Workshop 6: General equilibrium

FIE463: Numerical Methods in Macroeconomics and Finance using Python

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See GitHub repository for notebooks and data:

https://github.com/richardfoltyn/FIE463-V25

Exercise 1: Labor supply without capital

Recall the consumption & labor choice problem studied in the lecture. In this exercise, we revisit this setting but assume that there is no capital in the economy.

Household problem

Households choose *c* and *h* to maximize utility

$$u(c,h) = \frac{c^{1-\gamma} - 1}{1-\gamma} - \psi \frac{h^{1+1/\theta}}{1+1/\theta}$$

subject to the budget constraint

$$c = w \cdot h + \pi$$

where π are firm profits which are distributed to all households equally. Since all households are identical, we assume that the economy is populated by a *single* representative household.

Firm problem

We assume that firms have the decreasing-returns-to-scale production function

$$Y = zL^{1-\alpha}$$

where z is productivity (TFP) and labor L is the only input factor. Firms maximize profits Π ,

$$\max_{I} \Pi = zL^{1-\alpha} - wL$$

which gives rise to the first-order condition

$$\frac{\partial \Pi}{\partial L} = (1 - \alpha)zL^{-\alpha} - w = 0$$

We can solve for *L* to obtain the firm's optimal labor demand for given *w*:

$$L = \left(\frac{(1-\alpha)z}{w}\right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} \tag{1.1}$$

For simplicity, we assume there is a *single* firm which takes wages and the price of output as given, where the latter is normalized to one.

Equilibrium

The general equilibrium in this economy is a set of quantities (L, Y, Π, c, h, π) and the wage rate w which solve the household's and firm's problem, and the following conditions are satisfied:

- Labor market: L = h (hours h supplied by households equal labor L demanded by firms).
- Goods market: Y = c (the amount of goods c consumed by households equals aggregate output).
- Profits: $\Pi = \pi$ (profits distributed by firms equal profits received by households).

Analytical solution

By combining the household and firm first-order conditions, the problem can be reduced to a single equation in a single unknown, L (or h):

$$h = L = \left(\frac{(1-\alpha)z^{1-\gamma}}{\psi}\right)^{\frac{1}{1/\theta + \alpha + \gamma(1-\alpha)}}$$
(1.2)

We will use this expression later to compare the numerical to this exact solution.

Numerical solution

In the following, you are asked to adapt the code from the lecture to solve this problem. You should use the template file workshopo6_ex1.py provided for this exercise to implement your solution.

1. Adapt the Parameters data class

@dataclass

class Parameters:

pass

so that it contains the following parameters as attributes: $\alpha = 0.36$, z = 1, $\gamma = 2$, $\psi = 1$, $\theta = 0.5$.

- 2. Write the function solve_hh(w, pi, par) to solve the household problem for a given w and π . This function should return the household choices, in particular the **labor supply** h.
 - Use the utility function util(c, h, par) defined in the template file for this purpose (this is the same function we used in the lecture).
- 3. Write the function $solve_firm(w, par)$ which returns the firm's **labor demand** L given by (1.1), output Y, and profits Π for a given wage w.
- 4. Write the function compute_labor_ex_demand(w, par) which returns the excess labor demand for a given wage w.
- 5. Write the function compute_equilibrium(par) which uses a root-finder to locate the equilibrium, computes the equilibrium quantities (L, Y, Π, c, h, π) and prices (w, r) and stores these using an instance of the Equilibrium data class defined in workshop06_ex1.py.
- 6. Compute the equilibrium using the function you just implemented and print the quantities and prices using print_equilibrium() implemented in workshop06_ex1.py (you don't need to write this function yourself).
- 7. Compare your numerical solution to the analytical solution for the equilibrium *L* returned by compute_analytical_solution() implemented in workshop06_ex1.py.

Note: Include the following cell magic to automatically reload any changes you make to the template file:

```
[1]: %load_ext autoreload %autoreload 2
```

Solution.

The complete solution is provided in the file workshop06_ex1.py. In what follows, some of the code blocks from that file are replicated below to discuss the solution.

Part (1)

The definition of the Parameters class is almost identical to the lecture:

```
[2]: from dataclasses import dataclass

addataclass
class Parameters:
    """

Container to store the problem's parameters.
    """

alpha: float = 0.36  # Capital share in production function
z: float = 1.0  # TFP
gamma: float = 2.0  # RRA in utility
psi: float = 1.0  # Weight on disutility of working
theta: float = 0.5  # Frisch elasticity of labor supply
```

Part (2)

The function to solve the household problem has to be adapted from the lecture to take into account the new budget constraint.

```
[3]: from scipy.optimize import minimize
      # Import the utility function implementation from the solution file
     from workshop06_ex1 import util
     def solve_hh(w, pi, par: Parameters):
         Solve household problem for given prices and parameters.
         Parameters
          ______
         w : float
             Wage rate
         pi : float
             Firm profits distributed to households
         par : Parameters
             Parameter instance
         Returns
         _____
         c_opt : float
            Optimal consumption
         h_opt : float
         Optimal labor supply
         # Initial guess for h
```

```
h_guess = 0.5
res = minimize(
   lambda h: -util(w * h + pi, h, par),
   xo=h_guess,
    method='L-BFGS-B',
    bounds=((\odot, None), )
if not res.success:
    # Print diagnostic error message if minimizer had problems
    print('Minimizer did not terminate successfully')
   print(res.message)
    print(f' Arguments: w={w}, pi={pi}')
# Store optimal hours choice
h_{opt} = res.x[0]
# Optimal consumption follows from budget constraint
c_{opt} = w * h_{opt} + pi
return c_opt, h_opt
```

Part (3)

The function solve_firm() has to be adapted to reflect the fact that labor is now the only production factor:

```
[4]: def solve_firm(w, par: Parameters):
         Compute labor demand and profits implied by firm's first-order condition
         for given prices w.
         Parameters
         w : float
             Wage rate
         par : Parameters
             Parameter instance
         Returns
         L : float
             Labor demand
         Y : float
             Output
         Pi : float
         Profits
         # Labor demand
         L = ((1-par.alpha) * par.z / w)**(1/par.alpha)
         # Output
         Y = par.z * L**(1-par.alpha)
         # Profits
         Pi = Y - w * L
         return L, Y, Pi
```

Part (4)

The function compute_labor_ex_demand() calls the functions defined above to solve the household and firm problems, and computes the excess demand for labor as the difference between the firm's demand and the household's labor supply.

```
[5]: def compute_labor_ex_demand(w, par: Parameters):
         Compute excess demand for labor.
         Parameters
         _____
         w : float
             Wage rate
         par : Parameters
             Parameter instance
         Returns
          _____
         ex_demand : float
         Excess demand for labor
         # Wage and profits implied by firm's first-order condition
         L, Y, Pi = solve_firm(w, par)
         # Optimal household choices for given prices
         c_opt, h_opt = solve_hh(w, Pi, par)
         # Excess demand for labor
         ex_demand = L - h_opt
         return ex_demand
```

Part (5)

Lastly, the following function calls the scalar root-finder with an initial bracket to locate the equilibrium wage.

The equilibrium quantities and prices are stored in the Equilibrium data class defined as follows:

```
[7]: from scipy.optimize import root_scalar

def compute_equilibrium(par):
    """
    Compute the equilibrium for given parameters.

Parameters
```

```
par : Parameters
   Parameter instance
Returns
eq : Equilibrium
   Equilibrium instance containing equilibrium values
# Define initial bracket for root finder
bracket = (1.0e-3, 5)
res = root scalar(
   compute_labor_ex_demand, bracket=bracket, args=(par, )
if not res.converged:
   print('Equilibrium root-finder did not terminated successfully')
# Create instance of equilibrium class
eq = Equilibrium(par=par, w=res.root)
# Equilibrium wage, output and profits
eq.L, eq.Y, eq.Pi = solve_firm(eq.w, par)
# Equilibrium household choices
eq.c, eq.h = solve_hh(eq.w, eq.Pi, par)
return eq
```

Part (6)

We can now initialize a Parameters object, call compute_equilibrium() and print the results. We use the print_equilibrium() function defined in workshopo6_ex1.py to perform the latter task.

```
[8]: from workshopo6_ex1 import print_equilibrium

# Get instance of default parameter values
par = Parameters()

# Solve for equilibrium
eq = compute_equilibrium(par)

# Print equilibrium quantities and prices
print_equilibrium(eq)
```

```
Equilibrium:
    Households:
        c = 0.92453
        h = 0.88461
Firms:
        Y = 0.92453
        L = 0.88461
        Pi = 0.33283
Prices:
        w = 0.66888
Market clearing:
        Labor market: -7.30551e-10
        Goods market: 4.88652e-10
```

Part (7)

Finally, the module workshopo6_ex1.py also contains a function to compute the analytical solution. We can use it to verify that the numerical solution is correct.

```
[9]: from workshopo6_ex1 import compute_analytical_solution

# Compare to analytical solution

L = compute_analytical_solution(par)
print(f'Analytical solution: h = L = {L:.5f}')
```

Analytical solution: h = L = 0.88461

As you can see, the analytical solution is basically identical to the numerical one.

Exercise 2: Unequal distribution of profits

We now extend the setting from Exercise 1 and assume that a fraction of households solely live on their labor income (type 1), while profits are only distributed to a subset of households (type 2). We can think of these households as workers and entrepreneurs, respectively. We assume the economy is populated by N_1 households of type 1 and N_2 households of type 2.

Household problem

All households have identical preferences which are unchanged from the previous exercise, but their budget constraints differ. For type-1 households, it is given by

$$c_1 = w \cdot h_1$$

whereas for type-2 households it's

$$c_2 = w \cdot h_2 + \pi_2$$

The subscripts in c_1 , c_2 , h_1 , h_2 , and π_2 index the household type since different households will choose different levels of consumption and labor supply.

Firm problem

The firm problem remains unchanged from the previous exercise. For convenience, we repeat the central equations:

Labor demand: $L = \left(\frac{(1-\alpha)z}{w}\right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}$

Output: $Y = zL^{1-\alpha}$

Profits: $\Pi = zL^{1-\alpha} - wL$

Equilibrium

The general equilibrium in this economy is a set of quantities $(L, Y, \Pi, c_1, c_2, h_1, h_2, \pi_2)$ and the wage rate w which solve the household's and firm's problem, and the following conditions are satisfied:

• Labor market clearing: $L = N_1h_1 + N_2h_2$ (hours supplied by households equal labor L demanded by firms).

- Goods market clearing: $Y = N_1c_1 + N_2h_2$ (the amount of goods consumed by households equals aggregate output).
- Profits: $\Pi = N_2 \pi_2$ (profits distributed by firms equal profits received by type-2 households).

Numerical solution

In the following, you are asked to adapt the code you wrote for exercise 1 to solve the modified problem. The new solution only requires changes at a few selected points to take into account the unequal distribution of profits. You should use the template file workshopo6_ex2.py provided for this exercise.

- 1. Adapt the Parameters class to include the two new parameters N1 and N2 which represent the number of type-1 and type-2 households, respectively. Set $N_1 = 5$ and $N_2 = 5$.
 - For the remaining parameters, use the same values as in exercise 1.
- 2. Write the function compute_labor_ex_demand(w, par) which returns the excess labor demand for given w. Use the function solve_hh() and solve_firm() you wrote for exercise 1 to solve this task.
 - *Hint:* Don't copy the implementations for solve_hh() and solve_firm() but directly import them from the module which contains the solution for exercise 1:
 - from workshop@1_ex1 import solve_firm, solve_hh
- 3. Write the function compute_equilibrium(par) which uses a root-finder to locate the equilibrium, computes the equilibrium quantities $(L, Y, \Pi, c_1, h_1, c_2, h_2, \pi_2)$ and the wage rate w, and stores these using an instance of the Equilibrium data class defined in workshopo6_ex2.py.
- 4. Compute the equilibrium using the function you just implemented and print the quantities and prices using print_equilibrium() defined in workshopo6_ex2.py.
 - How does the unequal distribution of profits affect consumption and labor supply of type-1 vs type-2 households?
- 5. You are interested to see if and how the allocation and prices in the economy change as we vary the number of type-1 and type-2 households. Assume that there are a total of $N = N_1 + N_2 = 10$ households in the economy
 - Using the function compute_equilibrium() you wrote earlier, compute the equilibrium when N_1 takes on the integer values from $0, \ldots, 9$ and $N_2 = N N_1$.
 - Create a graph with four panels (2 × 2) which shows the aggregates Y, L, Π , and w as a function of N_1 .
 - Create a graph with three columns which shows (c_1, c_2) in the first, (h_1, h_2) in the second, and π_2 in the third column. Use different colors and line styles to distinguish household types and include a legend.
 - What do you conclude about the effects of inequality on the equilibrium allocation and prices?

Bonus: using analytical results and root-finding

Unlike the previous exercise, this economy no longer has a closed-form solution for the equilibrium quantities. From the households' first-order conditions, we can derive that the equilibrium is characterized by the two non-linear equations

$$(wh_1)^{-\gamma} = \psi \frac{h_1^{1/\theta}}{w}$$

 $(wh_1 + \pi_2)^{-\gamma} = \psi \frac{h_2^{1/\theta}}{w}$

Note that w and $\pi_2 = \frac{\Pi}{N_2}$ itself are functions of (h_1, h_2) via the labor market clearing $L = N_1 h_1 + N_2 h_2$:

$$w = (1 - \alpha)zL^{-\alpha} = (1 - \alpha)z(N_1h_1 + N_2h_2)^{-\alpha}$$
$$\Pi = \alpha zL^{1-\alpha} = \alpha z(N_1h_1 + N_2h_2)^{1-\alpha}$$

We can substitute these two equations into the non-linear equation system above and numerically find a solution (h_1, h_2) that satisfies these conditions.

- 1. Use the multivariate root-finder root() from scipy.optimize with method='hybr' to solve the above equation system.
 - To do this, you need to write a function which takes as argument a vector x which contains the values (h_1, h_2) , and return the errors in the two first-order conditions, i.e., a vector that contains the left-hand minus the right-hand side for each of the two equations.
- 2. Make sure the results obtained from this approach are the same as in the main exercise.

Solution.

The solution is provided in the file workshop06_ex2.py. In what follows, some of the code blocks from that file are replicated below to discuss the solution.

Part (1)

We extend the definition of the Parameters from exercise 1 to include the additional parameters N_1 and N_2 :

```
[10]: from dataclasses import dataclass

@dataclass
class Parameters:
    alpha: float = 0.36  # Capital share in production function
    z: float = 1.0  # TFP
    gamma: float = 2.0  # RRA in utility
    psi: float = 1.0  # Weight on disutility of working
    theta: float = 0.5  # Frisch elasticity of labor supply
    N1: int = 5  # Number of type-1 households
    N2: int = 5  # Number of type-2 households
```

Part (2)

The function compute_labor_ex_demand() needs to be adapted from exercise 1 since now profits are only distributed to type-2 households. We directly use the implementations of the household and firm problems from Exercise 1, and compute the excess demand for labor as the difference of the firm's demand and the household's labor supply.

Note that now the aggregate labor demand is the sum of labor supplies of type-1 and type-2 households.

```
[11]: # Import functions from exercise 1
      from workshop06_ex1 import solve_firm, solve_hh
      def compute_labor_ex_demand(w, par: Parameters):
          Compute the excess demand for labor.
          Parameters
           _____
          w : float
              Wage rate.
          par : Parameters
              Model parameters.
          Returns
           _____
           float
           Excess demand for labor.
          # Wage and profits implied by firm's first-order condition
          L, Y, Pi = solve_firm(w, par)
          # Equilibrium household choices
          # Type 1 receives no profits
          c1, h1 = solve_hh(w, 0.0, par)
           # Per-capita profits for type 2 households
          pi2 = Pi / par.N2
          c2, h2 = solve_hh(w, pi2, par)
          # Excess demand for labor
          ex_demand = L - par.N1 * h1 - par.N2 * h2
          return ex_demand
```

Part (3)

Finally, the compute_equilibrium() function needs to be adapted from exercise 1 to take into account the unequal distribution of profits.

```
from scipy.optimize import root_scalar

def compute_equilibrium(par):
    """
    Compute the equilibrium of the model.

    Parameters
    _____
    par : Parameters
        Model parameters.

    Returns
    _____
    Equilibrium
        Equilibrium object containing the equilibrium values.
    """
    # Initial bracket for root-finder
    bracket = (1.0e-3, 5)

# Find equilibrium wage
    res = root_scalar(
        compute_labor_ex_demand, bracket=bracket, args=(par, )
```

```
if not res.converged:
    print('Equilibrium root-finder did not terminated successfully')

# Create instance of equilibrium class
eq = Equilibrium(par=par, w=res.root)

# Equilibrium wage, output and profits
eq.L, eq.Y, eq.Pi = solve_firm(eq.w, par)

# Equilibrium household choices
eq.c1, eq.h1 = solve_hh(eq.w, 0.0, par)
# Per-capita profits for type 2 households
eq.pi2 = eq.Pi / par.N2
eq.c2, eq.h2 = solve_hh(eq.w, eq.pi2, par)

return eq
```

Part (4)

We can now initialize a Parameters object, call compute_equilibrium() and print the results using print_equilibrium() defined in workshopo6_ex2.py.

```
from workshope6_ex2 import print_equilibrium

# Get instance of default parameter values
par = Parameters()

# Solve for equilibrium
eq = compute_equilibrium(par)

# Print equilibrium quantities and prices
print_equilibrium(eq)
```

```
Equilibrium:
 Households:
   Type 1 (N = 5):
     c1 = 0.37079
     h1 = 1.39195
   Type 2 (N = 5):
     c2 = 0.57936
     h2 = 0.89085
     pi2 = 0.34205
  Firms:
    Y = 4.75073
    L = 11.41401
    Pi = 1.71026
  Prices:
    W = 0.26638
  Market clearing:
   Labor market: 4.10562e-09
    Goods market: -1.09365e-09
    Profits: 0.00000e+00
```

As you can see, type-1 households choose to work more and consume less compared to type-2 households. This is of course due to the fact that type-2 households receive extra income in the form of profits.

Part (5)

We use the implementation from the workshop06_ex2 module to compute the equilibria for each value of N_1 . Within the loop body, we need to update the N1 and N2 attributes of the Parameters instance.

```
import workshopo6_ex2 as ex2
import numpy as np

N = 10
N1_grid = np.arange(0, N)
equilibria = []

for N1 in range(0, N):

# Create new parameter instance with updated N1 and N2
par = ex2.Parameters(N1=N1, N2=N-N1)

# Compute equilibrium
eq = ex2.compute_equilibrium(par)
equilibria.append(eq)
```

Next, we pack the individual equilibrium quantities and the wage rate into individual lists.

```
# Store equilibrium allocations and prices in separate lists
Y_grid = [eq.Y for eq in equilibria]
L_grid = [eq.L for eq in equilibria]
Pi_grid = [eq.Pi for eq in equilibria]
w_grid = [eq.w for eq in equilibria]
c1_grid = [eq.c1 for eq in equilibria]
c2_grid = [eq.c2 for eq in equilibria]
h1_grid = [eq.h1 for eq in equilibria]
h2_grid = [eq.h2 for eq in equilibria]
pi2_grid = [eq.pi2 for eq in equilibria]
```

We now create the graph showing the aggregates (Y,Π) and the wage rate w against the number of type-1 households in the economy.

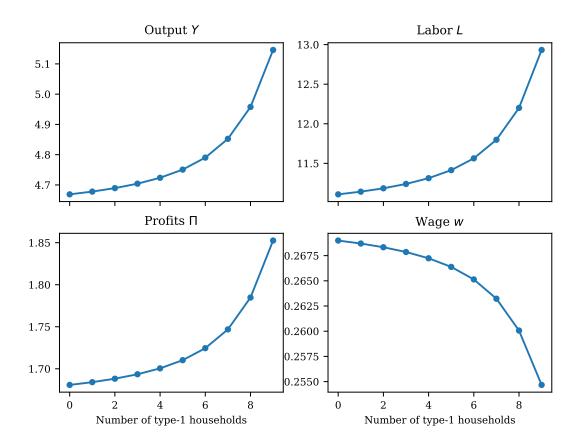
```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(2, 2, figsize=(7, 5), sharex=True, sharey=False)
ax[0, 0].plot(N1_grid, Y_grid, marker='o', ms=4)
ax[0, 0].set_title('Output $Y$')

ax[0, 1].plot(N1_grid, L_grid, marker='o', ms=4)
ax[0, 1].set_title('Labor $L$')

ax[1, 0].plot(N1_grid, Pi_grid, marker='o', ms=4)
ax[1, 0].set_title(r'Profits $\Pi$')
ax[1, 0].set_xlabel('Number of type-1 households')

ax[1, 1].plot(N1_grid, w_grid, marker='o', ms=4)
ax[1, 1].set_title('Wage $w$')
ax[1, 1].set_xlabel('Number of type-1 households')
```

[16]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Number of type-1 households')



As can be seen, aggregate labor L and output increase in the number of type-1 households since these households supply more labor than type2-households. At the same time, the wage rate drops slightly to accommodate this increase in labor supply. Lastly, profits are a fixed share of output, so they increase in tandem with output.

The next figure shows how household-level variables change in equilibrium as the number of type-1 households increases.

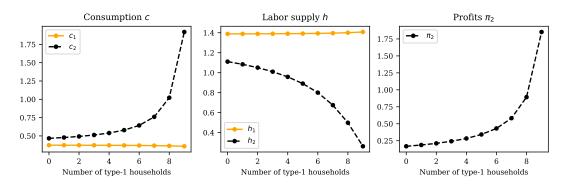
```
[17]: fig, ax = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(10, 2.5), sharex=True, sharey=False)

ax[0].plot(N1_grid, c1_grid, marker='o', ms=4, color='orange', label='$c_1$')
ax[0].plot(N1_grid, c2_grid, marker='o', ms=4, color='black', ls='--', label='$c_2$')
ax[0].set_title('Consumption $c$')
ax[0].legend()
ax[0].set_xlabel('Number of type-1 households')

ax[1].plot(N1_grid, h1_grid, marker='o', ms=4, color='orange', label='$h_1$')
ax[1].plot(N1_grid, h2_grid, marker='o', ms=4, color='black', ls='--', label='$h_2$')
ax[1].set_title('Labor supply $h$')
ax[1].legend()
ax[1].set_xlabel('Number of type-1 households')

ax[2].plot(N1_grid, pi2_grid, marker='o', ms=4, color='black', ls='--', label=r'$\pi_2$')
ax[2].set_title(r'Profits $\pi_2$')
ax[2].set_xlabel('Number of type-1 households')
```

[17]: Text(0.5, 0, 'Number of type-1 households')



We see that for each N_1 , type-1 households consume less and supply more labor than type-2 households. Their choices diverge at a fast rate for higher values of N_1 because profits are more and more concentrated among a smaller fraction of the population (and for $N_1 = 9$, only a single households receives all the profits).

Bonus question

Part (1)

The alternative root-finding approach is implemented in the function foc_error(x, par):

```
[18]: def foc_error(x, par: Parameters):
           Compute errors in first-order conditions of the household problem
           for type 1 and type 2.
           (for bonus question)
           Parameters
           x : array_like
               Candidate guess for labor supply (h1, h2).
           par : Parameters
               Model parameters.
           Returns
           _____
           numpy.ndarray
               Array containing the differences from the first-order conditions.
           # Extract candidate guess for labor supply
           h1, h2 = x
           # Aggregate labor supply
           L = par.N1 * h1 + par.N2 * h2
           # wage from firm's FOC
           w = (1-par.alpha) * par.z * L**(-par.alpha)
           # Aggregate firm profits
           Pi = par.alpha * par.z * L**(1-par.alpha)
           # FOC for HH type 1
           diff1 = par.psi * h1**(1/par.theta) / w - (w * h1)**(-par.gamma)
           # Profits per capita for HH type 2
           pi2 = Pi / par.N2
           # FOC for HH type 2
           diff2 = par.psi * h2**(1/par.theta) / w - (w * h2 + pi2)**(-par.gamma)
           fx = np.array((diff1, diff2))
```

```
return fx
```

The function foc_error() can then be passed to the multivariate root-finder as follows:

```
[19]: from scipy.optimize import root

# Initial guess for labor supply (h1, h2)
xo = np.array((0.5, 0.5))

# Find (h1, h2) that satisfy the FOCs
res = root(foc_error, xo=xo, args=(par, ), method='hybr')
```

You can inspect the result object to confirm that the root-finder terminated successfully. The root is stored in the vector res.x of the result object, and res.fun contains the multivariate function values at the root (which are numerically very close to zero).

Part (2)

The solution in the module workshop06_ex2 contains the function compute_equilibrium_root() which runs the root finder and computes the remaining equilibrium quantities. We can use this to compute and print the result:

```
[21]: import workshope6_ex2 as ex2

# Compute equilibrium using root-finding approach
eq = ex2.compute_equilibrium_root(par)

# Print equilibrium values using print function we defined earlier
ex2.print_equilibrium(eq)

Equilibrium:
    Households:
    Type 1 (N = 9):
        c1 = 0.35850
        h1 = 1.40768
    Type 2 (N = 1):
```

```
h2 = 0.26291

pi2 = 1.85255

Firms:

Y = 5.14597

L = 12.93206

Pi = 1.85255

Prices:

W = 0.25467

Market clearing:
```

Labor market: -8.88178e-16

c2 = 1.91950

Goods market: 8.88178e-16 Profits: 0.00000e+00

As you can see, the results are basically identical to those we computed earlier.