

Lemma 1 *The borrowing limit for a generation- $(t - 1)$ agent, \bar{b}_{t-1} , is increasing in x_t , his inheritance. That is, agents with bigger future inheritance are allowed to borrow more.*

Proof. Applying the implicit function theorem on equation (14), we get

$$\frac{\partial \bar{b}_{t-1}}{\partial x_t} = - \frac{\frac{\partial H}{\partial x_t}}{\frac{\partial H}{\partial b_{t-1}} \Big|_{b_{t-1}=\bar{b}_{t-1}}} = - \frac{\frac{1}{\omega_m + f(\bar{b}_{t-1}) + x_t - \bar{b}_{t-1}R - \hat{s}_t}}{\frac{\partial H}{\partial b_{t-1}} \Big|_{b_{t-1}=\bar{b}_{t-1}}} - \frac{1}{\omega_m + f(\bar{b}_{t-1}) + x_t}.$$

It is obvious that the numerator of $\partial \bar{b}_{t-1} / \partial x_t$ is positive. Thus the sign of $\partial \bar{b}_{t-1} / \partial x_t$ is equivalent to the sign of $-\partial H / \partial b_{t-1} \Big|_{b_{t-1}=\bar{b}_{t-1}}$. Notice that H is continuously differentiable with b_{t-1} . As stated earlier, we have $H(0) > 0$ and $H(\infty) < 0$. Hence H must intersect the horizontal axis from above at least once. Moreover, if there are multiple intersections, it must be true that the curve H will intersect the horizontal axis from above at the first and the last intersection points. Since $H \geq 0$ holds for all $b_{t-1} \in [0, \bar{b}_{t-1}]$, \bar{b}_{t-1} corresponds to the first and the smallest intersection point. Since H intersects the horizontal axis from above at \bar{b}_{t-1} , it must be that $\partial H / \partial b_{t-1} \Big|_{b_{t-1}=\bar{b}_{t-1}} < 0$. Hence, $\partial \bar{b}_{t-1} / \partial x_t > 0$. ■