

Chapter 5: Dynamic Competitive Equilibrium

Graduate Macroeconomics Slides

Orhan Torul

Boğaziçi University

January 23, 2026



Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Equilibrium Concepts
- 3 Arrow-Debreu
- 4 Neoclassical Growth
- 5 Recursive Equilibrium
- 6 Steady State
- 7 Extensions
- 8 Conclusion
- 9 References



Introduction and Motivation

- **Background**

- Chapter 2 analyzed long-run growth.
- Production and technology are central.

- **Market Framework**

- Firms and households act in self-interest.
- Perfect competition as benchmark.

- **Aim**

- Develop dynamic competitive equilibrium.
- Link micro and macro outcomes.



Equilibrium Concepts

- **Arrow-Debreu** (Arrow and Debreu, 1954)
 - Complete markets at time zero.
 - Lifetime budget constraint.
- **Sequential**
 - Period-by-period trading.
 - Intertemporal asset prices.
- **Recursive**
 - Bellman equations.
 - State-dependent policies.



Arrow-Debreu Equilibrium

- Household Problem

$$\max \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t u(c_t)$$

- Budget Constraint

$$\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} p_t c_t = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} p_t y_t$$

- Optimality

$$\frac{u'(c_t)}{u'(c_0)} = \frac{p_t}{\beta^t}$$



Growth Model

- Production

$$Y_t = A_t K_t^\alpha L_t^{1-\alpha}$$

- Capital

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

- Euler Equation

$$\frac{u'(C_t)}{u'(C_{t+1})} = \beta(1 + r_{t+1} - \delta)$$



Recursive Equilibrium

- Bellman Equation

$$V(s) = \max_{a'} \{u(f(s, a')) + \beta V(s')\}$$

- Stationary Policies
- Numerical Tractability



Steady State

- Definition

$$K_{t+1} = K_t = K^*$$

- Prices

$$p_t = \beta^t$$

- Benchmark for Dynamics



Extensions and Policy

- Robustness
 - Equivalent equilibria.
 - Welfare optimality.
- Frictions
 - Market power.
 - Incomplete markets.
- Policy
 - Monetary transmission.
 - Fiscal effects.



Conclusion

- Unified dynamic framework
- Equivalence of concepts
- Importance of extensions



References I

Arrow, K. J. and Debreu, G. (1954). Existence of an equilibrium for a competitive economy. *Econometrica*, 22(3):265–290.



Thank You!

Questions?

orhan.torul@bogazici.edu.tr

