Online Appendix to "Revisiting Speculative Hyperinflations in Monetary Models: A Rejoinder"

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November 28, 2023

In this online appendix, we extend our main result in three directions. First, we show that the result also holds under the alternative timing assumption in which money is redeemed at the *beginning* of each period (rather than at the end of each period). Second, we show that the result extends to the *non-separable* MIU model as long as money and consumption are "complements," in the sense that an increase in consumption raises the marginal utility of real money balances. Finally, we allow for $u'(y) > v'(0) > (1 - \beta)u'(y)$; in this case, as we show, the MIU model with no currency backing has equilibria in which money becomes worthless *asymptotically* (rather than at a finite date), but a currency-backing scheme rules out these inflationary equilibria as well.

In what follows, instead of repeating the main text's analysis in each of the three extensions, we just highlight the changes from the main text's analysis.

1 Reverse Within-Period Timing

We consider the same model as in the main text, except that we now assume that the option to trade some money for goods can be exercised at the *beginning* of each period (before getting utility from cash balances during the period), rather than at the end of each period. We show that this alternative within-period-timing assumption leads to the same conclusion: as long as ϵ is sufficiently small for the fundamental equilibrium to exist, the backstop mechanism eliminates all inflationary equilibria.

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1.1 Model

Households now maximize

$$\sum_{t=0}^{+\infty} \beta^t \left[u\left(c_t\right) + v\left(q_t \tilde{M}_t\right) \right]$$

The only equilibrium conditions that are affected by this change are (6)-(7), which become

$$\gamma_t + \left(\frac{\epsilon}{M} - q_t\right)\lambda_t = 0,\tag{A.1}$$

$$\gamma_t + \frac{\epsilon}{M} \lambda_t = \beta \lambda_{t+1} q_{t+1} + \delta_t + q_t v' \left(q_t \tilde{M}_t \right).$$
(A.2)

1.2 Fundamental Equilibrium

The variables c_t , λ_t , and R_t in the fundamental equilibrium are unchanged, while we now have

$$\gamma_t = \left(q - \frac{\epsilon}{M}\right) u'(y).$$

This new expression for γ_t can be interpreted in essentially the same way as the previous expression. The Lagrange multiplier γ_t represents the net marginal utility gain from relaxing the non-increasing-money-stock constraint (2), i.e. from allowing households to exchange goods for newly created money with the government (thus making the government facility work both ways). On the one hand, increasing one's nominal money stock by one unit would cost ϵ/M units of good, which reduces current utility by $(\epsilon/M)u'(y)$, as in the main text. On the other hand, it would enable one to increase current consumption by q units of good, which increases current utility by $q\beta u'(y)$ (while, in the main text, it increased future consumption by q units of goods, which increased current utility by $q\beta u'(y)$).

So, (13) is replaced by

$$q \geq \frac{\epsilon}{M}$$

We get the same value of q as before, but the necessary and sufficient condition for fundamentalequilibrium existence is now

$$v'(\epsilon) \ge (1-\beta) u'(y), \qquad (A.3)$$

which replaces (14).

1.3 No Demonetization

The equilibrium conditions (15) and (16) are respectively replaced by

$$\gamma_t = \left(q_t - \frac{\epsilon}{M}\right) u'(y), \tag{A.4}$$
$$q_t \ge \frac{\epsilon}{M}.$$

Using (A.4), $\delta_t = 0$, $\tilde{M}_t = M$, and $m_t \equiv Mq_t$, we can rewrite (A.2) as the same dynamic equation as previously. So, the conclusion is unchanged: the only no-demonstration equilibrium is the fundamental equilibrium.

1.4 Partial Demonetization

Since $\gamma_t = 0$, (A.1) can be rewritten as

$$q_t = \frac{\epsilon}{M},$$

and therefore (A.2) can be rewritten as

$$v'\left(\frac{\epsilon \tilde{M}_t}{M}\right) = \left(1 - \frac{\beta M q_{t+1}}{\epsilon}\right) u'(y).$$

Using $\tilde{M}_t < M_t \leq M$, the strict concavity of v, and $q_{t+1} \geq \epsilon/M$, we get

$$v'(\epsilon) < v'\left(\frac{\epsilon \tilde{M}_t}{M}\right) = \left(1 - \frac{\beta M q_{t+1}}{\epsilon}\right) u'(y) \le (1 - \beta) u'(y),$$

which contradicts our assumption (A.3). So, the conclusion is unchanged: there are no equilibria with partial demonetization.

1.5 Complete Demonetization

Since $\gamma_t = 0$, (A.1) can be rewritten as

$$q_t = \frac{\epsilon}{M}$$

Using $\gamma_t = 0$, $q_t = \epsilon/M$, and $\tilde{M}_t = 0$, we can then rewrite (A.2) as

$$v'(0) + [\delta_t + \beta q_{t+1}u'(y)] \frac{M}{\epsilon} = u'(y).$$

Using the strict concavity of $v, \delta_t \ge 0$, and $q_{t+1} \ge \epsilon/M$, we then get

$$v'(\epsilon) < v'(0) \le \left(1 - \frac{\beta M q_{t+1}}{\epsilon}\right) u'(y) \le (1 - \beta) u'(y),$$

which contradicts our assumption (A.3). So, the conclusion is unchanged: there are no equilibria with complete demonetization.

2 Non-Separable MIU Model

We now consider the non-separable MIU model in which money and consumption are "complements." We show that this alternative model leads to the same conclusion: as long as ϵ is sufficiently small for the fundamental equilibrium to exist, the backstop mechanism eliminates all inflationary equilibria.

2.1 Model

Households now maximize

$$\sum_{t=0}^{+\infty} \beta^t u\left(c_t, q_t M_t\right),\,$$

where u is continuously differentiable, strictly increasing and strictly concave in each of its arguments, and such that $u_{cm} > 0$. We do not impose Inada conditions on u.¹ Instead, we only impose the restriction

$$u_m\left(y,0\right) > u_c\left(y,0\right). \tag{A.5}$$

Relaxing the usual Inada condition $\lim_{x\to 0} u_m(y,x) = +\infty$ and imposing only (A.5) does not qualitatively change the set of equilibria in the MIU model with no currency backing: we still get (hyperinflationary) equilibria in which money becomes worthless *at a finite date*, as we show below.

The only equilibrium conditions that are affected by this change are (5)-(6), which become

$$u_c(c_t, q_t M_t) = \lambda_t, \tag{A.6}$$

$$q_t u_m \left(c_t, q_t M_t\right) + \gamma_t + \left(\frac{\epsilon}{M} - q_t\right) \lambda_t = 0.$$
(A.7)

2.2 Fundamental Equilibrium

Most of the fundamental-equilibrium analysis in the main text remains valid if we replace u'(y)and v'(qM) by, respectively, $u_c(y,qM)$ and $u_m(y,qM)$. Let $z(x) \equiv u_m(y,x)/u_c(y,x)$; our assumption $u_{cm} > 0$ implies z'(x) < 0. So, the equilibrium condition

$$z\left(qM\right) = 1 - \beta$$

determines q uniquely. The condition for fundamental-equilibrium existence, which was formerly (14), is now

$$z\left(\frac{\epsilon}{\beta}\right) \ge 1 - \beta,$$
 (A.8)

or equivalently

$$m^* \ge \frac{\epsilon}{\beta},$$

where $m^* \equiv z^{-1}(1-\beta)$ denotes the value of qM at the fundamental equilibrium.

¹Because of our endowment assumption, we do not need to impose Inada conditions on u_c . The Inada condition $\lim_{x\to+\infty} u_m(y,x) = 0$, which says that demand for money is asymptotically satiated, would serve to rule out deflationary equilibria in exactly the same way as in the MIU model with no currency backing; but it does not play any role in our analysis of inflationary paths. As we discuss in the text, we relax the usual Inada condition $\lim_{x\to0} u_m(y,x) = +\infty$ and replace it with (A.5).

2.3 Model Without Redeeming Scheme

Consider for a moment the model without redeeming scheme. Households maximize

$$\sum_{t=0}^{+\infty} \beta^t u\left(c_t, q_t M_t\right)$$

subject to

$$y + R_{t-1}b_{t-1} + q_t M_{t-1} - c_t - b_t - q_t M_t - \tau_t \ge 0$$

Two first-order conditions are

$$u_{c}(c_{t}, q_{t}M_{t}) = \lambda_{t},$$
$$q_{t}u_{m}(c_{t}, q_{t}M_{t}) = \lambda_{t}q_{t} - \beta\lambda_{t+1}q_{t+1}$$

Using the goods-market-clearing condition $c_t = y$ and the money-market-clearing condition $M_t = M$, we get the dynamic equation

$$\frac{m_{t+1}u_c(y, m_{t+1})}{m_t u_c(y, m_t)} = 1 + \left(\frac{1-\beta}{\beta}\right) \left[1 - \frac{z(m_t)}{z(m^*)}\right],\tag{A.9}$$

where $m_t \equiv q_t M$. Given this dynamic equation, the only candidate dynamic equilibria are inflationary paths $m^* > m_0 > m_1 > ...$ and deflationary paths $m^* < m_0 < m_1 < ...$

The deflationary paths are not equilibria if we impose the Inada condition $\lim_{x\to+\infty} u_m(y,x) = 0$, which says that demand for money is asymptotically satiated: with this Inada condition, the deflationary paths violate the transversality condition (11) (for any $m_0 > m^*$).

To study the inflationary paths, we first note that the right-hand side of (A.9) is strictly increasing in m_t , strictly negative for $m_t = 0$ because of our assumption (A.5), and strictly positive for $m_t = m^*$. Let \tilde{m} denote the unique value of m_t that makes the right-hand side of (A.9) equal to zero. We can rewrite the dynamic equation (A.9) as

$$F\left(m_{t+1}\right) = G\left(m_t\right),\,$$

where $F(x) \equiv xu_c(y,x)$, F(0) = 0, F(x) > 0 and F'(x) > 0 for x > 0, $G(x) \equiv xu_c(y,x)\{1 + [(1-\beta)/\beta][1-z(x)/z(m^*)]\}$, G(x) < 0 for $x \in (0, \tilde{m})$, G(x) > 0 and G'(x) > 0 for $x > \tilde{m}$. So, if $\lim_{x\to 0} G(x) < 0$, that is to say equivalently if the "super Inada condition" $\lim_{x\to 0} xu_m(y,x) > 0$ is satisfied, then any inflationary path ends up violating the dynamic equation at some date; so, there are no inflationary equilibria. Alternatively, if $\lim_{x\to 0} G(x) = 0$ or equivalently if $\lim_{x\to 0} xu_m(y,x) = 0$, then there exist "hyperinflationary" equilibria in which money becomes worthless at a finite date: for any $T \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$, the sequence characterized by $m_t = 0$ for $t \ge T$, $m_{T-1} = \tilde{m}$, and $(m_t)_{T-2\ge t\ge 0}$ derived sequentially from m_{T-1} with the dynamic equation, is an equilibrium. There exists a countable infinity of such equilibria, which can be indexed by $T \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$.

2.4 No Demonetization

In any no-demonstration equilibrium of our model, using $M_t = M$, $\delta_t = 0$, (7), (12), and (A.6), we get

$$\gamma_t = \beta q_{t+1} u_c \left(y, q_{t+1} M \right) - \frac{\epsilon}{M} u_c \left(y, q_t M \right), \tag{A.10}$$

which can be interpreted in the same way as previously. Using (A.6), (A.7), and (A.10), we then get the same dynamic equation (A.9) as without redeeming scheme. So, the candidate inflationary equilibria are the hyperinflationary equilibria of the model without redeeming scheme, in which money becomes worthless at a finite date (if $\lim_{x\to 0} xu_m(y,x) = 0$). However, (A.10) and $\gamma_t \geq 0$ together imply that we cannot have q_t positive and q_{t+1} equal to zero. Therefore, the hyperinflationary paths described above cannot be no-demonetization equilibria of our model with redeeming scheme, and the only no-demonetization equilibrium of our model with redeeming scheme is the fundamental equilibrium.

2.5 Partial Demonetization

Let $m_t \equiv q_t M_t$. Under partial demonstization (meaning there exists at least one date at which the money stock strictly decreases and there exists no date at which the money stock becomes zero), we have $\delta_t = 0$ at all dates $t \ge 0$; so, (7), (12), (A.6) and (A.7) imply

$$q_{t}u_{m}(y, m_{t}) + \beta q_{t+1}u_{c}(y, m_{t+1}) = q_{t}u_{c}(y, m_{t})$$

Consider a given date $t \ge 0$. If $M_t > M_{t+1}$, then $\gamma_t = 0$; so, (7), (12) and (A.6) imply

$$\frac{\epsilon}{M}u_{c}\left(y,m_{t}\right)=\beta q_{t+1}u_{c}\left(y,m_{t+1}\right).$$

Alternatively, if $M_t = M_{t+1}$, then $\gamma_t \ge 0$; so, (7), (12) and (A.6) imply

$$\frac{\epsilon}{M}u_{c}\left(y,m_{t}\right)\leq\beta q_{t+1}u_{c}\left(y,m_{t+1}\right).$$

These equilibrium conditions can be rewritten as

$$z(m_t) + \beta \frac{q_{t+1}}{q_t} \frac{u_c(y, m_{t+1})}{u_c(y, m_t)} = 1,$$

and

either (Case A)
$$M_t > M_{t+1}$$
 and $\frac{u_c(y, m_{t+1})}{u_c(y, m_t)} = \frac{q^*}{q_{t+1}}$
or (Case B) $M_t = M_{t+1}$ and $\frac{u_c(y, m_{t+1})}{u_c(y, m_t)} \ge \frac{q^*}{q_{t+1}}$,

where $q^* \equiv \epsilon/(\beta M)$. In both Cases A and B, we have

$$z(m_t) + \beta \frac{q^*}{q_t} \le 1$$

Using z'(x) < 0 and $M_t \leq M$, we get $z(m_t) = z(q_t M_t) \geq z(q_t M)$ and therefore

$$z\left(q_{t}M\right) + \beta \frac{q^{*}}{q_{t}} \le 1.$$

The left-hand side is strictly decreasing in q_t and takes the value $z(\epsilon/\beta) + \beta \ge 1$ for $q_t = q^*$, where the inequality comes from the condition for fundamental-equilibrium existence (A.8). Therefore,

 $q_t \ge q^*$

at all dates $t \ge 0$. In Case A, therefore, we have

$$\frac{u_c(y, m_{t+1})}{u_c(y, m_t)} = \frac{q^*}{q_{t+1}} \le 1 \quad \text{and} \quad z(m_t) = 1 - \beta \frac{q^*}{q_t} \ge 1 - \beta,$$

which implies

$$m^* \ge m_t \ge m_{t+1}.$$

In Case B, we have $M_t = M_{t+1}$ and therefore

$$z(m_t) + \beta \frac{m_{t+1}u_c(y, m_{t+1})}{m_t u_c(y, m_t)} = 1,$$

which can be rewritten as

$$\frac{m_{t+1}u_c(y, m_{t+1})}{m_t u_c(y, m_t)} = 1 + \left(\frac{1-\beta}{\beta}\right) \left[1 - \frac{z(m_t)}{z(m^*)}\right]$$

This dynamic equation is, of course, the same as the dynamic equation (A.9) of the model without redeeming scheme; it implies that either $m_{t+1} < m_t < m^*$, or $m^* < m_t < m_{t+1}$.

So, if $m_0 > m^*$, then we are always in Case B, m_t is strictly increasing over time, and we are on a deflationary path. If we impose the Inada condition $\lim_{x\to+\infty} u_m(y,x) = 0$, this path is not an equilibrium as it violates the transversality condition (11); so, we do not have an equilibrium with partial demonstration and $m_0 > m^*$.

Alternatively, if $m_0 < m^*$, then we can have either Case A or Case B at each date, and m_t is strictly decreasing over time. Since the sequence $(m_t)_{t\geq 0}$ is decreasing and non-negative, it converges to a value $\underline{m} \geq 0$. We cannot have $\underline{m} > 0$, because we would then get $\lim_{t\to+\infty} u_c(y, m_t)/u_c(y, m_{t+1}) = 1$ and $\lim_{t\to+\infty} z(m_t) = z(\underline{m}) > z(m^*) = 1 - \beta$, implying

$$\lim_{t \to +\infty} \frac{q_{t+1}}{q_t} = \lim_{t \to +\infty} \left[\frac{1 - z(m_t)}{\beta} \right] \frac{u_c(y, m_t)}{u_c(y, m_{t+1})} = \frac{1 - z(\underline{m})}{\beta} < 1,$$

which would contradict the fact that the price of money q_t is bounded below by $q^* > 0$. So, we have $\underline{m} = 0$.

Given that the dynamic equation in Case B is the same as in the model without redeeming scheme, we can have only a finite number of Case-B dates (otherwise the price of money would be zero at a finite date, which would contradict the fact that the price of money q_t is bounded below by $q^* > 0$). So, we are always in Case A from a certain date onwards. From this certain date onwards, the dynamic equation is

$$\frac{u_c(y, m_{t+1})}{u_c(y, m_t)} = 1 + \left(\frac{1-\beta}{\beta}\right) \left[1 - \frac{z(m_{t+1})}{z(m^*)}\right]$$

Because of our assumption (A.5), the right-hand side of this dynamic equation is negative as m_{t+1} approaches zero (which is its limit as $t \to +\infty$). The left-hand side, however, is always non-negative. So, m_{t+1} needs to reach its limit zero at a finite date, which requires that the price of money be zero at a finite date, which contradicts the fact that the price of money is bounded below by $q^* > 0$. So, we do not have an equilibrium with partial demonstration and $m_0 < m^*$. We conclude that there is no equilibrium with partial demonstration.

2.6 Complete Demonetization

Under complete demonetization at date t (meaning $M_t > M_{t+1} = 0$), using $M_{t+1} = 0$, (12) and (A.6), we can rewrite (A.7) at date t + 1 as

$$z\left(0\right) + \left[\frac{\gamma_{t+1}}{u_c(y,0)} + \frac{\epsilon}{M}\right]\frac{1}{q_{t+1}} = 1,$$

which implies that $z(0) \leq 1$, which in turn contradicts our assumption (A.5). So, we do not have an equilibrium with complete demonstration.

3 Further relaxation of the Inada condition

In the main text, we relaxed the standard Inada condition $\lim_{x\to 0} v'(x) = +\infty$ and replaced it with v'(0) > u'(y). We now relax the Inada condition further and allow for $(1-\beta)u'(y) < v'(0) < u'(y)$. We do not allow for $v'(0) < (1-\beta)u'(y)$ because it would eliminate the fundamental equilibrium, both in the presence and in the absence of a redeeming scheme, since no value of ϵ (not even zero) would then satisfy the condition for fundamental-equilibrium existence (14).

The results that we obtain below can be summarized as follows. If v'(0) > u'(y), then the model without redeeming scheme has (a countable infinity of) equilibria in which the price of money reaches zero at a finite date. By contrast, if $(1 - \beta)u'(y) < v'(0) < u'(y)$, then the model without redeeming scheme has (a non-countable infinity of) equilibria in which the price of money converges asymptotically to zero without ever reaching zero. In both cases, however, as long as ϵ is sufficiently small for the fundamental equilibrium to exist, the redeeming scheme eliminates all inflationary equilibria. So, further relaxing the Inada condition leaves our conclusion unchanged.

3.1 Model Without Redeeming Scheme

Consider the separable MIU model without redeeming scheme. Households maximize

$$\sum_{t=0}^{+\infty} \beta^{t} \left[u\left(c_{t}\right) + v\left(q_{t}M_{t}\right) \right]$$

subject to

$$y + R_{t-1}b_{t-1} + q_t M_{t-1} - c_t - b_t - q_t M_t - \tau_t \ge 0$$

Two first-order conditions are

$$u'(c_t) = \lambda_t,$$
$$q_t v'(q_t M_t) = \lambda_t q_t - \beta \lambda_{t+1} q_{t+1}.$$

Using the goods-market-clearing condition $c_t = y$ and the money-market-clearing condition $M_t = M$, we get the dynamic equation

$$\frac{m_{t+1}}{m_t} = 1 + \left(\frac{1-\beta}{\beta}\right) \left[1 - \frac{v'(m_t)}{v'(m^*)}\right],$$
(A.11)

where $m_t \equiv q_t M$ and where m^* is implicitly and uniquely defined by $v'(m^*) = (1 - \beta)u'(y)$. Given this dynamic equation, the only candidate dynamic equilibria are inflationary paths $m^* > m_0 > m_1 > \dots$ and deflationary paths $m^* < m_0 < m_1 < \dots$

The deflationary paths are not equilibria if we impose the Inada condition $\lim_{x\to+\infty} v'(x) = 0$, which says that demand for money is asymptotically satiated: with this Inada condition, the deflationary paths violate the transversality condition (11) (for any $m_0 > m^*$).

We study the inflationary paths as follows. First, since the sequence $(m_t)_{t\geq 0}$ is decreasing and non-negative, it converges to a value $\underline{m} \geq 0$. We cannot have $\underline{m} > 0$, because the left-hand side of (A.11) would then converge to 1 as $t \to +\infty$, while the right-hand side of (A.11) would converge to a value lower than 1. So, we have $\underline{m} = 0$. We then rewrite (A.11) as

$$\frac{m_{t+1}}{m_t} = \frac{1}{\beta} \left[1 - \frac{v'(m_t)}{u'(y)} \right],$$
(A.12)

and we distinguish between two cases, depending on whether v'(0) > u'(y) or $(1 - \beta)u'(y) < v'(0) < u'(y)$.

If v'(0) > u'(y), then the right-hand side of (A.12) is strictly negative for $m_t = 0$. It is also strictly increasing in m_t and strictly positive for $m_t = m^*$. Let \tilde{m} denote the unique value of m_t that makes this right-hand side equal to zero. We can rewrite the dynamic equation (A.12) as

$$m_{t+1} = G\left(m_t\right),$$

where $G(x) \equiv (x/\beta)[1 - v'(x)/u'(y)]$, G(x) < 0 for $x \in (0, \tilde{m})$, and G(x) > 0 and G'(x) > 0for $x > \tilde{m}$. So, if $\lim_{x\to 0} G(x) < 0$, that is to say equivalently if the "super Inada condition" $\lim_{x\to 0} xv'(x) > 0$ is satisfied, then any inflationary path ends up violating the dynamic equation at some date; so, there are no inflationary equilibria. Alternatively, if $\lim_{x\to 0} G(x) = 0$ or equivalently if $\lim_{x\to 0} xv'(x) = 0$, then there exist "hyperinflationary" equilibria in which money becomes worthless at a finite date: for any $T \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$, the sequence characterized by $m_t = 0$ for $t \geq T$, $m_{T-1} = \tilde{m}$, and $(m_t)_{T-2 \geq t \geq 0}$ derived sequentially from m_{T-1} with the dynamic equation, is an equilibrium. There exists a countable infinity of such equilibria, which can be indexed by $T \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$.

Alternatively, if $(1 - \beta)u'(y) < v'(0) < u'(y)$, then the right-hand side of (A.12) is strictly positive for $m_t = 0$. It is also strictly increasing in m_t and, therefore, strictly positive for any $m_t \ge 0$. In this case, for any $m_0 < m^*$, the sequence $(m_t)_{t\ge 0}$ derived sequentially from m_0 with the dynamic equation is an equilibrium path that converges asymptotically to zero without ever reaching zero. There exists a non-countable infinity of such equilibria, which can be indexed by $m_0 \in (0, m^*)$.

3.2 Model With Redeeming Scheme

We have shown in the main text that if v'(0) > u'(y), then the redeeming scheme eliminates all inflationary equilibria. More specifically, we have shown that: (i) the only no-demonstration equilibrium is the fundamental equilibrium; (ii) there are no equilibria with partial demonstration; and (iii) there are no equilibria with complete demonstration.

Our proofs for (ii)-(iii) in the main text do not use the restriction v'(0) > u'(y); these proofs work equally well in the case $(1 - \beta)u'(y) < v'(0) < u'(y)$.

Our proof for (i) in the main text uses the fact that the candidate no-demonetization equilibria in our model with redeeming scheme are the equilibria of the model without redeeming scheme. This proof uses the restriction v'(0) > u'(y) only to get that the price of money converges to zero in the latter equilibria; but the proof works equally well independently of whether the price of money reaches zero at a finite date and remains at zero thereafter (as in the case v'(0) > u'(y)), or converges asymptotically to zero without ever reaching zero (as in the case $(1 - \beta)u'(y) < v'(0) < u'(y)$).

So, the redeeming scheme eliminates all inflationary equilibria also in the case $(1 - \beta)u'(y) < v'(0) < u'(y)$.