The Taylor Rule is (almost) Everywhere in Monetary Economics (but there is Still Room to Expand Market Share!)

Richard Clarida Columbia University NBER

PIMCO

The Two Most Consequential Papers in Monetary Economics in last 75 Years

- Friedman (1968): Introduced natural rate of unemployment (u*) and natural rate of interest (r*), with a vertical long-run Phillips Curve.
- Taylor (1993): The Taylor Rule , the Taylor Principle, inflation targeting = 2

Friedman's Framework

- •u* and r* as economic destinations, not policy rule inputs.
- •Advocated k-percent money growth rule, which worked better in theory than practice (1970s-1980s)

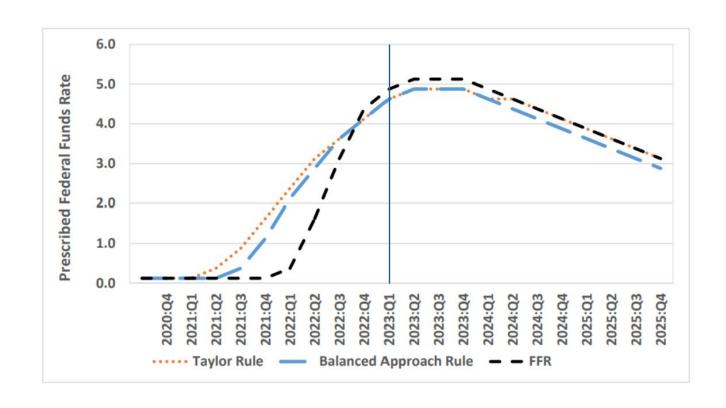
Taylor's Framework

- •Anchors nominal policy rate to neutral real interest rate (r*) plus inflation target.
- •Follows Taylor Principle: Raise nominal rate more than one-for-one when inflation exceeds target.
- •Leans against output/unemployment gaps (u u*) supporting price stability and dual mandate.

Taylor Rule is (almost) Everywhere

- Central to Woodford's monetary and Cochrane's fiscal theories of price level.
- Empirical benchmark for effective real world monetary policy (when not at zero lower bound).
- Optimal in New Keynesian models (CGG)
- Robust across macroeconomic specifications (CEE) and for open as well as closed economies
- Essential in Yield curve models and bond pricing (AP)
- Ubiquitous in central bank briefing books

Papell and Prodan suggest a straightforward way that policy rules be added to the existing SEP



There is much more to say but I am running out of time

So let me conclude by wishing the Taylor Rule a very happy 32nd birthdayand another 75 years!