3-4. Stationary Equilibrium

Adv. Macro: Heterogenous Agent Models

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Recap of the two last classes

What did we learn so far?

- The buffer-stock model captures some facts about consumption and MPCs
- We can solve it with dynamic programming:
 - The Value Function Iteration algorithm (slow)
 - The Endogenous Grid Method (fast)
 - The goal is to obtain the policy functions c(a, z), a'(a, z)
- How to simulate a distribution of households using
 - The Monte-Carlo method (slow and imprecise)
 - The histogram method (fast and precise)

Today and next week: use those methods to solve the steady-state of a simple heterogeneous-agent model.

Introduction

Introduction

- Last time:
 - 1. Partial equilibrium
 - 2. No interactions
- Today: Interaction through markets
- Model: Heterogeneous Agent Neo-Classical (HANC) model
- Equilibrium-concept: Stationary equilibrium
 - 1. What determines income and wealth inequality in the long run?
 - 2. What determines the real interest rate in the long run?
- Code: Based on the GEModelTools package
 - 1. Is in active development
 - 2. You can help to improve interface, find bugs and features

Documentation: See GEModelToolsNotebooks

- Many examples in repo, so look if you have issues
- Literature: Aiyagari (1994)

Outline of this lecture

- 1. Recap of the Ramsey (Neo-Classical) model
- 2. Overview of the Heterogeneous-Agent Neo-Classical model (HANC)
- 3. How to compute the stationary equilibrium
- 4. Some economic properties of the HANC stationary equilibrium

Ramsey-recap

The Ramsey model

- We will study the stationary equilibrium in the Heterogeneous Agent Neo-Classical (HANC) model
- Merges two well known models in the literature:
 - Standard Ramsey–Cass–Koopman model (NC)
 - What do we mean by Neo-classical?
 - One-asset Buffer-stock model (HA)
- Went through the Buffer-stock model over the last two lectures
- Now: Recap of the Ramsey model

Ramsey: Firms

- **Production function:** $Y_t = F(\Gamma_t, K_{t-1})$ [capital chosen in t-1 is used for production at t] where Γ_t is technology
- Profits: $\Pi_t = Y_t w_t L_t r_t^K K_{t-1}$
- Profit maximization: $\max_{K_{t-1}, L_t} \Pi_t$
 - 1. Rental rate: $\frac{\partial \Pi_t}{\partial K_{t-1}} = 0 \Leftrightarrow r_t^K = F_K(\Gamma_t, K_{t-1}, L_t)$
 - 2. Real wage: $\frac{\partial \Pi_t}{\partial L_t} = 0 \Leftrightarrow w_t = F_L(\Gamma_t, K_{t-1}, L_t)$

With CRS we get zero profits: $\Pi_t = 0 \Rightarrow$

 $Y_t = w_t L_t + r_t^K K_{t-1}$ [functional income distribution]

Ramsey: Zero-profit mutual fund

- Introduce mutual fund
 - Takes savings A_{t-1} from households and invest them in available assets
 - In the Ramsey model: Only capital K_{t-1} but could also include gov. bonds, firm equity etc.
 - · Receive income from firms and redistribute it to households
- Capital depreciate with rate $\delta \in (0,1)$,

$$K_t = (1 - \delta)K_{t-1} + I_t$$

Deposits (from households), A_{t-1} : The rate of return is

$$r_t = r_t^K - \delta$$

Balance sheet:

$$A_{t-1} = K_{t-1}$$

Ramsey: Households

Utility maximization:

$$v_0(A_{-1}^{hh}) = \max_{\{C_t^{hh}\}_{t=0}^{\infty}} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t u(C_t^{hh})$$

s.t.

$$C_t^{hh} + A_t^{hh} = (1 + r_t)A_{t-1}^{hh} + w_t L_t^{hh}$$

Exogenous labor supply: $L_t^{hh} = 1$

• Euler-equation (implied by Lagrangian):

$$u'(C_t^{hh}) = \beta(1 + r_{t+1})u'(C_{t+1}^{hh})$$

Ramsey: Market Clearing

- Capital market: $K_t = A_t = A_t^{hh}$
- Labor market: $L_t = L_t^{hh} = 1$
- Goods market: $Y_t = C_t^{hh} + I_t$
- Walras: Capital and labor market clears ⇒ goods market clears.
 Start from

$$C_{t}^{hh} + A_{t}^{hh} = (1 + r_{t})A_{t-1}^{hh} + w_{t}L_{t}^{hh}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow C_{t}^{hh} + I_{t} = \left[(1 + r_{t})A_{t-1}^{hh} + w_{t}L_{t}^{hh} - A_{t}^{hh} \right] + (K_{t} - (1 - \delta)K_{t-1})$$

$$= \left[(1 + r_{t})K_{t-1} + w_{t}L_{t} - K_{t} \right] + (K_{t} - (1 - \delta)K_{t-1})$$

$$= r_{t}^{K}K_{t-1} + w_{t}L_{t}$$

$$= Y_{t}$$

- Note: Means that we can check if we have solved the numerical model correctly by:
 - Impose two of the market clearing conditions
 - Then check the third market clearing condition (should be zero)

Ramsey: Summary

Simplified form:

$$u'(C_t^{hh}) = \beta(1 + F_K(\Gamma_t, K_t, 1) - \delta)u'(C_{t+1}^{hh})$$

$$K_t = (1 - \delta)K_{t-1} + F(\Gamma_t, K_{t-1}, 1) - C_t^{hh}$$

Extended form:

$$\begin{aligned} r_t^K &= F_K(\Gamma_t, K_{t-1}, L_t) \\ w_t &= F_L(\Gamma_t, K_{t-1}, L_t) \\ r_t &= r_t^K - \delta \\ A_t &= K_t \\ A_t^{hh} &= (1 + r_t) A_{t-1}^{hh} + w_t L_t^{hh} - C_t^{hh} \\ u'(C_t^{hh}) &= \beta (1 + r_{t+1}) u'(C_{t+1}^{hh}) \\ A_t &= A_t^{hh} \\ L_t &= L_t^{hh} \end{aligned}$$

Ramsey: As an equation system

Eqs. system with unknowns $\left\{K_t, L_t, r_t^K, w_t, r_t, A_t, A_t^{hh}, C_t^{hh}\right\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ and eqs:

$$\begin{bmatrix} r_t^K - F_K(\Gamma_t, K_{t-1}, L_t) \\ w_t - F_L(\Gamma_t, K_{t-1}, L_t) \\ r_t - (r_t^K - \delta) \\ A_t - K_t \\ A_t^{hh} - ((1 + r_t)A_{t-1}^{hh} + w_t L_t^{hh} - C_t^{hh}) \\ u'(C_t^{hh}) - \beta(1 + r_{t+1})u'(C_{t+1}^{hh}) \\ A_t - A_t^{hh} \\ L_t - L_t^{hh} \\ \forall t \in \{0, 1, \dots\}, \text{ given } K_{-1} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

Ramsey: Steady state

• **Euler-equation** can be solved for r_{ss} and hence K_{ss} :

$$u'(\mathcal{C}_{ss}) = \beta(1 + F_{\mathcal{K}}(\Gamma_{ss}, \mathcal{K}_{ss}, 1) - \delta)u'(\mathcal{C}_{ss}) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$F_{\mathcal{K}}(\mathcal{K}_{ss}, 1) = \frac{1}{\beta} - 1 + \delta$$

• Accumulation equation + goods mkt. clearing then implies C_{ss} :

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{K}_{\mathsf{ss}} = (1 - \delta)\mathcal{K}_{\mathsf{ss}} + F(\Gamma_{\mathsf{ss}}, \mathcal{K}_{\mathsf{ss}}, 1) - \mathcal{C}_{\mathsf{ss}} \Leftrightarrow \\ & \mathcal{C}_{\mathsf{ss}} = (1 - \delta)\mathcal{K}_{\mathsf{ss}} + F(\Gamma_{\mathsf{ss}}, \mathcal{K}_{\mathsf{ss}}, 1) - \mathcal{K}_{\mathsf{ss}} \end{aligned}$$

Important thing to note: the steady-state asset supply is completely inelastic!

HANC

HANC model overview

Model blocks:

- 1. **Firms:** Rent capital from mutual fund and hire labor from the households, produce with given technology, and sell output goods
- 2. **Zero-profit mutual funds:** Own capital and rent it to firms, take deposits and pay return to household
- 3. **Households:** Face idiosyncratic productivity shocks, supplies labor exogenously and makes consumption-saving decisions
- 4. Markets: Perfect competition in labor, goods and capital markets
- Add-on to Ramsey-Cass-Koopman: Heterogeneous households subject to idiosyncratic shocks → generate precautionary savings!

Other names:

- 1. The Aiyagari-model
- 2. The Aiyagari-Bewley-Hugget-Imrohoroglu-model
- 3. The Standard Incomplete Market (SIM) model

Heterogeneous households

Utility maximization for household i:

$$\begin{aligned} v_0(z_{it}, a_{it-1}) &= \max_{\{c_{it}\}_{t=0}^{\infty}} \mathbb{E}_0 \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t u(c_{it}) \\ \text{s.t.} \\ \ell_{it} &= z_{it} \\ a_{it} &= (1 + r_t) a_{it-1} + w_t \ell_{it} - c_{it} \\ \log z_{it+1} &= \rho_z \log z_{it} + \psi_{it+1}, \ \ \psi_{it} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_{\psi}, \sigma_{\psi}), \ \ \mathbb{E}[z_{it}] &= 1 \\ a_{it} &\geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- Where does heterogeneity enter?
- Incomplete markets due to borrowing constraint (fancy words: partial self-insurance, lack of Arrow-Debreu securities)

Recursive formulation

Value function (at decision)

$$v(z_{it}, a_{it-1}) = \max_{c_t} u(c_t) + \beta \mathbb{E} [v(z_{it+1}, a_{it})]$$
s.t.
$$\ell_{it} = z_{it}$$

$$a_{it} = (1 + r_t)a_{it-1} + w_t \ell_{it} - c_{it}$$

$$\log z_{it+1} = \rho_z \log z_{it} + \psi_{it+1}$$

$$a_{it} \ge 0$$

Distributions and aggregates

- Household policy function x^* where $x \in \{a, c, \ell\}$ function of:
 - Individuals states (z_{it}, a_{it-1})
 - Aggregates (w_t, r_t)
- We can use those to compute the distribution of households $D_t(z_{it}, a_{it-1}, \{r_\tau, w_\tau\}_{\tau \geq t})$
- Aggregate policy are obtained combining policies and distributions:

$$X_{t}^{hh}\left(\left\{r_{\tau}, w_{\tau}\right\}_{\tau \geq t}\right) = \int X_{t}^{*}(z_{it}, a_{it-1}, \left\{r_{\tau}, w_{\tau}\right\}_{\tau \geq t}) d\mathbf{D}_{t}$$

- When aggregating we integrate out individual states
 - Aggregate X_t^{hh} is only a function of $\{r_\tau, w_\tau\}_{\tau \geq t}$ in GE as long as exogenous states don't change
- ⇒ If we know aggregates (w_t, r_t) can calculate aggregate household behavior (consumption or savings)

Equation system

$$\begin{bmatrix} r_t^K - F_K(\Gamma_t, K_{t-1}, L_t) \\ w_t - F_L(\Gamma_t, K_{t-1}, L_t) \\ r_t - (r_t^K - \delta) \\ A_t - K_t \\ A_t - A_t^{hh} \\ L_t - L_t^{hh} \\ A_t^{hh} - \int a_t dD_t \\ L_t^{hh} - \int \ell_t dD_t \\ \underline{D}_{t+1} - \Lambda_t' \Pi_z' \underline{D}_t \\ a_t - a_t^* \\ \forall t \in \{0, 1, \dots\}, \text{ given } \underline{D}_0 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

- Note: Much larger system compared to Ramsey due to last 2 eqs.
 - D_t, a_t* define mass and optimal savings policy at the individual level
 - Standard Ramsey model: 8 eqs. per period
 - HANC with $N_z = 7$, $N_a = 300 : 8 + 7 \times 300 = 2108$ per period

Market clearing

- Capital market: $K_t = A_t = \int a_t^*(z_{it}, a_{it-1}) d\mathbf{D}_t$
- Labor market: $L_t = \int \ell_t^*(z_{it}, a_{it-1}) d\mathbf{D}_t = \int z_{it} d\mathbf{D}_t = 1$
- Goods market: $Y_t = \int c_t^*(z_{it}, a_{it-1}) d\mathbf{D}_t + I_t$
- Walras: Capital and labor market clears ⇒ goods market clears (using Euler's theorem)

$$C_t^{hh} + I_t = \int c_{it}^* d\mathbf{D}_t + [K_t - (1 - \delta)K_{t-1}]$$

$$= \int [(1 + r_t)a_{it-1} + w_t z_{it} - a_{it}] d\mathbf{D}_t$$

$$= [(1 + r_t)K_{t-1} + w_t L_t - K_t] + [K_t - (1 - \delta)K_{t-1}]$$

$$= r_t^K K_{t-1} + w_t L_t$$

$$= Y_t$$

Computing the Stationary

Equilibrium

Stationary equilibrium - equation system

The **stationary equilibrium** satisfies

$$\begin{bmatrix} r_{ss}^{K} - F_{K}(\Gamma_{ss}, K_{ss}, L_{ss}) \\ w_{ss} - F_{L}(\Gamma_{sst}, K_{ss}, L_{ss}) \\ r_{ss} - (r_{ss}^{K} - \delta) \\ A_{ss} - K_{ss} \\ A_{ss} - A_{ss}^{hh} \\ L_{ss} - L_{ss}^{hh} \\ A_{ss}^{hh} - \int a_{ss} d\mathbf{D}_{ss} \\ L_{ss}^{hh} - \int \ell_{ss} d\mathbf{D}_{ss} \\ D_{ss} - \Lambda_{ss}' \Gamma_{z}' D_{ss} \\ a_{ss} - a_{ss}^{*} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

Note: Households still move around <code>winside</code> the distribution due to idiosyncratic shocks. Does not affect aggregates due to <code>wlaw</code> of large <code>numbers</code> α

Stationary equilibrium - more verbal definition

Given technology Γ_{ss}

- 1. Quantities K_{ss} and L_{ss} ,
- 2. prices r_{ss} and w_{ss} (always $\Pi_{ss} = 0$),
- 3. the distribution D_{ss} over z_{it} and a_{it-1}
- 4. and the policy functions a_{ss}^* , ℓ_{ss}^* and c_{ss}^*

are such that

- 1. Households maximize expected utility (policy functions)
- 2. Firms maximize profits (prices)
- 3. D_{ss} is the invariant distribution implied by the household problem
- 4. Mutual fund balance sheet is satisfied
- 5. The capital market clears
- 6. The labor market clears
- 7. The goods market clears

How do we solve the household block in practice?

The hard part is to solve the household block! How do we do it?

- 1. Use EGM to obtain the policy functions a_{ss} , c_{ss} for a given r, w
 - The »backward« step
- 2. Use the histogram method to obtain the stationary distribution $oldsymbol{D}_{ss}$
 - The »forward« step
- 3. Aggregate policy:

$$A_{ss}^{hh}(\{r_{ss},w_{ss}\})=\int a_{ss}^*(z_{it},a_{it-1},\{r_{ss},w_{ss}\})d\mathbf{D}_{ss}$$

Time to code!

Direct implementation (K guess)

Technology: $F(K, L) = \Gamma K^{\alpha} L^{1-\alpha}$

Root-finding problem in K_{ss} with the objective function:

- 1. Set $L_{ss} = 1$ (and $\Pi_{ss} = 0$)
- 2. Calculate $r_{ss} = \alpha \Gamma_{ss} (K_{ss})^{\alpha-1} \delta$ and $w_{ss} = (1 \alpha) \Gamma_{ss} (K_{ss})^{\alpha}$
- 3. Solve infinite horizon household problem backwards, i.e. find a_{ss}^*
- 4. Simulate households forwards until convergence, i.e. find $oldsymbol{D}_{ss}$
- 5. Return $K_{ss} \boldsymbol{a}_{ss}^{*\prime} \boldsymbol{D}_{ss}$

Note: $a_{ss}^{*\prime}D_{ss} = \sum_i a_{i,ss}^*D_i$

Direct implementation (r guess)

Technology: $F(K, L) = \Gamma K^{\alpha} L^{1-\alpha}$

Root-finding problem in r_{ss} with the objective function:

- 1. Set $L_{ss}=1$ (and $\Pi_{ss}=0$)
- 2. Calculate $K_{ss} = \left(\frac{r_{ss} + \delta}{\alpha \Gamma_{ss}}\right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha 1}}$ and $w_{ss} = (1 \alpha)\Gamma_{ss}(K_{ss})^{\alpha}$
- 3. Solve infinite horizon household problem backwards, i.e. find a_{ss}^*
- 4. Simulate households forwards until convergence, i.e. find $oldsymbol{D}_{ss}$
- 5. Return $K_{ss} \boldsymbol{a}_{ss}^{*\prime} \boldsymbol{D}_{ss}$

Indirect implementation

Technology: $F(K, L) = \Gamma K^{\alpha} L^{1-\alpha}$

Consider Γ_{ss} and δ as »free« parameters:

- 1. Choose r_{ss} and w_{ss}
- 2. Solve infinite horizon household problem backwards, i.e. find a_{ss}^*
- 3. Simulate households forwards until convergence, i.e. find D_{ss}
- 4. Set $K_{ss} = \boldsymbol{a}_{ss}^{*\prime} \boldsymbol{D}_{ss}$
- 5. Set $L_{ss}=1$ (and $\Pi_{ss}=0$)
- 6. Set $\Gamma_{ss} = \frac{w_{ss}}{(1-\alpha)(K_{ss})^{\alpha}}$
- 7. Set $r_{ss}^K = \alpha \Gamma_{ss} (K_{ss})^{\alpha 1}$
- 8. Set $\delta = r_{ss}^k r_{ss}$

Direct implementation (calibration)

Set
$$r_{ss} = r^{target}$$
, $K_{ss} = K^{target}$, $Y_{ss} = Y^{target}$, and back out

- 1. $\Gamma_{ss} = Y^{target}/(L_{ss}^{1-\alpha}K_{ss}^{\alpha})$
- 2. $\delta = \alpha Y^{target} / K^{target} r^{target}$

We know that $w_{ss} = (1 - \alpha)Y^{target}$. Then find the β that clears the market

Root-finding problem in β with the objective function:

- 1. Set $L_{ss} = 1$ (and $\Pi_{ss} = 0$),
- 2. Solve infinite horizon household problem *backwards*, i.e. find ${\pmb a}_{ss}^*$ for a given β
- 3. Simulate households forwards until convergence, i.e. find D_{ss}
- 4. Return $K_{ss} \boldsymbol{a}_{ss}^{*\prime} \boldsymbol{D}_{ss}$
- 5. Update β

How to choose parameters?

- External calibration: Set subset of parameters to the standard values in the literature or directly from data estimates (e.g. income process)
- Internal calibration: Set remaining parameters so the model fit to a number of chosen macro-level and/or micro-level targets based on empirical estimates
 - 1. Informal: Roughly match targets by hand
 - 2. Formal:
 - 2a. Solve root-finding problem
 - 2b. Minimize a squared loss function
 - Estimation: Formal with squared loss function (think GMM) or likelihood function + standard errors
- Complication: We must always solve for the steady state for each guess of the parameters to be calibrated

Calibration at the quarterly level

- $r_{ss} = 0.05/4$ to match 5% annual interest rate
- $Y_{ss} = 1$ as a normalization
- $K_{ss} = 16$ to match annual wealth-to-output ratio of 4
- $\alpha = 1/3$ to match labor share of roughly 2/3
- $\sigma_{\psi}=$ 0.5, ho= 0.9: data on income inequality and risk

Some Properties of the HANC

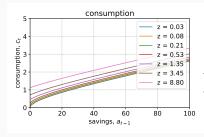
steady-state

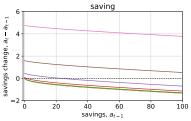
Consumption function

• Euler-equation still necessary for $a_{it} > 0$:

$$c_{it}^{-\sigma} = \beta_i (1 + r_{t+1}) \mathbb{E}_t \left[c_{it+1}^{-\sigma} \right]$$

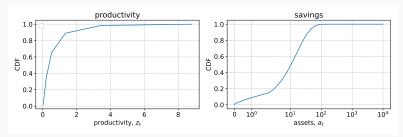
- Precautionary saving:
 - 1. Low consumption for low cash-on-hand \rightarrow buffer-stock target
 - 2. Steep slope for low cash-on-hand \rightarrow high MPC





Some amount of inequality

- Productivity: Marginal distribution over only z_{it}
- **Savings:** Marginal distribution over a_{it} cond. on β_i



Drivers of wealth inequality here: income shocks

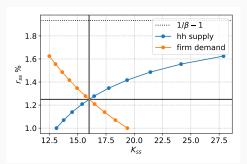
Steady state interest rate

Representative agent / complete markets:

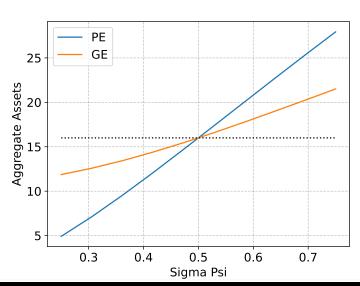
Derived from aggregate Euler-equation

$$C_t^{-\sigma} = \beta (1 + r_{t+1}) C_{t+1}^{-\sigma} \Rightarrow C_{ss}^{-\sigma} = \beta (1 + r_{ss}) C_{ss}^{-\sigma} \Leftrightarrow \beta = \frac{1}{1 + r_{ss}}$$

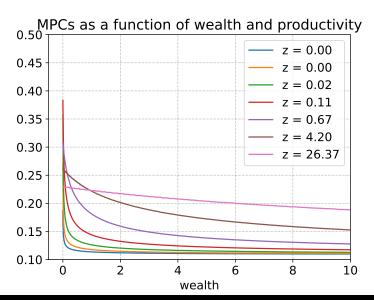
Heterogeneous agents: No such equation exists



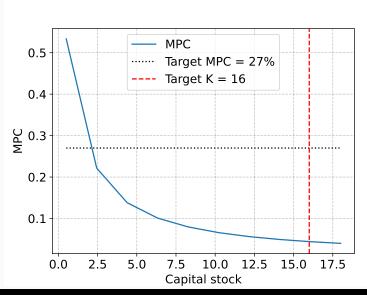
Risk drives wealth accumulation



Marginal Propensity to Consume



Tradeoff between matching aggregate wealth and MPCs



Exercises

Exercise 1: HANC with ex-ante heterogeneity

Add permanent β heterogeneity to the HANC model:

$$\begin{aligned} v_t(\beta_i, z_{it}, a_{it-1}) &= \max_{c_{it}} \frac{c_{it}^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma} + \beta_i \mathbb{E}_t \left[v_{it+1}(z_{it+1}, a_{it}) \right] \\ \text{s.t. } a_{it} + c_{it} &= (1+r_t) a_{it-1} + w_t z_{it} \geq 0 \\ &\log z_{it+1} = \rho_z \log z_{it} + \psi_{it+1} \ , \psi_{it} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_{\psi}, \sigma_{\psi}), \ \mathbb{E}[z_{it}] = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Assume that we have three types of households:

$$\beta_i \in (\beta - \delta^{\beta}, \beta, \beta + \delta^{\beta})$$
. Find δ^{β} such that $MPC = 0.27$ and $K/Y = 16$.

Exercise 2: HANCGovModel

- No production. No physical savings instrument
- Households: Get stochastic endowment z_{it} of consumption good
- Government:
 - 1. Choose government spending
 - 2. Collect taxes, τ_t , proportional to endowment
 - 3. Bonds: Pays 1 unit of the consumption good next period. Price is $p_t^B < 1$

$$p_t^B B_t + \int \tau_t z_{it} d\mathbf{D}_t = B_{t-1} + G_t$$
$$\tau_t = \tau_{ss} + \eta_t + \varphi \left(B_{t-1} - B_{ss} \right)$$

where η_t is a tax-shifter

Market clearing:

$$egin{aligned} B_t &= A_t^{hh} \ C_t^{hh} + G_t &= \int z_{it} dm{D}_t = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 2: Households

Households:

$$\begin{aligned} v_t(z_{it}, a_{it-1}) &= \max_{c_{it}} \frac{c_{it}^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma} + \beta \mathbb{E}_t \left[v_{it+1}(z_{it+1}, a_{it}) \right] \\ \text{s.t. } p_t^B a_{it} + c_{it} &= a_{it-1} + (1-\tau_t) z_{it} \geq 0 \\ &\log z_{it+1} = \rho_z \log z_{it} + \psi_{it+1} \ , \psi_{it} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_{\psi}, \sigma_{\psi}), \ \mathbb{E}[z_{it}] = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Euler-equation:

$$c_{it}^{-\sigma} = \beta \frac{\underline{v}_{a,t+1}(z_{it}, a_{it})}{p_t^B}$$

Envelope condition:

$$\underline{v}_{a,t}(z_{it-1},a_{it-1})=c_{it}^{-\sigma}$$

Exercise 2: Questions

- 1. Define the stationary equilibrium
- 2. Solve and simulate the household problem with $p_{ss}^B=0.975$ and $\tau_{ss}=0.12$.
- 3. Find the stationary equilibrium with $G_{ss}=0.10$ and $\tau_{ss}=0.12$.
- 4. What happens for $\tau_{ss} \in (0.11, 0.15)$?
- 5. When is average household utility maximized?

Note: Full solution in repository folder GEModelToolsNotebooks/HANCGovModel