

Macroeconomics A, EI056

Class 12

Labor market and unemployment

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December 11, 2023

# What you will get from today class

- Banking **panics**: self-fulfilling crises and policy response.
- Unemployment and **measures** of the state of the labor market.
- Short review of minimum wage and insider-outsider models.
- Models with **asymmetric information** and **costly matching**
  - **Efficiency** wage. Unemployment occurs because the wage is relatively high to induce effort.
  - **Search** and matching. Unemployment occurs because creating job openings is costly (focus on key intuition, technical aspects in extra slides).
- Broader view on interaction between **goods** and **labor** markets, and policy.

# BANK PANICS

# Vulnerability of financial intermediaries

- Banks have a fundamental vulnerability because of **maturity transformation**: pool short-term deposits to fund long term projects.
- **Tension** between long term commitment to fund profitable projects and liquidity need of some depositors to use their savings in the short run.
- Maturity mismatch can lead to **self-fulfilling** panics.
- Diamond-Dybvig model, with three periods.
  - Period 0: unit mass of agents, each with one unit of endowment (good). Invest in cash or in a long term project.
  - Period 1: a share  $t$  of agents want to consume (**liquidity** need). Long term project can be liquidated, with one unit of investment giving one unit back.
  - Period 2: the other  $1 - t$  agents consume. Long term project gives  $R > 1$  units back.

# Utility and allocations

- Ex-ante agents do not know whether they will be **impatient** (consume in period 1, probability  $t$ ) or **patient** (consume in period 2, probability  $1 - t$ ).
- Utility of consumption ( $s = 1$  if impatient,  $s = 2$  if patient):

$$\frac{1}{1 - \sigma} (c_s)^{1 - \sigma}$$

- **Autarky** allocation:  $c_1^{\text{autarky}} = 1$  if impatient,  $c_2^{\text{autarky}} = R$  if patient.
- Liquidity risk is **idiosyncratic** and should be pooled.
- **Insurance** maximizes expected utility, subject to resource constraint.
  - Smooths consumption across states:  $1 < c_1^* < c_2^* < R$ . [► Computations](#)
  - No agent wants to claim being patient if they are not (and conversely).

# Insurance through bank deposits

- What if the insurance cannot tell who is patient and who isn't?
- Bank **deposits** are the solution.
  - Everyone puts their endowment in the bank at time 0, it invests in the long project.
  - Agents can go to the bank in period 1 and get  $c_1^*$ , no questions asked.
  - They can go to the bank in period 2 and get  $c_2^*$ .
- This satisfies the resource constraints.
- **No incentive to lie:** patient agent is better off waiting than getting  $c_1^*$  in period 1 to keep until period 2.

- **Safe equilibrium:** impatient agents withdraw  $c_1^*$  in period 1 and patient agents withdraw  $c_2^*$  in period 2.
- What if some patient agents think that  $t' > t$  agents will withdraw  $c_1^*$  in period 1? Not enough investment left to pay  $c_2^*$  to the patient agents.
- Optimal strategy for the patient agent: withdraw in period 1 and secure at least  $c_1^*$ .
- **Panic equilibrium:** if enough patient agents withdraw in period 1.
  - More than  $t$  agents withdraw  $c_1^*$ .
  - The bank pays off  $c_1^*$  until it runs out of money (failure).
- Key assumption: **sequential service** constraint, the bank does not observe how many consumers withdraw in the first period before handing out payments in the first period.

# Solution: deposit insurance

- Deposit **insurance**: government promises to pay  $c_2^*$  in period 2 (maybe using tax revenue).
- No need for patient investors to withdraw at period 1. The government never has to deliver (**off-equilibrium** threat).
  - Creation of central banks in the early 20th century in response to frequent bank panics.
  - Need to monitor the bank so it does not take excessive risk.
- In reality, panics occur in bad times when the investment went wrong. The model can be extended to reflect this.
- Maturity transformation outside depository banks before the financial crisis. No deposit insurance, leading to bank runs in short term lending markets.



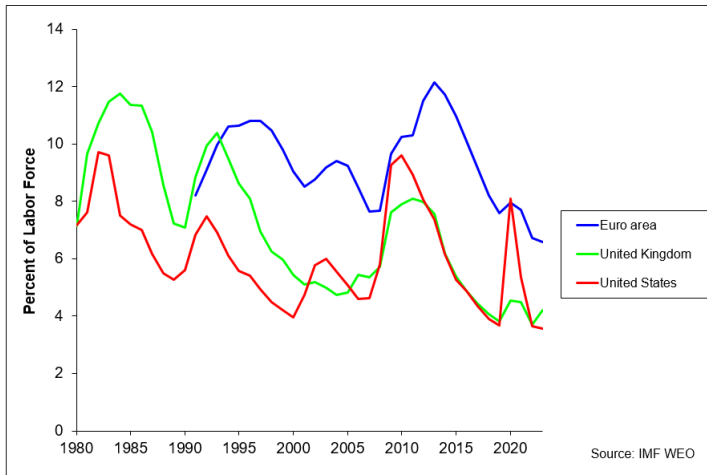
# SOME FACTS

# Evidence on unemployment

- Definition of unemployment: people are **willing** to work at the prevailing wage (or slightly below) but cannot find a job.
  - Not a situation where people would be willing to work at a higher wage than the prevailing one.
- Individuals can be in **three** groups.
  - Employed, with a job (including self-employment).
  - Unemployed, without a job and looking for one. Labor force = employment + unemployment.
  - Out of the labor force, without a job and not looking.
- Unemployment **rate** is the ratio of unemployment to the labor force.
  - Tends to be lower in the U.S. than in Europe (excepts in crises).
  - Substantial heterogeneity across European countries.

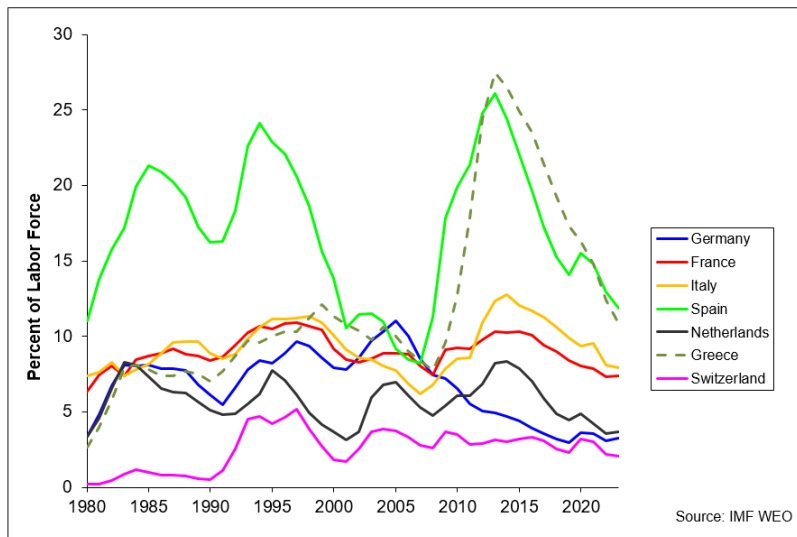
# Europe vs. U.S.

- Higher unemployment in Europe on average, large increases during crises (only in U.S. during pandemic).



# European heterogeneity

- Some countries had much higher unemployment than others.

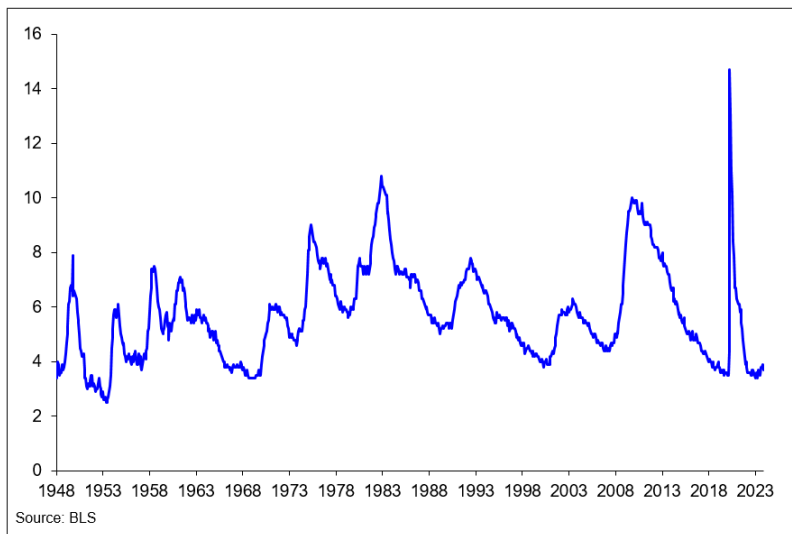


# Different measures of the labor market

- **Unemployment** rate,  $ur$ : share of people willing to work that are not working. It ignores people who gave up looking.
- Labor force **participation** rate,  $lfpr$ : ratio of labor force to total population (people in and out of the labor force). It measures how many people of working age are either employed or looking.
- **Employment-population** ratio,  $epr$ : share of working age people that are employed (people in employment as percent of the population).
- The unemployment rate can decrease because people find jobs (higher  $epr$ ) or because they give up (lower  $lfpr$ ):  $ur = 1 - (epr/lfpr)$ .
- Take a broader view than  $ur$ .
  - Temporary unemployment measures in Europe (people remained in jobs, paid by the unemployment insurance).
  - $epr$  gives a better picture for Europe, especially prime age (25-54).

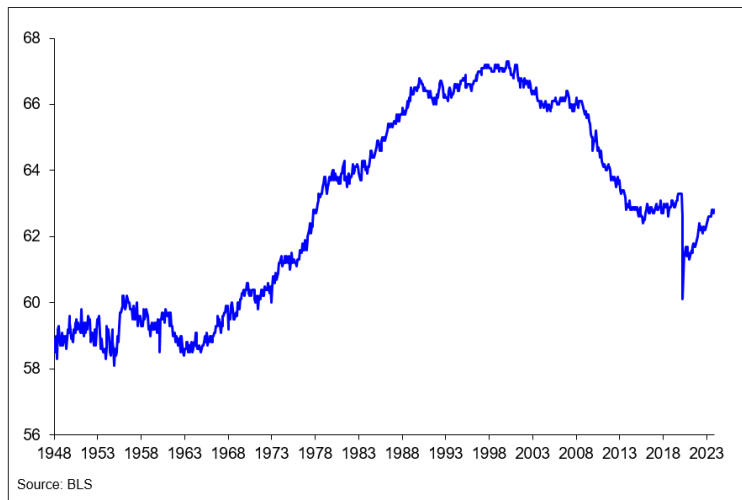
# U.S.: unemployment rate

- Cyclical fluctuations with no trend.



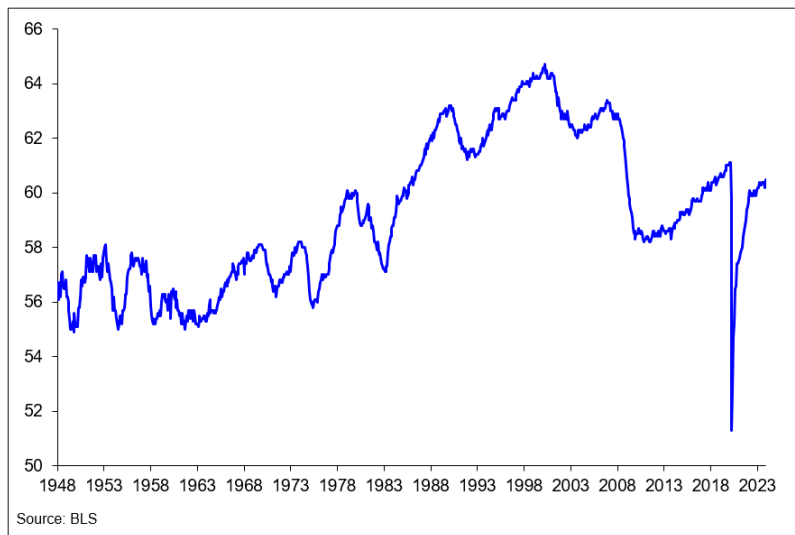
# U.S.: participation rate

- Long-lasting waves of labor force as % of working age population. increase from 1960's to 1990's, decrease since 2008 (demographics).



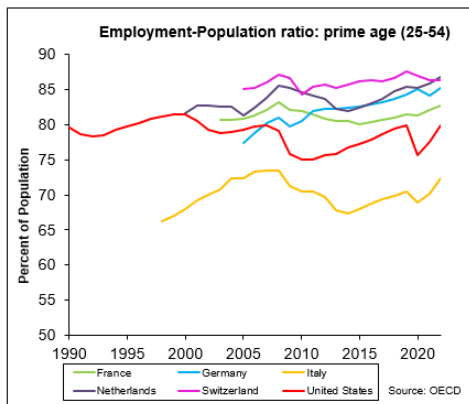
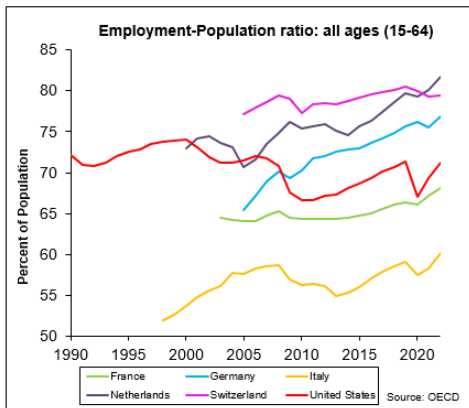
# U.S.: population-employment ratio

- Cyclical movements and long-lasting waves.





- European situation not so bad in terms of employment-population ratios.



# TWO SIMPLE FRAMEWORKS

# Minimum wage

- Standard labor supply: trades off consumption of leisure  $1 - L$  and goods  $C$ . Given consumption, a high real wage raises labor.
  - Labor demand: marginal product is equal to the real wage. A high wage reduces labor.
  - **Market clearing** at the intersection of labor supply and demand. No workers who would like to work at the prevailing wage, but cannot. If workers work fewer hours it's because they choose so.
- **Minimum wage** can lead to unemployment if set at a level above the market clearing wage.
  - More likely to be binding for young and unskilled workers.
- But: **no evidence of employment impact** of a minimum wage that is not too high (neighboring U.S. states, or Swiss cantons).
- A minimum wage can theoretically increase employment in a labor market where the firm is a monopsony.

- Standard model: the wage as reflecting the interaction between **many** workers and many firms.
- Insider-outsider model: **bargain** between a union and firms. The union sets a wage and lets the firm choose employment (**right to manage**).
- Bargaining by employees (insiders) who care about getting higher wages. Unemployed (outsiders) care about getting a job, but cannot underbid the contracted wage.
- Union sets a wage  $W_0$  at which the firms hires  $N_0$  people. **Adverse shock** (for 1 period) at time 1, so the firm keeps only  $N_1 < N_0$  people.
- Union bargains in period 1 for the wage in period 2,  $W_2$ . It only cares about the  $N_1$  employees and sets the wage so that  $N_2 = N_1$ .
- Ratchet effect: recession  $\rightarrow$  employment, recovery  $\rightarrow$  wages:  $W_2 > W_1 = W_0$  and  $N_2 = N_1 < N_0$ .

# EFFICIENCY WAGES

# What is the role of wages?

- Standard model: **allocative** wage is the mechanism that equates supply and demand (leads people and firms to use labor more or less).
- Alternative with **imperfect information**. The employer cannot costlessly monitor whether employees work or not.
- Wage is used as an **incentive** device:
  - High wage implies that employees have a lot to lose if they don't work and get caught.
  - High wage motivates workers to invest more effort.
- Wage is **not** allocative, so unemployment can occur.

# Shapiro-Stiglitz model

- Workers can **work hard** ( $e = \bar{e}$ ) or **not** (shirk,  $e = 0$ ). Effort is not a continuous function of the wage.
- Workers can be in one of **three** states:
  - Employed and working. **Value** of being in that state is  $V_E$ .
  - Employed and but not exerting effort, with value  $V_S$ .
  - Unemployed, with “value”  $V_U$  (focus on a steady state to compute values).
- Jobs are destroyed at an exogenous rate  $b$ , whether the employee works hard or not. Unemployed workers find a job with probability  $a$ .
- Firm can observe effort only at a cost, and **randomly monitors** workers. A worker not working is caught with probability  $q$ , and then loses the job.

# Values of the states

- Value of **employment with effort**: wage  $w$  net of effort cost  $\bar{e}$ , adjusted for the risk of losing the job:

$$\rho V_E = w - \bar{e} + b(V_U - V_E)$$

- $\rho$  is the discount rate (i.e. a utility interest rate).  $\rho V_E$  is the “return” on the asset “being employed”: dividend,  $w - \bar{e}$ , and expected capital loss,  $b(V_U - V_E)$ .
- Value of **employment without effort**: wage, adjusted for the (higher) risk of losing the job:

$$\rho V_S = w + (b + q)(V_U - V_S)$$

- Value of **unemployment**: likelihood of finding a job and working (effort is exerted in the new job in equilibrium):

$$\rho V_U = a(V_E - V_U)$$



# Values and wages

- The various relations give the values as function of wages:

$$V_E = \frac{\rho + a}{\rho + a + b} \frac{w - \bar{e}}{\rho} = \frac{w - \bar{e}}{\rho} - \frac{b}{\rho + a + b} \frac{w - \bar{e}}{\rho}$$

$$V_U = \frac{a}{\rho + a + b} \frac{w - \bar{e}}{\rho}$$

$$V_S = \frac{1}{\rho + b + q} w + \frac{a(b + q)}{\rho + a + b} \frac{1}{\rho + b + q} \frac{w - \bar{e}}{\rho}$$

- $V_E$  is the net present value of the wage minus cost, adjusted for the risk of losing the job.
- Firms set the wage to ensure effort:  $V_E = V_S$  (or slightly above). The wage is then **above the cost of effort**:

$$w = \bar{e} + (a + \rho + b) \frac{\bar{e}}{q} > \bar{e}$$

# “No-shirking” condition

- Link the wage to **unemployment**. There are  $\bar{L}$  people, employment is  $L < \bar{L}$ . Unemployment rate is  $u = 1 - L/\bar{L}$ .
- Flows in and out of employment cancel out in a steady state:

$$bL = a(\bar{L} - L) \Rightarrow a + b = \frac{b}{u}$$

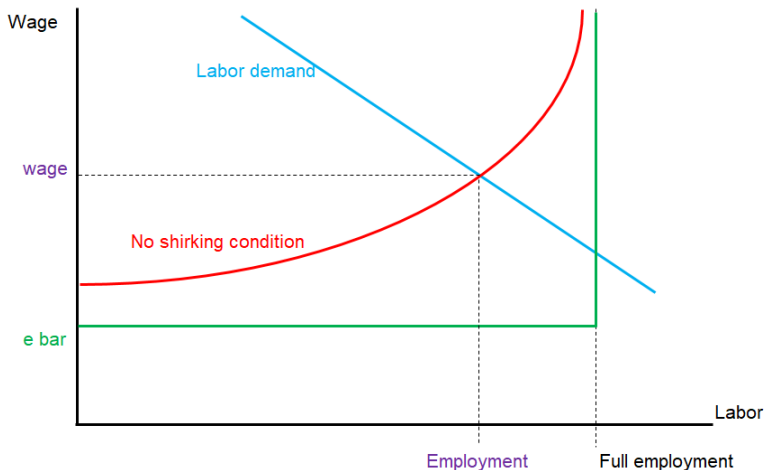
- No-shirking condition: wage is a negative function of unemployment:

$$w = \bar{e} + \left( \rho + \frac{1}{u}b \right) \frac{\bar{e}}{q}$$

- Replaces the **labor supply**.  $w > \bar{e}$  even when  $u = 1$ .
  - Individual labor supply is horizontal at  $w = \bar{e}$  as long as there is unemployment, and then vertical.
- Standard labor demand ( $w = \bar{e}F'(\bar{e}L)$ ). Unemployment in equilibrium. It is reduced with easier monitoring (higher  $q$ ).

# Equilibrium

- Crossing of labor demand and incentive (no shirking) condition occurs below full employment.



# SEARCH AND MATCHING

# Matching of firms and workers

- Finding a job / filling an empty position **takes time**. Workers look through openings, firms look for suitable candidates.
- Search and matching model consider the process from the point of views of workers and firms.
- A worker can be in one of two states:
  - **Employed** with a wage  $w$ . The value of the state is  $V_E$ .
  - **Unemployed** with benefits  $b$ . The value is  $V_U$ .
- An open position can be in one of two states:
  - **Vacant** with cost  $c$  (cost of an empty desk). The value is  $V_V$ .
  - **Filled** with net earning  $y - w - c$  for the firm ( $y > b + c$  is output). The value is  $V_F$ .

# Flows and matching technology

- Flows into unemployment: jobs are destroyed at an exogenous rate  $\lambda$ , total flows  $\lambda E$  ( $E$  is employment)
- Flows into employment: new jobs are created through **matches**  $M$  of unemployed workers  $U = 1 - E$  and vacancies  $V$  (more of either leads to more matches):

$$M = kU^{1-\gamma}V^\gamma = kU(\theta)^\gamma$$

- $\theta = V/U$  is the **tightness** of the labor market.
- Probability for a worker to find a position is  $a$ , and probability for a vacancy to be filled is  $\alpha$ :

$$\begin{aligned}a &= \frac{M}{U} = k(\theta)^\gamma \\ \alpha &= \frac{M}{V} = k(\theta)^{\gamma-1} = (k)^{\frac{1}{\gamma}} \left(\frac{1}{a}\right)^{\frac{1-\gamma}{\gamma}}\end{aligned}$$

# Wage determination

- Focus on a steady state. Compute the **values** of various situations (discount  $\rho$ ).
  - Employment,  $V_E$ , with endogenous wage  $w$ .
  - Unemployment,  $V_U$ , with benefits  $b$ .
  - Vacant position,  $V_V$ , with cost  $c$ .
  - Filled position,  $V_F$ , with net profit  $y - w - c$ .
- **Surpluses** of a filled position: for the worker  $V_E - V_U$ , and for the firm  $V_F - V_V$ .
- Wage set through **bargaining**. Worker gets a share  $\phi$  of the total surplus (reflects her bargaining power). ► Computations
  - Wage above  $b$ , the more so the higher the bargaining power  $\phi$  and the tighter the labor market ( $a > \alpha$ , easier for worker to find a job than for firms to find a person).
  - Probabilities of matches,  $a$  and  $\alpha$ , endogenous.

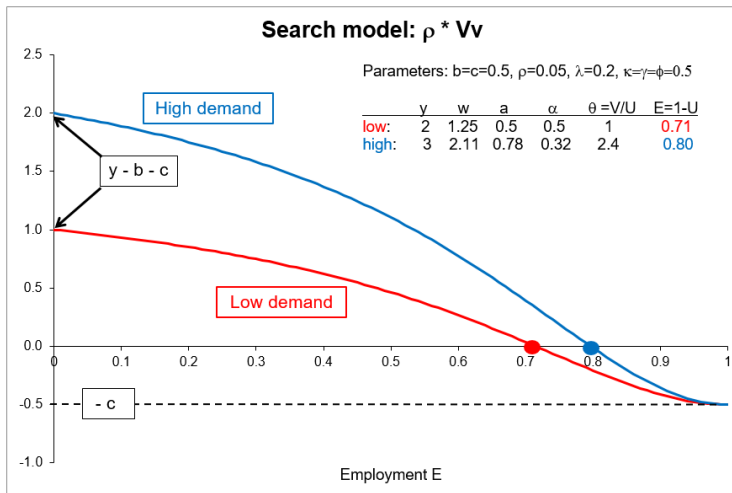
# Employment determination

- **Flows** in and out of employment offset each other:  $M = \lambda E$ .
  - Probabilities of matches are linked to employment: higher  $E$  implies higher  $a$  (easy to find a job) and lower  $\alpha$  (hard to find a worker).
- The value of a vacant position  $\rho V_V$  depends on employment: high  $E$  makes it harder to find a worker and reduces the value.
  - Zero employment ( $E = 0$ ): finding a worker is very easy ( $\alpha \rightarrow \infty$ ) and an open position is valuable ( $\rho V_V > 0$ ).
  - Full employment ( $E = 1$ ): finding a worker is very hard ( $\alpha \rightarrow 0$ ) and an open position is not valuable ( $\rho V_V < 0$ ).
- **Creating** an open position entails no cost. The value of a vacant position must be zero in equilibrium:  $\rho V_V = 0$ .
- This determines employment, which is below full employment. Matching frictions create unemployment. ► Computations



# Graphical illustration

- Value of open position  $\rho V_V$  as a function of employment  $E$ . Partial employment, lower when output per worker  $y$  is lower.



# BROADER VIEW AND POLICY

# Interactions between goods and labor markets

- **Spillover** of policy in one market to the other.
  - Policy in the goods market → creation of firms → employment.
  - Policy in the labor market → costs for firms → goods market.
- Frictions in the good market (**monopolistic competition**, more firms raise competition and lower markups) and the labor market (**search** and wage bargaining).
- Policy impact in the **short run** (set number of firms) and the **long run** (new firms created at a cost).
  - Higher workers' bargaining power: higher wage in the short run, long run unemployment because of lower firm creation.
  - Lower cost of creating firms: no short run effect, higher wages and employment in the long run.

# Policies against unemployment

- Beware of unintended consequences. Making it harder to dismiss employees makes firms reticent to hire in the first place.
  - Ambiguous impact of dismissal costs on the **level** of unemployment, but clear on the **incidence - duration**: shift towards lower incidence and higher duration.
- Nature of unemployment matters: **long term** unemployed lose skills, hence play a more marginal role in wage formation. Role of “active labor market” policies (training).
- Lessons from success stories (Netherlands and Ireland in the 1980's).
  - Adopt a **broad package**. Wage moderation makes firms more willing to hire. Shifting taxation away from labor makes workers willing to accept wage moderation.
  - Think beyond the labor market: regulation of the product market affects the labor market.

## EXTRA SLIDES : BANK PANIC

- **Ex-post** utility of consumption under autarky:

$$\frac{1}{1-\sigma} (c_1)^{1-\sigma} \text{ if impatient, probability } t$$

$$\frac{1}{1-\sigma} (c_2)^{1-\sigma} \text{ if patient, probability } 1-t$$

- **Expected** utility of agent in autarky (consume 1 today if impatient,  $R$  tomorrow if patient):

$$U^{\text{autarky}} = t \frac{1}{1-\sigma} (1)^{1-\sigma} + (1-t) \frac{1}{1-\sigma} (R)^{1-\sigma}$$

# Optimal insurance

- Insurance sets the consumptions to maximize:

$$U^{\text{insurance}} = t \frac{1}{1-\sigma} (c_1^*)^{1-\sigma} + (1-t) \frac{1}{1-\sigma} (c_2^*)^{1-\sigma}$$

- Budget constraints:

$$tc_1^* + s = 1 \quad ; \quad sR = (1-t)c_2^*$$

- Optimal allocation is (assume  $\sigma > 1$ ):

$$c_1^* = \frac{1}{1 - (1-t) \left[ 1 - (R)^{\frac{1-\sigma}{\sigma}} \right]} > 1$$

$$c_2^* = R \frac{1}{1 + t \left[ (R)^{\frac{\sigma-1}{\sigma}} - 1 \right]} < R$$

- Insurance reduces the differential between patient and impatient agents. Patient agents get more:  $c_2^* > c_1^*$  (this can be proved).

Return

## EXTRA SLIDES : SEARCH MODEL



# Values of the states

- Focus on a steady state. Value of employment: wage  $w$  adjusted for the risk of losing the job:

$$\rho V_E = w + \lambda (V_U - V_E)$$

- Value of unemployment: benefit adjusted for the chance of finding a job:

$$\rho V_U = b + a (V_E - V_U)$$

- Value of a filled position: profit adjusted for the risk of disappearance:

$$\rho V_F = y - w - c + \lambda (V_V - V_F)$$

- Value of a vacant position: the cost of an open desk adjusted for the chance of finding a worker:

$$\rho V_V = -c + \alpha (V_F - V_V)$$

- Key point: **probabilities**  $a$  and  $\alpha$  are endogenous.

- Value of employment relative to unemployment:

$$V_E - V_U = \frac{w - b}{\lambda + \rho + a}$$

- Value of a filled position relative to a vacant one:

$$V_F - V_V = \frac{y - w}{\lambda + \rho + \alpha}$$

# Wage bargaining

- Matching an unemployed worker and a firm with a vacant position gives a **surplus**:  $(V_E - V_U) + (V_F - V_V)$ .
- **Bargaining** to share the surplus. Worker gets a share  $\phi$  (reflects her bargaining power).
- Wage exceeds the unemployment benefit, with the extra reflecting a share of the output - benefit surplus:

$$w = b + \Phi \phi (y - b)$$
$$\Phi = 1 - \frac{(\alpha - a)(1 - \phi)}{\lambda + \rho + a + (\alpha - a)(1 - \phi)}$$

- If  $\alpha = a$ , we have  $\Phi = 1$  and the  $y - b$  surplus is shared according to the bargaining power  $\phi$ .
- If it is easier for firms to find a worker than for workers to find a job ( $\alpha > a$ ), we have  $\Phi < 1$  and the  $y - b$  surplus goes more towards firms.

◀ Return

- Constant employment in steady state: matches offset the job destruction:

$$M = \lambda E \Rightarrow a = \frac{\lambda E}{1 - E}$$

- **Higher employment** means that **workers have better chances** of finding a job.
- **Firms have lower chances** of filling a position:

$$\alpha = (k)^{\frac{1}{\gamma}} \left( \frac{1 - E}{\lambda E} \right)^{\frac{1 - \gamma}{\gamma}}$$

- $a$  and  $\alpha$  are thus linked to employment  $E$ .

# Solving for employment

- Value of a vacant position (after some algebra):

$$\begin{aligned}\rho V_V &= -c + \alpha(V_F - V_V) \\ \rho V_V &= -c + \frac{\alpha(1-\phi)}{\lambda + \rho + \alpha(1-\phi) + a\phi}(y - b)\end{aligned}$$

- $\rho V_V$  is a decreasing function of  $E$ . Note that for extreme values of  $E$ :

$E$	$U$	$a$	$\alpha$	$\rho V_V$
0	1	0	$\infty$	$y - b - c > 0$
1	0	$\infty$	0	$-c < 0$

- $\rho V_V$  is a function with positive value at  $E = 0$ , then decreasing to negative value when  $E = 1$ .
- Vacancies** can be created **without any cost**, so  $\rho V_V = 0$ . This gives the equilibrium value of  $0 < E < 1$ .
- Equilibrium unemployment ( $E < 1$ ), wage above unemployment benefits ( $w > b$ ). [Return](#)

# EXTRA SLIDES : GOODS AND LABOR MARKETS

# Interaction between good and labor markets

- Go beyond the labor market itself, and assess how the structure of the good market (competition) matters. Blanchard *The Economics of Unemployment: Shocks, Institutions, and Interactions*.
- Models wage setting as a bargaining between workers and firms. A match between a firm and a worker generates a surplus. The wage determines how this surplus is split.
- Contrast effects in the short and the long run.

# Technology and demand

- There are  $n$  firms, with each being the sole producer of a brand (brands are imperfect substitutes).  $n$  is set in the short run, but not in the long run. The demand for the output (equal to labor) of firm  $i$  is:

$$N_i = Y_i = \frac{Y}{n} \left( \frac{P_i}{P} \right)^{-\sigma}$$

- The elasticity of substitution is increasing in the number of firms:

$$\sigma = \bar{\sigma} g(n) \quad ; \quad g' > 0 \quad ; \quad g(\infty) = \infty$$

- The reservation wage of workers (their outside option) is inversely linked to unemployment. A low unemployment makes workers more picky:

$$\left( \frac{W}{P} \right)_R = bk(u) \quad ; \quad k' < 0$$



# Surpluses and price

- Surplus from an agreement between workers and the firms. For workers, it is the wage over the reservation wage. For the firms it is profits:

$$N_i \left[ \frac{W_i}{P} - bk(u) \right] \quad ; \quad \frac{P_i}{P} Y_i - \frac{W_i}{P} N_i$$

- We first set the firm's price  $P_i$  to maximize the sum of surpluses:

$$Y_i \left[ \frac{P_i}{P} - bk(u) \right]$$

- The price is a markup over the reservation wage:

$$\frac{P_i}{P} = \frac{\sigma}{\sigma - 1} bk(u)$$

- Wages are set through bargaining. The wage maximizes a weighted product of the firm's and workers' surpluses:

$$\left( \frac{P_i}{P} Y_i - \frac{W_i}{P} N_i \right)^{1-\beta} \left( N_i \left[ \frac{W_i}{P} - bk(u) \right] \right)^{\beta}$$

- The weight  $\beta$  is the bargaining power of workers.
- The wage exceeds the reservation wage, especially when  $\beta$  is high (high workers' power) and  $\sigma$  is small (low competition, hence a large surplus):

$$\frac{W_i}{P} = \frac{\sigma - 1 + \beta}{\sigma - 1} bk(u)$$

# General equilibrium: short run

- In equilibrium all firms are identical and  $P_i = P$ . This gives the unemployment rate (hence employment) as a function of  $b$  and  $\sigma$ .
- Unemployment is high if workers are picky ( $b$  is high) or there is little competition ( $\sigma$  is small, so the markup is high and output is low):

$$\frac{P_i}{P} = 1 = \frac{\sigma}{\sigma - 1} b k(u) \Rightarrow u = u^{SR} \left( \begin{matrix} b, \sigma \\ +, - \end{matrix} \right)$$

- The real wage is an increasing function of  $\beta$  (workers' power) and  $\sigma$  (competition):

$$\frac{W_i}{P} = \frac{\sigma - 1 + \beta}{\sigma} = W^{SR} \left( \begin{matrix} \beta, \sigma \\ +, + \end{matrix} \right)$$

# General equilibrium: long run (1)

- In the long run new firms can be created at a real cost  $cY_i$ . With free entry profits are zero (we assume  $c < 1 - \beta$ ):

$$0 = \frac{P_i}{P} Y_i - \frac{W_i}{P} N_i - cY_i = \left[ \frac{1 - \beta}{\sigma} - c \right] Y_i$$

- This gives the long run value of the elasticity of demand.

$$\Rightarrow \sigma = \bar{\sigma} g(n) = \frac{1 - \beta}{c}$$

- The zero-profit condition determines the number of firms ( $g' > 0$ ). There are more firms when  $\beta$  is low (workers' power is limited, so profits are high),  $c$  is low (entry cost is low) and  $\bar{\sigma}$  is low (competition is limited):

$$n = n^{LR} \left( \underline{\beta}, \underline{c}, \underline{\bar{\sigma}} \right)$$

## General equilibrium: long run (2)

- In the long run,  $n$  determines  $\sigma$ , which determines unemployment through the optimal price.
- Unemployment is high when  $\beta$  is high (workers' extract high wages),  $b$  is high (workers are picky) and  $c$  is high (business creation is costly):

$$1 = \frac{\sigma}{\sigma - 1} bk(u) \Rightarrow u = u^{LR} \left( \underset{+}{\beta}, \underset{+}{b}, \underset{+}{c} \right)$$

- The real wage is inversely related to the cost of setting up firms:

$$\frac{W_i}{P} = \frac{\sigma - 1 + \beta}{\sigma} = 1 - c$$

# Impact of policies

- Product market liberalization: higher  $\bar{\sigma}$  or lower  $c$ . Labor market liberalization: lower  $b$  or  $\beta$ .
- Reforms to the goods market affects the labor market, and conversely. Effects are also different in the short run (with a fixed number of firms) and the long run (when firms can be created).
- The impact on the unemployment rate and the real wage depend on the specific policy and the horizon:

	Short run		Long run	
	$u$	$W_i/P$	$u$	$W_i/P$
Increase in $\bar{\sigma}$	—	+		
Decrease in $c$			—	+
Decrease in $b$	—		—	
Decrease in $\beta$		—	—	