## The Large Volatility and the Slow Recovery of the Job-Finding Rate

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#### Motivation

- ▶ The job-finding rate exhibits large volatility and slow recovery
  - Contradict textbook search-and-matching model:
    - Volatility: Shimer puzzle
    - Convergence: Know little
- ▶ Important to understand the slow recovery
  - Guide for empirical work
  - ► Policy to accelerate recovery

## The Large Drop and Slow Recovery

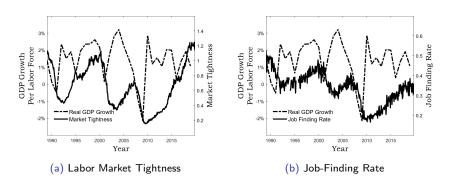


Figure: Aggregate Shock, Market Tightness, and Job-Finding Rate

#### What I Do

► The goal of the paper is two-fold:

1. Derive analytic expression for job-finding rate volatility and convergence

In a class of efficient search-and-matching model a la Kehoe et al. 2020

Nest the textbook search-and-matching model

## Results: The Job-Finding Rate Convergence

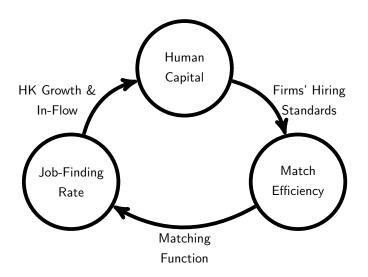
- ► Convergence is fast in the perfect foresight equilibrium
  - ► Half life is 3 month under standard parameterization

- Rational expectation equilibrium:
  - ► Transmission almost entirely through the aggregate shock
  - ► The job-finding rate co-moves with the shock

#### What I Do Cont.

- 2. Extend the model to generate slow convergence
  - Two types of workers with human capital:
    - ► No-Depreciation (ND)
    - Fast-Depreciation (FD)
    - → Endogenous unemployment pool composition
  - ► Match quality shock and firms' hiring standards
    - ightarrow Endogenous match efficiency which depends on human capital
  - Complementarity between human capital and match efficiency
    - → Multiple equilibria

#### Model Intuition



#### Results: Dynamics

- Dynamics depend on shock size
  - ► Small shock: recover to initial steady state
  - Large shock:
    - ND workers: Recover
    - ► FD workers: Diverge to "corner equilibrium"
      - ightarrow Lower match efficiency and job-finding rate
- ▶ The relation between match efficiency and the unemployment pool
  - More low match efficiency worker  $\rightarrow$  Low aggregate match efficiency E.g. Barnichon et al. 2015
  - lacktriangle Negative match efficiency shock ightarrow Low match efficiency worker

#### Results: Recovery

- ▶ To recover from the corner equilibrium
  - ► Positive aggregate shock
  - Human capital shock
- ▶ Timing of policy intervention is important:
  - ► Small early intervention is sufficient
  - Late intervention more difficult because human capital too low

#### Literature

► Search-and-matching model: Kehoe et al. 2020

▶ Match efficiency: Barnichon et al. 2005

Firms' hiring standards: Sedláček 2014

▶ Human capital loss during unemployment: Ortego-Marti 2017abc

#### Overview

- 1. Introduction
- 2. The Economy
- 3. Equilibrium
- 4. Characterizing the Job-Finding Rate Elasticity
- 5. A Model with Two Types of Workers
- 6. Quantitative Analysis

## The Economy

## A Class of Efficient Search-and-Matching Model

- ▶ Directed search with human capital z: Continuous time Kehoe et al. 2020
- ▶ Human capital growth depending on labor force status

$$\frac{dz_{j,t}}{z_{j,t}} = g_j dt, \quad j = e, u$$

- ▶ Job-finding rate  $\lambda_{wt}$ , vacancy-filling rate  $\lambda_{vt}$
- ▶ Labor market exit rates  $\phi_e$  and  $\phi_u$
- ightharpoonup Separation rate  $\delta$
- ightharpoonup Labor market entry  $\zeta$
- Aggregate shock

$$\frac{dA_t}{A_t} = g_a dt + \sigma_a dW_{a,t}$$

## Consumption

Consumption:

$$C_t = A_t \int z e_t(z) dz + bA_t \int z u_t(z) dz - \kappa A_t \int z v_t(z) dz$$

- Measures
  - ightharpoonup Employment  $e_t(z)$
  - ▶ Unemployment  $u_t(z)$
  - ightharpoonup Vacancy  $v_t(z)$
- Production:
  - ► Employed A<sub>t</sub>z
  - ightharpoonup Unemployed  $bA_tz$
- ▶ Vacancy posting cost  $\kappa A_t z$

#### Preference

A family maximizes expected discounted utility

$$\mathbb{E}_0 \left[ \int_0^\infty e^{-\beta t} \frac{(C_t - X_t)^{1-\alpha}}{1-\alpha} dt \right]$$

where  $X_t$  is exogenous habit

Stochastic discount factor:

$$Q_t = e^{-\beta t} (C_t - X_t)^{-\alpha}$$

▶ Define the surplus consumption ratio  $S_t = (C_t - X_t)/C_t$ 

$$Q_t = e^{-\beta t} (S_t C_t)^{-\alpha}$$

ightharpoonup Directly specify the log surplus consumption ratio  $s_t = \log(S_t)$ 

$$ds_t = (1 - \rho_s)(s - s_t)dt + \sigma_a \lambda_a(s_t)dW_{a,t}$$

## The Competitive Search Equilibrium

#### Submarket and Worker's Value Function

- ▶ Submarket indexed by  $(z, W_t(z))$ 
  - $\triangleright$   $W_t(z)$  chosen by the firms
- Matching technology:

$$m(u_t, v_t) = Bu_t^{\eta} v_t^{1-\eta}$$

Let  $M_t(z)$  be post-match value for a worker

$$(\delta + \phi_e)M_t(z) = \delta U_t(z) + \mathbb{E}_t \left[ dM_t(z_t) + M_t(z) \frac{dQ_t}{Q_t} \right]$$

where  $U_t(z)$  is the value of unemployment

$$(\lambda_{wt}(z) + \phi_u)U_t(z) = bA_tz + \lambda_{wt}(z)(M_t(z) + W_t(z)) + \mathbb{E}_t\left[dU_t(z_t) + U_t(z)\frac{dQ_t}{Q_t}\right]$$

#### Firm's Value Function

Let  $Y_t(z)$  be the revenue of a firm in submarket z

$$(\delta + \phi_e)Y_t(z) = A_t z + \mathbb{E}_t \left[ dY_t(z_t) + Y_t(z) \frac{dQ_t}{Q_t} \right]$$

▶ In the symmetric equilibrium, the optimal choice of  $W_t(z)$  is

$$\eta[Y_t(z) - W_t(z)] = (1 - \eta)[W_t(z) + M_t(z) - U_t(z)]$$

- ► This is equivalent to the Nash bargaining condition
- ► Free entry condition:

$$\kappa A_t z = \lambda_{vt}(\theta_t(z))[Y_t(z) - W_t(z)]$$

## Equilibrium

The value functions are linear in z:

$$Y_t(z) = Y_t z$$
,  $W_t(z) = W_t z$ ,  $M_t(z) = M_t z$ ,  $U_t(z) = U_t z$ 

Define

- $\blacktriangleright \mu_{et} = Y_t + M_t$  the total value of a match
- $\blacktriangleright \mu_{ut} = U_t$  the joint outside option

- $ightharpoonup r_{ft} = -\mathbb{E}_t \Big(rac{dQ_t}{Q_t}\Big)$  the risk-free rate
- $ightharpoonup Z_{et} = \int z e_t(z) dz$ ,  $Z_{ut} = \int z u_t(z) dz$  aggregate human capital
- ▶ The system has the same structure as a RBC model

$$\begin{split} & \left[ \left( \delta + \phi_e - g_e \right) - \mathbb{E}_t \left( \frac{dQ_t}{Q_t} \right) \right] \mu_{et} = A_t + \delta \mu_{ut} + \mathbb{E}_t (d\mu_{et}) \\ & \left[ \left( \eta \lambda_{wt} + \phi_u - g_u \right) - \mathbb{E}_t \left( \frac{dQ_t}{Q_t} \right) \right] \mu_{ut} = b A_t + \eta \lambda_{wt} \mu_{et} + \mathbb{E}_t (d\mu_{ut}) \end{split}$$

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## The Job-Finding Rate and the Value Functions

The free-entry condition relates the job-finding rate to the value functions

$$\log(\lambda_{wt}) = \chi + \left(\frac{1-\eta}{\eta}\right)\log\left(\frac{\mu_{\mathsf{et}} - \mu_{ut}}{A_t}\right)$$

- $\stackrel{\mu_{et}-\mu_{ut}}{A_t}$  is the benefit of opening a vacancy
- ▶ The elasticity is large iff  $\frac{\mu_{et} \mu_{ut}}{A_t}$  responds to the shock

$$\mathbb{E}_t \begin{bmatrix} d\mu_{et} \\ d\mu_{ut} \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \left[\delta + \phi_e - g_e & -\delta \\ -\eta \lambda_{wt} & \eta \lambda_{wt} + \phi_u - g_u \right]}_{B_1: \text{ search model}} + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} -\mathbb{E}_t \left(\frac{dQ_t}{Q_t}\right) & 0 \\ 0 & -\mathbb{E}_t \left(\frac{dQ_t}{Q_t}\right) \end{pmatrix}}_{B_2: \text{ preference}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mu_{et} \\ \mu_{ut} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -A_t \\ -bA_t \end{bmatrix}$$

# Characterizing the Job-Finding Rate Elasticity and Convergence

#### The Risk-Free Rate

#### Lemma

The risk-free rate to a first order approximation in the log surplus consumption ratio  $s_t$  is

$$r_{ extit{ft}} = -\mathbb{E}_tigg(rac{dQ_t}{Q_t}igg)pprox -[a_Q+b_Q(s_t-s)]$$

where

$$a_Q = -\beta - \alpha g_a + rac{1}{2} \alpha \sigma_a^2 \left(rac{lpha}{S^2} + 1
ight) ext{ and } b_Q = lpha (1-
ho_s) - rac{lpha \sigma_a^2 (lpha + S - 1)}{S^2}$$

▶ With CRRA preference  $Q_t = e^{-\beta t} C_t^{-\alpha}$ ,  $b_Q = 0$ 

$$r_{\rm ft} = -\beta - \alpha g_{\rm a}$$

▶ If no growth in productivity  $g_a = 0$ 

$$r_{\rm ft} = -\beta$$

## Characterizing the Job-Finding Rate Elasticity

#### Proposition

The elasticity of the job-finding rate with respect to the log surplus consumption ratio  $s_t$  near  $s_t = s$  is

$$\frac{\partial \log(\lambda_{wt})}{\partial s_t} = \underbrace{\frac{b_Q e^{\Theta_1}}{1 - \rho_s}}_{\text{Preference}} \left[ \underbrace{\frac{c_h}{-(\gamma_h + a_Q + \Theta_2)} + \frac{c_l}{-(\gamma_l + a_Q + \Theta_2)}}_{\text{Search Model}} \right] \overline{\mu}^{-1}$$

where  $\gamma_h < \gamma_I < 0$  are two eigenvalue of the matrix  $B_1$ ,  $c_I$  and  $c_h$  are weights of the eigenvalues, and  $\overline{\mu}$  is the long-run average match surplus without shocks.

▶ The job-finding rate elasticity can be decomposed into

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Preference} \times \text{(Short-Run Benefit} \\ &+ \text{Long-Run Benefit )} \end{aligned}$$

## Potential Source of Large Elasticity: Search Model

▶ The search model part can be decomposed into

Short-run Benefit + Long-run Benefit

- ▶ The benefits reflect the expected discount value of vacancy creation
- ▶ The Short-run benefit is always small:
  - Discount by job-finding, which is around 0.46 per month
- ▶ In the textbook search-and-matching model, long-run benefit = 0
  - Long-run discount rate is the same across employment status
     labor market exit rate
- Conclusion: small job-finding rate elasticity in the textbook model

## Potential Source of Large Elasticity: Search Model

Large job-finding elasticity needs differential long-run discount

- Human capital growth
- Labor market exit rate

#### Corollary

Differential human capital growth rates or labor market exit rates can lead to positive long-run benefits and hence large job-finding rate elasticity

## Parameter Values and the Job-Finding Elasticity

- ▶ The job-finding rate elasticity depends on human capital growth rates
- ▶ Cannot generate large elasticity if HK depreciates fast during unemployment
  - ► Empirically: 20% workers with wage growth < -20%
    - $\rightarrow$  Job-finding rate 10% more volatile
  - Numerically: Job-finding rate elasticity halved

#### Corollary

The model cannot generate large job-finding rate elasticity if the human capital depreciation is large during unemployment.

## Job-Finding Rate Convergence

- ▶ I derive the half-life in the perfect foresight equilibrium
  - Constant human capital
  - Job-finding rate near the steady-state value
- ► Conclusion: Half-life around 3 months
- ▶ This implies that the job-finding rate co-moves with the aggregate shock
  - If there is no other state variables
- Numerically study importance of other state variables (human capitals)

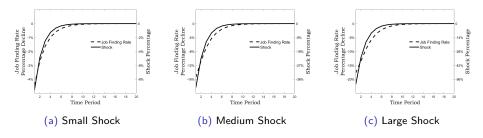


Figure: Convergence of Job-Finding Rate

## Job-Finding Rate Elasticity and Convergence: Summarize

Model: two mismatch with the data:

▶ Job-finding rate elasticity small if human capital depreciates fast

▶ Job-finding rate co-moves with the aggregate shock

## A Model with Two Types of Workers

#### Model Extension

I make two addition to the model:

- 1. Two types of workers
  - ND workers: no human capital depreciation during unemployment
  - FD workers: fast human capital depreciation
  - ▶ Rubinstein et al. (2006): 20% of workers have 22% wage loss per annum
- 2. Endogenous match efficiency more
  - ▶ Driven by firms' hiring standards + match quality shock: Sedláček 2014
  - Firms' hiring standards depend on human capital: Quintini (2011), Pollmanm-Schult (2005)

#### Model Extension

- ► Two types of workers *n*, *f* 
  - ▶ Submarkets are defined by (n, z) and (f, z)
  - Job-finding rate is

$$\lambda_{j,wt}(z) = \overline{m}_{j,t}(z)\theta_{j,t}^{1-\eta}, \quad j \in \{n,f\}$$

Match efficiency:

$$\overline{m}_{j,t}(z) = B_{j,t} \mathbb{P}(q_j z \geqslant p_j), \quad q_j \sim N(a_{j,q}, \sigma_{j,q}), \quad j \in \{n, f\}$$

- p<sub>i</sub> is firms' hiring standards
- q<sub>j</sub> is match quality shock
- Only part of the matches will be formed
- $\triangleright$   $B_{j,t}$  could vary with the aggregate shock
- ► Match efficiency is endogenous
  - ▶ Depends on workers' human capital
  - ► Time varying with the aggregate shock

## Value Function and Aggregation

▶ All the value functions are the same except for the expected revenue:

$$(\delta + \phi_e)Y_{j,t}(z) = A_tq_jz + \mathbb{E}_t\left[dY_{j,t}(z_t) + Y_{j,t}(z)\frac{dQ_t}{Q_t}\right], \quad j \in \{n, f\}$$

Aggregate consumption is

$$C_{t} = n_{t} \left( A_{t} \int \chi_{n}(z) z e_{nt}(z) dz + b A_{t} \int z u_{nt}(z) dz - \kappa A_{t} \int z v_{nt}(z) dz \right)$$

$$+ f_{t} \left( A_{t} \int \chi_{f}(z) z e_{ft}(z) dz + b A_{t} \int z u_{ft}(z) dz - \kappa A_{t} \int z v_{ft}(z) dz \right)$$

where  $\chi_i(z) \equiv \mathbb{E}(q_i|q_iz \geqslant p_i)$ : expected match quality

- ► The model cannot aggregate linearly
  - Aggregate consumption depends on the distribution
  - Matching function depends on the distribution

#### Aggregation Cont.

► Simplification:

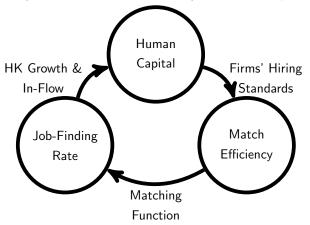
Match efficiency depends only on aggregates:

$$\overline{M}_{j,t} = B_{j,t} \mathbb{P}[q_j(Z_{j,et} - Z_{j,ut}) \geqslant p_j] \in \left[\underline{B}_j, \overline{B}_j\right], \quad q_j \sim N(a_{j,q}, \sigma_{j,q}), \quad j \in \{n, f\}$$

- Linear solution exists as before
- Consistent with firms' hiring standards
  - ▶ Numerically equivalent to the disaggregate version if log-linearizing the model
- Captures two features:
  - 1. Pro-cyclical match efficiency:  $\mathbb{P}[q_j(Z_{j,et} Z_{j,ut}) \geqslant p_j]$  increasing in  $Z_{j,et}$
  - 2. Counter-cyclical match quality:
    - $ightharpoonup \chi_{j,t} = \mathbb{E}[q_j | q_j(Z_{j,et} Z_{j,ut}) \geqslant p_j]$  decreasing in  $Z_{j,et}$
    - Firms accept better match to compensate lower human capital on average

#### Complementarity and Multiple Equilibria

Complementarity between the match efficiency and human capital:



- ► The complementarity results in multiple equilibria
  - Could stuck in an equilibrium with low match efficiency and job-finding rate

### Interaction with Aggregate Shock

- ▶ I illustrate the dynamics when interacting with the aggregate shock
- ▶ Denote the interior equilibrium IE and the corner equilibrium CE
- Assume the aggregate shock lasts for three period
- Dynamics differ with shock sizes

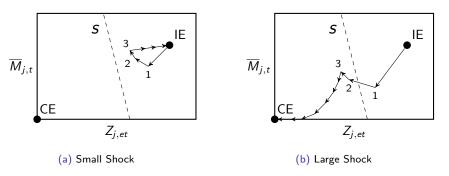


Figure: The Model Dynamics

# Quantitative Analysis

#### Match Efficiency Functional Form

► The match efficiency is

$$\overline{M}_{j,t} = B_{j,t} \mathbb{P}[q_j(Z_{j,et} - Z_{j,ut}) \geqslant p_j] \in \left[\underline{B}_j, \overline{B}_j\right], \quad q_j \sim N(a_{j,q}, \sigma_{j,q}), \quad j \in \{n, f\}$$

▶ I assume the functional form of  $B_{i,t}$ 

$$B_{j,t} = B_j(\mu_{j,et} - \mu_{j,ut}), \quad j \in \{n, f\}$$

- → affected by the aggregate shock via match surplus
- ▶ State variables:  $s_t$ ,  $Z_{i,et}$ ,  $Z_{i,ut}$
- ▶ I approximate the match efficiency using global Chebyshev polynomial

#### Model Calibration: Calibrated Parameters

Table: Parameterization

Panel A: Parameters	Panel B: Moments			
Endogenously Chosen		Targeted	Data	Model
g <sub>a</sub> , mean productivity growth (%p.a.)	2.22	Mean productivity growth (%p.a.)	2.22	2.22
$\sigma_{a}$ , s.d. productivity growth (%p.a.)	1.84	S.d. productivity growth (%p.a.)	1.84	1.84
$B_n$ , match efficiency, ND workers	0.545	Mean job-finding rate, ND workers	0.46	0.46
$B_f$ , match efficiency, FD workers	0.355	Mean job-finding rate, FD workers	0.31	0.31
$\kappa$ , hiring cost	0.975	Mean unemployment rate	5.9	5.9
$\beta$ , time preference factor	0.001	Mean risk-free rate (%p.a.)	0.92	0.92
$S$ , mean of state $S_t$	0.057	S.d. risk-free rate (%p.a.)	2.31	2.31
$\alpha$ , inverse EIS	5	Maximum Sharpe ratio (p.a.)	0.45	0.45
$\sigma_{q,n}$ , match quality variance, ND workers	0.35	S.d. job-finding rate, ND workers	6.66	6.63
$\sigma_{q,f}$ , match quality variance, FD workers	0.48	S.d. job-finding rate, FD workers	8.10	8.10

# Model Calibration: Assigned Parameters

Table: Parameterization

Panel A: Parameters		Panel B: Moments		
Assigned		Results	Data	Model
b, home production parameter	0.6	Autocorr job-finding rate	0.94	0.98
$\delta$ , separation rate	0.028	S.d. unemployment rate	0.75	0.77
$\eta$ , matching function elasticity	0.5	Autocorr unemployment rate	0.97	0.98
$\phi_{n,f}$ , labor market exit rate	0.0028	Corr unemployment, job-finding rate	-0.96	-0.98
$\rho_s$ , persistence of state	0.9944			
$g_{n,e}, g_{f,e}$ , employed HK growth (%p.a.)	3.5			
$g_{f.u}$ , unemployed HK growth (%p.a.)	-22			

### Aggregate Job-Finding Rate

► The aggregate job-finding rate is

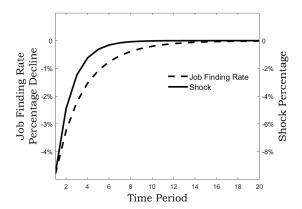
$$\lambda_{wt} = \frac{\xi_t}{1 + \xi_t} \lambda_{f,wt} + \frac{1}{1 + \xi_t} \lambda_{n,wt}, \quad \xi_t = \frac{u_{f,t}}{u_{n,t}}$$

▶ Depends on the unemployment composition

- If more FD workers in the unemployment pool
  - ightarrow Job-finding rate behaves like FD workers'

# Convergence of the Job-Finding Rate

- ▶ I study the convergence of the aggregate job-finding rate
  - Vary size of the shock
  - Fix half-life of the shock to be 2 months
    - → Shock is 5% of the initial value in 6 months
- ► Small shock: 5% decline in the job-finding rate



#### Convergence: Small Shock

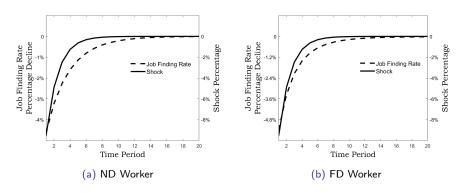


Figure: Convergence of Job-Finding Rate: Small Shock

# Convergence: Medium Shock

- ▶ Increase the size of the shock so that the job-finding rate decline by 15%
- ▶ Job-finding rate: large decline and slow recovery
- Human capital decline leads to lower match efficiency and job-finding rate

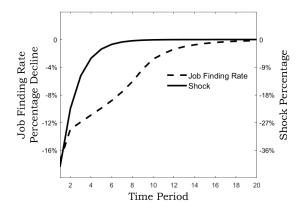


Figure: Aggregate

#### Convergence: Medium Shock Cont.

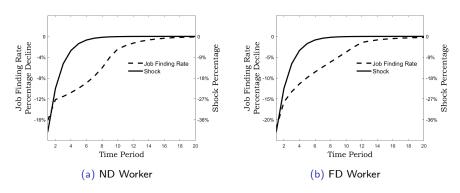


Figure: Convergence of Job-Finding Rate: Medium Shock

#### Convergence: Large Shock

- ▶ Increase the size of the shock so that the job-finding rate decline by 25%
- ▶ Job-finding rate diverges to the corner equilibrium

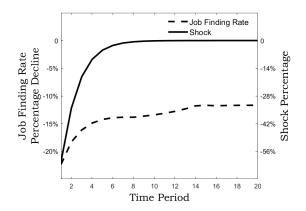


Figure: Aggregate

# Convergence: Large Shock Cont.

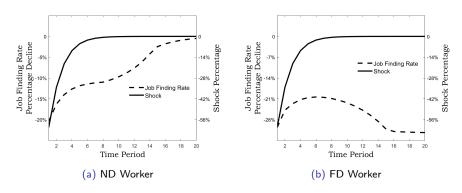


Figure: Convergence of Job-Finding Rate: Large Shock

#### **Ergodic Distribution**

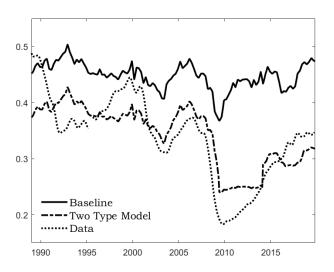
- ► The model features local determinacy
  - ► Implication: ergodic distribution figure
- ▶ The ND workers are in the corner equilibrium 8% of the time
- ▶ The FD workers 14% of the time
- ▶ Overall average time in recession: 9%
  - ▶ Data from 1989 to 2019: 10%

#### Job-Finding Rate Path

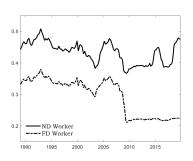
- ▶ I feed in the aggregate productivity shock time series
  - ► The baseline model
  - ► The two-type model

- Start the model at the steady state
- ► Compare with the empirical job-finding rate path

# Job-Finding Rate Path Cont.



# Job-Finding Rate Path by Workers' Type



(a) Job-Finding Rate



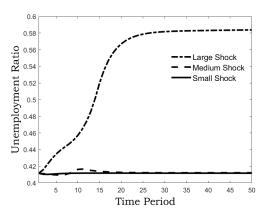
(b) Match Efficiency

### Comparison Between the Two Types of Workers

- ▶ The two types of workers behave differently under large shock
  - 1. Initial decline in job-finding rate:
    - Determined by job-fining rate elasticity
    - Larger outflow of employed human capital
  - 2. Human capital depreciation during unemployment
    - ► Slower inflow of unemployed human capital

#### **Unemployment Pool Composition**

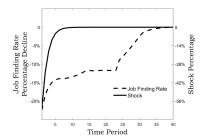
▶ The unemployment pool slowly dominated by the FD workers



- ▶ Barnichon et al 2015: long-term unemployment drives low match efficiency
- My model: low match efficiency could drive long-term unemployment

# Recovery From the Corner Equilibrium

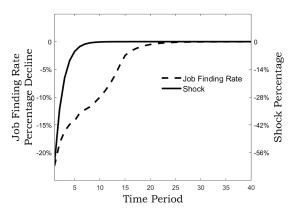
- ► Two shocks can recover the economy
  - Positive aggregate shock
  - ► Human capital shock
- Experiment: 3% human capital increase at month 24



- ► Recovery similar to the Great Recession
  - Human capital captures anything other than aggregate technology
     E.g. (search) effort
  - Consistent with Manovskii et al. 2014
     Recovery due to the end of UI extension

#### Timing of Policy Intervention

- Timing of policy intervention is important
  - Smaller early intervention sufficient
  - Human capital has not declined by much
- ► Comparison: 0.5% human capital shock at month 6



# Recovery By Positive Aggregate Shock

- Positive technology shock can recover the economy
- Early intervention more effective
   25% positive shock in month 6 versus 24

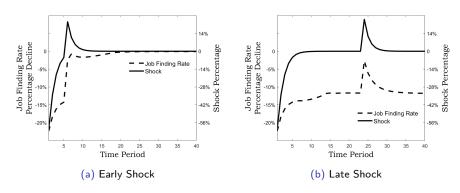


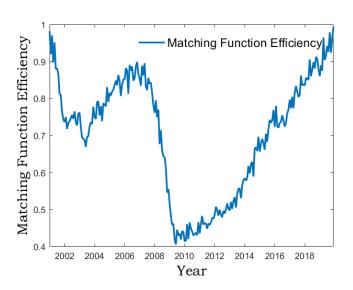
Figure: Recovery by Aggregate Shock

#### Conclusion

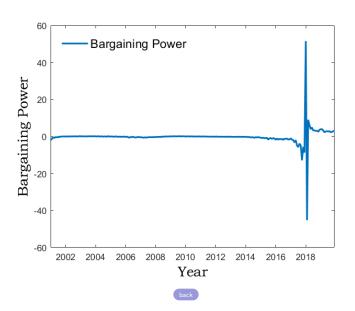
- 1. Search-and-matching model with constant match efficiency
  - Derive job-finding rate elasticity and convergence
  - Elasticity too small if human capital depreciates fast
  - Convergence too fast
  - Transmission depends entirely on the aggregate shock
- 2. Extension: Two types of workers + firms' hiring standards
  - ► Endogenous match efficiency
  - Multiple equilibria
  - Slow recovery due to human capital decline
    - → Lower match efficiency and job-finding rate
  - Could stuck in the corner equilibrium
  - Recovery from the corner equilibrium
    - → Early intervention important

# **Appendix**

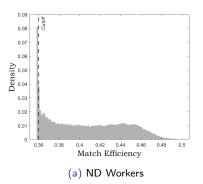
#### Match Efficiency Variation

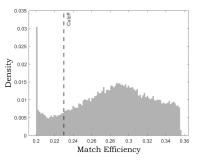


# Bargaining Power Variation



# Ergodic Distribution Cont.





(b) FD Workers

back