

Solving a Dynamic Equilibrium Model

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Basic RBC

- Social Planner's problem:

$$\max E \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t \{ \log c_t + \psi \log (1 - l_t) \}$$

$$c_t + k_{t+1} = k_t^\alpha (e^{z_t} l_t)^{1-\alpha} + (1 - \delta) k_t, \forall t > 0$$

$$z_t = \rho z_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t, \varepsilon_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma)$$

- This is a dynamic optimization problem.

Computing the RBC

- The previous problem does not have a known “paper and pencil” solution.
- We will work with an approximation: Perturbation Theory.
- We will undertake a first order perturbation of the model.
- How well will the approximation work?

Equilibrium Conditions

From the household problem+firms's problem+aggregate conditions:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{c_t} &= \beta E_t \left\{ \frac{1}{c_{t+1}} \left(1 + \alpha k_t^{\alpha-1} (e^{z_t} l_t)^{1-\alpha} - \delta \right) \right\} \\ \psi \frac{c_t}{1-l_t} &= (1-\alpha) k_t^\alpha (e^{z_t} l_t)^{1-\alpha} l_t^{-1} \\ c_t + k_{t+1} &= k_t^\alpha (e^{z_t} l_t)^{1-\alpha} + (1-\delta) k_t \\ z_t &= \rho z_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t\end{aligned}$$

Finding a Deterministic Solution

- We search for the first component of the solution.
- If $\sigma = 0$, the equilibrium conditions are:

$$\frac{1}{c_t} = \beta \frac{1}{c_{t+1}} \left(1 + \alpha k_t^{\alpha-1} l_t^{1-\alpha} - \delta \right)$$
$$\psi \frac{c_t}{1 - l_t} = (1 - \alpha) k_t^{\alpha} l_t^{-\alpha}$$
$$c_t + k_{t+1} = k_t^{\alpha} l_t^{1-\alpha} + (1 - \delta) k_t$$

Steady State

- The equilibrium conditions imply a steady state:

$$\frac{1}{c} = \beta \frac{1}{c} (1 + \alpha k^{\alpha-1} l^{1-\alpha} - \delta)$$
$$\psi \frac{c}{1-l} = (1 - \alpha) k^{\alpha} l^{-\alpha}$$
$$c + \delta k = k^{\alpha} l^{1-\alpha}$$

- The first equation can be written as:

$$\frac{1}{\beta} = 1 + \alpha k^{\alpha-1} l^{1-\alpha} - \delta$$

Solving the Steady State

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}k &= \frac{\mu}{\Omega + \varphi\mu} \\l &= \varphi k \\c &= \Omega k \\y &= k^\alpha l^{1-\alpha}\end{aligned}$$

where $\varphi = \left(\frac{1}{\alpha} \left(\frac{1}{\beta} - 1 + \delta\right)\right)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}}$, $\Omega = \varphi^{1-\alpha} - \delta$ and $\mu = \frac{1}{\psi} (1 - \alpha) \varphi^{-\alpha}$.

Linearization I

- Loglinearization or linearization?
- Advantages and disadvantages
- We can linearize and perform later a change of variables.

Linearization II

We linearize:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{c_t} &= \beta E_t \left\{ \frac{1}{c_{t+1}} \left(1 + \alpha k_t^{\alpha-1} (e^{z_t} l_t)^{1-\alpha} - \delta \right) \right\} \\ \psi \frac{c_t}{1-l_t} &= (1-\alpha) k_t^\alpha (e^{z_t} l_t)^{1-\alpha} l_t^{-1} \\ c_t + k_{t+1} &= k_t^\alpha (e^{z_t} l_t)^{1-\alpha} + (1-\delta) k_t \\ z_t &= \rho z_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t\end{aligned}$$

around l , k , and c with a First-order Taylor Expansion.

Linearization III

We get:

$$-\frac{1}{c}(c_t - c) = E_t \left\{ \begin{aligned} &-\frac{1}{c}(c_{t+1} - c) + \alpha(1 - \alpha)\beta\frac{y}{k}z_{t+1} + \\ &\alpha(\alpha - 1)\beta\frac{y}{k^2}(k_{t+1} - k) + \alpha(1 - \alpha)\beta\frac{y}{kl}(l_{t+1} - l) \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$\frac{1}{c}(c_t - c) + \frac{1}{(1 - l)}(l_t - l) = (1 - \alpha)z_t + \frac{\alpha}{k}(k_t - k) - \frac{\alpha}{l}(l_t - l)$$

$$(c_t - c) + (k_{t+1} - k) = \left\{ \begin{aligned} &y \left((1 - \alpha)z_t + \frac{\alpha}{k}(k_t - k) + \frac{(1 - \alpha)}{l}(l_t - l) \right) \\ &+ (1 - \delta)(k_t - k) \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$z_t = \rho z_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$$

Rewriting the System I

Or:

$$\alpha_1 (c_t - c) = E_t \{ \alpha_1 (c_{t+1} - c) + \alpha_2 z_{t+1} + \alpha_3 (k_{t+1} - k) + \alpha_4 (l_{t+1} - l) \}$$

$$(c_t - c) = \alpha_5 z_t + \frac{\alpha}{k} c (k_t - k) + \alpha_6 (l_t - l)$$

$$(c_t - c) + (k_{t+1} - k) = \alpha_7 z_t + \alpha_8 (k_t - k) + \alpha_9 (l_t - l)$$

$$z_t = \rho z_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$$

Rewriting the System II

where

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_1 &= -\frac{1}{c} & \alpha_2 &= \alpha(1-\alpha)\beta\frac{y}{k} \\ \alpha_3 &= \alpha(\alpha-1)\beta\frac{y}{k^2} & \alpha_4 &= \alpha(1-\alpha)\beta\frac{y}{kl} \\ \alpha_5 &= (1-\alpha)c & \alpha_6 &= -\left(\frac{\alpha}{l} + \frac{1}{(1-l)}\right)c \\ \alpha_7 &= (1-\alpha)y & \alpha_8 &= y\frac{\alpha}{k} + (1-\delta) \\ \alpha_9 &= y\frac{(1-\alpha)}{l} & y &= k^\alpha l^{1-\alpha}\end{aligned}$$

Rewriting the System III

After some algebra the system is reduced to:

$$A(k_{t+1} - k) + B(k_t - k) + C(l_t - l) + Dz_t = 0$$

$$E_t(G(k_{t+1} - k) + H(k_t - k) + J(l_{t+1} - l) + K(l_t - l) + Lz_{t+1} + Mz_t) = 0$$

$$E_t z_{t+1} = \rho z_t$$

Guess Policy Functions

We guess policy functions of the form $(k_{t+1} - k) = P(k_t - k) + Qz_t$ and $(l_t - l) = R(k_t - k) + Sz_t$, plug them in and get:

$$A(P(k_t - k) + Qz_t) + B(k_t - k) \\ + C(R(k_t - k) + Sz_t) + Dz_t = 0$$

$$G(P(k_t - k) + Qz_t) + H(k_t - k) + J(R(P(k_t - k) + Qz_t) + SNz_t) \\ + K(R(k_t - k) + Sz_t) + (LN + M)z_t = 0$$

Solving the System I

Since these equations need to hold for any value $(k_{t+1} - k)$ or z_t we need to equate each coefficient to zero, on $(k_t - k)$:

$$AP + B + CR = 0$$

$$GP + H + JRP + KR = 0$$

and on z_t :

$$AQ + CS + D = 0$$

$$(G + JR)Q + JSN + KS + LN + M = 0$$

Solving the System II

- We have a system of four equations on four unknowns.
- To solve it note that $R = -\frac{1}{C}(AP + B) = -\frac{1}{C}AP - \frac{1}{C}B$
- Then:

$$P^2 + \left(\frac{B}{A} + \frac{K}{J} - \frac{GC}{JA} \right) P + \frac{KB - HC}{JA} = 0$$

a quadratic equation on P .

Solving the System III

- We have two solutions:

$$P = -\frac{1}{2} \left(-\frac{B}{A} - \frac{K}{J} + \frac{GC}{JA} \pm \left(\left(\frac{B}{A} + \frac{K}{J} - \frac{GC}{JA} \right)^2 - 4 \frac{KB - HC}{JA} \right)^{0.5} \right)$$

one stable and another unstable.

- If we pick the stable root and find $R = -\frac{1}{C} (AP + B)$ we have to a system of two linear equations on two unknowns with solution:

$$Q = \frac{-D(JN + K) + CLN + CM}{AJN + AK - CG - CJR}$$
$$S = \frac{-ALN - AM + DG + DJR}{AJN + AK - CG - CJR}$$

Practical Implementation

- How do we do this in practice?
- Solving quadratic equations: “A Toolkit for Analyzing Nonlinear Dynamic Stochastic Models Easily” by Harald Uhlig.
- Using dynare.

General Structure of Linearized System

Given m states x_t , n controls y_t , and k exogenous stochastic processes z_{t+1} , we have:

$$Ax_t + Bx_{t-1} + Cy_t + Dz_t = 0$$

$$E_t(Fx_{t+1} + Gx_t + Hx_{t-1} + Jy_{t+1} + Ky_t + Lz_{t+1} + Mz_t) = 0$$

$$E_t z_{t+1} = Nz_t$$

where C is of size $l \times n$, $l \geq n$ and of rank n , that F is of size $(m + n - l) \times n$, and that N has only stable eigenvalues.

Policy Functions

We guess policy functions of the form:

$$x_t = Px_{t-1} + Qz_t$$

$$y_t = Rx_{t-1} + Sz_t$$

where P , Q , R , and S are matrices such that the computed equilibrium is stable.

Policy Functions

For simplicity, suppose $l = n$. See Uhlig for general case (I have never been in the situation where $l = n$ did not hold).

Then:

1. P satisfies the matrix quadratic equation:

$$(F - JC^{-1}A)P^2 - (JC^{-1}B - G + KC^{-1}A)P - KC^{-1}B + H = 0$$

The equilibrium is stable iff $\max(\text{abs}(\text{eig}(P))) < 1$.

2. R is given by:

$$R = -C^{-1}(AP + B)$$

3. Q satisfies:

$$\begin{aligned} N' \otimes (F - JC^{-1}A) + I_k \otimes (JR + FP + G - KC^{-1}A) \text{vec}(Q) \\ = \text{vec} \left((JC^{-1}D - L)N + KC^{-1}D - M \right) \end{aligned}$$

4. S satisfies:

$$S = -C^{-1}(AQ + D)$$

How to Solve Quadratic Equations

To solve

$$\Psi P^2 - \Gamma P - \Theta = 0$$

for the $m \times m$ matrix P :

1. Define the $2m \times 2m$ matrices:

$$\Xi = \begin{bmatrix} \Gamma & \Theta \\ I_m & 0_m \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } \Delta = \begin{bmatrix} \Psi & 0_m \\ 0_m & I_m \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Let s be the generalized eigenvector and λ be the corresponding generalized eigenvalue of Ξ with respect to Δ . Then we can write $s' = [\lambda x', x']$ for some $x \in \mathfrak{R}^m$.

3. If there are m generalized eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_m$ together with generalized eigenvectors s_1, \dots, s_m of Ξ with respect to Δ , written as $s' = [\lambda x'_i, x'_i]$ for some $x_i \in \mathfrak{R}^m$ and if (x_1, \dots, x_m) is linearly independent, then:

$$P = \Omega \Lambda \Omega^{-1}$$

is a solution to the matrix quadratic equation where $\Omega = [x_1, \dots, x_m]$ and $\Lambda = [\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m]$. The solution of P is stable if $\max |\lambda_i| < 1$. Conversely, any diagonalizable solution P can be written in this way.

How to Implement This Solver

Available Code:

1. My own code: `undeter1.m`.
2. Uhlig's web page: <http://www.wiwi.hu-berlin.de/wpol/html/toolkit.htm>

An Alternative Dynare

- What is Dynare? A platform for the solution, simulation, and estimation of DSGE models in economics.
- Developed by Michel Juilliard and collaborators.
- I am one of them:)
- <http://www.cepremap.cnrs.fr/dynare/>

- Dynare takes a more “blackbox approach”.
- However, you can access the files...
- ...and it is very easy to use.
- Short tutorial.

Our Benchmark Model

- We are now ready to compute our benchmark model.
- We begin finding the steady state.
- As before, a variable x with no time index represent the value of that variable in the steady state.

Steady State I

- From the first order conditions of the household:.

$$c^{-\sigma} = \beta c^{-\sigma} (r + 1 - \delta)$$

$$c^{-\sigma} = \beta c^{-\sigma} \frac{R}{\pi}$$

$$\psi l^\gamma = c^{-\sigma} w$$

- We forget the money condition because the central bank, through open market operations, will supply all the needed money to support the chosen interest rate.
- Also, we normalize the price level to one.

Steady State II

- From the problem of the intermediate good producer:

$$k = \frac{\alpha}{1 - \alpha} \frac{w}{r} l$$

- Also:

$$mc = \left(\frac{1}{1 - \alpha} \right)^{1 - \alpha} \left(\frac{1}{\alpha} \right)^{\alpha} w^{1 - \alpha} r^{\alpha}$$
$$\frac{p^*}{p} = \frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon - 1} mc$$

where $A = 1$.

Steady State III

- Now, since $p^* = p$:

$$\left(\frac{1}{1-\alpha}\right)^{1-\alpha} \left(\frac{1}{\alpha}\right)^{\alpha} w^{1-\alpha} r^{\alpha} = \frac{\varepsilon - 1}{\varepsilon}$$

- By markets clearing:

$$c + \delta k = y = k^{\alpha} l^{1-\alpha}$$

where we have used the fact that $x = \delta k$ and that:

$$\frac{A}{v} = 1$$

- The Taylor rule will be trivially satisfied and we can drop it from the computation.

Steady State IV

- Our steady state equations, cancelling redundant constants are:

$$r = \frac{1}{\beta} - 1 + \delta$$

$$R = \frac{1}{\beta} \pi$$

$$\psi l^\gamma = c^{-\sigma} w$$

$$k = \frac{\alpha}{1 - \alpha} \frac{w}{r} l$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{1 - \alpha} \right)^{1 - \alpha} \left(\frac{1}{\alpha} \right)^\alpha w^{1 - \alpha} r^\alpha = \frac{\varepsilon - 1}{\varepsilon}$$

$$c + \delta k = k^\alpha l^{1 - \alpha}$$

- A system of six equations on six unknowns.

Solving for the Steady State I

- Note first that:

$$w^{1-\alpha} = (1-\alpha)^{1-\alpha} \alpha^{\alpha} \frac{\varepsilon - 1}{\varepsilon} r^{-\alpha} \Rightarrow$$
$$w = (1-\alpha) \alpha^{\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha}} \left(\frac{\varepsilon - 1}{\varepsilon}\right)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}} \left(\frac{1}{\beta} - 1 + \delta\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{\alpha-1}}$$

- Then:

$$\frac{k}{l} = \Omega = \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \frac{w}{r} \Rightarrow k = \Omega l$$

Solving for the Steady State II

- We are left with a system of two equations on two unknowns:

$$\begin{aligned}\psi l^\gamma c^\sigma &= w \\ c + \delta\Omega l &= \Omega^\alpha l\end{aligned}$$

- Substituting $c = (\Omega^\alpha - \delta\Omega) l$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\psi \left(\frac{c}{\Omega^\alpha - \delta\Omega} \right)^\gamma c^\sigma &= w \Rightarrow \\ c &= \left((\Omega^\alpha - \delta\Omega)^\gamma \frac{w}{\psi} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma+\sigma}}\end{aligned}$$

Steady State

$$r = \frac{1}{\beta} - 1 + \delta$$

$$R = \frac{1}{\beta}\pi$$

$$w = (1 - \alpha) \alpha^{\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha}} \left(\frac{\varepsilon-1}{\varepsilon}\right)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}} \left(\frac{1}{\beta} - 1 + \delta\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{\alpha-1}}$$

$$c = \left((\Omega^\alpha - \delta\Omega)^\gamma \frac{w}{\psi}\right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma+\sigma}}$$

$$l = \frac{c}{\Omega^\alpha - \delta\Omega}$$

$$mc = \frac{\varepsilon-1}{\varepsilon}$$

$$k = \Omega l$$

$$x = \delta k$$

$$y = k^\alpha l^{1-\alpha}$$

$$\Omega = \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \frac{w}{r}$$

Log-Linearizing Equilibrium Conditions

- Take variable x_t .
- Substitute by $x e^{\hat{x}_t}$ where:

$$\hat{x}_t = \log \frac{x_t}{x}$$

- Notation: a variable \hat{x}_t represents the log-deviation with respect to the steady state.
- Linearize with respect to \hat{x}_t .

Households Conditions I

- $\psi l_t^\gamma = c_t^{-\sigma} w_t$ or $\psi l^\gamma e^{\gamma \hat{l}_t} = c^{-\sigma} e^{-\sigma \hat{c}_t} w e^{\hat{w}_t}$ gets loglinearized to:

$$\gamma \hat{l}_t = -\sigma \hat{c}_t + \hat{w}_t$$

- Then:

$$c_t^{-\sigma} = \beta E_t \{ c_{t+1}^{-\sigma} (r_{t+1} + 1 - \delta) \}$$

or:

$$c^{-\sigma} e^{-\sigma \hat{c}_t} = \beta E_t \{ c^{-\sigma} e^{-\sigma \hat{c}_{t+1}} (r e^{\hat{r}_{t+1}} + 1 - \delta) \}$$

that gets loglinearized to:

$$-\sigma \hat{c}_t = -\sigma E_t \hat{c}_{t+1} + \beta r E_t \hat{r}_{t+1}$$

Households Conditions II

- Also:

$$c_t^{-\sigma} = \beta E_t \left\{ c_{t+1}^{-\sigma} \frac{R_{t+1}}{\pi_{t+1}} \right\}$$

or:

$$c^{-\sigma} e^{-\sigma \hat{c}_t} = \beta E_t \left\{ c^{-\sigma} e^{-\sigma \hat{c}_{t+1}} \left(\frac{R}{\pi} e^{\hat{R}_{t+1} - \hat{\pi}_{t+1}} \right) \right\}$$

that gets loglinearized to:

$$-\sigma \hat{c}_t = -\sigma E_t \hat{c}_{t+1} + E_t \left(\hat{R}_{t+1} - \hat{\pi}_{t+1} \right)$$

- We do not loglinearize the money condition because the central bank, through open market operations, will supply all the needed money to support the chosen interest rate.

Marginal Cost

- We know:

$$mc_t = \left(\frac{1}{1-\alpha}\right)^{1-\alpha} \left(\frac{1}{\alpha}\right)^\alpha \frac{1}{A_t} w_t^{1-\alpha} r_t^\alpha$$

or:

$$mce^{\widehat{mc}_t} = \left(\frac{1}{1-\alpha}\right)^{1-\alpha} \left(\frac{1}{\alpha}\right)^\alpha \frac{w^{1-\alpha} r^\alpha}{A} e^{-\widehat{A}_t + (1-\alpha)\widehat{w}_t + \alpha\widehat{r}_t}$$

- Loglinearizes to:

$$\widehat{mc}_t = -\widehat{A}_t + (1-\alpha)\widehat{w}_t + \alpha\widehat{r}_t$$

Pricing Condition I

- We have:

$$E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau v_{t+\tau} \left\{ \left(\frac{p_{it}^*}{p_{t+\tau}} - \frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon - 1} mc_{t+\tau} \right) y_{it+\tau}^* \right\} = 0,$$

where

$$y_{it+\tau}^* = \left(\frac{p_{ti}^*}{p_{t+\tau}} \right)^{-\varepsilon} y_{t+\tau},$$

Pricing Condition II

- Also:

$$E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau v_{t+\tau} \left\{ \left(\left(\frac{p_{it}^*}{p_{t+\tau}} \right)^{1-\varepsilon} - \frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon-1} mc_{t+\tau} \left(\frac{p_{ti}^*}{p_{t+\tau}} \right)^{-\varepsilon} \right) y_{t+\tau} \right\} = 0 \Rightarrow$$

$$E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau v_{t+\tau} \left(\frac{p_{it}^*}{p_{t+\tau}} \right)^{1-\varepsilon} y_{t+\tau} =$$

$$E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau v_{t+\tau} \frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon-1} mc_{t+\tau} \left(\frac{p_{ti}^*}{p_{t+\tau}} \right)^{-\varepsilon} y_{t+\tau}$$

Working on the Expression I

- If we prepare the expression for loglinearization (and eliminating the index i because of the symmetric equilibrium assumption):

$$E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau v \left(\frac{p^*}{p} \right)^{1-\varepsilon} y e^{\widehat{v}_{t+\tau} + (1-\varepsilon)\widehat{p}_t^* - (1-\varepsilon)\widehat{p}_{t+\tau} + \widehat{y}_{t+\tau}} =$$
$$E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau v \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon - 1} mc \right) \left(\frac{p^*}{p} \right)^{-\varepsilon} y e^{\widehat{v}_{t+\tau} - \varepsilon\widehat{p}_t^* + \varepsilon\widehat{p}_{t+\tau} + \widehat{m}c_{t+\tau} + \widehat{y}_{t+\tau}}$$

Working on the Expression II

- Note that $\frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon-1}mc = 1, \frac{p^*}{p} = 1,$

- Dropping redundant constants, we get:

$$E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau e^{\widehat{v}_{t+\tau} + (1-\varepsilon)\widehat{p}_t^* - (1-\varepsilon)\widehat{p}_{t+\tau} + \widehat{y}_{t+\tau}} =$$
$$E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau e^{\widehat{v}_{t+\tau} - \varepsilon\widehat{p}_t^* + \varepsilon\widehat{p}_{t+\tau} + \widehat{m}c_{t+\tau} + \widehat{y}_{t+\tau}}$$

Working on the Expression III

Then

$$\begin{aligned} E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau (\hat{v}_{t+\tau} + (1-\varepsilon)\hat{p}_t^* - (1-\varepsilon)\hat{p}_{t+\tau} + \hat{y}_{t+\tau}) &= \\ &= E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau (\hat{v}_{t+\tau} - \varepsilon\hat{p}_t^* + \varepsilon\hat{p}_{t+\tau} + \widehat{mc}_{t+\tau} + \hat{y}_{t+\tau}) \end{aligned}$$

Working on the Expression IV:

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau (\hat{p}_t^* - \hat{p}_{t+\tau}) &= E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau \widehat{mc}_{t+\tau} \Rightarrow \\
 E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau \hat{p}_t^* &= E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau \hat{p}_{t+\tau} + E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau \widehat{mc}_{t+\tau} \Rightarrow \\
 \frac{1}{1 - \beta\theta_p} \hat{p}_t^* &= E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau \hat{p}_{t+\tau} + E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau \widehat{mc}_{t+\tau} \Rightarrow \\
 \hat{p}_t^* &= (1 - \beta\theta_p) E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau \hat{p}_{t+\tau} + (1 - \beta\theta_p) E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau \widehat{mc}_{t+\tau}
 \end{aligned}$$

Working on the Expression V

- Note that:

$$\begin{aligned}(1 - \beta\theta_p) E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau \hat{p}_{t+\tau} &= (1 - \beta\theta_p) \hat{p}_t + (1 - \beta\theta_p) \beta\theta_p E_t \hat{p}_{t+1} + \dots \\ &= \hat{p}_t + \beta\theta_p E_t (\hat{p}_{t+1} - \hat{p}_t) + \dots \\ &= \hat{p}_{t-1} + \hat{p}_t - \hat{p}_{t-1} + \beta\theta_p E_t \hat{\pi}_{t+1} + \dots \\ &= \hat{p}_{t-1} + E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau \hat{\pi}_{t+\tau}\end{aligned}$$

- Then:

$$\hat{p}_t^* = \hat{p}_{t-1} + E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau \hat{\pi}_{t+\tau} + (1 - \beta\theta_p) E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau \widehat{mc}_{t+\tau}$$

Working on the Expression VI

- Now:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{p}_t^* &= \hat{p}_{t-1} + \hat{\pi}_t + (1 - \beta\theta_p) \widehat{mc}_t + E_t \sum_{\tau=1}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau \hat{\pi}_{t+\tau} \\ &\quad + (1 - \beta\theta_p) E_t \sum_{\tau=1}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau \widehat{mc}_{t+\tau}\end{aligned}$$

- If we forward the equation one term:

$$E_t \hat{p}_{t+1}^* = \hat{p}_t + E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau \hat{\pi}_{t+1+\tau} + (1 - \beta\theta_p) E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^\tau \widehat{mc}_{t+1+\tau}$$

Working on the Expression VII

- We multiply it by $\beta\theta_p$:

$$\begin{aligned}\beta\theta_p E_t \widehat{p}_{t+1}^* &= \beta\theta_p \widehat{p}_t + E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^{\tau+1} \widehat{\pi}_{t+1+\tau} \\ &\quad + (1 - \beta\theta_p) E_t \sum_{\tau=0}^{\infty} (\beta\theta_p)^{\tau+1} \widehat{m}c_{t+1+\tau}\end{aligned}$$

- Then:

$$\widehat{p}_t^* - \widehat{p}_{t-1} = \beta\theta_p E_t (\widehat{p}_{t+1}^* - \widehat{p}_t) + \widehat{\pi}_t + (1 - \beta\theta_p) \widehat{m}c_t$$

Price Index

- Since the price index is equal to $p_t = \left[\theta_p p_{t-1}^{1-\varepsilon} + (1 - \theta_p) p_t^*{}^{1-\varepsilon} \right]^{\frac{1}{1-\varepsilon}}$.

- we can write:

$$pe^{\hat{p}_t} = \left[\theta_p p^{1-\varepsilon} e^{(1-\varepsilon)\hat{p}_{t-1}} + (1 - \theta_p) p^{1-\varepsilon} e^{(1-\varepsilon)\hat{p}_t^*} \right]^{\frac{1}{1-\varepsilon}} \Rightarrow$$
$$e^{\hat{p}_t} = \left[\theta_p e^{(1-\varepsilon)\hat{p}_{t-1}} + (1 - \theta_p) e^{(1-\varepsilon)\hat{p}_t^*} \right]^{\frac{1}{1-\varepsilon}}$$

- Loglinearizes to:

$$\hat{p}_t = \theta_p \hat{p}_{t-1} + (1 - \theta_p) \hat{p}_t^* \Rightarrow \hat{\pi}_t = (1 - \theta_p) (\hat{p}_t^* - \hat{p}_{t-1})$$

Evolution of Inflation

- We can put together the price index and the pricing condition:

$$\frac{\hat{\pi}_t}{1 - \theta_p} = \beta\theta_p E_t \frac{\hat{\pi}_{t+1}}{1 - \theta_p} + \hat{\pi}_t + (1 - \beta\theta_p) \widehat{mc}_t$$

or:

$$\hat{\pi}_t = \beta\theta_p E_t \hat{\pi}_{t+1} + (1 - \theta_p) \hat{\pi}_t + (1 - \theta_p)(1 - \beta\theta_p) \widehat{mc}_t$$

- Simplifies to:

$$\hat{\pi}_t = \beta E_t \hat{\pi}_{t+1} + \lambda \left(-\hat{A}_t + (1 - \alpha) \hat{w}_t + \alpha \hat{r}_t \right)$$

where $\lambda = \frac{(1 - \theta_p)(1 - \beta\theta_p)}{\theta_p}$ and $\widehat{mc}_t = -\hat{A}_t + (1 - \alpha) \hat{w}_t + \alpha \hat{r}_t$

New Keynesian Phillips Curve

- The expression:

$$\hat{\pi}_t = \beta E_t \hat{\pi}_{t+1} + \lambda \hat{m}c_t$$

is known as the New Keynesian Phillips Curve

- Empirical performance?
- Large literature:
 1. Lagged inflation versus expected inflation.
 2. Measures of marginal cost.

Production Function I

- Now:

$$ye^{\hat{y}_t} = \frac{Ae^{\hat{A}_t}}{j^{-\varepsilon}e^{-\varepsilon\hat{j}_t}p^\varepsilon e^{\varepsilon\hat{p}_t}} k^\alpha l^{1-\alpha} e^{\alpha\hat{k}_t + (1-\alpha)\hat{l}_t}$$

- Cancelling constants:

$$e^{\hat{y}_t} = \frac{e^{\hat{A}_t}}{e^{-\varepsilon\hat{j}_t}e^{\varepsilon\hat{p}_t}} e^{\alpha\hat{k}_t + (1-\alpha)\hat{l}_t}$$

- Then:

$$\hat{y}_t = \hat{A}_t + \alpha\hat{k}_t + (1-\alpha)\hat{l}_t + \varepsilon \left(\tilde{j}_t - \tilde{p}_t \right)$$

Production Function II

- Now we find expressions for the loglinearized values of j_t and p_t :

$$\hat{j}_t = \log j_t - \log j = -\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \log \left(\int_0^1 p_{it}^{-\varepsilon} di \right) - \log p$$

$$\hat{p}_t = \log p_t - \log p = \frac{1}{1-\varepsilon} \log \left(\int_0^1 p_{it}^{1-\varepsilon} di \right) - \log p$$

- Then:

$$\tilde{j}_t = -\frac{1}{p} \int_0^1 (p_{it} - p) di$$

$$\tilde{p}_t = -\frac{1}{1-\varepsilon} \frac{1-\varepsilon}{p} \int_0^1 (p_{it} - p) di$$

Production Function II

- Clearly $\tilde{j}_t = \tilde{p}_t$.

- Then:

$$\hat{y}_t = \hat{A}_t + \alpha \hat{k}_t + (1 - \alpha) \hat{l}_t$$

- No first-order loss of efficiency!

Aggregate Conditions I

- We know $c_t + x_t = y_t$ or $ce^{\hat{c}_t} + xe^{\hat{x}_t} = ye^{\hat{y}_t}$ that loglinearizes to:

$$c\hat{c} + x\hat{x}_t = y\hat{y}_t$$

- Also $k_{t+1} = (1 - \delta)k_t + x_t$ or $ke^{\hat{k}_{t+1}} = (1 - \delta)ke^{\hat{k}_t} + xe^{\hat{x}_t}$ that loglinearizes to:

$$k\hat{k}_{t+1} = (1 - \delta)k\hat{k}_t + x\hat{x}_t$$

Aggregate Conditions II

- Finally:

$$k_t = \frac{\alpha}{1 - \alpha} \frac{w_t}{r_t} l_t$$

or:

$$k e^{\hat{k}_t} = \frac{\alpha}{1 - \alpha} \frac{w}{r} l e^{\hat{w}_t + \hat{l}_t - \hat{r}_t}$$

- Loglinearizes to:

$$\hat{k}_t = \hat{w}_t + \hat{l}_t - \hat{r}_t$$

Government

- We have that:

$$\frac{R_{t+1}}{R} = \left(\frac{R_t}{R}\right)^{\gamma_R} \left(\frac{\pi_t}{\pi}\right)^{\gamma_\pi} \left(\frac{y_t}{y}\right)^{\gamma_y} e^{\varphi_t}$$

or:

$$e^{\hat{R}_{t+1}} = e^{\gamma_R \hat{R}_t + \gamma_\pi \hat{\pi}_t + \gamma_y \hat{y}_t + \varphi_t}$$

- Loglinearizes to:

$$\hat{R}_{t+1} = \gamma_R \hat{R}_t + \gamma_\pi \hat{\pi}_t + \gamma_y \hat{y}_t + \varphi_t$$

Loglinear System

$$-\sigma \hat{c}_t = E_t (-\sigma \hat{c}_{t+1} + \beta r \hat{r}_{t+1})$$

$$-\sigma \hat{c}_t = E_t (-\sigma \hat{c}_{t+1} + \hat{R}_{t+1} - \hat{\pi}_{t+1})$$

$$\gamma \hat{l}_t = -\sigma \hat{c}_t + \hat{w}_t$$

$$\hat{y}_t = \hat{A}_t + \alpha \hat{k}_t + (1 - \alpha) \hat{l}_t$$

$$y \hat{y}_t = c \hat{c} + x \hat{x}_t$$

$$k \hat{k}_{t+1} = (1 - \delta) k \hat{k}_t + x \hat{x}_t$$

$$\hat{k}_t = \hat{w}_t + \hat{l}_t - \hat{r}_t$$

$$\hat{R}_{t+1} = \gamma_R \hat{R}_t + \gamma_\pi \hat{\pi}_t + \gamma_y \hat{y}_t + \varphi_t$$

$$\hat{\pi}_t = \beta E_t \hat{\pi}_{t+1} + \lambda (-\hat{A}_t + (1 - \alpha) \hat{w}_t + \alpha \hat{r}_t)$$

$$\hat{A}_t = \rho \hat{A}_{t-1} + z_t$$

a system of 10 equations on 10 variables: $\{\hat{c}_t, \hat{l}_t, \hat{x}_t, \hat{y}_t, \hat{k}_t, \hat{w}_t, \hat{r}_t, \hat{R}_{t+1}, \hat{\pi}_t, \hat{A}_t\}$.

Solving the System

- We can put the system in Uhlig's form.
- To do so, we redefine \hat{R}_{t+1} and $\hat{\pi}_t$ as (pseudo) state-variables in order to have at most as many control variables as deterministic equations.
- States, controls, and shocks:

$$\begin{aligned} X_t &= \left(\hat{k}_{t+1} \quad \hat{R}_{t+1} \quad \hat{\pi}_t \right)' \\ Y_t &= \left(\hat{c}_t \quad \hat{l}_t \quad \hat{x}_t \quad \hat{y}_t \quad \hat{w}_t \quad \hat{r}_t \right)' \\ Z_t &= \left(z_t \quad \varphi_t \right)' \end{aligned}$$

Deterministic Bloc

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma \hat{l}_t + \sigma \hat{c}_t - \hat{w}_t &= 0 \\ \hat{y}_t - \hat{A}_t - \alpha \hat{k}_t - (1 - \alpha) \hat{l}_t &= 0 \\ y \hat{y}_t - c \hat{c} - x \hat{x}_t &= 0 \\ k \hat{k}_{t+1} - (1 - \delta) k \hat{k}_t - x \hat{x}_t &= 0 \\ \hat{k}_t - \hat{w}_t - \hat{l}_t + \hat{r}_t &= 0 \\ \hat{R}_{t+1} - \gamma_R \hat{R}_t - \gamma_\pi \hat{\pi}_t - \gamma_y \hat{y}_t - \varphi_t &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Expectational Bloc

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma \hat{c}_t + E_t(-\sigma \hat{c}_{t+1} + \beta r \hat{r}_{t+1}) &= 0 \\ \sigma \hat{c}_t + \hat{R}_{t+1} + E_t(-\sigma \hat{c}_{t+1} - \hat{\pi}_{t+1}) &= 0 \\ \hat{\pi}_t - \beta E_t \hat{\pi}_{t+1} - \lambda \left(-\hat{A}_t + (1 - \alpha) \hat{w}_t + \alpha \hat{r}_t \right) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Two stochastic processes

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{A}_t &= \rho \hat{A}_{t-1} + z_t \\ \varphi_t &\end{aligned}$$

Matrices of the Deterministic Bloc

$$\begin{aligned}
 A &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ k & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -\gamma_\pi \end{pmatrix}, B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\alpha & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -(1-\delta)k & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\gamma_R & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\
 C &= \begin{pmatrix} \sigma & \gamma & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -(1-\alpha) & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -c & 0 & -x & y & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -x & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\gamma_y & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, D = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

Matrices of the Expectational Bloc

$$\begin{aligned}
 F &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\beta \end{pmatrix}, G = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, H = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\
 J &= \begin{pmatrix} -\sigma & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \beta r \\ -\sigma & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, K = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \sigma & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\lambda(1-\alpha) & \lambda\alpha \end{pmatrix} \\
 L &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ \lambda & 0 \end{pmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

Matrices of the Stochastic Process

$$N = \begin{pmatrix} \rho & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solution of the Problem

$$X_t = PX_{t-1} + QZ_t$$

$$Y_t = RX_{t-1} + SZ_t$$

Beyond Linearization

- We solved the model using one particular approach.
- How different are the computational answers provided by alternative solution methods for dynamic equilibrium economies?
- Why do we care?

- Stochastic neoclassical growth model is nearly linear for the benchmark calibration.
 - Linear methods may be good enough.
- Unsatisfactory answer for many economic questions: we want to use highly nonlinear models.
 - Linear methods not enough.

Solution Methods

1. Linearization: levels and logs.
2. Perturbation: levels and logs, different orders.
3. Projection methods: spectral and Finite Elements.
4. Value Function Iteration.
5. Other?

Evaluation Criteria

- Accuracy.
- Computational cost.
- Programming cost

What Do We Know about Other Methods?

- Perturbation methods deliver an interesting compromise between accuracy, speed and programming burden (Problem: Analytical derivatives).
- Second order perturbations much better than linear with trivial additional computational cost.
- Finite Elements method the best for estimation purposes.
- Linear methods can deliver misleading answers.
- Linearization in Levels can be better than in Logs.

A Quick Overview

- Numerous problems in macroeconomics involve functional equations of the form:

$$\mathcal{H}(d) = 0$$

- Examples: Value Function, Euler Equations.
- Regular equations are particular examples of functional equations.
- How do we solve functional equations?

Two Main Approaches

1. Projection Methods:

$$d^n(x, \theta) = \sum_{i=0}^n \theta_i \Psi_i(x)$$

We pick a basis $\{\Psi_i(x)\}_{i=0}^{\infty}$ and “project” $\mathcal{H}(\cdot)$ against that basis.

2. Perturbation Methods:

$$d^n(x, \theta) = \sum_{i=0}^n \theta_i (x - x_0)^i$$

We use implicit-function theorems to find coefficients θ_i .

Solution Methods I: Projection (Spectral)

- Standard Reference: Judd (1992).
- Choose a basis for the policy functions.
- Restrict the policy function to a be a linear combination of the elements of the basis.
- Plug the policy function in the Equilibrium Conditions and find the unknown coefficients.

- Use Chebyshev polynomial.
- Pseudospectral (collocation) weighting.

Solution Methods II: Projection (Finite Elements)

- Standard Reference: McGrattan (1999)
- Bound the domain of the state variables.
- Partition this domain in nonintersecting elements.
- Choose a basis for the policy functions in each element.
- Plug the policy function in the Equilibrium Conditions and find the unknown coefficients.

- Use linear basis.
- Galerkin weighting.
- We can be smart picking our grid.

Solution Methods III: Perturbation Methods

- Most complicated problems have particular cases that are easy to solve.
- Often, we can use the solution to the particular case as a building block of the general solution.
- Very successful in physics.
- Judd and Guu (1993) showed how to apply it to economic problems.

A Simple Example

- Imagine we want to find the (possible more than one) roots of:

$$x^3 - 4.1x + 0.2 = 0$$

such that $x < 0$.

- This a tricky, cubic equation.
- How do we do it?

Main Idea

- Transform the problem rewriting it in terms of a small perturbation parameter.
- Solve the new problem for a particular choice of the perturbation parameter.
- Use the previous solution to approximate the solution of original the problem.

Step 1: Transform the Problem

- Write the problem into a perturbation problem indexed by a small parameter ε .
- This step is usually ambiguous since there are different ways to do so.
- A natural, and convenient, choice for our case is to rewrite the equation as:

$$x^3 - (4 + \varepsilon)x + 2\varepsilon = 0$$

where $\varepsilon \equiv 0.1$.

Step 2: Solve the New Problem

- Index the solutions as a function of the perturbation parameter $x = g(\varepsilon)$:

$$g(\varepsilon)^3 - (4 + \varepsilon)g(\varepsilon) + 2\varepsilon = 0$$

and assume each of this solution is smooth (this can be shown to be the case for our particular example).

- Note that $\varepsilon = 0$ is easy to solve:

$$x^3 - 4x = 0$$

that has roots $g(0) = -2, 0, 2$. Since we require $x < 0$, we take $g(0) = -2$.

Step 3: Build the Approximated Solution

- By Taylor's Theorem:

$$x = g(\varepsilon)|_{\varepsilon=0} = g(0) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{g^n(0)}{n!} \varepsilon^n$$

- Substitute the solution into the problem and recover the coefficients $g(0)$ and $\frac{g^n(0)}{n!}$ for $n = 1, \dots$ in an iterative way.
- Let's do it!

Zeroth -Order Approximation

- We just take $\varepsilon = 0$.
- Before we found that $g(0) = -2$.
- Is this a good approximation?

$$\begin{aligned}x^3 - 4.1x + 0.2 = 0 &\Rightarrow \\-8 + 8.2 + 0.2 &= 0.4\end{aligned}$$

- It depends!

First -Order Approximation

- Take the derivative of $g(\varepsilon)^3 - (4 + \varepsilon)g(\varepsilon) + 2\varepsilon = 0$ with respect to ε :

$$3g(\varepsilon)^2 g'(\varepsilon) - g(\varepsilon) - (4 + \varepsilon)g'(\varepsilon) + 2 = 0$$

- Set $\varepsilon = 0$

$$3g(0)^2 g'(0) - g(0) - 4g'(0) + 2 = 0$$

- But we just found that $g(0) = -2$, so:

$$8g'(0) + 4 = 0$$

that implies $g'(0) = -\frac{1}{2}$.

First -Order Approximation

- By Taylor: $x = g(\varepsilon)|_{\varepsilon=0} \simeq g(0) + \frac{g^1(0)}{1!}\varepsilon^1$ or

$$x \simeq -2 - \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon$$

- For our case $\varepsilon \equiv 0.1$

$$x = -2 - \frac{1}{2} * 0.1 = -2.05$$

- Is this a good approximation?

$$\begin{aligned} x^3 - 4.1x + 0.2 = 0 &\Rightarrow \\ -8.615125 + 8.405 + 0.2 &= -0.010125 \end{aligned}$$

Second -Order Approximation

- Take the derivative of $3g(\varepsilon)^2 g'(\varepsilon) - g(\varepsilon) - (4 + \varepsilon)g'(\varepsilon) + 2 = 0$ with respect to ε :

$$6g(\varepsilon)(g'(\varepsilon))^2 + 3g(\varepsilon)^2 g''(\varepsilon) - g'(\varepsilon) - g'(\varepsilon) - (4 + \varepsilon)g''(\varepsilon) = 0$$

- Set $\varepsilon = 0$

$$6g(0)(g'(0))^2 + 3g(0)^2 g''(0) - 2g'(0) - 4g''(0) = 0$$

- Since $g(0) = -2$ and $g'(0) = -\frac{1}{2}$, we get:

$$8g''(0) - 2 = 0$$

that implies $g''(0) = \frac{1}{4}$.

Second -Order Approximation

- By Taylor: $x = g(\varepsilon)|_{\varepsilon=0} \simeq g(0) + \frac{g^1(0)}{1!}\varepsilon^1 + \frac{g^2(0)}{2!}\varepsilon^2$ or

$$x \simeq -2 - \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon + \frac{1}{8}\varepsilon^2$$

- For our case $\varepsilon \equiv 0.1$

$$x = -2 - \frac{1}{2} * 0.1 + \frac{1}{8} * 0.01 = -2.04875$$

- Is this a good approximation?

$$\begin{aligned} x^3 - 4.1x + 0.2 = 0 &\Rightarrow \\ -8.59937523242188 + 8.399875 + 0.2 &= 4.997675781240329e - 004 \end{aligned}$$

Some Remarks

- The exact solution (up to machine precision of 14 decimal places) is $x = -2.04880884817015$.
- A second-order approximation delivers: $x = -2.04875$
- Relative error: 0.00002872393906.
- Yes, this was a rigged, but suggestive, example.

A Couple of Points to Remember

1. We transformed the original problem into a perturbation problem in such a way that the zeroth-order approximation has an analytical solution.
2. Solving for the first iteration involves a nonlinear (although trivial in our case) equation. All further iterations only require to solve a linear equation in one unknown.

An Application in Macroeconomics: Basic RBC

$$\max E_0 \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t \{\log c_t\}$$

$$c_t + k_{t+1} = e^{z_t} k_t^\alpha + (1 - \delta) k_t, \quad \forall t > 0$$
$$z_t = \rho z_{t-1} + \sigma \varepsilon_t, \quad \varepsilon_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

Equilibrium Conditions

$$\frac{1}{c_t} = \beta E_t \frac{1}{c_{t+1}} \left(1 + \alpha e^{z_{t+1}} k_{t+1}^{\alpha-1} - \delta \right)$$
$$c_t + k_{t+1} = e^{z_t} k_t^\alpha + (1 - \delta) k_t$$
$$z_t = \rho z_{t-1} + \sigma \varepsilon_t$$

Computing the RBC

- We already discuss that the previous problem does not have a known “paper and pencil” solution.
- One particular case the model has a closed form solution: $\delta = 1$.
- Why? Because, the income and the substitution effect from a productivity shock cancel each other.
- Not very realistic but we are trying to learn here.

Solution

- By “Guess and Verify”

$$c_t = (1 - \alpha\beta) e^{z_t} k_t^\alpha$$
$$k_{t+1} = \alpha\beta e^{z_t} k_t^\alpha$$

- How can you check? Plug the solution in the equilibrium conditions.

Another Way to Solve the Problem

- Now let us suppose that you missed the lecture where “Guess and Verify” was explained.
- You need to compute the RBC.
- What you are searching for? A policy functions for consumption:

$$c_t = c(k_t, z_t)$$

and another one for capital:

$$k_{t+1} = k(k_t, z_t)$$

Equilibrium Conditions

- We substitute in the equilibrium conditions the budget constraint and the law of motion for technology.
- Then, we have the equilibrium conditions:

$$\frac{1}{c(k_t, z_t)} = \beta E_t \frac{\alpha e^{\rho z_t + \sigma \varepsilon_{t+1}} k(k_t, z_t)^{\alpha-1}}{c(k(k_t, z_t), \rho z_t + \sigma \varepsilon_{t+1})}$$
$$c(k_t, z_t) + k(k_t, z_t) = e^{z_t} k_t^\alpha$$

- The Euler equation is the equivalent of $x^3 - 4.1x + 0.2 = 0$ in our simple example, and $c(k_t, z_t)$ and $k(k_t, z_t)$ are the equivalents of x .

A Perturbation Approach

- You want to transform the problem.
- Which perturbation parameter? standard deviation σ .
- Why σ ?
- Set $\sigma = 0 \Rightarrow$ deterministic model, $z_t = 0$ and $e^{z_t} = 1$.

Taylor's Theorem

- We search for policy function $c_t = c(k_t, z_t; \sigma)$ and $k_{t+1} = k(k_t, z_t; \sigma)$.
- Equilibrium conditions:

$$E_t \left(\frac{1}{c(k_t, z_t; \sigma)} - \beta \frac{\alpha e^{\rho z_t + \sigma \varepsilon_{t+1}} k(k_t, z_t; \sigma)^{\alpha-1}}{c(k(k_t, z_t; \sigma), \rho z_t + \sigma \varepsilon_{t+1}; \sigma)} \right) = 0$$
$$c(k_t, z_t; \sigma) + k(k_t, z_t; \sigma) - e^{z_t} k_t^\alpha = 0$$

- We will take derivatives with respect to k_t , z_t , and σ .

Asymptotic Expansion $c_t = c(k_t, z_t; \sigma)|_{k,0,0}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 c_t &= c(k, 0; 0) \\
 &+ c_k(k, 0; 0)(k_t - k) + c_z(k, 0; 0)z_t + c_\sigma(k, 0; 0)\sigma \\
 &+ \frac{1}{2}c_{kk}(k, 0; 0)(k_t - k)^2 + \frac{1}{2}c_{kz}(k, 0; 0)(k_t - k)z_t \\
 &+ \frac{1}{2}c_{k\sigma}(k, 0; 0)(k_t - k)\sigma + \frac{1}{2}c_{zk}(k, 0; 0)z_t(k_t - k) \\
 &+ \frac{1}{2}c_{zz}(k, 0; 0)z_t^2 + \frac{1}{2}c_{z\sigma}(k, 0; 0)z_t\sigma \\
 &+ \frac{1}{2}c_{\sigma k}(k, 0; 0)\sigma(k_t - k) + \frac{1}{2}c_{\sigma z}(k, 0; 0)\sigma z_t \\
 &+ \frac{1}{2}c_{\sigma^2}(k, 0; 0)\sigma^2 + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

Asymptotic Expansion $k_{t+1} = k(k_t, z_t; \sigma)|_{k,0,0}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 k_{t+1} &= k(k, 0; 0) \\
 &+ k_k(k, 0; 0) k_t + k_z(k, 0; 0) z_t + k_\sigma(k, 0; 0) \sigma \\
 &+ \frac{1}{2} k_{kk}(k, 0; 0) (k_t - k)^2 + \frac{1}{2} k_{kz}(k, 0; 0) (k_t - k) z_t \\
 &+ \frac{1}{2} k_{k\sigma}(k, 0; 0) (k_t - k) \sigma + \frac{1}{2} k_{zk}(k, 0; 0) z_t (k_t - k) \\
 &+ \frac{1}{2} k_{zz}(k, 0; 0) z_t^2 + \frac{1}{2} k_{z\sigma}(k, 0; 0) z_t \sigma \\
 &+ \frac{1}{2} k_{\sigma k}(k, 0; 0) \sigma (k_t - k) + \frac{1}{2} k_{\sigma z}(k, 0; 0) \sigma z_t \\
 &+ \frac{1}{2} k_{\sigma^2}(k, 0; 0) \sigma^2 + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

Comment on Notation

- From now on, to save on notation, I will just write

$$F(k_t, z_t; \sigma) = E_t \left[\begin{array}{c} \frac{1}{c(k_t, z_t; \sigma)} - \beta \frac{\alpha e^{\rho z_t + \sigma \varepsilon_{t+1}} k(k_t, z_t; \sigma)^{\alpha-1}}{c(k(k_t, z_t; \sigma), \rho z_t + \sigma \varepsilon_{t+1}; \sigma)} \\ c(k_t, z_t; \sigma) + k(k_t, z_t; \sigma) - e^{z_t} k_t^\alpha \end{array} \right] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Note that:

$$F(k_t, z_t; \sigma) = H(c(k_t, z_t; \sigma), c(k(k_t, z_t; \sigma), z_{t+1}; \sigma), k(k_t, z_t; \sigma), k_t, z_t; \sigma)$$

- I will use H_i to represent the partial derivative of H with respect to the i component and drop the evaluation at the steady state of the functions when we do not need it.

Zeroth -Order Approximation

- First, we evaluate $\sigma = 0$:

$$F(k_t, 0; 0) = 0$$

- Steady state:

$$\frac{1}{c} = \beta \frac{\alpha k^{\alpha-1}}{c}$$

or,

$$1 = \alpha \beta k^{\alpha-1}$$

Steady State

- Then:

$$c = c(k, 0; 0) = (\alpha\beta)^{\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha}} - (\alpha\beta)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}}$$

$$k = k(k, 0; 0) = (\alpha\beta)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}}$$

- How good is this approximation?

First -Order Approximation

- We take derivatives of $F(k_t, z_t; \sigma)$ around $k, 0$, and 0 .

- With respect to k_t :

$$F_k(k, 0; 0) = 0$$

- With respect to z_t :

$$F_z(k, 0; 0) = 0$$

- With respect to σ :

$$F_\sigma(k, 0; 0) = 0$$

Solving the System I

Remember that:

$$F(k_t, z_t; \sigma) = H(c(k_t, z_t; \sigma), c(k(k_t, z_t; \sigma), z_{t+1}; \sigma), k(k_t, z_t; \sigma), k_t, z_t; \sigma)$$

Then:

$$F_k(k, 0; 0) = H_1 c_k + H_2 c_k k_k + H_3 k_k + H_4 = 0$$

$$F_z(k, 0; 0) = H_1 c_z + H_2 (c_k k_z + c_k \rho) + H_3 k_z + H_5 = 0$$

$$F_\sigma(k, 0; 0) = H_1 c_\sigma + H_2 (c_k k_\sigma + c_\sigma) + H_3 k_\sigma + H_6 = 0$$

Solving the System II

- Note that:

$$F_k(k, 0; 0) = H_1 c_k + H_2 c_k k_k + H_3 k_k + H_4 = 0$$

$$F_z(k, 0; 0) = H_1 c_z + H_2 (c_k k_z + c_k \rho) + H_3 k_z + H_5 = 0$$

is a quadratic system of four equations on four unknowns: c_k , c_z , k_k , and k_z .

- Procedures to solve quadratic systems: Uhlig (1999).
- Why quadratic? Stable and unstable manifold.

Solving the System III

- Note that:

$$F_{\sigma}(k, 0; 0) = H_1 c_{\sigma} + H_2 (c_k k_{\sigma} + c_{\sigma}) + H_3 k_{\sigma} + H_6 = 0$$

is a linear, and homogeneous system in c_{σ} and k_{σ} .

- Hence

$$c_{\sigma} = k_{\sigma} = 0$$

Comparison with Linearization

- After Kydland and Prescott (1982) a popular method to solve economic models has been the use of a LQ approximation.
- Close relative: linearization of equilibrium conditions.
- When properly implemented linearization, LQ, and first-order perturbation are equivalent.
- Advantages of linearization:
 1. Theorems.
 2. Higher order terms.

Second -Order Approximation

- We take second-order derivatives of $F(k_t, z_t; \sigma)$ around $k, 0$, and 0 :

$$F_{kk}(k, 0; 0) = 0$$

$$F_{kz}(k, 0; 0) = 0$$

$$F_{k\sigma}(k, 0; 0) = 0$$

$$F_{zz}(k, 0; 0) = 0$$

$$F_{z\sigma}(k, 0; 0) = 0$$

$$F_{\sigma\sigma}(k, 0; 0) = 0$$

- Remember Young's theorem!

Solving the System

- We substitute the coefficients that we already know.
- A linear system of 12 equations on 12 unknowns. Why linear?
- Cross-terms $k\sigma$ and $z\sigma$ are zero.
- Conjecture on all the terms with odd powers of σ .

Correction for Risk

- We have a term in σ^2 .
- Captures precautionary behavior.
- We do not have certainty equivalence any more!
- Important advantage of second order approximation.

Higher Order Terms

- We can continue the iteration for as long as we want.
- Often, a few iterations will be enough.
- The level of accuracy depends on the goal of the exercise: Fernández-Villaverde, Rubio-Ramírez, and Santos (2005).

A Computer

- In practice you do all these approximations with a computer.
- Burden: analytical derivatives.
- Why are numerical derivatives a bad idea?
- More theoretical point: do the derivatives exist? (Santos, 1992).

Code

- First and second order: Matlab and Dynare.
- Higher order: Mathematica, Fortran code by Jinn and Judd.

An Example

- Let me run a second order approximation.
- Our choices

Calibrated Parameters

Parameter	β	α	ρ	σ
Value	0.99	0.33	0.95	0.01

Computation

- Steady State:

$$c = (\alpha\beta)^{\frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha}} - (\alpha\beta)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}} = 0.388069$$

$$k = (\alpha\beta)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}} = 0.1883$$

- First order components.

$$\begin{array}{ll} c_k(k, 0; 0) = 0.680101 & k_k(k, 0; 0) = 0.33 \\ c_z(k, 0; 0) = 0.388069 & k_z(k, 0; 0) = 0.1883 \\ c_\sigma(k, 0; 0) = 0 & k_\sigma(k, 0; 0) = 0 \end{array}$$

Comparison

$$c_t = 0.6733e^{z_t}k_t^{0.33}$$

$$c_t \simeq 0.388069 + 0.680101(k_t - k) + 0.388069z_t$$

and:

$$k_{t+1} = 0.3267e^{z_t}k_t^{0.33}$$

$$k_{t+1} \simeq 0.1883 + 0.1883(k_t - k) + 0.33z_t$$

Second-Order Terms

$$\begin{array}{ll} c_{kk}(k, 0; 0) = -2.41990 & k_{kk}(k, 0; 0) = -1.1742 \\ c_{kz}(k, 0; 0) = 0.680099 & k_{kz}(k, 0; 0) = 0.330003 \\ c_{k\sigma}(k, 0; 0) = 0. & k_{k\sigma}(k, 0; 0) = 0 \\ c_{zz}(k, 0; 0) = 0.388064 & k_{zz}(k, 0; 0) = 0.188304 \\ c_{z\sigma}(k, 0; 0) = 0 & k_{z\sigma}(k, 0; 0) = 0 \\ c_{\sigma^2}(k, 0; 0) = 0 & k_{\sigma^2}(k, 0; 0) = 0 \end{array}$$

Non Local Accuracy test (Judd, 1992, and Judd and Guu, 1997)

Given the Euler equation:

$$\frac{1}{c^i(k_t, z_t)} = E_t \left(\frac{\alpha e^{z_{t+1}} k^i(k_t, z_t)^{\alpha-1}}{c^i(k^i(k_t, z_t), z_{t+1})} \right)$$

we can define:

$$EE^i(k_t, z_t) \equiv 1 - c^i(k_t, z_t) E_t \left(\frac{\alpha e^{z_{t+1}} k^i(k_t, z_t)^{\alpha-1}}{c^i(k^i(k_t, z_t), z_{t+1})} \right)$$

Changes of Variables

- We approximated our solution in levels.
- We could have done it in logs.
- Why stop there? Why not in powers of the state variables?
- Judd (2002) has provided methods for changes of variables.
- We apply and extend ideas to the stochastic neoclassical growth model.

A General Transformation

- We look at solutions of the form:

$$\begin{aligned}c^\mu - c_0^\mu &= a \left(k^\zeta - k_0^\zeta \right) + cz \\ k'^\gamma - k_0^\gamma &= c \left(k^\zeta - k_0^\zeta \right) + dz\end{aligned}$$

- Note that:
 1. If γ , ζ , μ and φ are 1 we get the linear representation.
 2. As γ , ζ and μ tend to zero and φ is equal to 1 we get the loglinear approximation.

Theory

- The first order solution can be written as

$$f(x) \simeq f(a) + (x - a) f'(a)$$

- Expand $g(y) = h(f(X(y)))$ around $b = Y(a)$, where $X(y)$ is the inverse of $Y(x)$.

- Then:

$$g(y) = h(f(X(y))) = g(b) + g_\alpha(b) (Y^\alpha(x) - b^\alpha)$$

where $g_\alpha = h_A f_i^A X_\alpha^i$ comes from the application of the chain rule.

- From this expression it is easy to see that if we have computed the values of f_i^A , then it is straightforward to find the value of g_α .

Coefficients Relation

- Remember that the linear solution is:

$$\begin{aligned}(k' - k_0) &= a_1 (k - k_0) + b_1 z \\ (l - l_0) &= c_1 (k - k_0) + d_1 z\end{aligned}$$

- Then we show that:

$a_3 = \frac{\gamma}{\zeta} k_0^{\gamma-\zeta} a_1$	$b_3 = \gamma k_0^{\gamma-1} b_1$
$c_3 = \frac{\mu}{\zeta} l_0^{\mu-1} k_0^{1-\zeta} c_1$	$d_3 = \mu l_0^{\mu-1} d_1$

Finding the Parameters γ , ζ , μ and φ

- Minimize over a grid the Euler Error.
- Some optimal results

Table 6.2.2: Euler Equation Errors

γ	ζ	μ	<i>SEE</i>
1	1	1	0.0856279
0.986534	0.991673	2.47856	0.0279944

Sensitivity Analysis

- Different parameter values.
- Most interesting finding is when we change σ :

Table 6.3.3: Optimal Parameters for different σ 's

σ	γ	ζ	μ
0.014	0.98140	0.98766	2.47753
0.028	1.04804	1.05265	1.73209
0.056	1.23753	1.22394	0.77869

- A first order approximation corrects for changes in variance!

A Quasi-Optimal Approximation I

- Sensitivity analysis reveals that for different parametrizations

$$\gamma \simeq \zeta$$

- This suggests the quasi-optimal approximation:

$$\begin{aligned}k'^{\gamma} - k_0^{\gamma} &= a_3 (k^{\gamma} - k_0^{\gamma}) + b_3 z \\l^{\mu} - l_0^{\mu} &= c_3 (k^{\gamma} - k_0^{\gamma}) + d_3 z\end{aligned}$$

A Quasi-Optimal Approximation II

- Note that if define $\hat{k} = k^\gamma - k_0^\gamma$ and $\hat{l} = l^\mu - l_0^\mu$ we get:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{k}' &= a_3\hat{k} + b_3z \\ \hat{l} &= c_3\hat{k} + d_3z\end{aligned}$$

- Linear system:
 1. Use for analytical study (Campbell, 1994 and Woodford, 2003).
 2. Use for estimation with a Kalman Filter.

References

- General Perturbation theory: *Advanced Mathematical Methods for Scientists and Engineers: Asymptotic Methods and Perturbation Theory* by Carl M. Bender, Steven A. Orszag.
- Perturbation in Economics:
 1. “Perturbation Methods for General Dynamic Stochastic Models” by Hehui Jin and Kenneth Judd.
 2. “Perturbation Methods with Nonlinear Changes of Variables” by Kenneth Judd.

- A gentle introduction: “Solving Dynamic General Equilibrium Models Using a Second-Order Approximation to the Policy Function” by Martín Uribe and Stephanie Schmitt-Grohe.

Figure 5.1.1: Labor Supply at $z = 0$, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

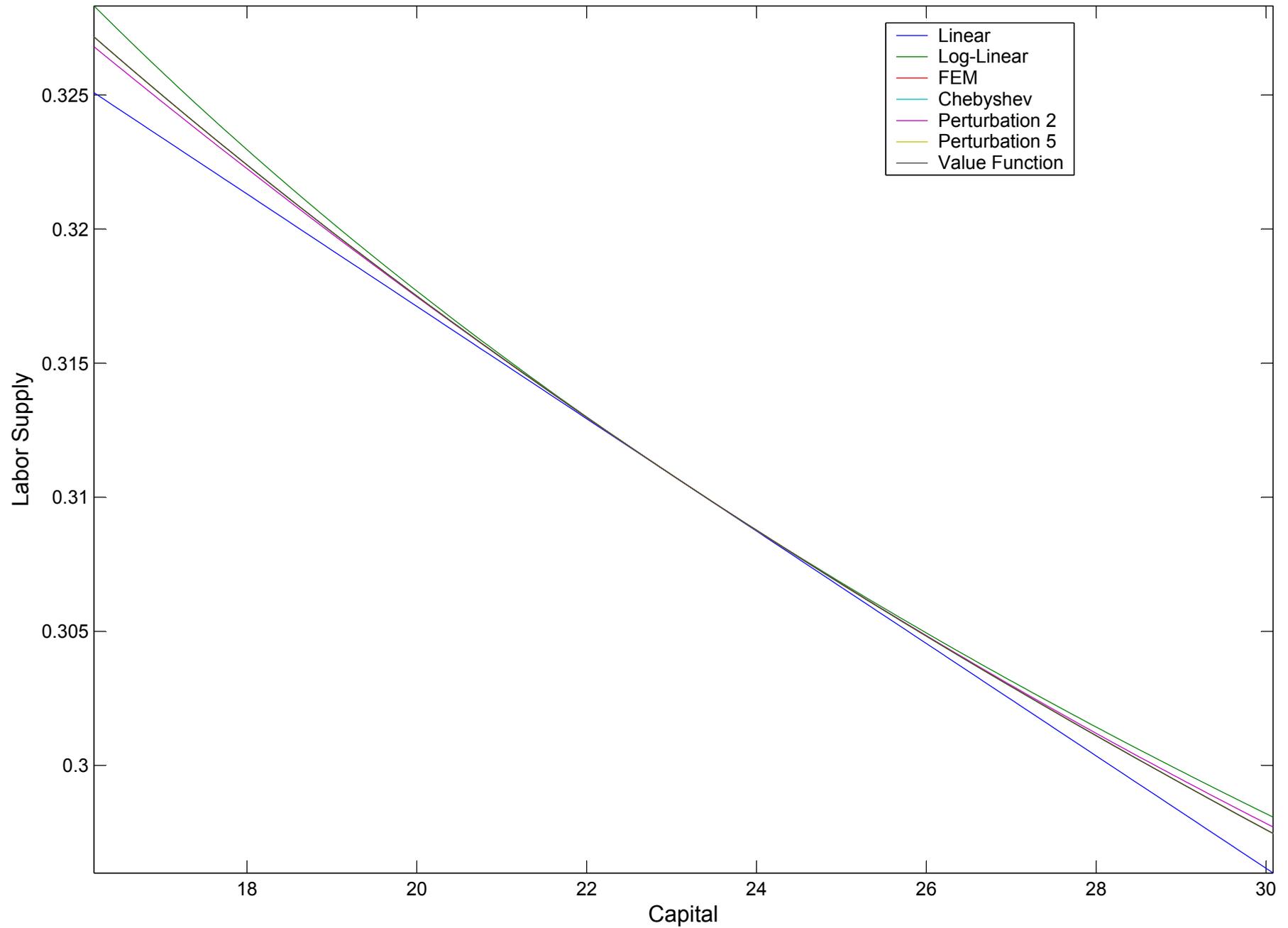


Figure 5.1.2: Investment at $z = 0$, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

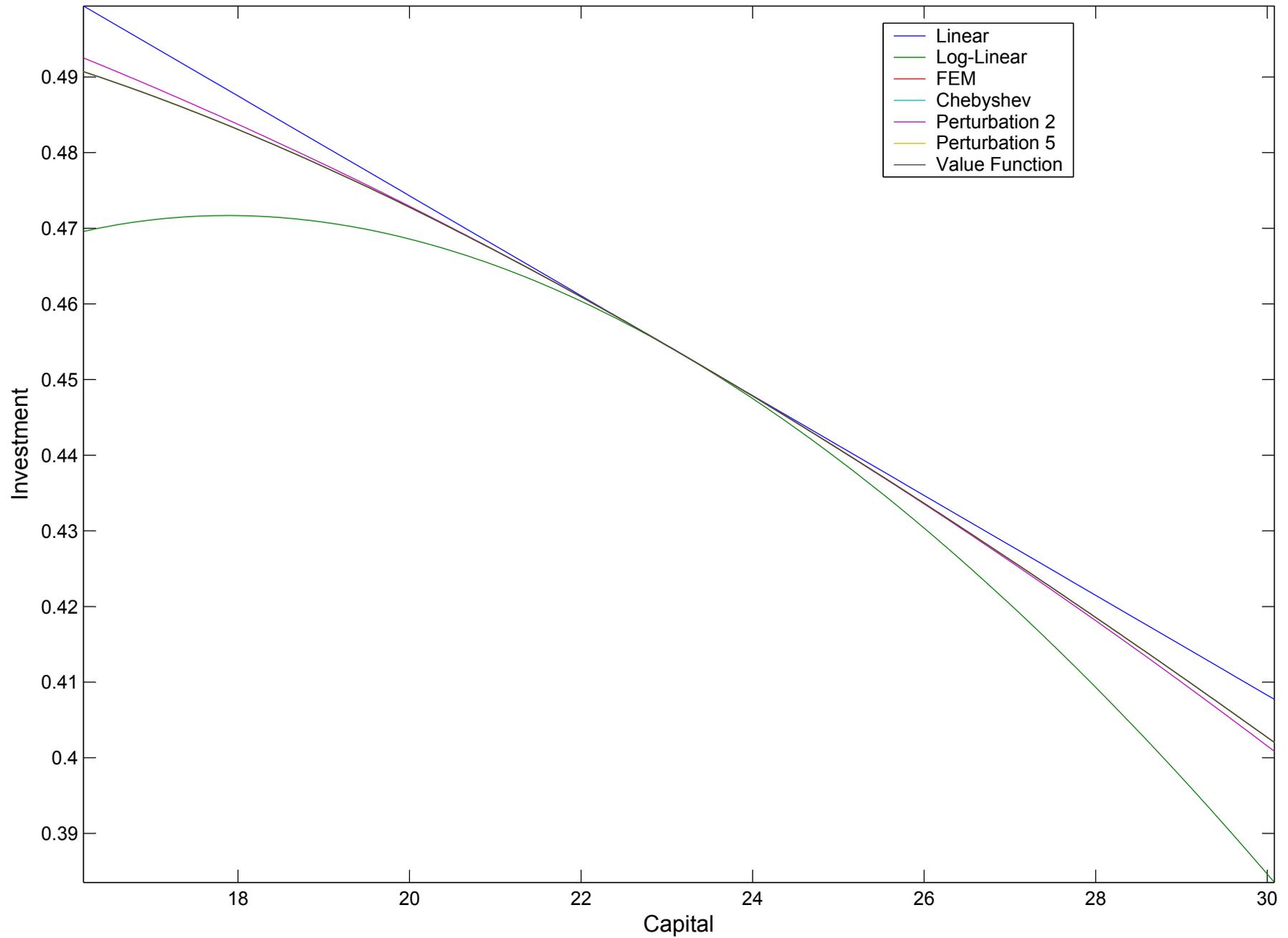


Figure 5.1.3 : Labor Supply at $z = 0$, $\tau = 50 / \sigma = 0.035$

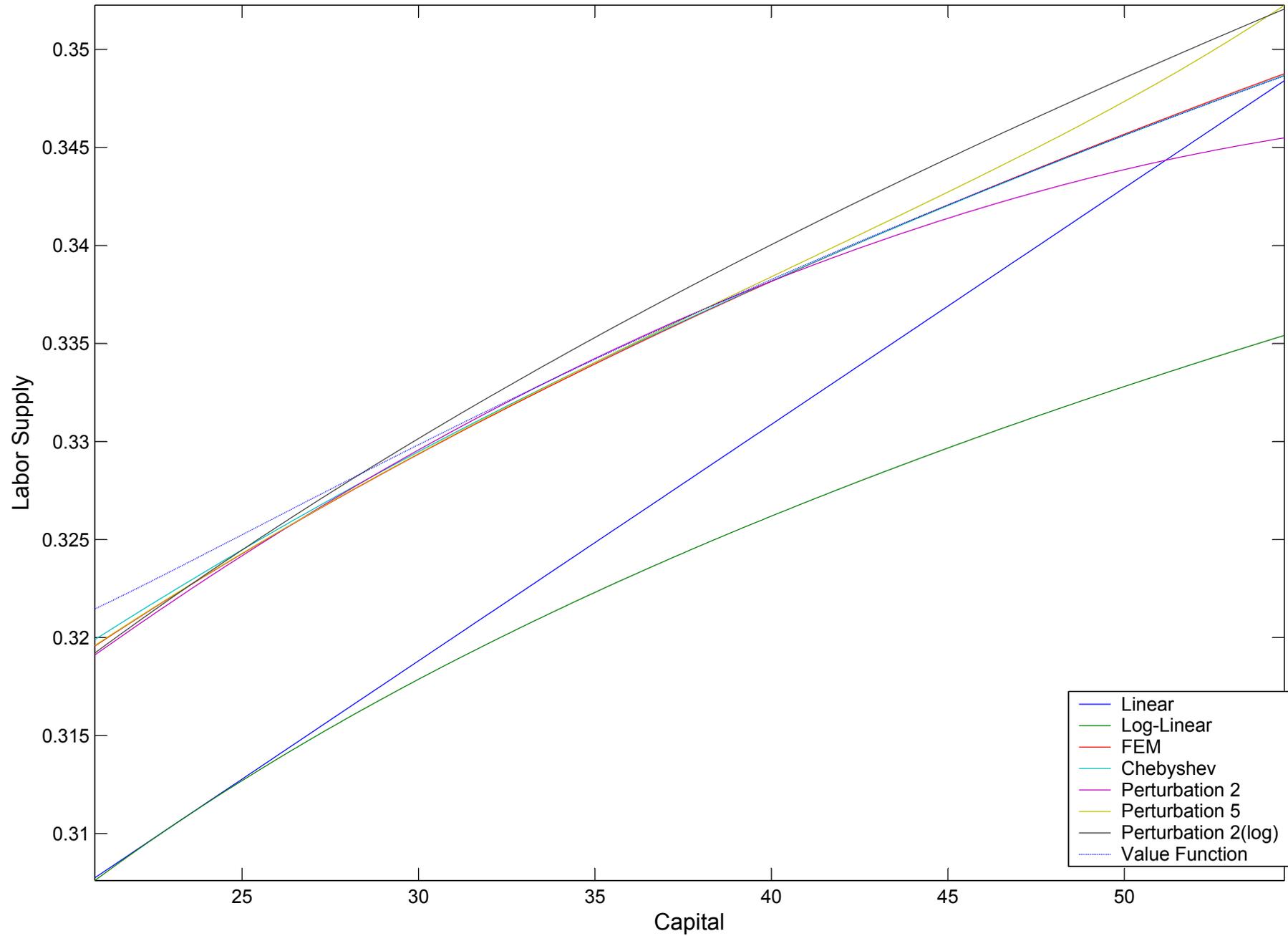


Figure 5.1.4 : Investment at $z = 0$, $\tau = 50 / \sigma = 0.035$

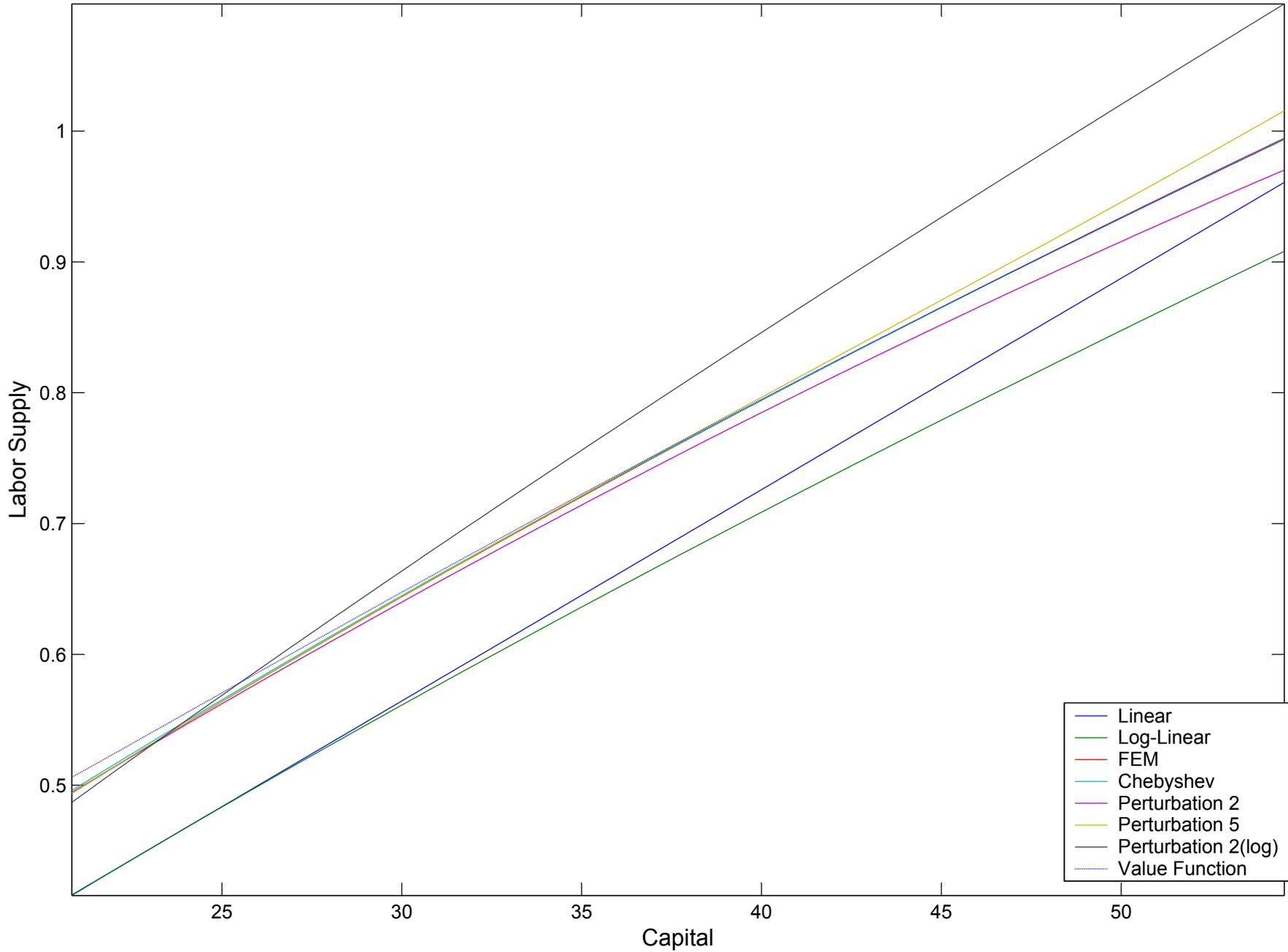


Figure 5.2.1 : Density of Output, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

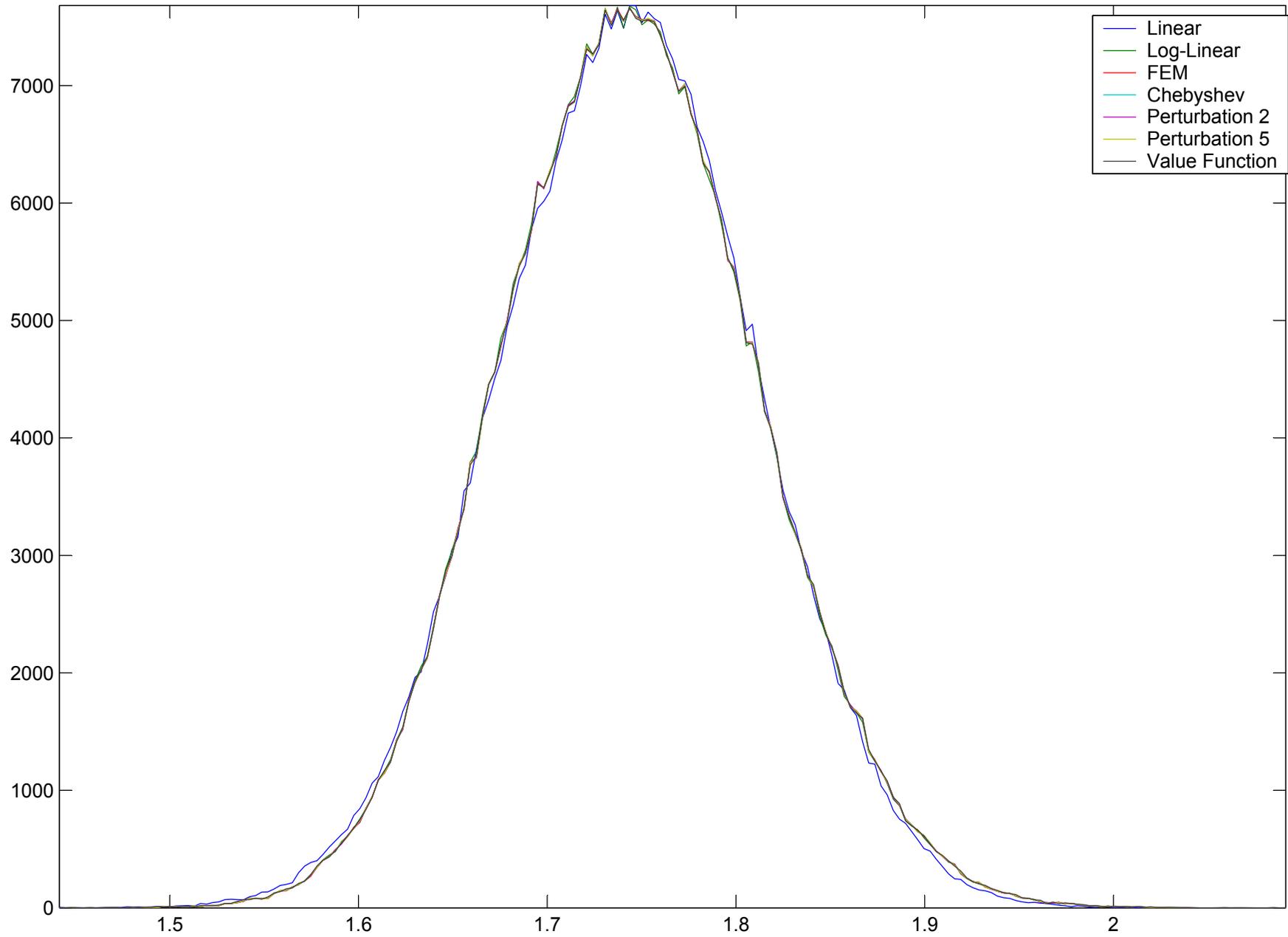


Figure 5.2.2 : Density of Capital, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

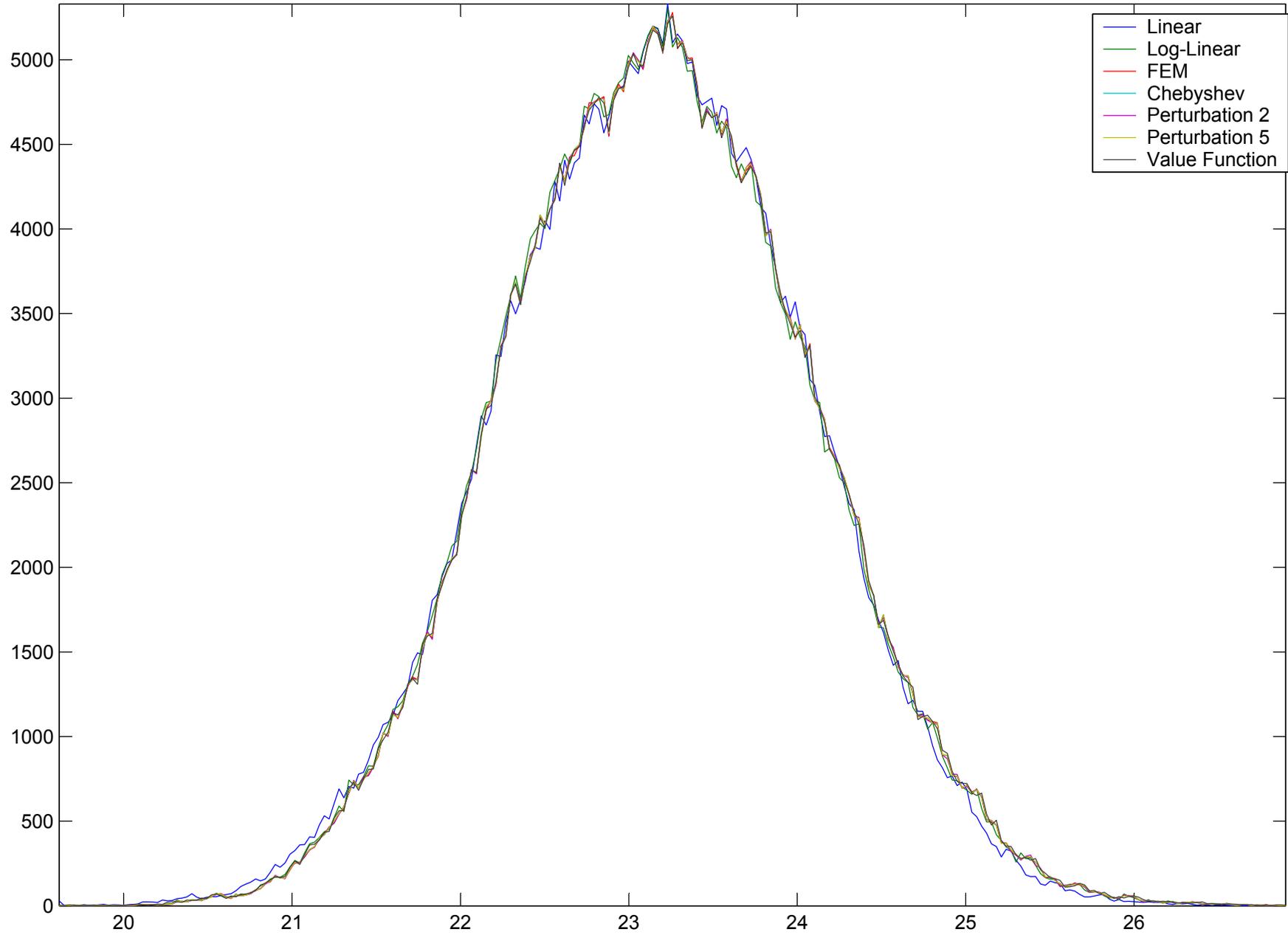


Figure 5.2.3 : Density of Labor, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

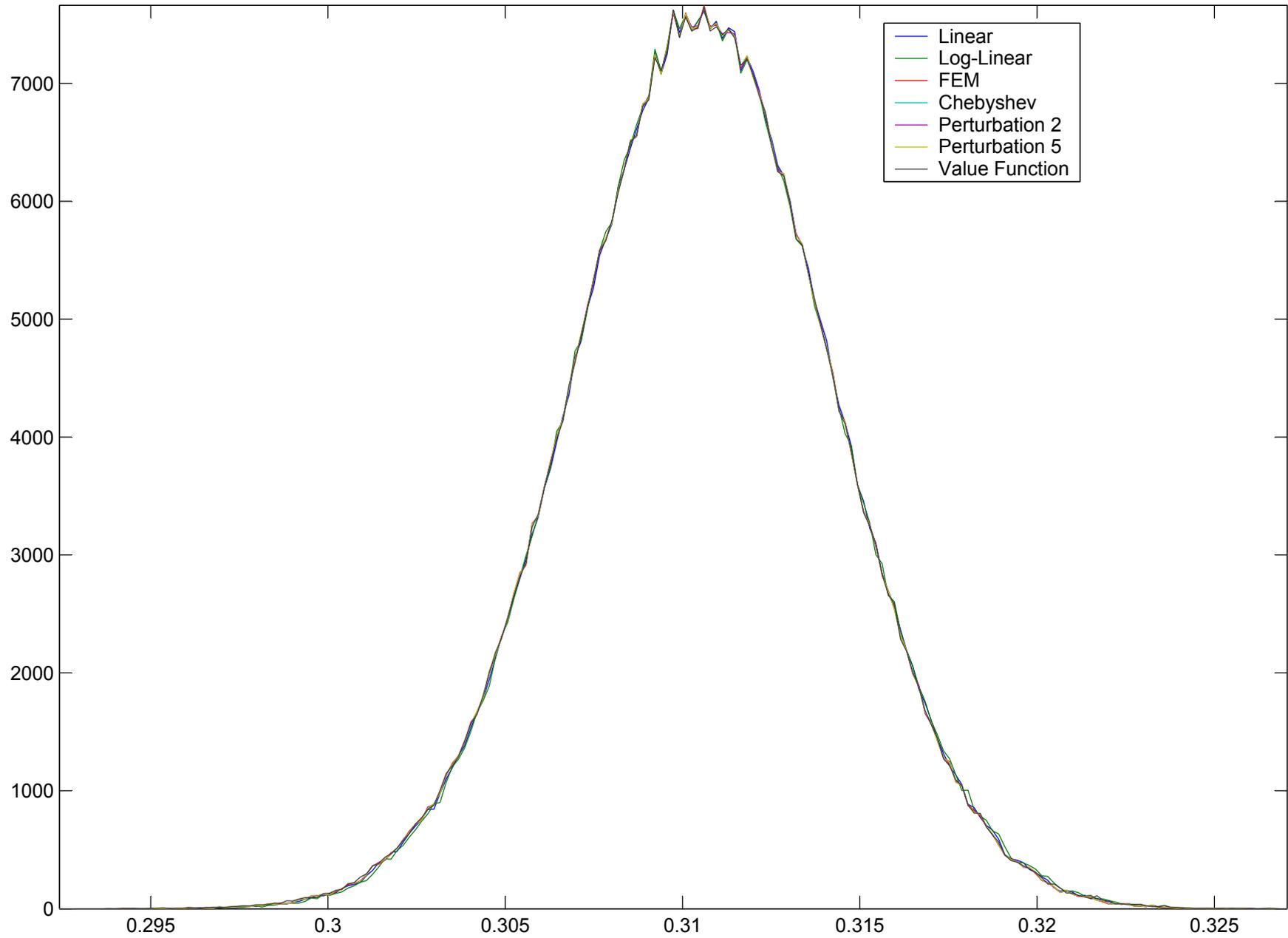


Figure 5.2.4 : Density of Consumption, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

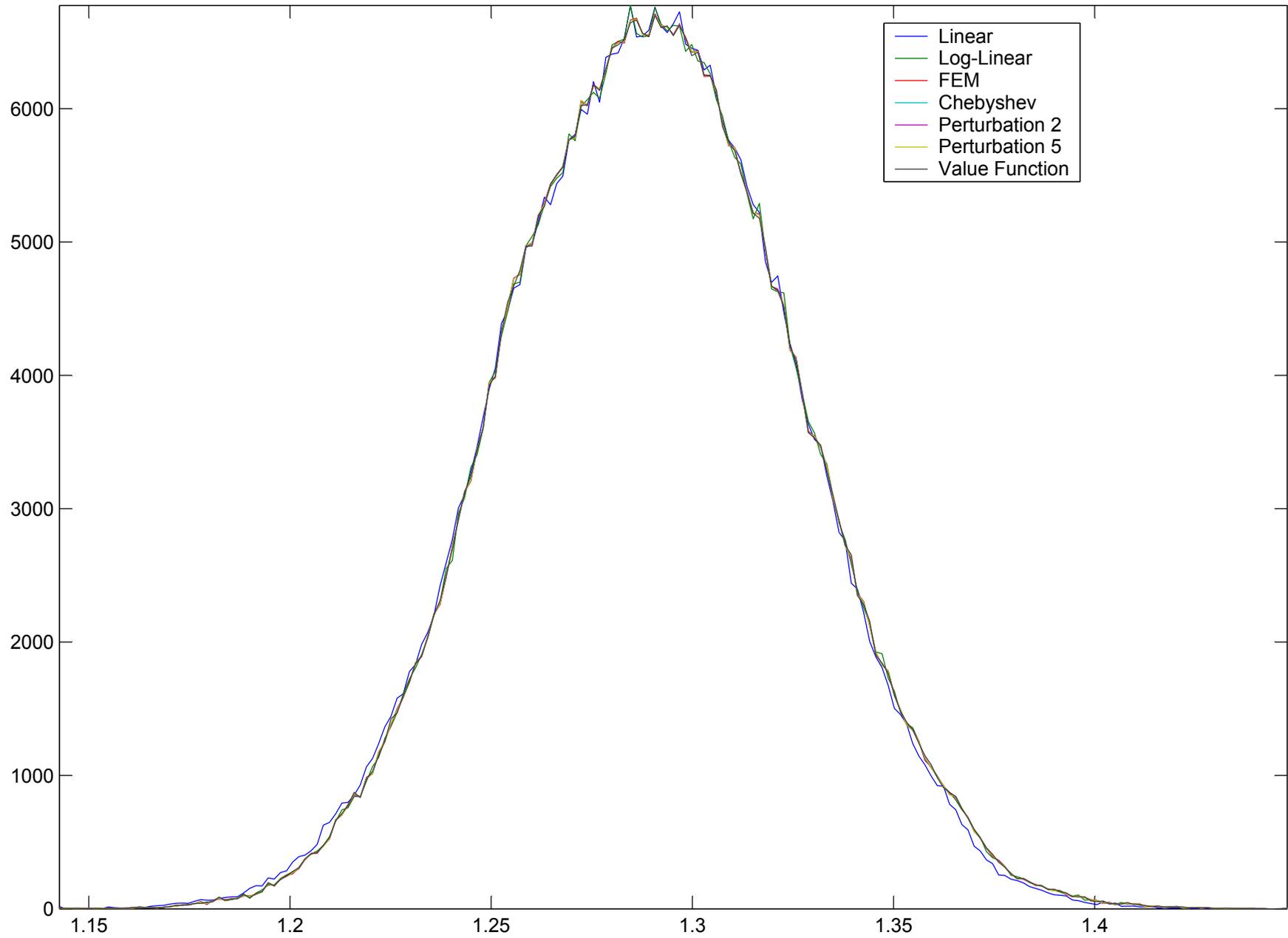


Figure 5.2.5: Time Series for Output, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

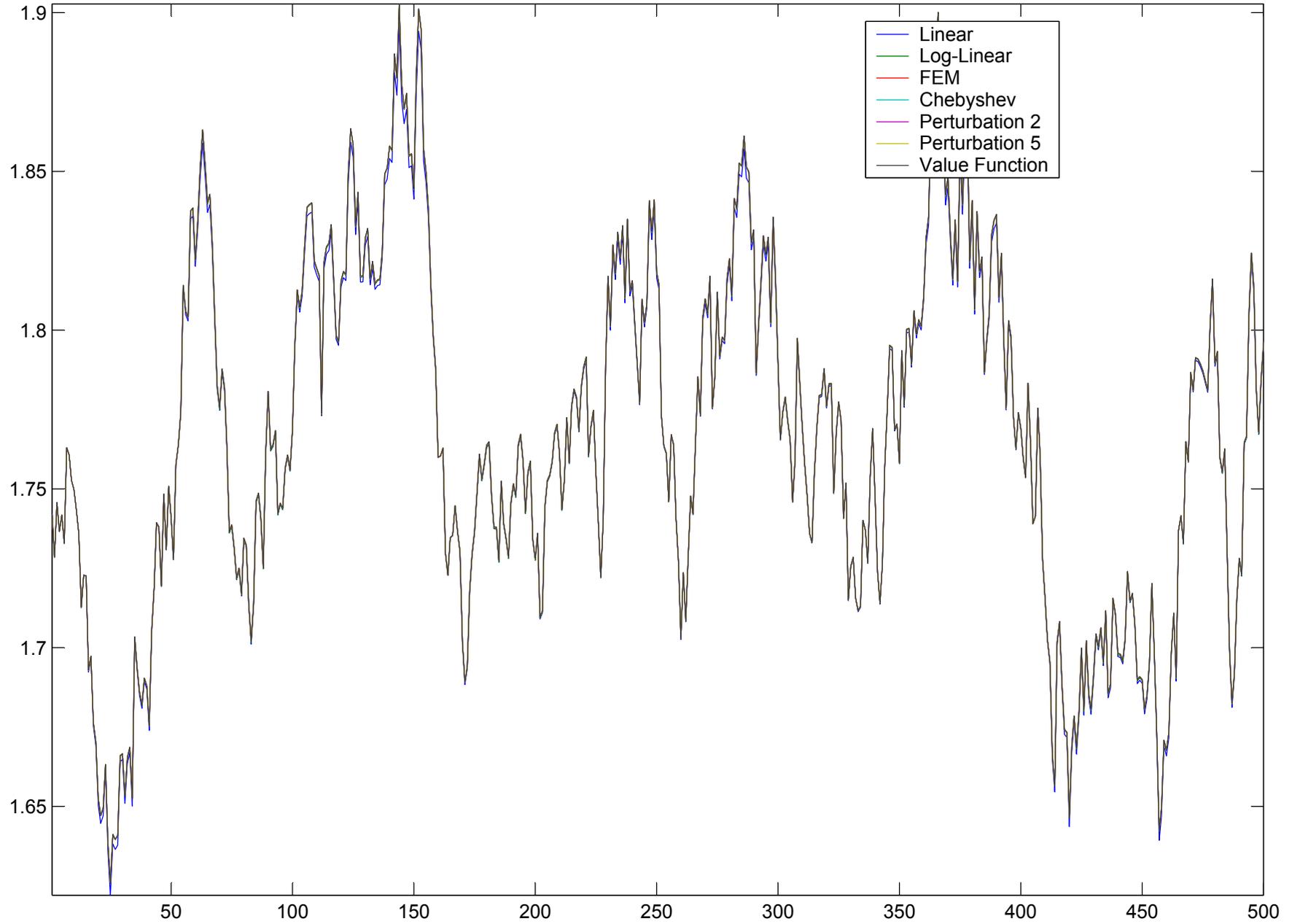


Figure 5.2.7 : Density of Output, $\tau = 50 / \sigma = 0.035$

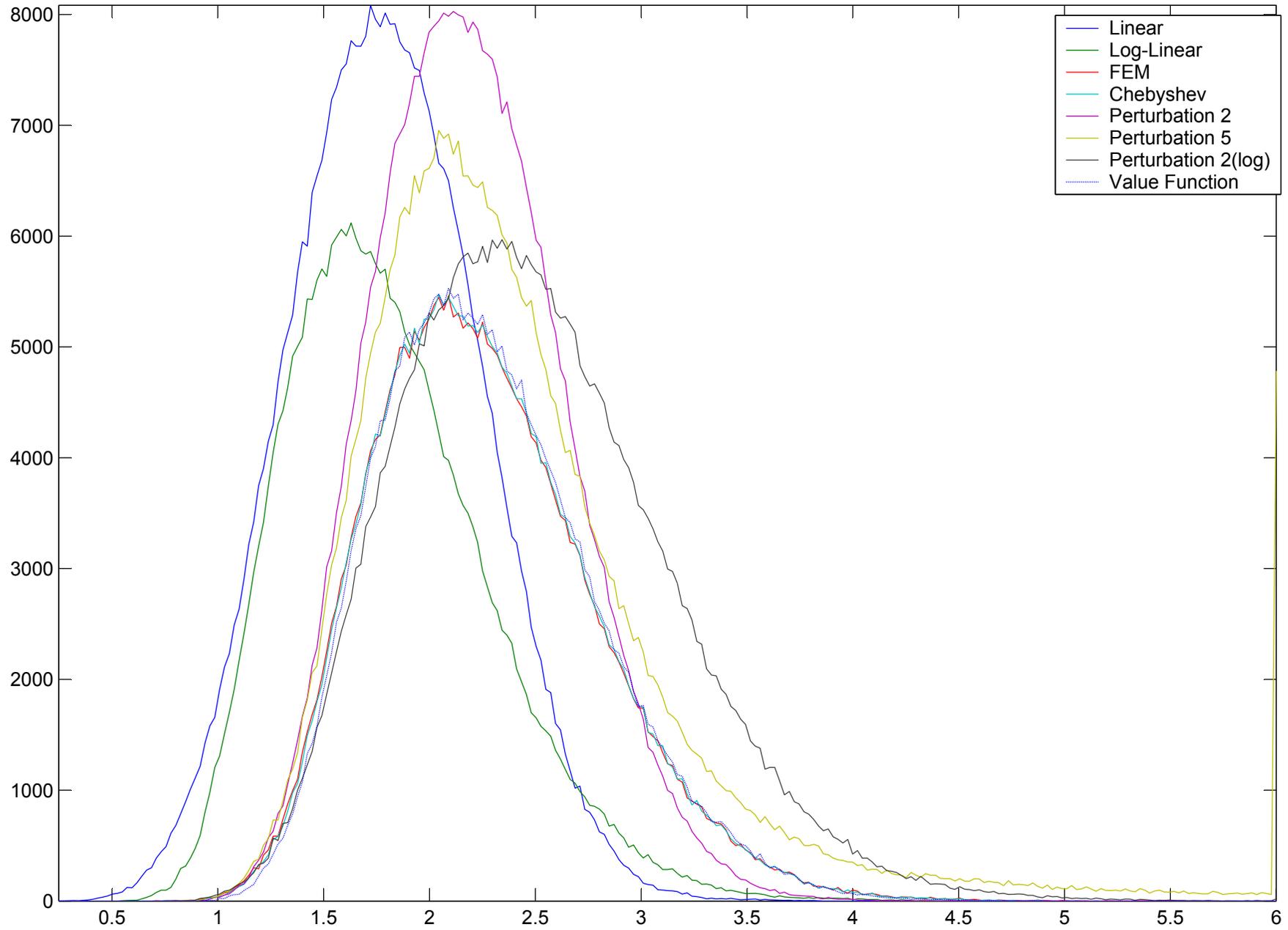


Figure 5.2.8 : Density of Capital, $\tau = 50 / \sigma = 0.035$

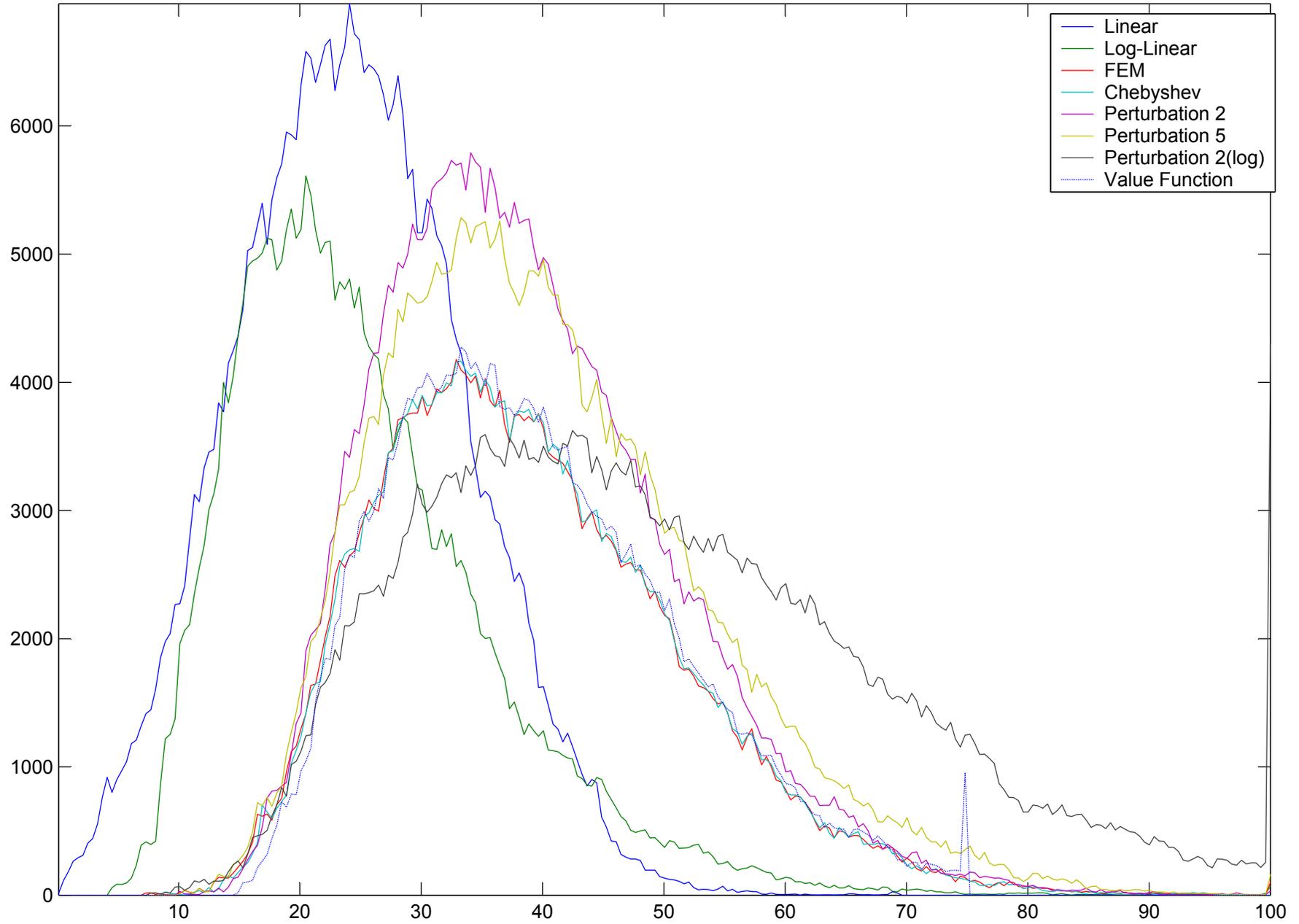


Figure 5.2.11 : Time Series for Output, $\tau = 50 / \sigma = 0.035$

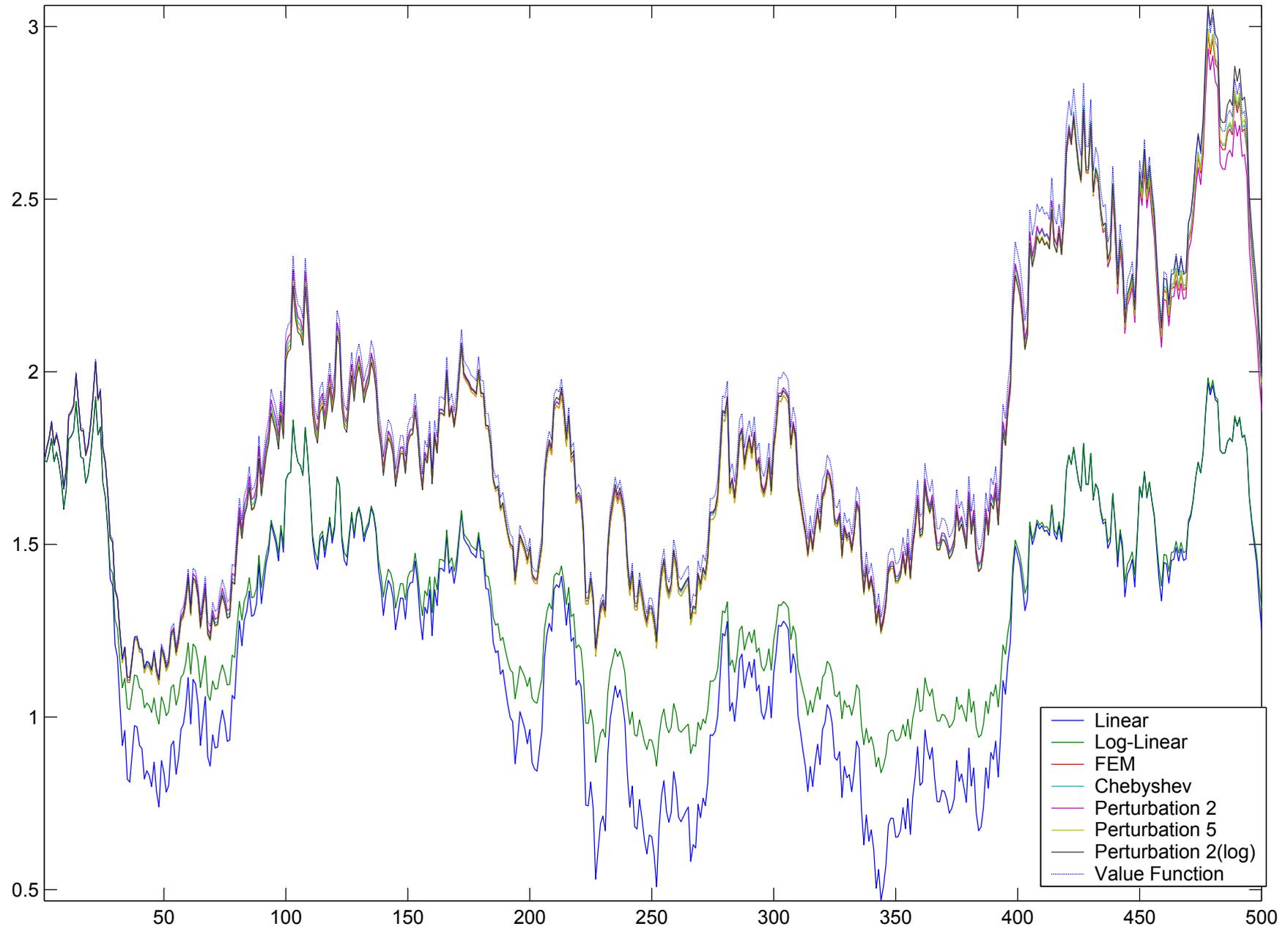


Figure 5.2.12 : Time Series for Capital, $\tau = 50 / \sigma = 0.035$

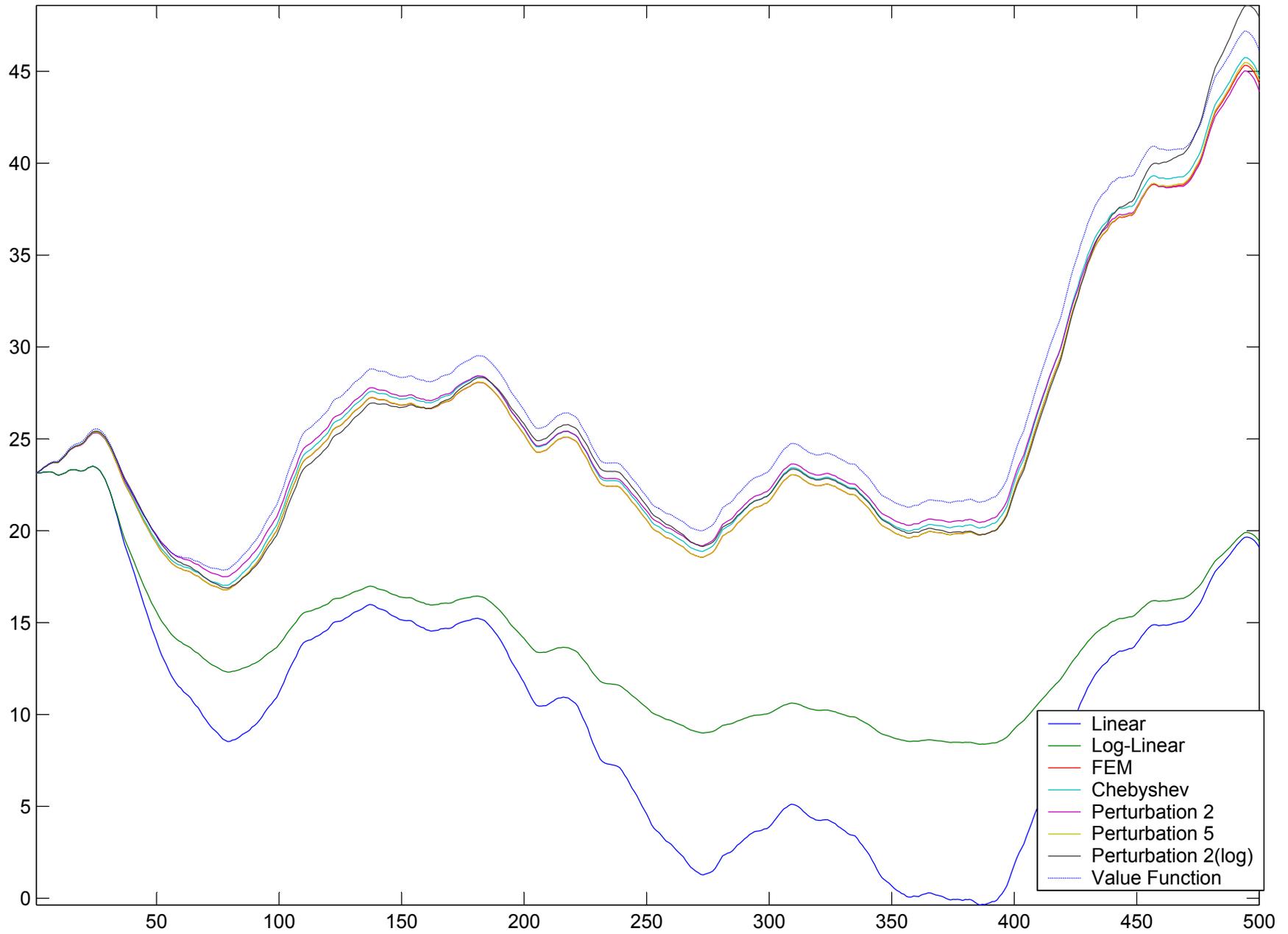


Figure 5.4.1: Euler Equation Errors, Linear Approximation, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

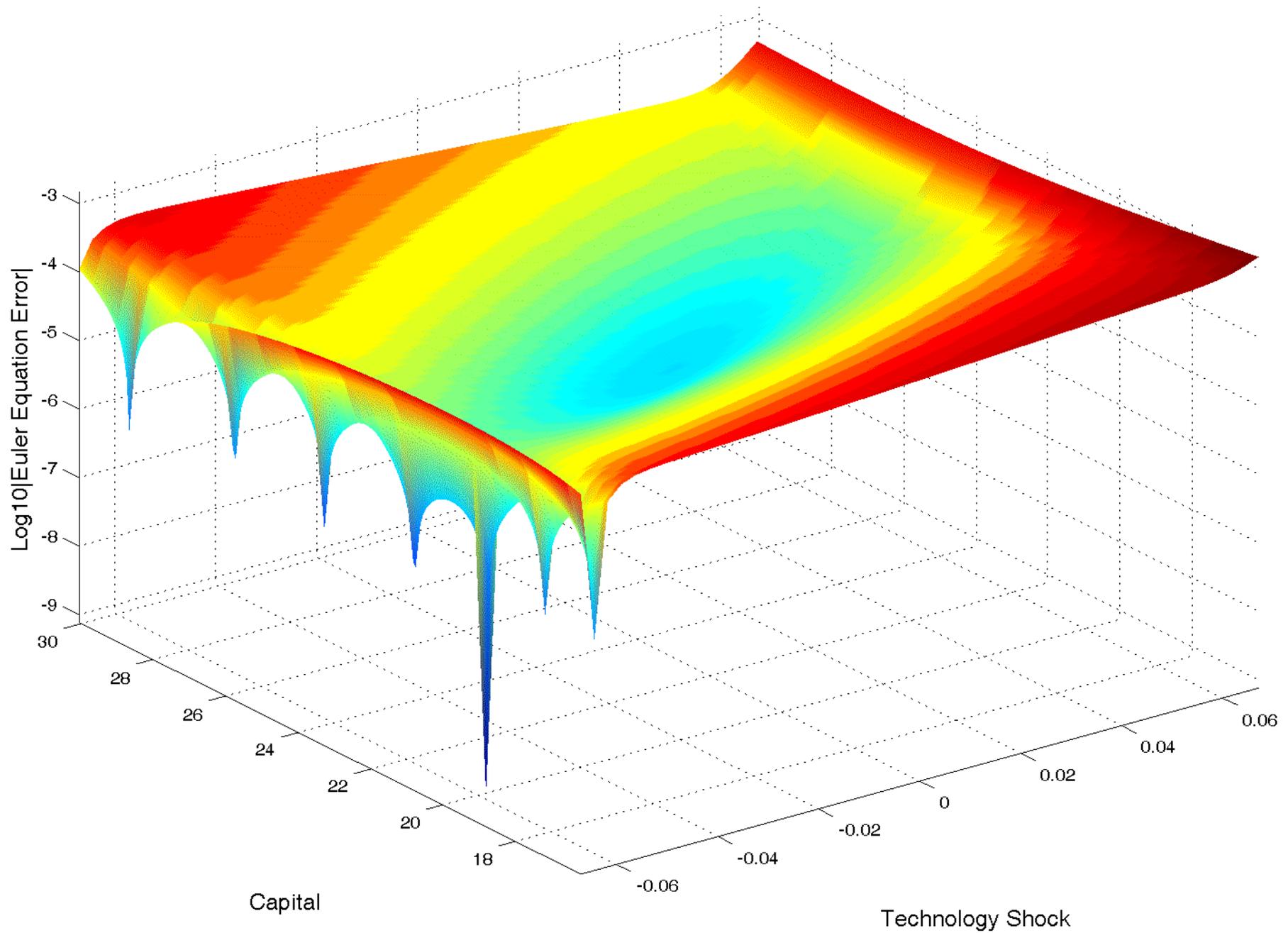


Figure 5.4.2: Euler Equation Errors, Log-Linear Approximation, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

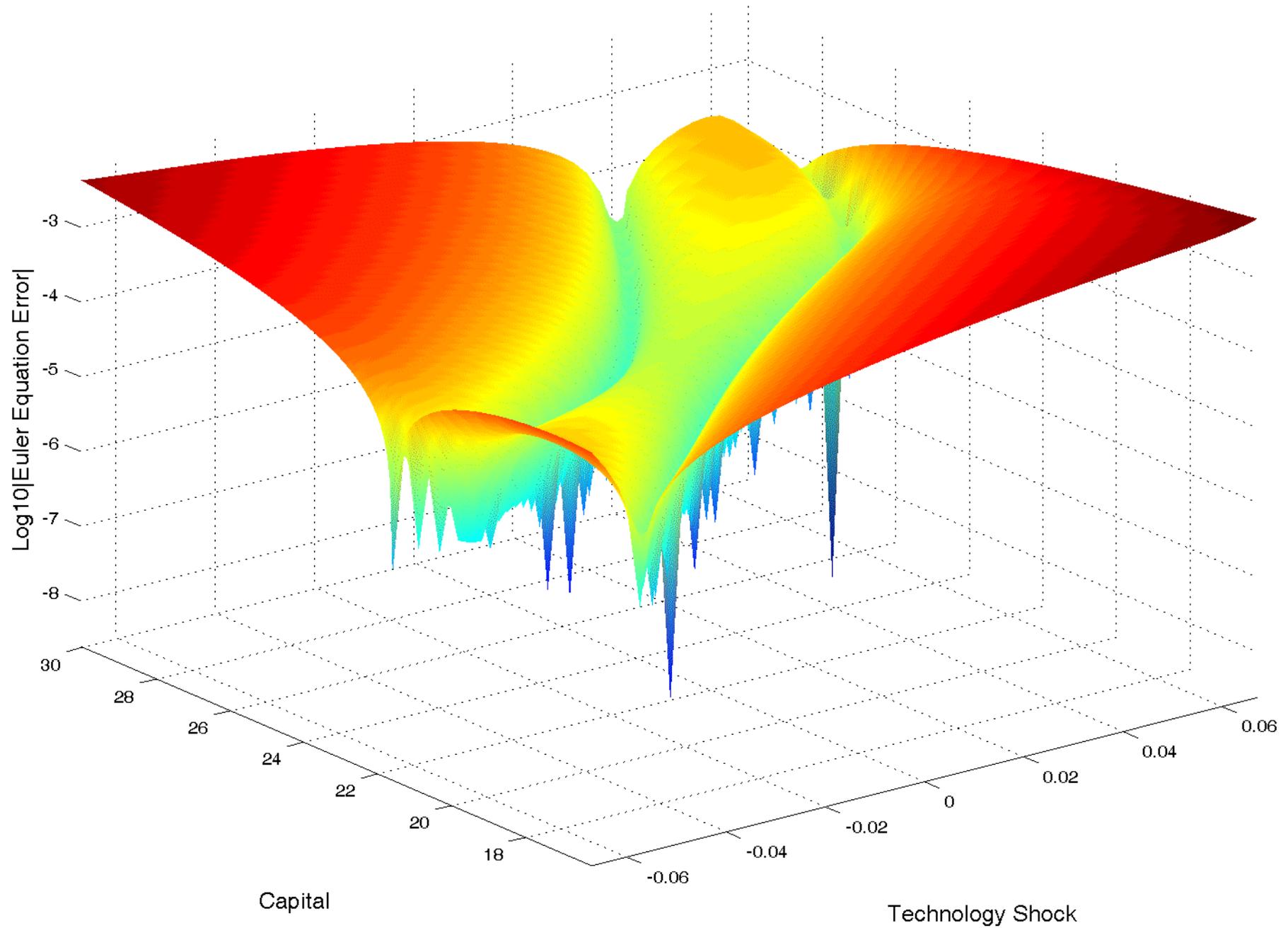


Figure 5.4.3 : Euler Equation Errors, Finite Elements Approximation, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

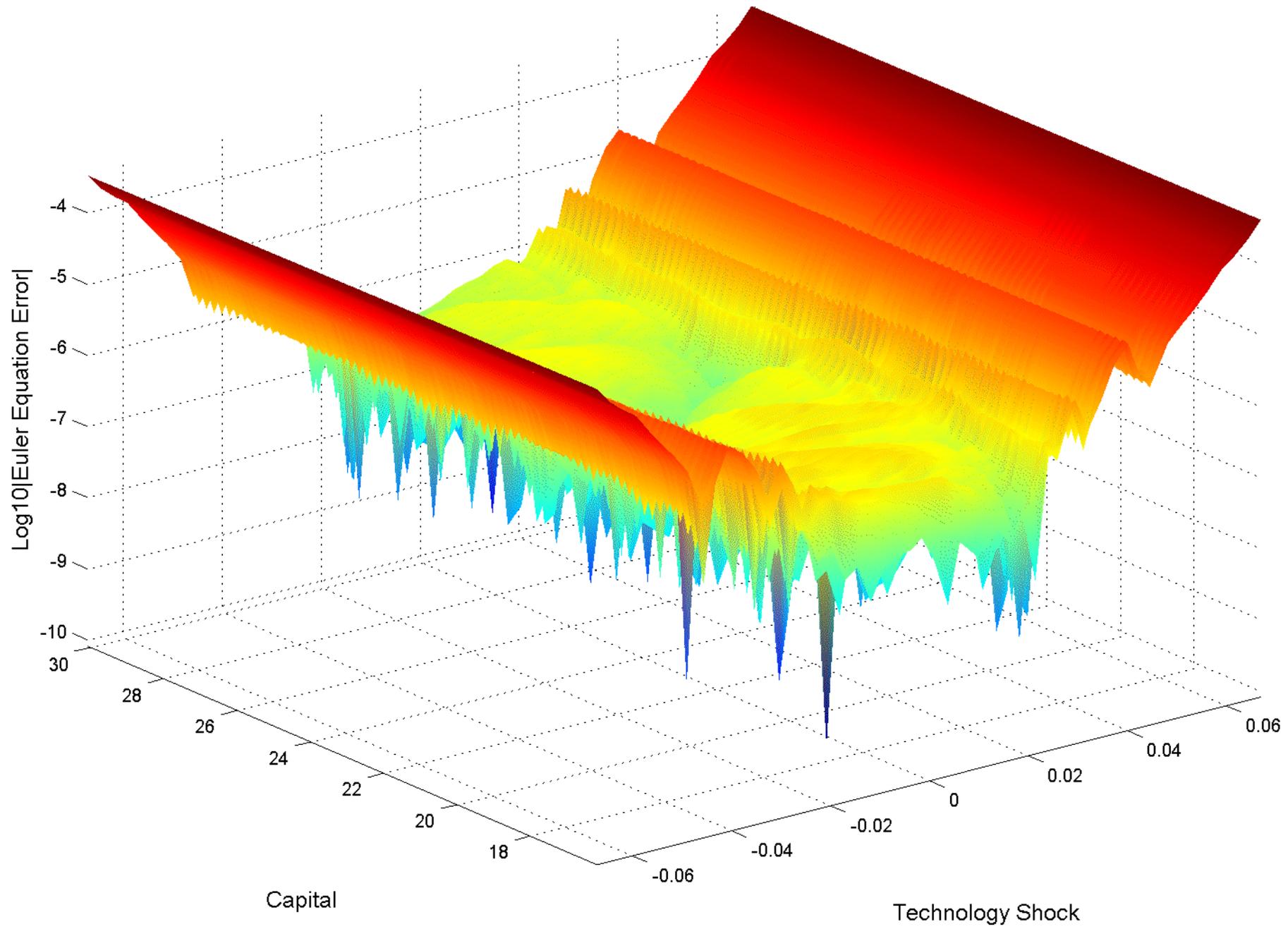


Figure 5.4.4 : Euler Equation Errors, Chebyshev Approximation, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

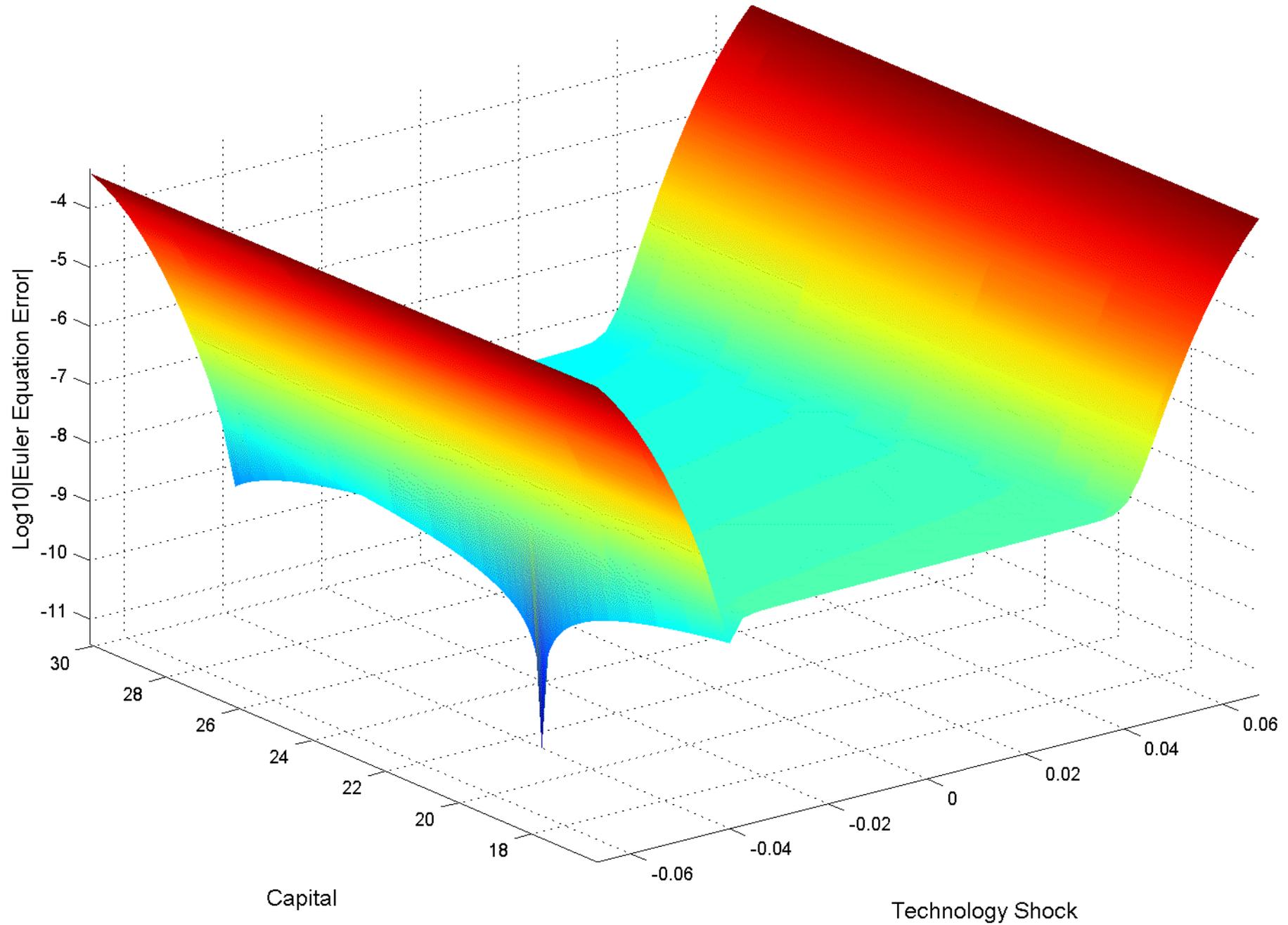


Figure 5.4.5: Euler Equation Errors, 2nd Order Perturbation Approximation, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

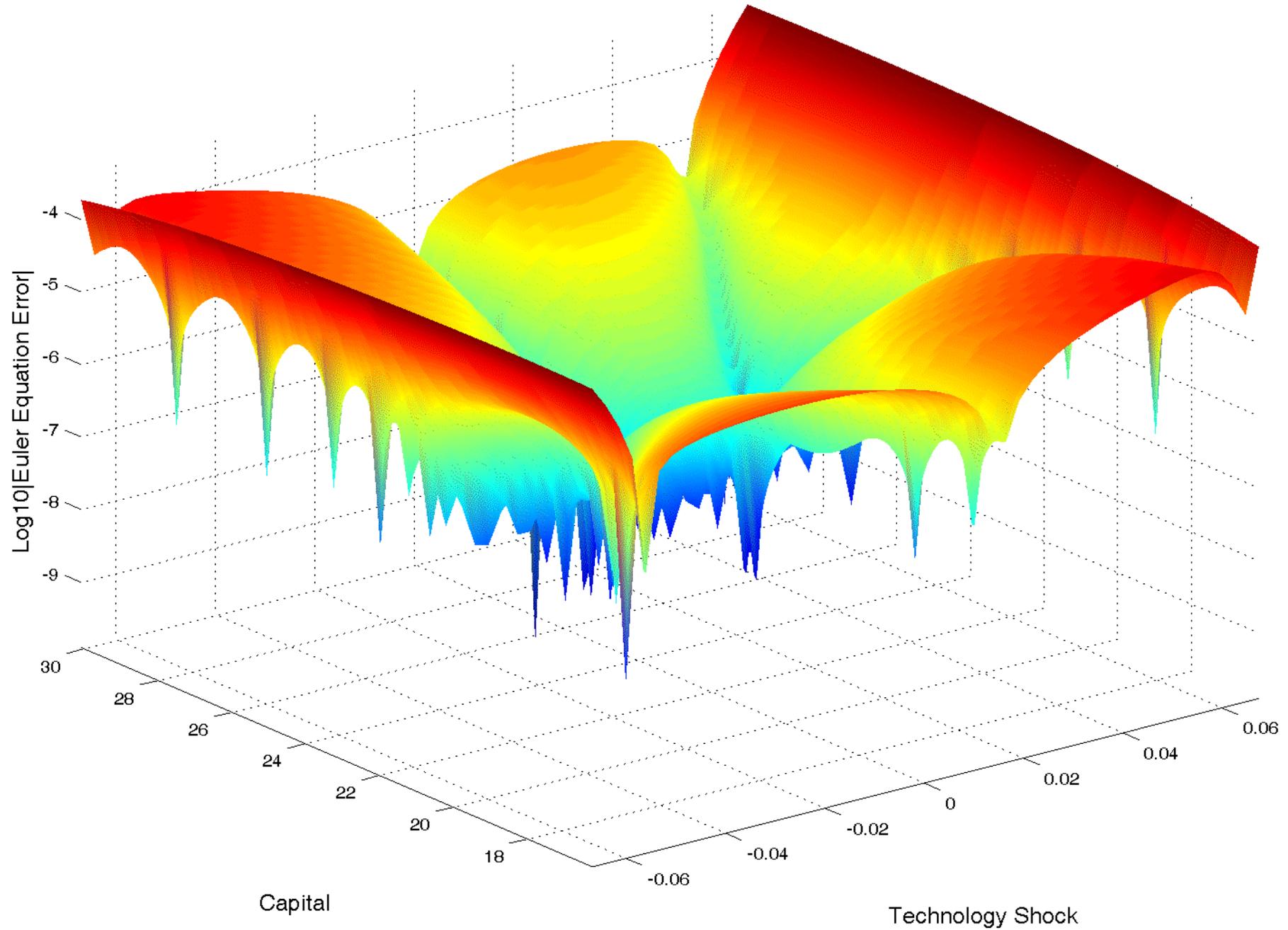


Figure 5.4.6: Euler Equation Errors, 5th Order Perturbation Approximation, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

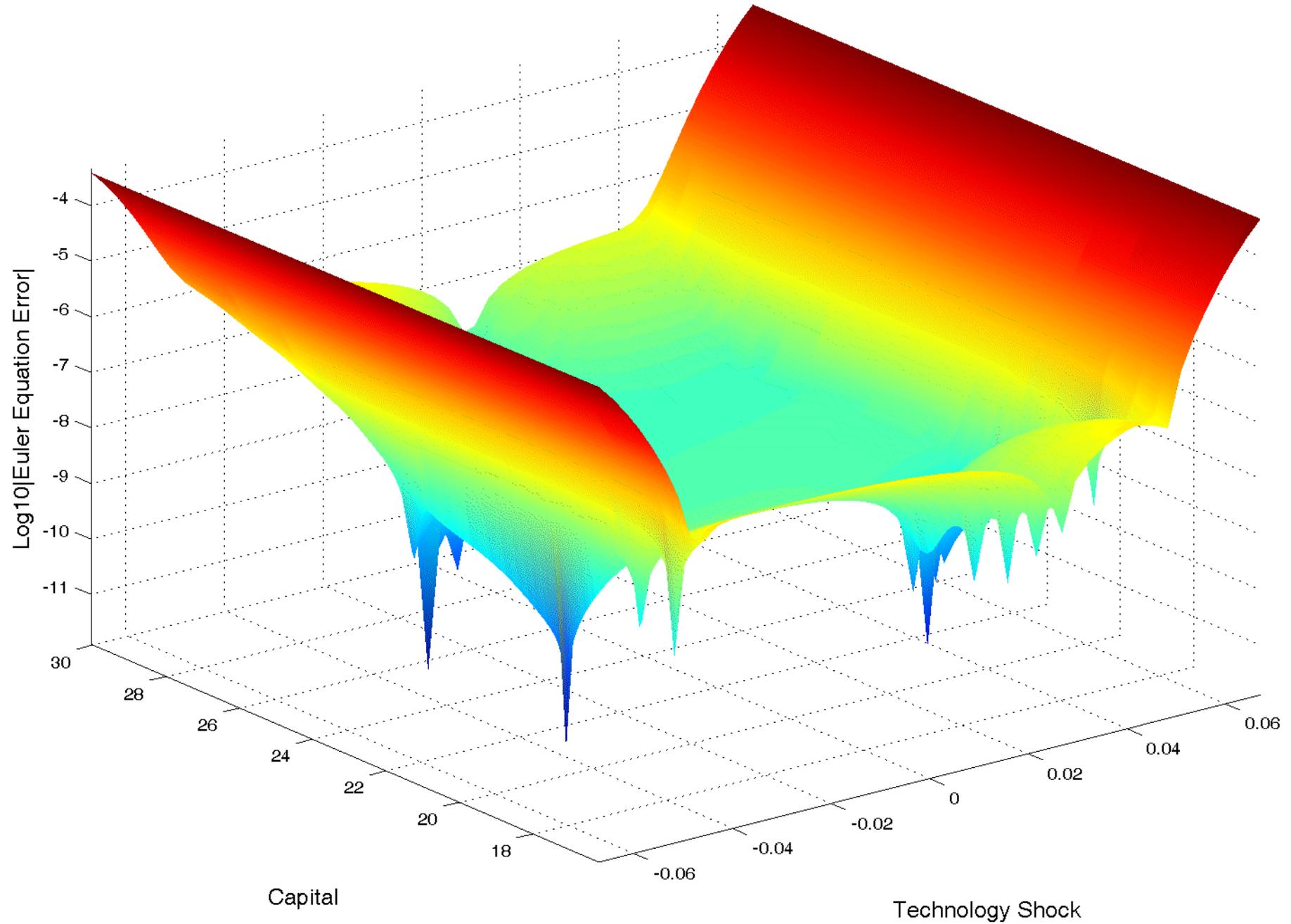


Figure 5.4.7 : Euler Equation Errors, Value Function Approximation, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

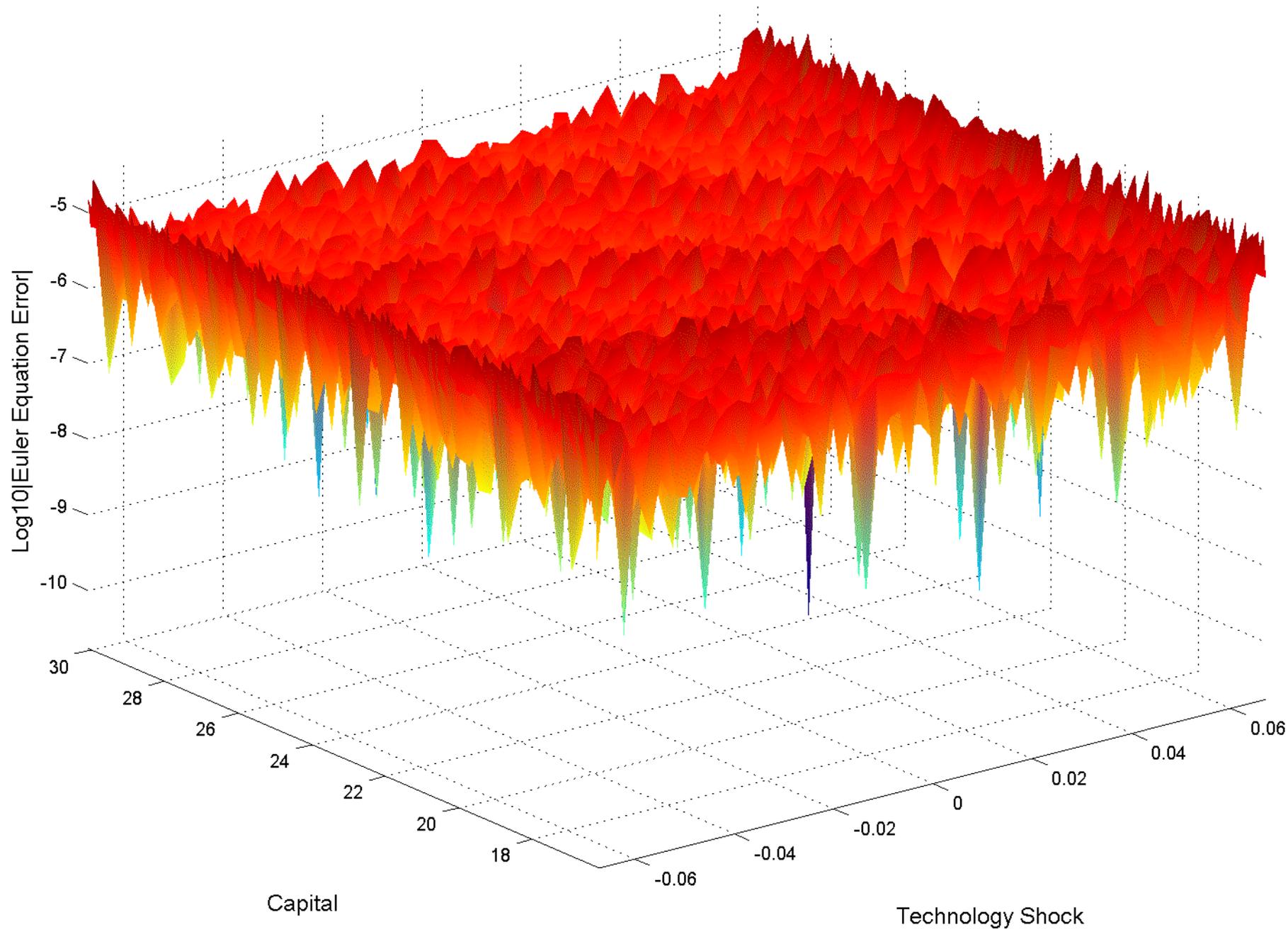


Figure 5.4.8 : Euler Equation Errors at $z = 0$, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

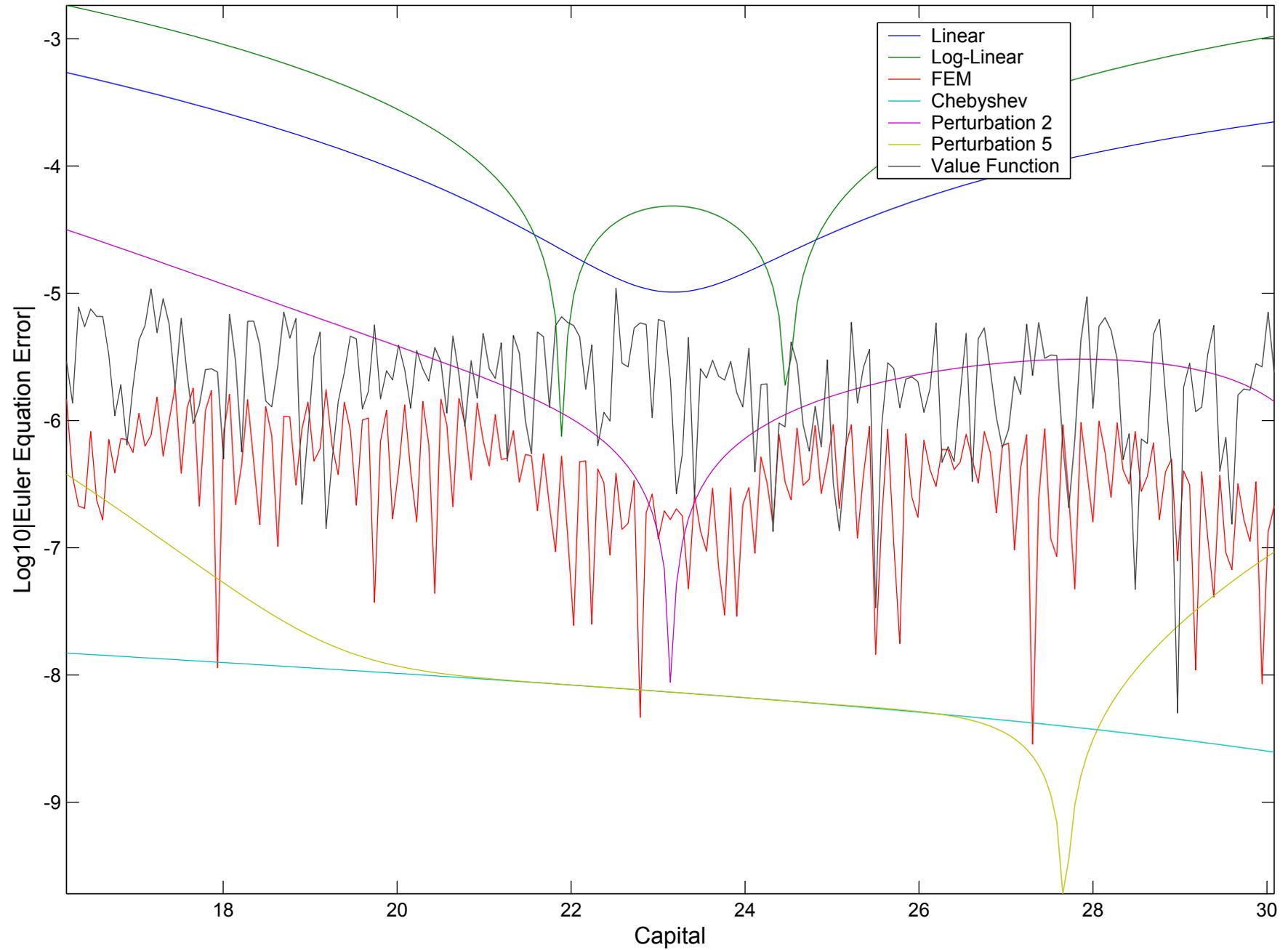


Figure 5.4.9 : Euler Equation Errors at $z = 0$, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

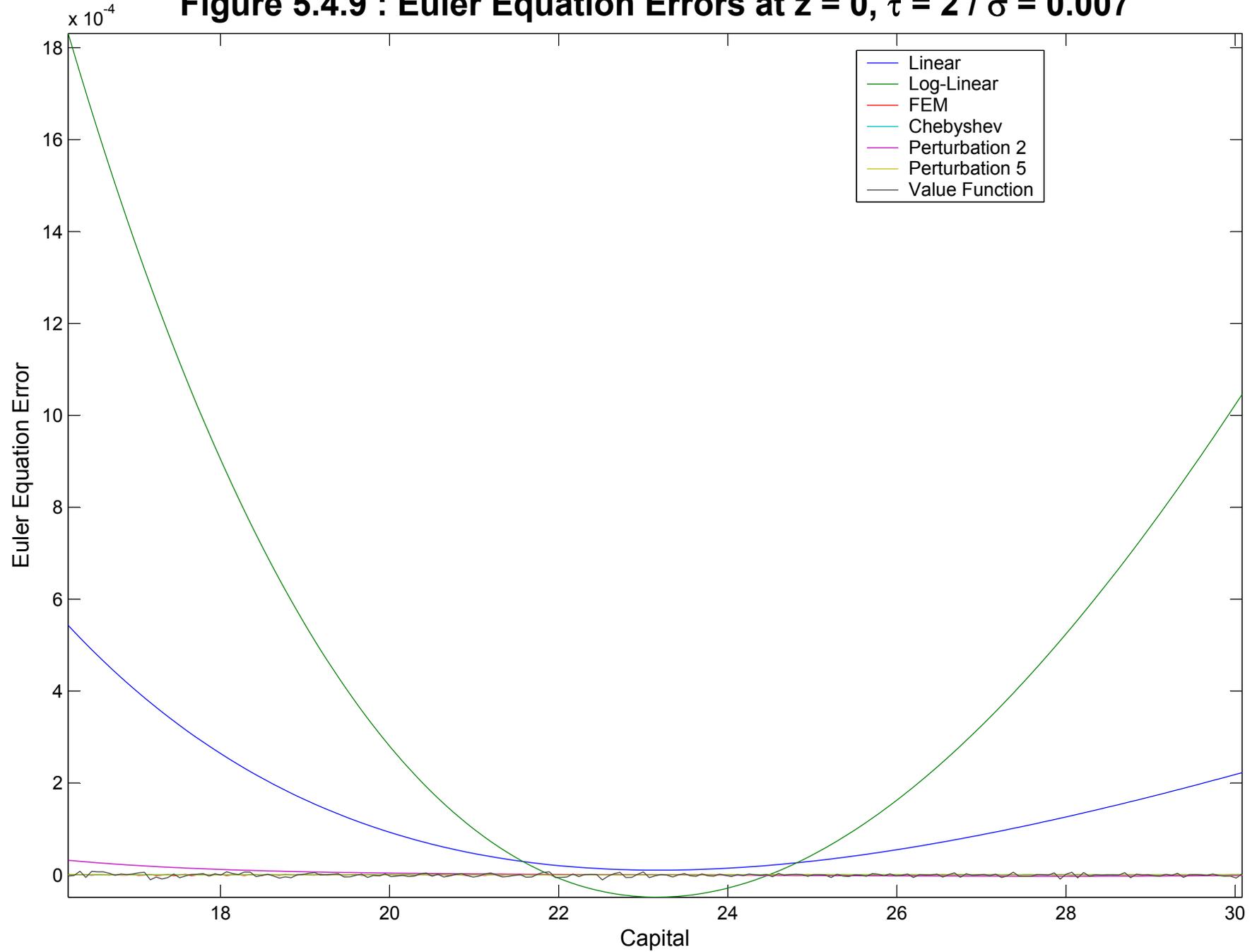


Figure 5.4.10 : Euler Equation Errors at $z = 0$, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

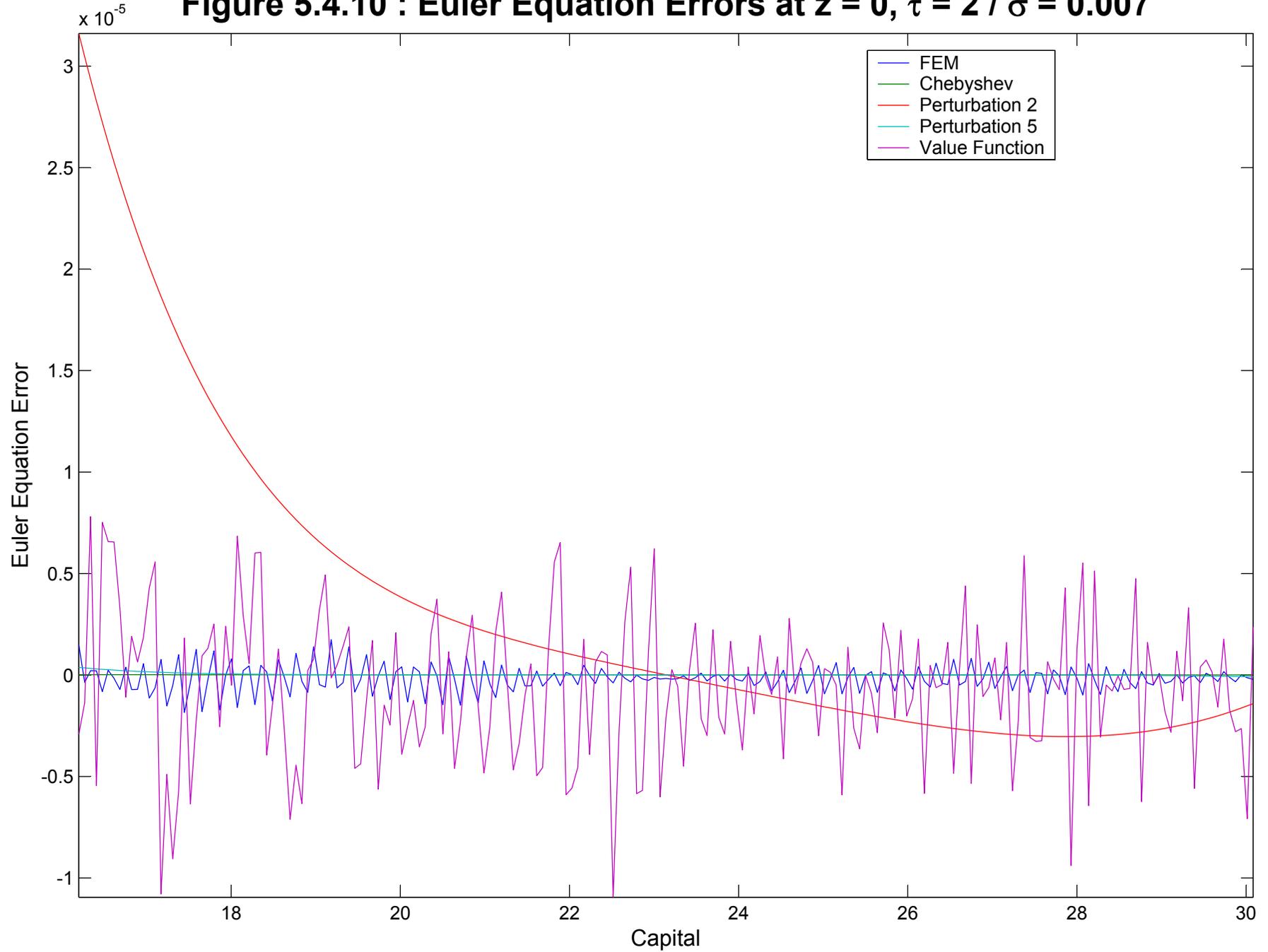


Figure 5.4.11 : Marginal Density of Capital versus Euler Errors at $z=0$, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

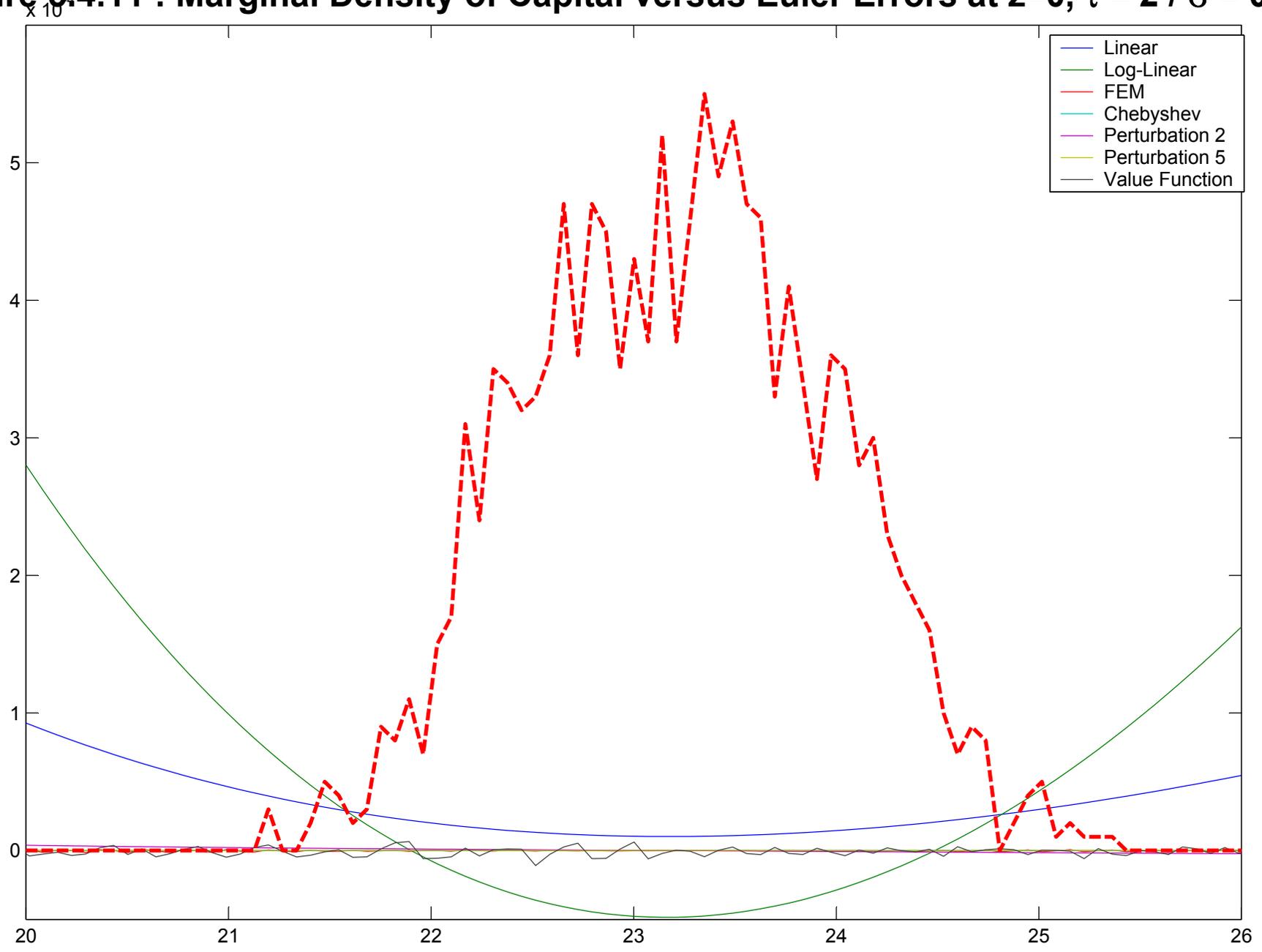


Figure 5.4.12 : Euler Equation Errors, Linear Approximation, $\tau = 50 / \sigma = 0.035$

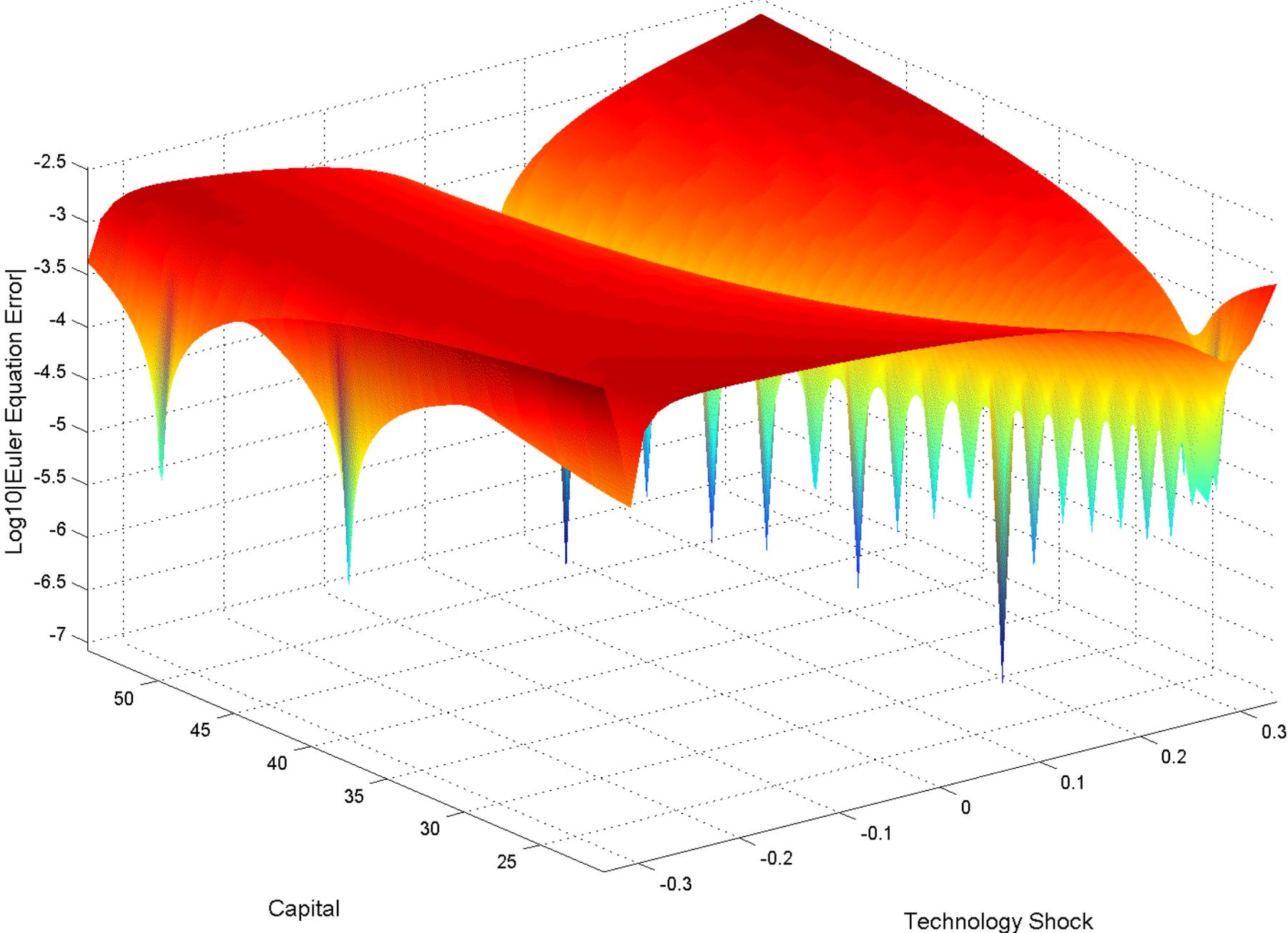


Figure 5.4.13 : Euler Equation Errors, Log-Linear Approximation, $\tau = 50 / \sigma = 0.035$

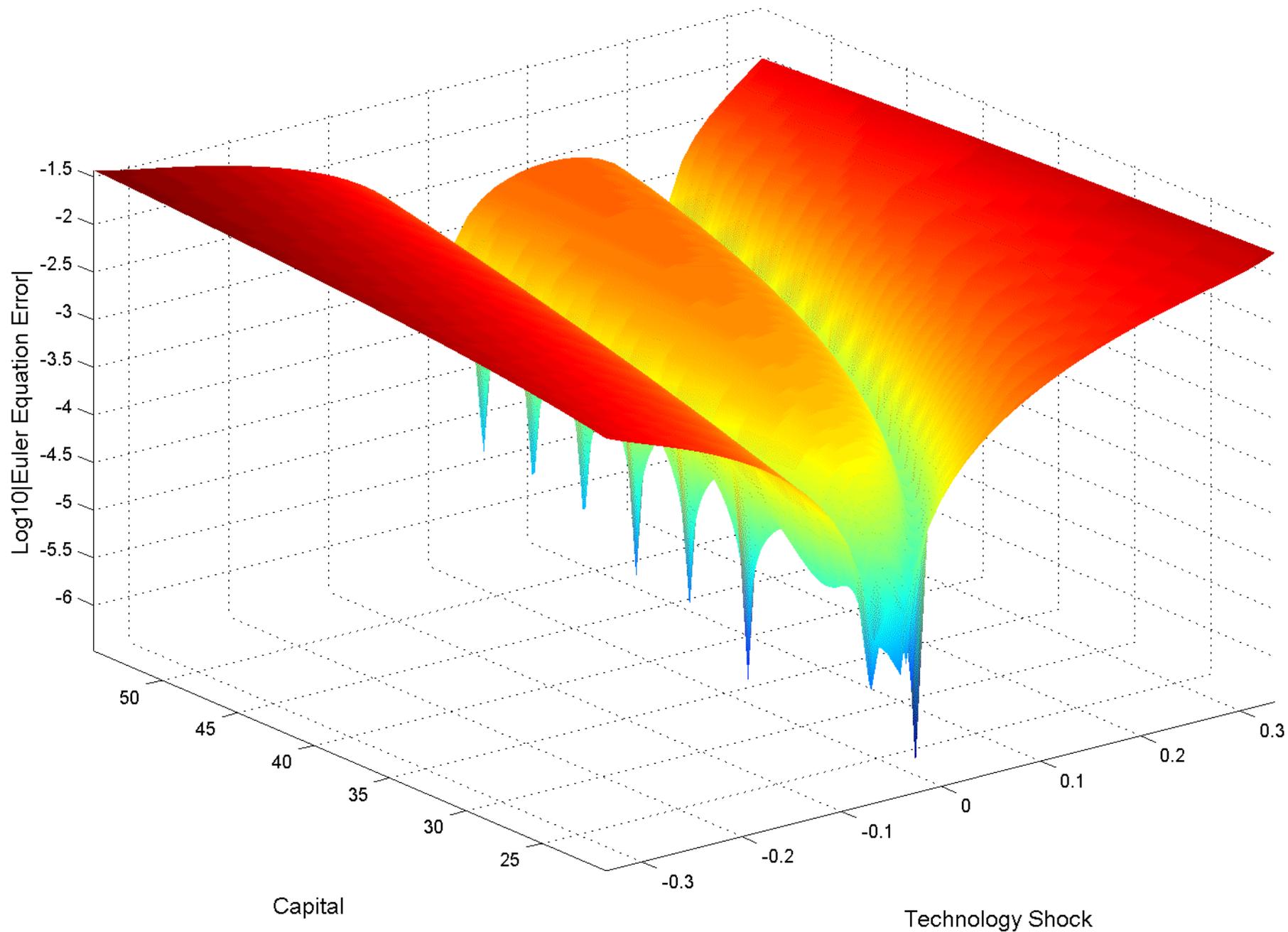


Figure 5.4.14 : Euler Equation Errors, Finite Elements Approximation, $\tau = 50 / \sigma = 0.035$

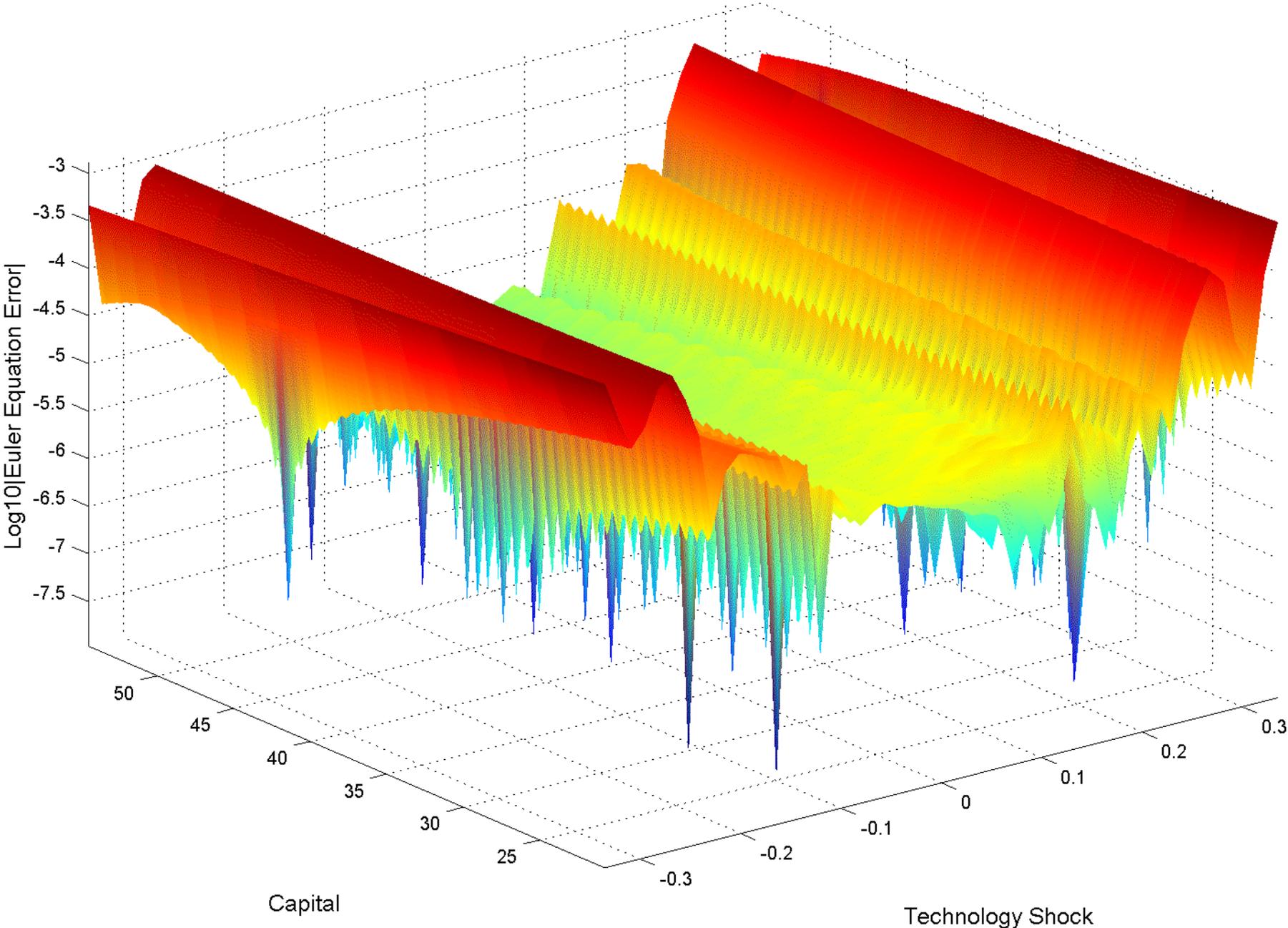


Figure 5.4.15 : Euler Equation Errors, Chebyshev Appr., $\tau = 50 / \sigma = 0.035$

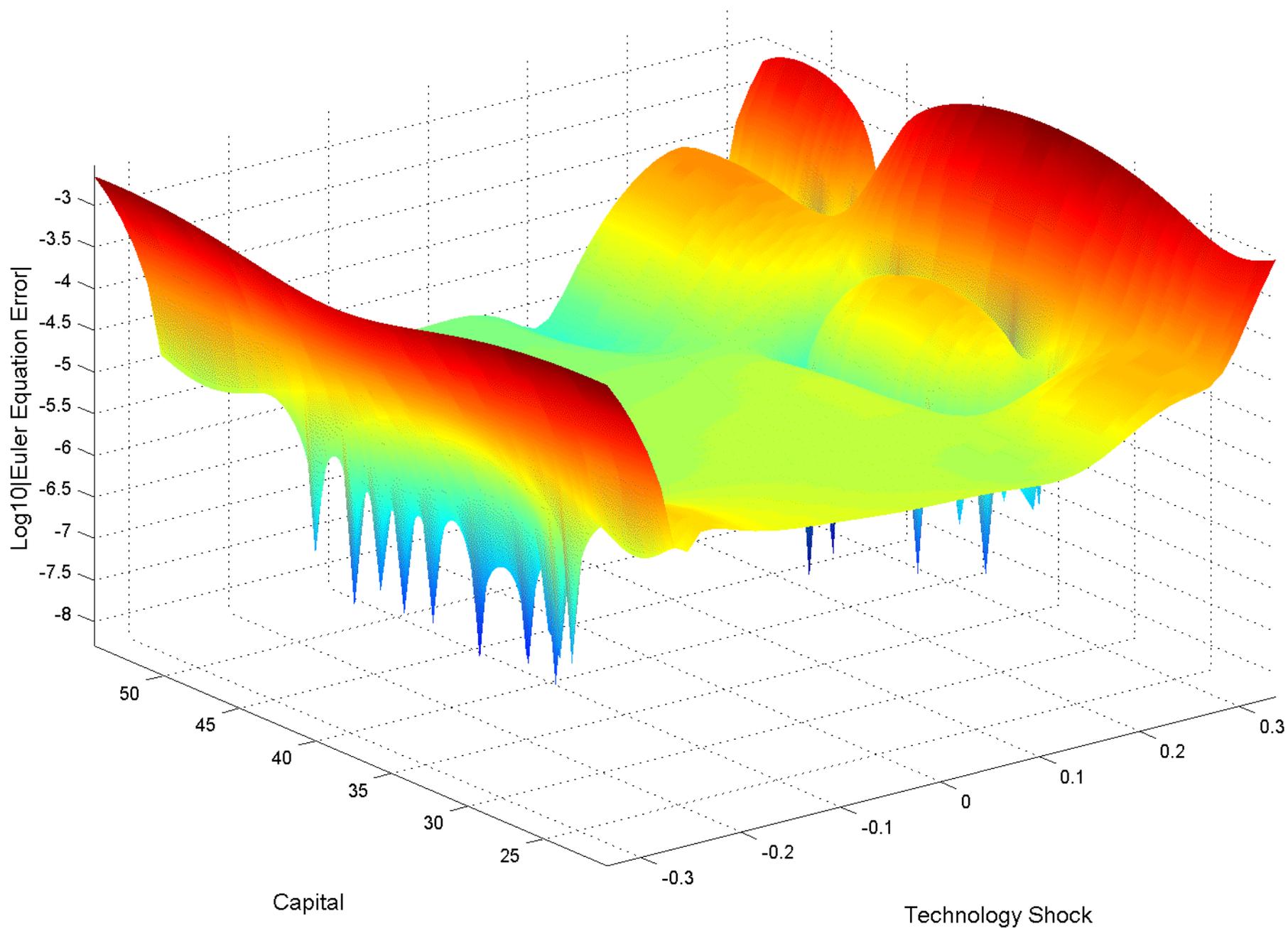


Figure 5.4.16 : Euler Equation Errors, 2nd Order Perturbation Appr., $\tau = 50 / \sigma = 0.035$

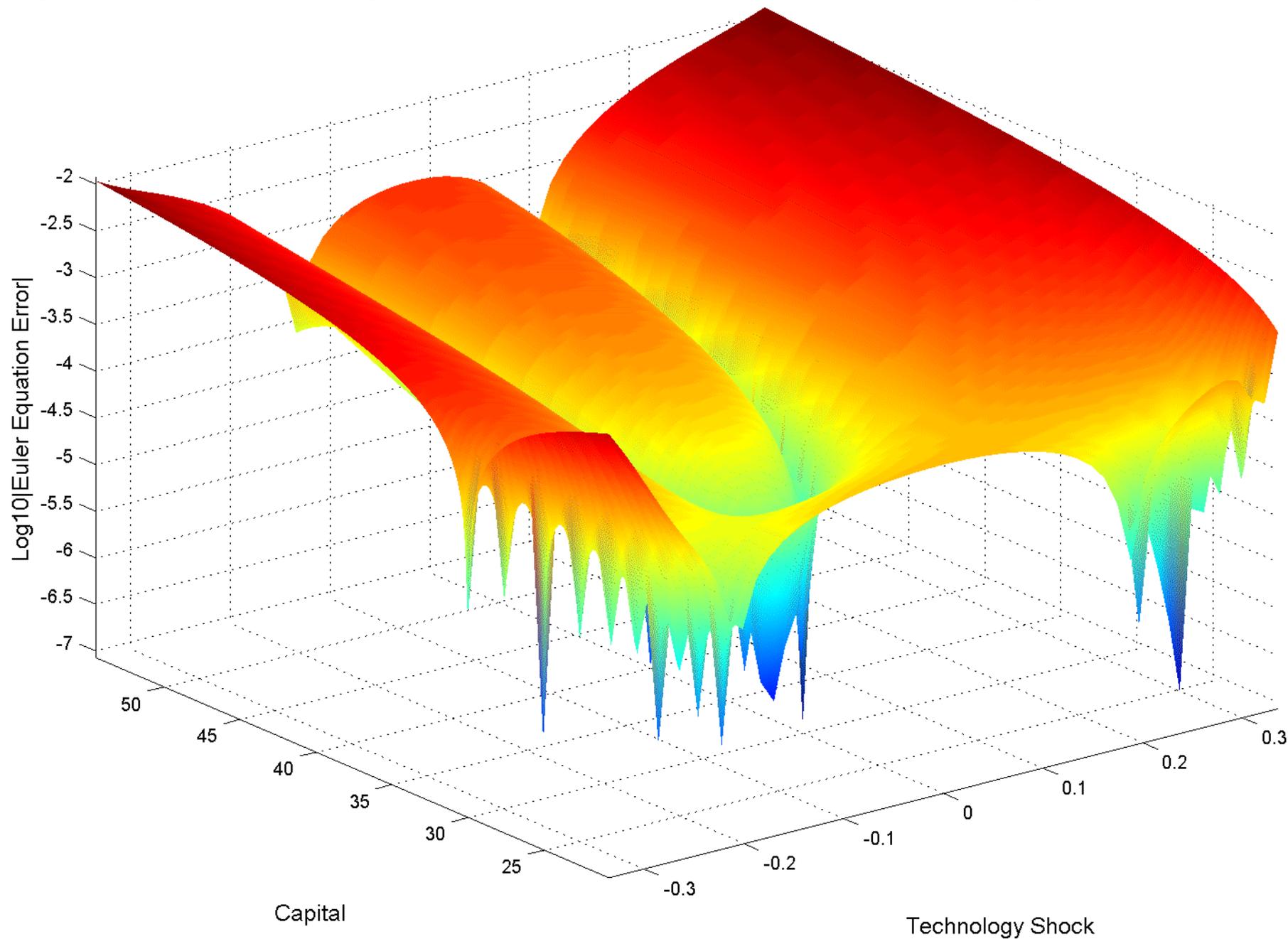


Figure 5.4.17 : Euler Equation Errors, 5th Order Perturbation Appr., $\tau = 50 / \sigma = 0.035$

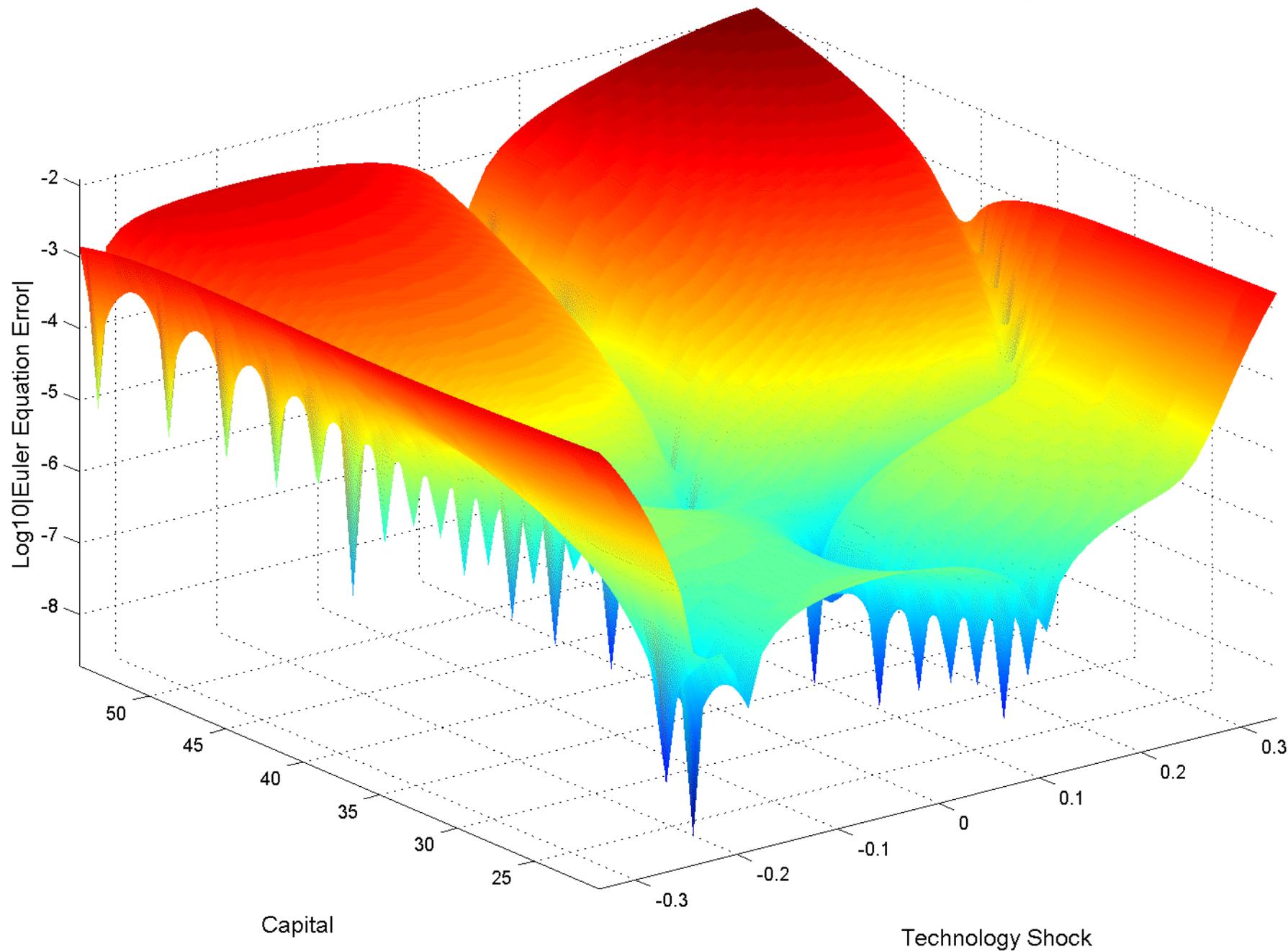


Figure 5.4.18 : Euler Equation Errors, Value Function Appr., $\tau = 50 / \sigma = 0.035$

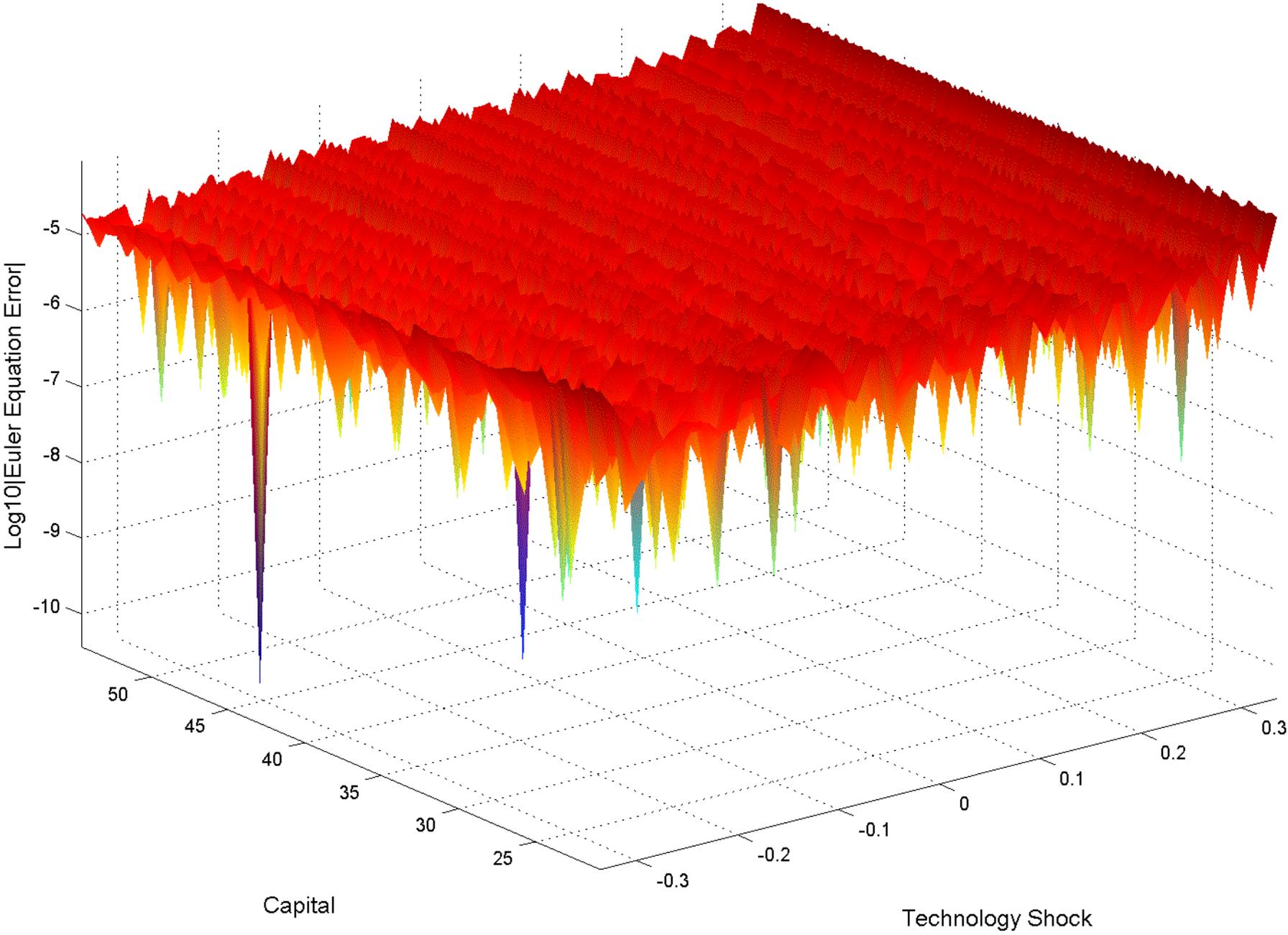


Figure 5.4.19 : Euler Eq. Errors, 2nd Order Log-Linear Perturbation Appr., $\tau = 50 / \sigma = 0.035$

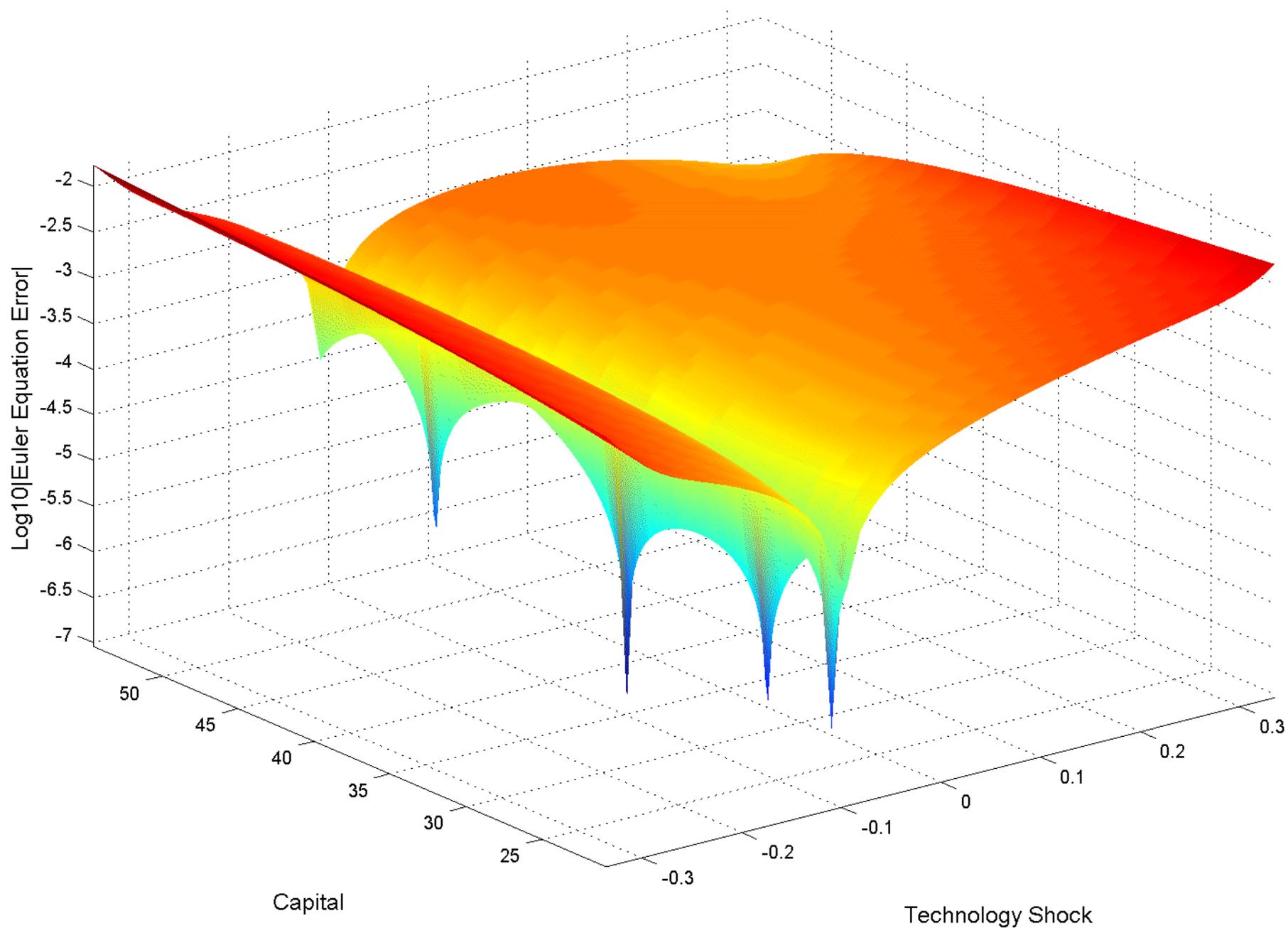


Figure 5.4.20 : Euler Equation Errors at $z = 0, \tau = 50 / \sigma = 0.035$

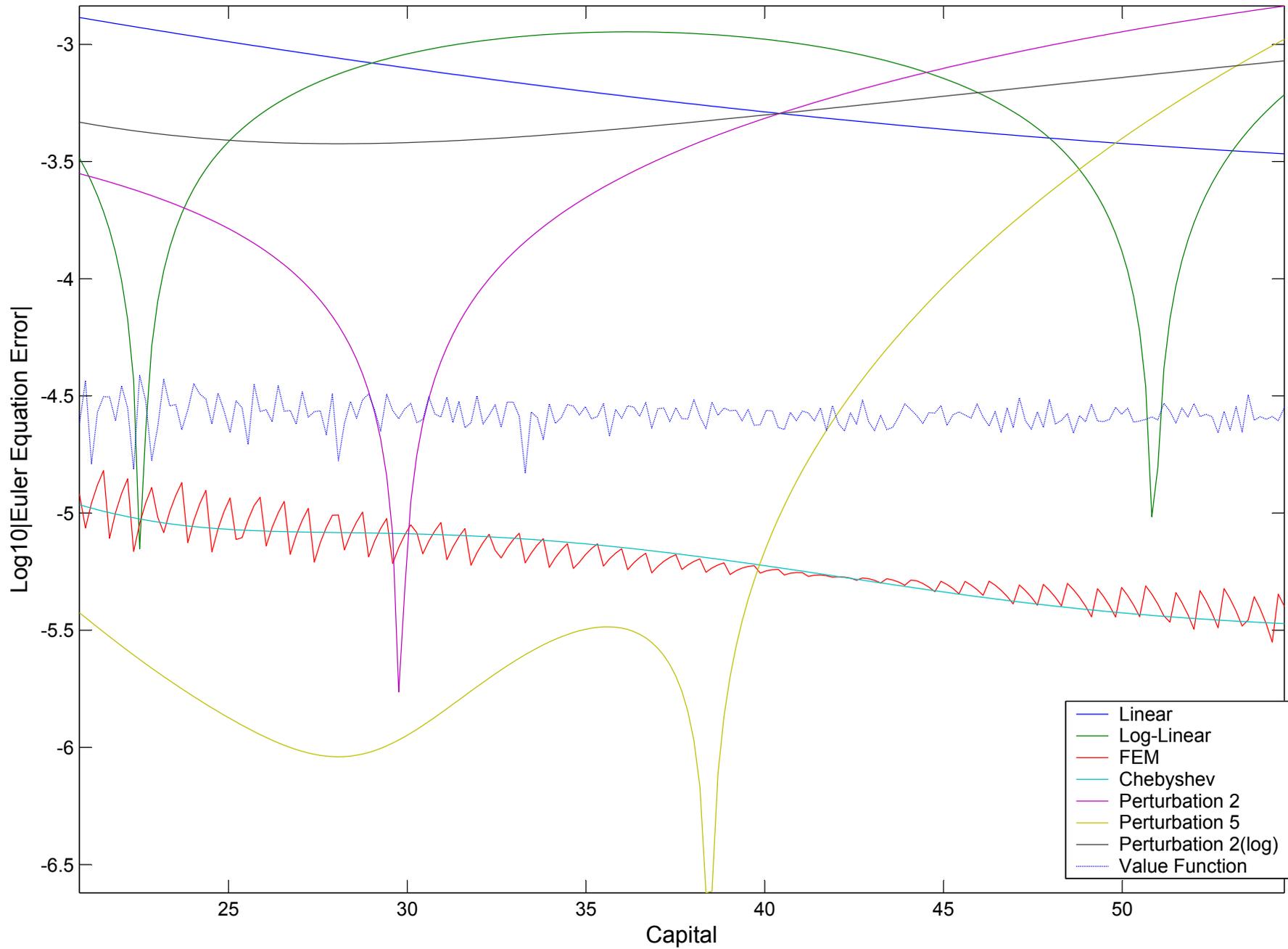


Table 5.4.1: Integral of the Euler Errors ($x10^{-4}$)

Linear	0.2291
Log-Linear	0.6306
Finite Elements	0.0537
Chebyshev	0.0369
Perturbation 2	0.0481
Perturbation 5	0.0369
Value Function	0.0224

Table 5.4.2: Integral of the Euler Errors ($\times 10^{-4}$)

Linear	7.12
Log-Linear	24.37
Finite Elements	0.34
Chebyshev	0.22
Perturbation 2	7.76
Perturbation 5	8.91
Perturbation 2 (log)	6.47
Value Function	0.32

Figure 6.2.1 : Euler Equation Errors at $z = 0$, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

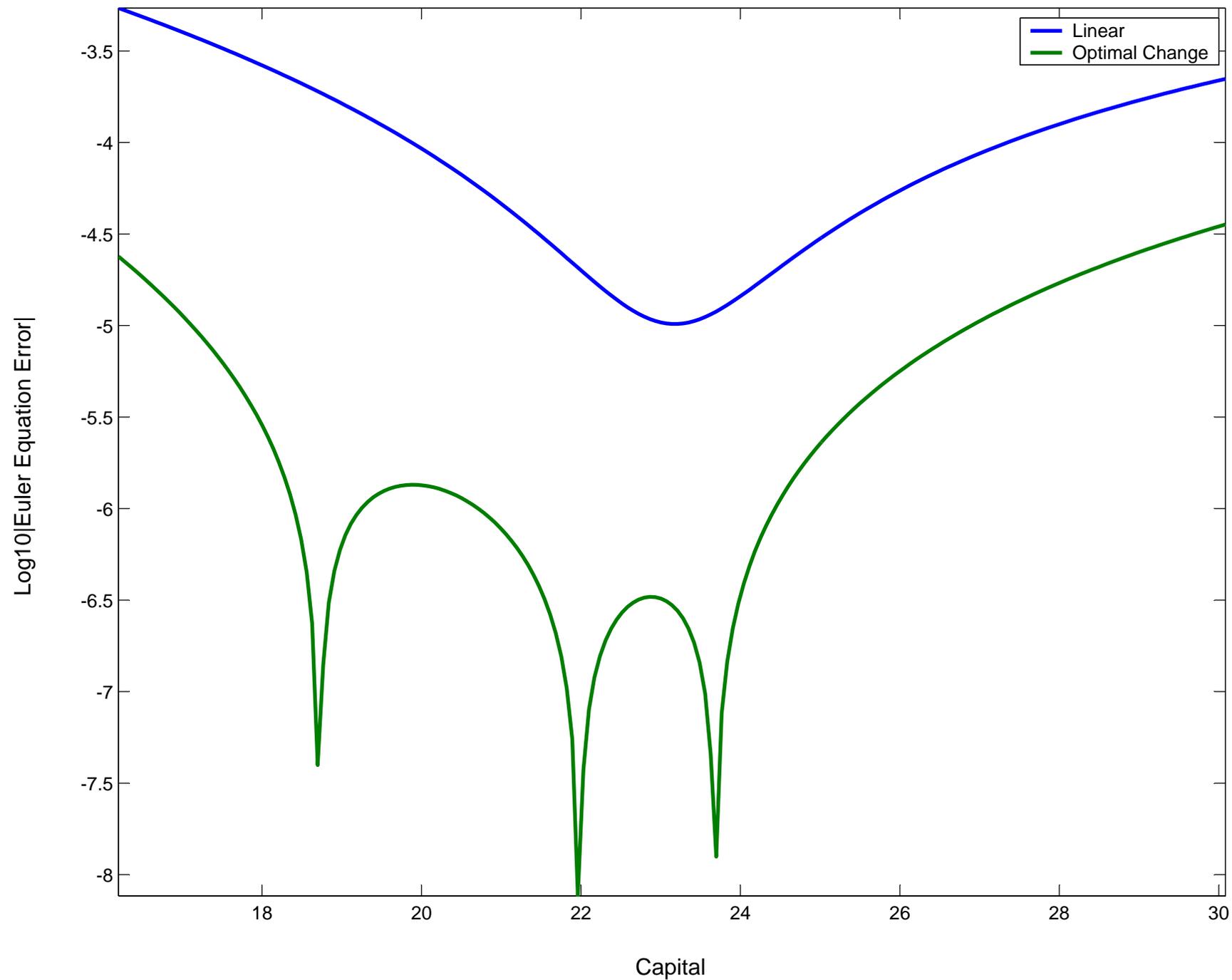


Figure 6.2.2 : Euler Equation Errors at $z = 0$, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$

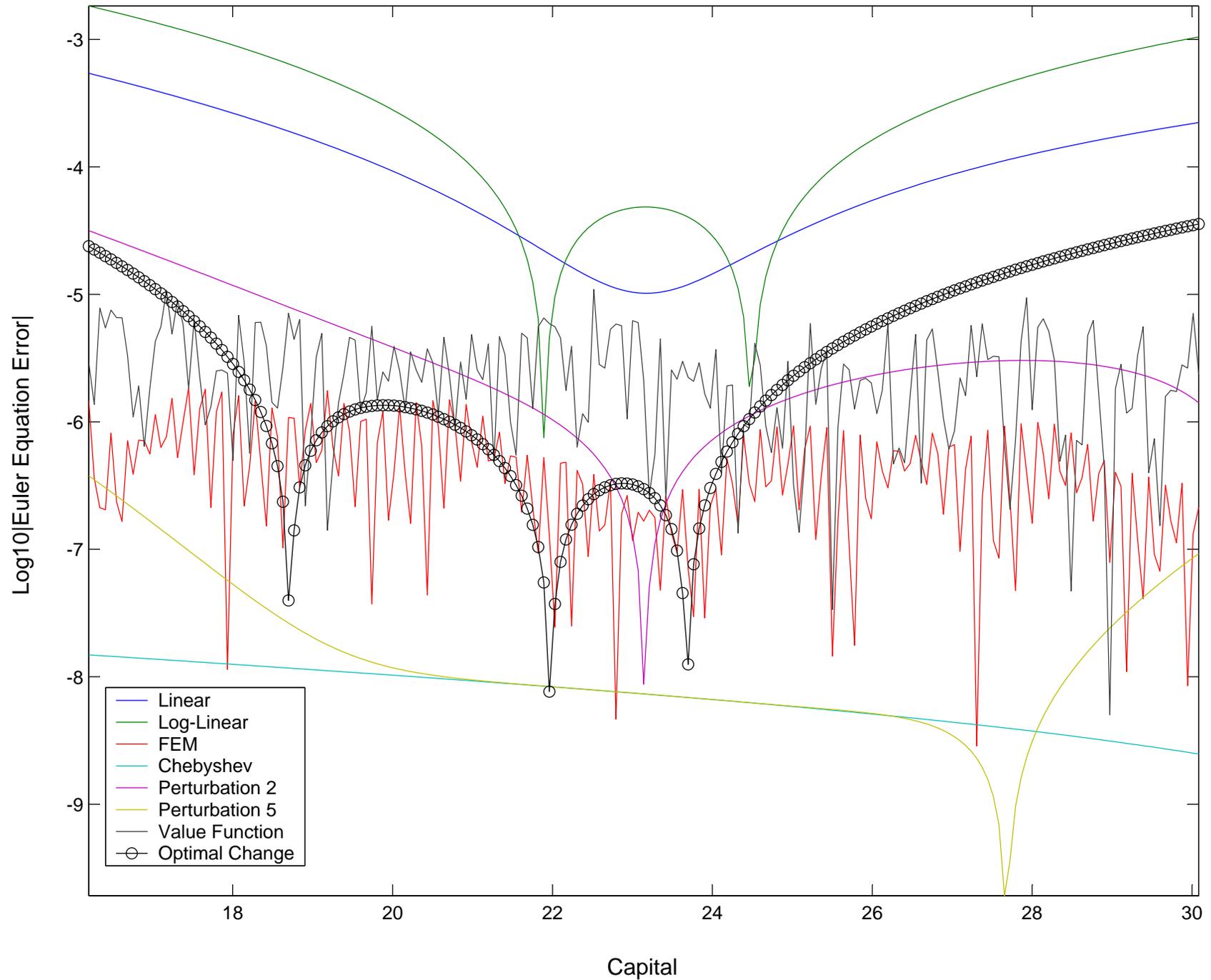
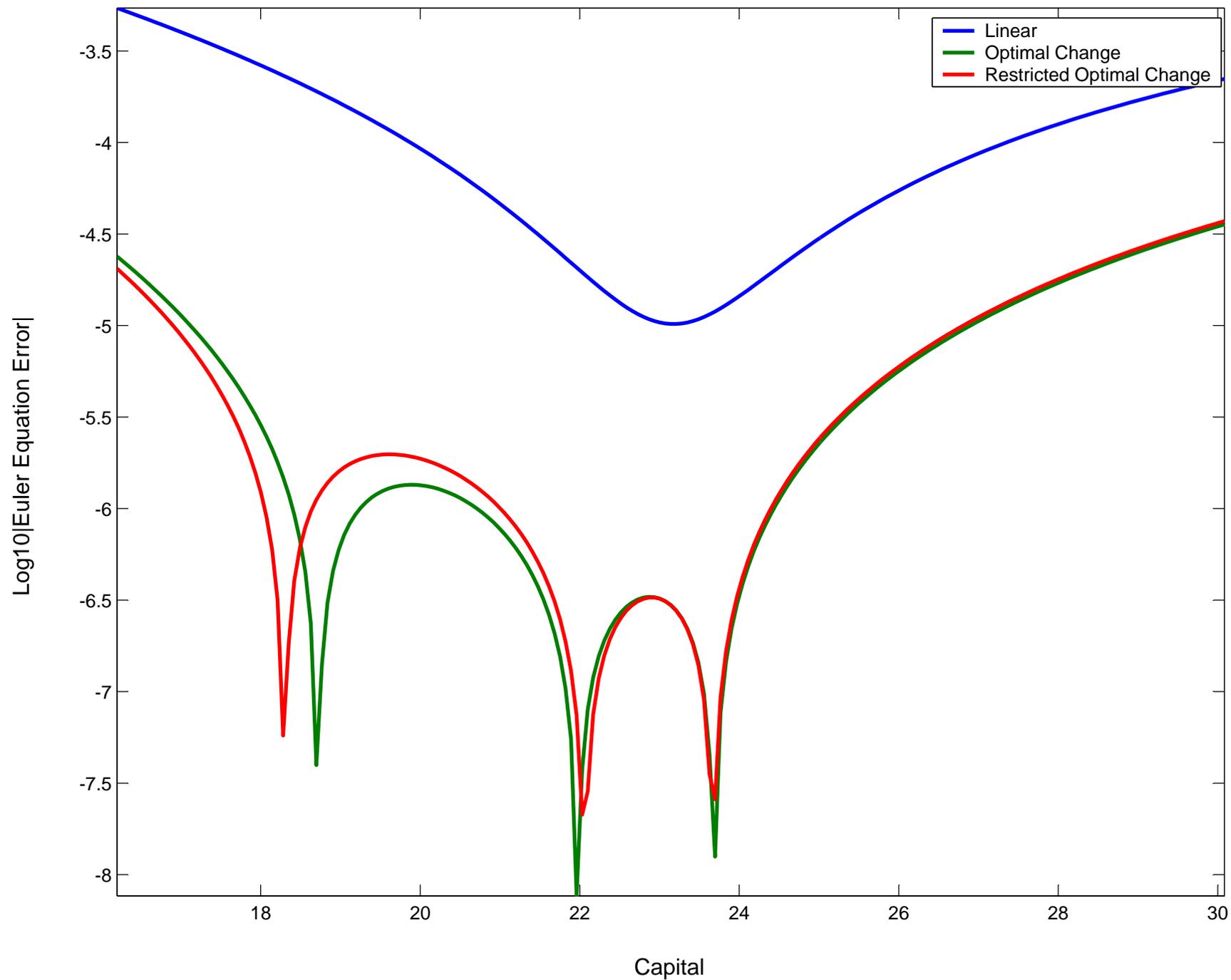


Figure 6.2.3. : Euler Equation Errors at $z = 0$, $\tau = 2 / \sigma = 0.007$



Computing Time and Reproducibility

- How methods compare?
- Web page:

`www.econ.upenn.edu/~jesusfv/companion.htm`