

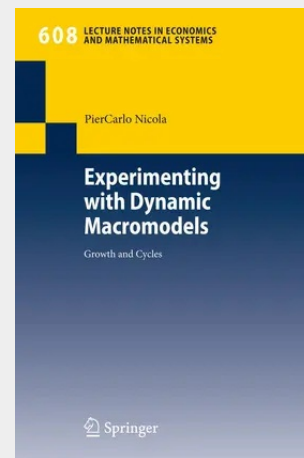
Experimenting with Dynamic Macromodels

Growth and Cycles

This book presents a macroeconomic dynamic model à la Solow-Swan, including the market for labor, in a discrete time structure. The model is expanded to include expenditure on R&D and public expenditure on infrastructure. For each of the three models the results are shown in time series figures, which demonstrate that even small changes in the parameters produce responses in the time behavior of the main variables: from steady growth, to regular cycles, to chaotic-like time paths.

The main aim of this monograph is to demonstrate the power of combining mathematics with numerical experiments, using a computer, to understand the main determinants of the mobilization of a whole economy. To this end, and starting from Solow's 1956 model, we add, in subsequent steps, the labour market, expenditure on research and development (R&D), and public expenditure on infrastructure in order to construct a more flexible model that can be analysed numerically through numerous computer simulations, to show (respectively) how complex time paths can be. We do this by solving the model(s) for the main variables, gross income, labour employment, consumption, etc.

As this is a monograph, no systematic attempt is made to relate the models presented to the literature; the assumption is that the interested reader has some knowledge of published work on macroeconomic growth theory and business cycles. For example, the excellent and complete (as far as completeness can be achieved in a single book) work by Barro and Sala-i-Martin (2004), which contains many references, is a good study of growth theory; and the monograph by Gabisch and Lorenz (1987) is a good example of the work on business cycle models. Special treatment is reserved for the labour market, since labour is a quite specific input, that differs from all other inputs. Labour may be supplied by families and cannot be produced in the usual material sense, i.e. labour supply is an exogenous variable in every economy.



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