An Empirical Stock-Flow Consistent Model of the Italian Economy

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26th FMM Conference

October 21st, 2022

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SFC Model: Italy

October 21st, 2022 1/17

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Download slides and code from MARXIANOMICS: https://www.marcopassarella.it/en/

> and/or from GITHUB (code only): https://github.com/marcoverpas/

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 Presentation based on Canelli et al. 2022: "Is the Italian government debt sustainable? Scenarios after the Covid-19 shock"

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- We assess the sustainability of the Italian debt in the medium run
- However, we did that before the Russia-Ukraine war and the inflation surge!

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- Data: Eurostat, FA and NFA, annual, 1998-2021
- Code: *R*, **Bimets** package (Bank of Italy)

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TABLE 1. BALANCE SHEET, CURRENT PRICES, 2020

	Households	Firms	Government	Banks	ECB	Foreign	Total
Cash and reserves	185433	0	0	11474	-196907	0	0
Deposits	1379289	0	0	-1379289	0	0	0
Securities	247089	0	-2463489	1451428	764972	0	0
Loans	-733702	-1043063	0	1776765	0	0	0
Shares	1115388	-1115388	0	0	0	0	0
Other net FA	744331	261933	-448263	-829800	-342779	614578	0
Net financial wealth	2937828	-1896518	-2911752	1030578	225286	614578	0
[Fixed capital]	0	[12464281]	0	0	0	0	0
Column total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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TABLE 2. TRANSACTIONS-FLOW MATRIX, CURRENT PRICES, 2020

	Households	Firms	Government	Banks	ECB	Foreign	Total
Consumption	-956426	956426	0	0	0	0	0
Investment	0	[290768]	0	0	0	0	0
Government spending	0	345374	-345374	0	0	0	0
Export	0	485944	0	0	0	-485944	0
Import	0	-424935	0	0	0	424935	0
[GDP]	0	[1653577]	0	0	0	0	0
Taxes	-466761	0	466761	0	0	0	0
Transfers	202442	0	-202442	0	0	0	0
Wages	637632	-637632	0	0	0	0	0
Interest payments	10600	-3926	-54359	39970	7715	0	0
Dividends	709973	-709973	0	0	0	0	0
Distributed bank profit	39970	0	0	-39970	0	0	0
Distributed CB profit	0	0	7715	0	-7715	0	0
Other payments	-347451	78590	-115728	108444	45629	230516	0
Change in net wealth	-170021	89868	-243427	108444	45629	169507	0
Column total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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- Decide the level of abstraction / sketch tentative behavioural equations

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METHOD: STEP BY STEP

- Decide the level of abstraction / sketch tentative behavioural equations
- Reclassify Eurostat entries to fit that

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- Finish writing identities and missing behavioural equations

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- Generate out-of-sample predictions under baseline assumptions (in line with other institutions' predictions), including the impact of the Recovery Plan
- Create alternative scenarios and compare with baseline results

(New) behavioural equations (1/2)

- Target capital to output ratio:

$$k^* = \kappa \cdot \frac{Y}{p} \tag{1}$$

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- Real investment (*logs*):

$$i_d = \gamma_1 \cdot \frac{Y_{-1}}{p_{-1}} + \gamma_2 \cdot \left(k^* - \frac{k}{p}\right) + \gamma_3 \cdot (r_l - r^*)$$
(2)

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- Real consumption (*logs*):

$$c = \alpha_1 \cdot \frac{WB}{p} + \alpha_2 \cdot \frac{(YD - WB)}{p} + \alpha_3 \cdot \frac{V_{h,-1}}{p_{-1}}$$
(3)

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(NeW) behavioural equations (2/2)

- Government spending:

$$G_N = \sigma_1 \cdot \frac{G_{N,-1}}{\rho_{-1}} \cdot \rho \tag{4}$$

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$$G_N = \sigma_1 \cdot \frac{G_{N,-1}}{p_{-1}} \cdot p \tag{4}$$

- Gross nominal export (*logs*):

$$X = \xi_0 + \xi_1 \cdot Y_F + \xi_2 \cdot pr \quad +\xi_3 \cdot w \tag{5}$$

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- Gross nominal export (logs):

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- Gross nominal import (*logs*):

$$M = \mu_0 + \mu_1 \cdot Y \tag{6}$$

Image: A matrix

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FIGURE 1. SELECTED IN-SAMPLE PREDICTIONS, 1998-2020



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FIGURE 2. SANKEY DIAGRAM OF TRANSACTIONS, 2020



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FIGURE 3. GROWTH AND DEBT, 2020



(b) Government debt to GDP ratio after shock



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FIGURE 4. DEBT SUSTAINABILITY, 2020



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FIGURE 5. MAX. SUSTAINABILE INTEREST RATE, 2020



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Figure 6. Growth and debt, alternative scenarios, 2020

(a) Real GDP after shock

(b) Gov. debt to GDP ratio after shock



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To do list

- Amend balance sheet (and related equations)

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- Improve estimates

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- Use quarterly data

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- Amend balance sheet (and related equations)
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- Improve price equations

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TO DO LIST

- Amend balance sheet (and related equations)
- Improve estimates
- Use quarterly data
- Improve price equations
- Reduce aggregation level

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Thank you

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