \forall \hat{q}_0 \in (0, q^*)$.

Proposition 2. There exist a unique steady state equilibrium with circulating competitive currencies and the socially optimum trading activity q^* if the cryptocurrencies perform the best they can and implement $y^* = \frac{(1-\beta)}{\beta} \phi^c$ with a stable value $\phi_t^c = \phi_{t+1}^c = \phi^c$ and the government currency provides a stable deflation rate $\rho^g > 1 \forall t$ satisfying the equilibrium condition (12), the market-clearing condition (19) and the boundary condition $\beta(\phi_{t+1}^i + y_{t+1}^i) \leq \phi_t^i$. Thus, $\mathbf{d}(\mathbf{m}_t, \mathbf{s}_t) = \mathbf{m}_t = \mathbf{m}_t^*$ with $\mathbf{m}_t^* \equiv \frac{c(q^*)}{(\phi_t + \mathbf{y}_t)}$.

Appendix

Functional forms

$$\left\{1 + \alpha\sigma\mu_{t+1}^i \left(\frac{u'[q_{t+1}(\mathbf{m}_{t+1}, \mathbf{s}_{t+1})]}{c'[q_{t+1}(\mathbf{m}_{t+1}, \mathbf{s}_{t+1})]} - 1 \right)\right\} = \frac{\phi_t^i}{\beta(\phi_{t+1}^i + y_{t+1}^i)}$$

$$u(q) = (1 - \eta)^{-1} q^{1-\eta} \quad c(q) = (1 + \gamma)^{-1} q^{1+\gamma} \quad 0 < \eta < 1 \quad \gamma \geq 0$$

$$\left\{1 + \alpha\sigma\mu_{t+1}^i (q_{t+1}^{-(\gamma+\eta)} - 1)\right\} = \frac{\phi_t^i}{\beta(\phi_{t+1}^i + y_{t+1}^i)}$$

$$\left\{1 + \alpha\sigma\mu^c (\hat{q}_0^s)^{-(\gamma+\eta)} - 1\right\} = \frac{\phi^c}{\beta(\phi^c + \hat{y}_T)} \equiv \left\{1 + \alpha\sigma\mu^g (\hat{q}_0^s)^{-(\gamma+\eta)} - 1\right\} = \frac{\phi^g}{\beta\phi^g}$$

Appendix

Transition dynamics

Time $T+1$. *At point $T+1$ in time we derive an equilibrium for the economy where the government currency and the cryptocurrency are circulating in a competitive environment with the traded quantity $q_{T+1} > \hat{q}_0^s$ due to an increase in the agents money holdings $\mathbf{m}_{T+1} > \mathbf{m}_T$ according to the increased additional service $y_{T+1} > \hat{y}_T$. The government currency is fully accepted $\mu^g = 1$ but deflates $\rho_{T+1}^g > 1$ and the cryptocurrency still provides stability $\phi_{T+1}^c = \phi_T^c$ and circulates with acceptability $\mu^c \ll \mu^g$.*

Time t^* . *At time t^* the economy reaches the first-best equilibrium with $q^* > \hat{q}_0^s$, $y^* > \hat{y}_T$, $\mathbf{m}^* > \mathbf{m}_T$ and $\mu^c \ll \mu^g = 1 \forall t \geq t^*$. The cryptocurrency is stable $\phi_{t^*}^c = \phi_{t^*+1}^c$ and the government currency provides a stable deflation rate $\rho^* > \rho^g = 1$. $n(y_{t^*}^c) = g(q_{t^*}^c) = 0$ and the economy is expected to stay in this steady state forever.*

Appendix

Acceptability growth

Time $T+2$. *In period $T+2$ the acceptability of the cryptocurrency increases $\mu_{T+2}^c > \mu_{T+1}^c = \mu_T^c$ due to the observed increase in the traded quantity the period before $a(\mu_{T+1}^c) \equiv A[g(q_T)]$. Again the technology improves resulting in an higher additional service provided by the cryptocurrency $y_{T+2} > y_{T+1}$. Hence the overall trading output enlarges even further $q_{T+2} > q_{T+1}$. The cryptocurrency is still stable $\phi_{T+2}^c = \phi_{T+1}^c$ while the deflation rate of the government money rises $\rho_{T+2}^g > \rho_{T+1}^g > 1$.*

Time t^* . *At time t^* the economy reaches the first-best equilibrium with $q^* > \hat{q}_0^s$, $y^* > \hat{y}_T$, $\mathbf{m}^* > \mathbf{m}_T$, $\mu^g = 1$ and $1 \geq \mu_{t^*}^c > \mu_T^c$. The cryptocurrency is stable $\phi_{t^*}^c = \phi_{t^*+1}^c$ and the government currency provides a stable deflation rate $\rho^* > \rho^g = 1$. $n(y_{t^*}^c) = g(q_{t^*}) = a(\mu_{t^*}^c) = 0$ and the economy is expected to stay in this steady state forever.*

Appendix

Acceptability growth

