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Abstract

Chaotic itinerancy is complex behavior in high-dimensional dynamical systems characterized by itinerant motion among many different ordered states through chaotic transition. In this study, we robustly observe this behavior in a model of regional business cycles, in which all regions are homogeneous and connected through producers' adaptive behavior based on global information. Although producers adjust their output quite slowly toward the average level announced by the government, regional business cycles begin to synchronize due to the entrainment effect. Moreover, the economy is more likely to exhibit chaotic itinerancy when the producers emphasize the expected-profit-maximization and when they adjust their expectations more slowly toward the average. It is also clarified that behind the dynamics of chaotic itinerancy exist cycles among periodic orbits with different unstable directions, which is called unstable dimension variability.

Key words: Regional business cycle, Nonlinear dynamics, Synchronization, Globally coupled map, Chaotic itinerancy, Intermittency, Unstable dimension variability

JEL Classifications: C61, E32

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1 Introduction

Business cycle synchronization has become a topic of growing interest from around the end of the twentieth century (Antonakakis, 2012; Baxter and Kouparitsas, 2005; Yetman, 2011). The vast empirical literature elucidates a fact that countries with intensified trade linkages have resemblant business cycles, which Selover and Jensen (1999) and Süssmuth (2003) explain by proposing a nonlinear mode-locking model. Mode-locking is an inherently nonlinear linkage phenomenon; cycles of different elements are synchronized, i.e., attain mode-lock, when the strength of the linkage between oscillating elements reaches a certain threshold.

On the other hand, with the exception of a stylized fact that fluctuations in different regions of a national economy are inclined to synchronize with each other (Carlino and Sill, 2001; Clark and van Wincoop, 1999; Rissman, 1999), little is known about the business cycle synchronization across subnational regions within a country, as mentioned by Kouparitsas and Nakajima (2006). One possible hypothesis about subregional synchronization is that it may occur due to common exogenous shocks such as national fiscal and monetary policies, sudden changes in world commodity prices, fads among consumers, and so forth. However, several studies find that common shocks do not seem to be the cause of such synchronization (Carlino and DeFina, 1995; Kozlowski, 1995). Another hypothesis is that the synchronization may be caused by trade linkages between different regions of the economy. A nonlinear mode-locking model is again proposed by Selover *et al.* (2005) under a scenario in which the cycles of different regions synchronize through interregional trade linkages.

It has been well-known that multiple oscillators may synchronize if they directly interact with each other, since the discovery of synchronization of coupled pendulum clocks by Huygens in the seventeenth century. In this sense, a scenario of regional business cycle synchronization through interregional trade linkages is probable and realistic, but rather straightforward and obvious. In contrast, it is also well-known that Southeast Asian fireflies within a given tree (or even larger area) begin to flash simultaneously as night falls. There is no direct interaction among the fireflies; instead, each firefly is considered to sense others' flashes and adjust its behavior sensitively to the global information. Then an intriguing question arises: do the same mechanisms lie in regional business cycle synchronization? Onozaki *et al.* (2007) answer this question affirmatively by proposing another hypothesis that regional business cycles may synchronize through producers' adaptive behavior based on global information which government announces. They study a system of globally coupled maps (GCM) each of which is nonlinear and may behave chaotically depending on parameter values, and illustrate how synchronization occurs and how complex its process is.

It would be better to give a short account of a GCM model here, which is first proposed by Kaneko (1990). It is represented as follows:

$$x_i(t+1) = (1-\varepsilon)f(x_i(t)) + \frac{\varepsilon}{N}\sum_{j=1}^N f(x_j(t)), \quad i = 1, \cdots, N,$$
(1)

where $x_i(t)$ denotes the value of the *i*th element at discrete time period *t*, and *N* the number of elements. A map f(x) describes each element's endogenous dynamics. Usually a

noninvertible map is utilized as f(x) that may exhibit chaotic behavior. The second term on the right-hand side of (1) represents the global interaction of each element through the mean field, i.e., a uniform, all-to-all interaction. Therefore, two opposite effects coexist: the all-to-all interaction is inclined to synchronize all elements, and the chaotic instability in each element tends to desynchronize them. Depending on the value of $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$, i.e., the balance between these two effects, the GCM model exhibits a rich variety of complex phenomena including chaotic itinerancy (Kaneko, 1990)⁻¹. The term describes the phenomenon of an orbit successively itinerating among many ordered states through chaotic transitions in dynamical systems. The phenomenon was independently discovered in a model of optical turbulence by Ikeda *et al.* (1989), a globally coupled chaotic system by Kaneko (1990), and nonequilibrium neural networks by Tsuda (1990). The terminology was coined by its discoverers to denote universal dynamics in a class of high-dimensional dynamical systems (Kaneko and Tsuda, 2000). In an economic context, Yasutomi (2003) studies the emergence and collapse of money in a computer simulation model from the viewpoint of chaotic itinerancy.

In this study, we reexamine the model of Onozaki *et al.* (2007), and robustly observe chaotic itinerancy for various constellations of parameters as well as various complex phases of regional business cycle synchronization. The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes a regional business cycle model. Section 3 discusses chaotic itinerancy occurring in the model. Section 4 characterizes chaotic itinerancy compared with of on-off intermittency. The last section concludes the paper.

2 Model

The economy consists of N regions, each with a separate market which is imperfectly competitive. There are many producers in each region, and each producer produces homogeneous goods and delivers them only to the market of its own region. Goods are perishable and cannot be carried over to the next period. Consumers are uniformly distributed over all regions and purchase goods from the market they belong to. We assume that there is no interregional trade in order to concentrate on the effect of producers' adaptive behavior based on global information ². The government announces the average price and output for all regions in each period, and each producer adjusts its production based on this information; i.e., regions are linked via global information. Each producer decides the next period's output, considering the average prices and outputs as reference levels. Producer's decision-making process consists of the following three steps.

First, at period t, each producer in the *i*th region expects that the actual price $p_i(t)$ in his market will be adjusted adaptively at period t + 1 toward the announced average

¹It is sometimes discussed from the viewpoint of Milnor attractor (Milnor, 1985).

²If considering interregional trade, we have to assume a new economic agent, distributor, who has a behavioral objective completely different from that of producer. This makes the model much complicated and far intractable.

level $\bar{p}(t) := (1/N) \sum_{j=1}^{N} p_j(t)$ with an adjustment speed $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$p_i^e(t+1) = p_i(t) + \varepsilon(\bar{p}(t) - p_i(t))$$
$$= (1-\varepsilon)p_i(t) + \frac{\varepsilon}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N p_j(t), \qquad (2)$$

where superscript e denotes expectations. Under this price expectation, each producer calculates the output level, $\tilde{x}_i(t+1)$, maximizing the expected profit subject to the production cost $x^2/2$. The resulting amount is

$$\tilde{x}_i(t+1) = p_i^e(t+1).$$
 (3)

Second, each producer dislikes discrepancies between the actual output level at period t, $x_i(t)$, and the average level announced by the government, $\bar{x}(t) = (1/N) \sum_{j=1}^{N} x_j(t)$, and intends to resolve them. For this purpose, he sets a provisional target of output $\hat{x}_i(t+1)$ so as to adjust the actual output toward the average level with an adjustment speed $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$:

$$\hat{x}_i(t+1) = (1-\varepsilon)x_i(t) + \varepsilon \bar{x}(t)$$

= $(1-\varepsilon)x_i(t) + \frac{\varepsilon}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N x_j(t).$ (4)

Third, each producer determines a final output plan as a weighted average of provisional target $\hat{x}_i(t)$ and expected-profit maximizing output $\tilde{x}_i(t+1)$ with a weight $\phi \in (0, 1)$. The resulting formula is as follows:

$$x_{i}(t+1) = (1-\phi)\hat{x}_{i}(t+1) + \phi \,\tilde{x}_{i}(t+1) = (1-\phi)(1-\varepsilon) \,x_{i}(t) + (1-\phi) \,\varepsilon \,\bar{x}(t) + \phi \,\tilde{x}_{i}(t+1).$$
(5)

Since the sum of the above three coefficients on the right-hand side is unity, we can paraphrase the producer's decision making as follows: Each producer's output is determined as a weighted average of $x_i(t)$, $\bar{x}(t)$, and $\tilde{x}_i(t+1)$.

The individual demand for each producer's output is described by a monotonic inverse demand function as follows:

$$p_i(t) = \frac{1}{(y_i(t))^{\eta}},$$
(6)

where $y_i(t)$ is the individual demand and $\eta > 0$ is the inverse of the price elasticity of the demand. At each period, prices are determined in each market for equilibrating supply and demand. By substituting (2), (3), (4), and (6) into (5), we obtain a GCM model (1) with a noninvertible map as follows:

$$f(x) = (1 - \phi)x + \frac{\phi}{x^{\eta}},\tag{7}$$

the behavior of which is well studied by Onozaki *et al.* (2000) and known to exhibit chaotic behavior depending on a set of parameters. The larger ϕ and η are, the more

likely the economy behaves chaotically. After all, the regional business cycle model to be analyzed in this study consists of (1) and (7).

In what follows, we concentrate on the cases with N = 10 (Section 3) or N = 2 (Section 4). Unless otherwise noted, η , ϕ , and ε are fixed as 3.5, 0.7, and 0.315, respectively ³. We randomly select initial conditions $x_i(0)$ ($i = 1, \dots, N$) from the range [0.5, 1.5]. Note that one-dimensional map x(t + 1) = f(x(t)) can generate chaotic behavior through a period-doubling bifurcation as ϕ increases (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1: Bifurcation diagram of one-dimensional map $x_{t+1} = f(x_t)$ with respect to ϕ . The map can generate chaotic behavior through a period-doubling bifurcation as ϕ increases.

3 Chaotic Itinerancy

This section investigates chaotic itinerancy in the regional business cycle model (1) and (7). Chaotic itinerancy is a typical phenomenon occurring in high-dimensional chaotic systems. In its presence, an orbit wanders among different states of complexity (Kaneko and Tsuda, 2000). We first show the time developments of the model in Fig. 2. In coupled systems, separate oscillators sometimes synchronize, i.e., a phenomenon called entrainment. A set of synchronizing oscillators is called a cluster. Ten types of regimes (from one-cluster to 10-cluster regime) appear in the model's behavior. The one- and 10-cluster regimes are shown in Fig. 2 (lower left, lower right).

To characterize chaotic itinerancy, we define the effective dimension and its mean (Komuro, 2005). The effective dimension (ED) of a point $x(t) = (x_1(t), x_2(t), \cdots, x_N(t)) \in \mathbb{R}^N$ with the precision δ , denoted by $ED(x(t), \delta)$, is defined simply as a number of clusters. Here, variables within a distance δ are considered to belong to the same cluster ⁴. We rewrite the model (1) and (7) as a map $F : \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}^N$ which is defined as follows:

$$x(t+1) = F(x(t)).$$

Then the mean of the effective dimension (MED) of an orbit $\{x(t)\}$ with the precision δ

³Onozaki *et al.* (2007) show that the very long transient behavior exists when the system dimension N is fixed as 100 and the parameter η is selected from the range [1.0, 8.0].

⁴The value of δ is fixed as 10⁻⁴ throughout this paper.



Fig. 2: Time development of $x_i(t)$ $(i = 1, \dots, 10)$ (upper) and its enlargements. The one-cluster regime (lower left) and the 10-cluster regime (lower right) are observed.

for lasting time τ^{-5} is defined as follows:

$$MED(x,\delta,\tau) = \frac{1}{\tau} \sum_{t=0}^{\tau-1} ED(x(t),\delta).$$

Because of entrainment effect, synchronization strengthens and the economy remains for some time within the one-cluster regime (ED = 1), which is called a laminar state. Then, the economy leaves the regime and wanders among various regimes, which are called burst states, until coming back to the laminar state. This process is repeated for an extended period (Fig. 3).

In Fig. 4, the distribution of lasting time within the regime of ED = 1 is shown to obey a power-law with an exponent estimated to be -3/2 (Heagy *et al.*, 1994)⁶. For other regimes of ED = 2, 5, 10 the same distributions are found for shorter periods of time, suggesting that each regime has a mechanism to trap an orbit staying in the regime. The MEDs of lasting time $\tau = 10^5$ are calculated after the transients of 10^5 iterations for various ε s as shown in Fig. 5. An integer MED indicates that the economy remains in the same regime over 10^5 iterations. A non-integer MED indicates that the economy wanders among various regimes of different EDs.

As shown in Fig. 6, we calculate MEDs of the economy by changing a set of parameters (ϕ, ε) , and identify the parameter region (ϕ, ε) where MEDs are non-integers, indicating

⁵The value of τ is fixed as 10⁵ throughout this paper.

⁶This kind of power-law distributions are observed in a well-known critical phenomenon called Type III intermittency in a low-dimensional system, but they are not robust in a parameter space. In contrast, the distributions in our model are robustly found.



Fig. 3: Time development of effective dimension (ED) of the economy. It primarily remains within the one-cluster regime (ED = 1). Once it departs from the regime, it wanders among various regimes of different EDs until coming back to the one-cluster regime.



Fig. 4: Distribution of lasting time T for remaining in a regime of ED (= 1 (upper left), 2 (upper right), 5 (lower left), and 10 (lower right)). The distribution for ED = 1 is shown to obey a power-law with an exponent estimated to be -3/2 as indicated by the straight line. For other regimes of ED = 2, 5, 10 the same distributions are found for shorter periods of time.

that the economy wanders among various regimes ⁷. Fig. 6 shows the robustness of chaotic itinerancy with respect to large ϕ and small ε . When the producers emphasize

⁷The MEDs are calculated from 10 randomly chosen initial conditions $x_i(0)$ $(i = 1, \dots, 10)$ after neglecting transitions of 10³ iterations. If the average is non-integer, the corresponding set of parameters (ϕ, ε) is plotted in Fig. 6. These calculations are performed for 10⁵ points in a parameter region (ϕ, ε) .



Fig. 5: The MEDs of lasting time $\tau = 10^5$ of the economy with respect to ε . A non-integer MED indicates that the economy wanders among various regimes of different clusters (EDs) (left). The graph of 10 - MED for $\varepsilon \in [0, 0.1]$ (right: logarithmic scale) shows that its value is not zero, implying that the orbit wanders among various regimes.

the profit maximization more (larger ϕ) and when they adjust their expectations more slowly toward the average announced by the government (smaller ε), the more likely the economy will exhibit chaotic itinerancy. By comparing the bifurcation diagram of a single map (Fig. 1) with Fig. 6, it is apparent that the model shows complex behavior with multiple regimes around bifurcation points and chaotic regions of a single map. If a single map (7) is nonhyperbolic in some parameter regions, the GCM (1) can easily destroy the respective dynamics of $ED = 10^{-8}$. This can generate chaotic itinerancy by the extremely small perturbation described by the coupling parameter ε .



Fig. 6: Parameter region (ϕ, ε) where the economy wanders among various regimes during $\tau = 10^5$ iterations from 10 initial conditions after the transients of 10^5 iterations (left). An enlargement of the left figure in logarithmic scale (right).

⁸As ε is not infinitely small, the same phenomena can be obtained for f(x) having weak hyperbolicity.

4 Detailed Structures of Chaotic Itinerancy

This section focuses on the two dimensional map 9

$$x_1(t+1) = (1-\varepsilon)f(x_1(t)) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \{f(x_1(t)) + f(x_2(t))\},\$$

$$x_2(t+1) = (1-\varepsilon)f(x_2(t)) + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \{f(x_1(t)) + f(x_2(t))\},\$$

where f(x) is the same map as (7), and studies chaotic itinerancy especially from the viewpoint of routes between synchronized and desynchronized states in subsection 4.2 (Alexander *et al.*, 1992) and the unstable dimension variability in subsection 4.3 (Kostelich *et al.*, 1997; Bonatti *et al.*, 2005). This is because complex behavior wandering among multiple states is observable even in a two dimensional map, which is called the on-off intermittency (Fujisaka and Yamada, 1983a, b; Pikovsky and Grassberger, 1991; Glendinning, 2001). We first discuss this point in the next subsection.

4.1 Behaviors in the Two Dimensional Map

Time series of $x_1 - x_2$ are depicted in Fig. 7 (left), showing the on-off intermittency between a synchronized state (ED = 1) and a desynchronized state (ED = 2). The former is a laminar state where a point (x_1, x_2) stays in the diagonal line $(x_1 = x_2)$, and the latter a burst state where a point (x_1, x_2) deviates from the diagonal line $(x_1 \neq x_2)$ (Fig. 7 (right)).



Fig. 7: Time series of $x_1 - x_2$ (left). Phase space dynamics in (x_1, x_2) plane (right). On-off intermittency between a synchronized (laminar) state and a desynchronized (burst) state is observed.

Next we shed light on the lasting time of laminar and burst states as seen in the ten dimensional map. The distribution of laminar lasting time in a regime of ED = 1 is shown to obey a power-law with an exponent estimated to be -3/2 (Fig. 8). For ED = 2 the same distribution can be found for the shorter period of time. The results are qualitatively the same as the cases for the ten dimensional map (Fig. 4). Fig. 9 shows a parameter region where the system shows chaotic itinerancy. This also implies that

⁹This is identical to the ten dimensional map (N = 10) where the initial conditions are given as $x_1(0) = x_3(0) = x_5(0) = x_7(0) = x_9(0)$ and $x_2(0) = x_4(0) = x_6(0) = x_8(0) = x_{10}(0)$. If $(x_1(t), x_2(t))$ is the solution, $(x_2(t), x_1(t))$ is also the solution due to the symmetry inside the system.



Fig. 8: Distributions of lasting time T for remaining in a regime of ED = 1 (left) and ED = 2 (right). The distribution for ED = 1 is shown to obey a power-law with an exponent estimated to be -3/2 as indicated by the straight line. The same distribution can be found with respect to ED = 2 for the lasting time T shorter than 10^2 .

the chaotic itinerancy in the two dimensional map is qualitatively the same as that of the ten dimensional map (Fig. 6). The fact is adequate for our concentration on the low dimensional map in this section although it is said that chaotic itinerancy is a typical phenomenon mainly in high-dimensional chaos.



Fig. 9: Parameter region (ϕ, ε) where the economy wanders among various regimes during $\tau = 10^5$ iterations from 10 initial conditions after the transients of 10^5 iterations.

4.2 Routes between Laminar and Burst States

We investigate routes from a burst state to a laminar state by comparing a set of initial points in a burst state, reaching a laminar state within seven iterations for two values of ε : one is the value where chaotic itinerancy is observed as an attractor ($\varepsilon = 0.315$; Fig. 10) and the other where chaotic behavior within a laminar state is observed as an attractor ($\varepsilon = 0.7$; Fig. 11) ¹⁰. These figures imply that two nearby initial points are more likely to exhibit completely different behavior within a few iterations for the parameter of chaotic itinerancy than for the parameter of a chaotic attractor in a diagonal line. One dimensional complex route characterizing basin of attractions within a finite number of

¹⁰Among 10⁷ initial points chosen from $(x, y) \in (0, 5) \times (0, 5)$, points reaching a laminar state within seven iterations are plotted in these figures.

iterations shows fractality (Alexander *et al.*, 1992; Viana and Grebogi, 2000, 2001). As the number of iterations increases, almost one dimensional complicated set is identified. Furthermore, transient time before reaching a laminar state tends to be long at this parameter value where the system shows complex behavior wandering among multiple states.



Fig. 10: Routes from a burst state to a laminar state (ε =0.315) (left) and its enlargement (right). Transient time before reaching a laminar state tends to be long at this parameter value where the system shows complex behavior wandering among multiple states.



Fig. 11: Routes from a burst state to a laminar state (ε =0.7) (left) and its enlargement (right). Transient time before reaching a laminar state tends to be long at this parameter value where the system shows complex behavior wandering among multiple states.

On the other hand, initial points in a laminar state, reaching a burst state within n (= 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, or 20) iterations, are depicted in Fig. 12. They show that the orbit tends to stay at smaller $x_1(=x_2)$ values just before leaving the laminar state. They also implies that an exit from a laminar state to a burst state (around x = 1) is unstable in the direction perpendicular to the diagonal line.

4.3 Unstable Dimension Variability in Chaotic Itinerancy

Unstable dimension variability is characterized by the existence of cycles among invariant sets with different unstable directions ¹¹. Tsuda (2009) conjectured that unstable dimension variability can be a key to understand the dynamics of chaotic itinerancy. In this subsection, we confirm that unstable dimension variability is observed in the two

¹¹Homoclinic tangency and unstable dimension variability (hetero dimensional cycle) are thought to be typical structures which break hyperbolicity (Bonatti *et al.*, 2005).



Fig. 12: Routes from a laminar state to a burst state ($\varepsilon = 0.315$). Among 10⁷ initial points chosen from $(x, y) \in (0, 5) \times (0, 5)$, points reaching a burst state within 1, 2, 3 iterations (upper three, respectively) and 5, 10, 20 iterations (lower three, respectively) are plotted. It is implied that an exit from a laminar state to a burst state (around x = 1) is unstable in the direction perpendicular to the diagonal line.

dimensional map through identifying unstable periodic orbits with different unstable directions embedded in an attractor of on-off intermittency and confirming the existence of cycles among neighborhoods of the unstable periodic orbits.

Unstable periodic orbits play an important role in characterizing chaotic systems including a system of chaos synchronization (Zhao *et al.*, 2005). A number of unstable periodic orbits with periods up to 20 are depicted in Fig. 13. The upper graph shows all the points of the detected periodic orbits, which almost covers the chaotic attractor (Fig. 7 (right)). We distinguish the periodic orbits by the trajectory in the phase space. A laminar periodic orbit is labeled if all points along the orbit stay in the laminar state, while a burst periodic orbit is labeled if at least one point on the orbit goes away from the laminar state. Among all the burst periodic orbits we classify the repeller (Fig. 13 (lower left)) and the saddle (Fig. 13 (lower right)) by the number of unstable directions. On the other hand, the distribution of x_1 is investigated for laminar periodic orbits. Fig. 14 represents the distribution of saddles (left) and repellers (right) ¹². It is found that repellers tend to distribute around a repelling fixed point $(x_1, x_2) = (1, 1)$.

Examples of time series of four types of periodic orbits are depicted in Fig. 15. The upper left corresponds to burst saddle (period 4), the upper right to burst repeller (period 6), the lower left to laminar saddle (period 10), and the lower right to laminar repeller (period 4). These imply that repellers tend to stay longer time around $(x_1, x_2) = (1, 1)$.

In order to investigate how close a chaotic trajectory is to those four types of periodic orbits, we calculate distances between a chaotic trajectory and each periodic orbit in Fig. 16. The graphs show that a chaotic trajectory tends to approach to a point on each of four periodic orbits, implying the existence of an unstable dimension variability (heterodimensional cycle). That is, both saddles and repellers are embedded in both laminar and burst states and the connecting orbits among them exist.

¹²Here the bin width of the histogram is 0.1.



Fig. 13: Distributions of unstable periodic orbits with periods up to 20 (upper). Distributions of burst repeller (lower left), burst saddle (lower right).



Fig. 14: Histograms of a laminar saddle (lower left) and a laminar repeller (lower right). The former does not distribute around a fixed point $(x_1, x_2) = (1, 1)$, but the latter does.

5 Conclusion

In this study, we have robustly observed chaotic itinerancy and investigated its detailed structures in a model of regional business cycles coupled through producers' adaptive behavior based on global information. The following results are obtained:

i) The economy wanders among various regimes featuring different numbers of clusters for particular constellations of parameters. Only a small coupling effect is required for this phenomenon to occur. This implies that although all regions or agents are economically homogeneous, the situation should not compel attention to a "representative" region or agent; all must be considered simultaneously.



Fig. 15: Examples of a burst saddle (period 4) (upper left), a burst repeller (period 6) (upper right), a laminar saddle (period 10) (lower left), and a laminar repeller (period 4) (lower right) (\blacksquare : x_1 , \bullet : x_2).



Fig. 16: Distance between a chaotic orbit x(t) showing chaotic itinerancy and some point x_{UPO} on each periodic orbit $d(t) = \min_{\tau \leq t} dist(x(\tau), x_{UPO})$, where $dist(\cdot, \cdot)$ denotes the Euclidean distance between two points (burst saddle in Fig. 15 (upper left), burst repeller (upper right), laminar saddle (lower left), laminar repeller (lower right)). All of them are shown to be passed by a chaotic itinerancy.

- *ii*) When the producers emphasize the profit maximization and when they adjust their expectations slowly toward the average level announced by the government, the more likely the economy will exhibit chaotic itinerancy.
- iii) Behind chaotic itinerancy unstable dimension variability (heterodimensional cycle) may exist. This is identified by finding unstable periodic orbits with different number of unstable directions embedded in an attractor showing chaotic itinerancy, and cycles among them.

The dependency of occurrence of chaotic itinerancy on the system dimension remains an important issue for future work. The mechanism of the robustness of the phenomenon is to be clarified.

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