Advanced Macroeconomics II

Handout 8 - Heterogeneous Agent Models

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 - ▶ Some have high income, some have low income
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- Differences among agents are endogenous:
 - Arise from endogenous reaction to realization of shocks
- Agents interact in markets: Prices are endogenous
 - ► Labor market, capital market, housing market, etc
 - Demand and supply come from aggregating individual actions

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3. Prices

- Need to be consistent with market clearing
- ▶ Demand and supply come from aggregating individual actions (1) with respect to the distribution (2)
- Solution depends on market structure

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 - ► Each agent gets different realization of shocks, causing change
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 - But there are no coordinated changes, there is always the same measure of agents in each states
- ▶ This means that aggregates do not change!
 - In particular prices are time invariant
 - ▶ More importantly: Distribution of agents is time invariant (stationary)

Hugget (1993) Economy

The individual problem (simplest problem)

- Agents live forever and choose consumption/savings
- ▶ Income (ϵ) is stochastic and follows a Markov process P:
 - This is an endowment economy, or a Lucas tree economy
 - This is the only shock in the economy
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Agent's Problem:

$$V(\epsilon, a) = \max_{\{c, a'\}} u(c) + \beta E\left[V\left(\epsilon', a'\right) | \epsilon\right]$$
s.t. $c + a' = (1 + r) a + \epsilon$ $a' \ge \underline{a}$

Euler equation:

$$u^{'}(c) = \beta E\left[V_{a}\left(\epsilon^{'}, a^{'}\right) | \epsilon\right] = \beta \left(1 + r\right) E\left[u^{'}\left(\left(1 + r\right) a^{'} + \epsilon^{'} - g_{a}\left(\epsilon^{'}, a^{'}\right)\right)\right]$$

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The constraint must satisfy:

$$\underline{a} \geq -\epsilon_{min}/r$$

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Equilibrium: Integral over assets is zero

The distribution of agents

- ▶ Let \overline{S} be the set of states and $[\underline{a}, \overline{a}]$ be the domain of assets
 - ▶ Easy to show that there exists a value $\overline{a} > 0$ such that $a \leq \overline{a}$ for all agents (in the limit)

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- ▶ Let S and A be σ -algebras over \overline{S} and $[\underline{a}, \overline{a}]$ respectively
- ▶ The distribution of agents is a function $\Gamma: \mathcal{S} \times A \rightarrow [0,1]$
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 - lacktriangle Γ is measurable with respect to ${\mathcal S}$ and ${\mathcal A}$
 - Γ integrates to 1
- ▶ The distribution $\Gamma(S, A)$ answers the question:
 - ▶ What measure of agents have a state $s \in S \in S$ and assets $a \in A \in A$?

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- 1. Define an indicator function to know if $a' \in A$

$$g(\epsilon, a, A) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } a'(\epsilon, z) \in A \\ 0 & \text{otw} \end{cases}$$

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2. From the Markov kernel of ϵ we also have the probability that $\epsilon' \in S$:

$$\Pr\left(\epsilon^{'} \in S | \epsilon\right) = \int_{\epsilon^{'} \in S} P\left(\epsilon^{'} | \epsilon\right) d\epsilon$$

▶ Both functions depend on the initial state of the agent (ϵ, a)

Updating function

$$\Gamma^{'}\left(S,A\right) = \int_{S^{-} \in \mathcal{S}} \int_{A^{-} \in \mathcal{A}} \underbrace{g\left(\epsilon,a,A\right) \cdot \Pr\left(\epsilon^{'} \in S | \epsilon\right)}_{\mathsf{Markov Kernel}: Q\left(\epsilon^{'} a^{'} | \epsilon,a\right)} \cdot \Gamma\left(\epsilon,a\right) da d\epsilon$$

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- ► The updating of the distribution takes the form of the adjoint Markov operator of *Q*
- ▶ We are looking for a fixed point of the adjoint operator
 - $ightharpoonup \Gamma$ such that $\Gamma' = \Gamma$
- ▶ If you are interested in the properties that guarantee a unique stationary distribution look at SLP or section 24 of the math camp notes

- When exogenous state is discrete updating is simpler
- ▶ This is often the case in practice
- ▶ Without loss we can have the σ -algebra be:

$$\mathcal{S} = \left\{ \left\{ \epsilon_1 \right\}, \dots, \left\{ \epsilon_n \right\}, \dots, \left\{ \epsilon_N \right\} \right\}$$

Updating function

$$\Gamma'\left(\epsilon',A\right) = \int_{S^{-} \in \mathcal{S}} \int_{A^{-} \in \mathcal{A}} g\left(\epsilon,a,A\right) \cdot P\left(\epsilon'|\epsilon\right) \cdot \Gamma\left(\epsilon,a\right) da d\epsilon$$

Stationary RCE

A S-RCE is a set of a value function (V), policy function (a'), distribution (Γ) , and price (r) such that:

- 1. Given r the value and policy functions solve the agent's problem
- 2. Given the policy function, Γ is a fixed point of the adjoint operator
- 3. Given the distribution and policy functions the market for bonds clears:

$$\underbrace{\int \int a^{'}\left(\epsilon,a\right) \cdot \Gamma\left(\epsilon,a\right) dadz}_{\text{Net Supply}} = 0 \longleftrightarrow \underbrace{\int \int c\left(\epsilon,a\right) \cdot \Gamma\left(\epsilon,a\right) dadz}_{\text{Demand for Goods}} = \underbrace{\int \int \epsilon \cdot \Gamma\left(\epsilon,a\right) dadz}_{\text{Supply of Goods}}$$

Algorithm: VFI with EGM

Algorithm 1: EGM for S-RCE problem

Function EGM($V(\epsilon, a), \vec{a}, \vec{\epsilon}, r, parameters$):

for $i=1:n_e$ # Income state (exogenous, current period) do for $i=1:n_a$ # Savings (endogenous, future period) do

- 1. Expected value: $\mathbb{V} = \beta E \left[V \left(\epsilon', \vec{a_j} \right) | \vec{\epsilon_i} \right]$
- 2. Consumption from Euler: $u_c\left(\tilde{c}_{ij}\right) = \mathbb{V}_a$ Solve analytically for \tilde{c}_{ij}
- 3. Endo. assets: $\hat{a}_{ij} = (\tilde{c}_{ij} + \vec{a}_j \vec{\epsilon}_i)/1 + r$
- 4. Update value at endogenous grid: $\hat{V}(\vec{\epsilon_i},\hat{a}_{ij}) = u\left(\tilde{c}_{ij}\right) + \mathbb{V}$
- 5. Interpolate to exogenous grid: $V_{new}[i,:] = Interp(\hat{a}, \hat{V}, \vec{a})$

Some comments

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- You can also use the ECM of Maliar and Maliar, try it out!
- We pay for this simplicity with having to find the stationary distribution

Alternative: PFI with EGM

Algorithm 2: EGM for S-RCE problem

Function EGM($g_a(\epsilon, a), \vec{a}, \vec{\epsilon}, r, parameters$):

for $i=1:n_e$ # Income state (exogenous, current period) do | for $j=1:n_a$ # Savings (endogenous, future period) do

1. RHS of Euler:

$$RHS = \beta E \left[U \left((1+r)\vec{a}_j + w\vec{\epsilon}_i - g_a(epsilon, \vec{a}_j) \right) | \vec{\epsilon}_i \right]$$

- 2. Consumption from Euler: $u_c(\tilde{c}_{ij}) = RHS$ Solve analytically for \tilde{c}_{ij}
- 3. Endo. assets: $\hat{a}_{ij} = \left(\tilde{c}_{ij} + \vec{a}_j \vec{\epsilon}_i\right)/1 + r$
- 4. Check borrowing constraint: If $min(\hat{a}(\vec{\epsilon_i})) > \underline{a}$ then agent chooses $a' = \underline{a}$ for $a \in [\underline{a}, min(\hat{a}(\vec{\epsilon_i}))]$
- 5. Interpolate consumption to exogenous grid and obtain implied a' from budget constraint.

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 - Instead of looking for a continuous density we look for frequencies in a histogram
- ▶ Inputs: Transition matrix for exogenous states and policy function

Steps:

- 1. Get a fine grid for assets
- 2. Use (inverse) linear interpolation to map $a'(\epsilon, a)$ to the grid

Algorithm 3: Histogram Method - Transition matrix

Function EGM($a'(\epsilon, a), \vec{a}, \vec{\epsilon}$):

0. Generate fine grid for assets and interpolate policy function a' to it.

for *i*=1:*n_e* # Income state do

for $j=1:n_a \# Assets do$

- 1. Identify h^* s.t. $a'(\vec{\epsilon_i}, \vec{a_j}) \in [\vec{a_{j^*}}, \vec{a_{h^*+1}}]$
 - 1.1. Save the index for future use: $h(\vec{\epsilon_i}, \vec{a_j}) = h^*$
- 2. Define weight on lower grid node: $\omega = \frac{a'(\vec{c}_i, \vec{s}_j) \vec{s}_{h\star}}{\vec{s}_{h\star} + \vec{s}_{h\star}}$
- 3. Assign weights to transition function for assets: $g(\vec{e_i}, \vec{a_i}, \vec{a_{h^*}}) = \omega$ $g(\vec{e_i}, \vec{a_i}, \vec{a_{h^*+1}}) = 1 \omega$
- 4. All other entries for $(\vec{e_i}, \vec{a_i})$ are zero so g is sparse.
- 5. Check that $g \in [0,1]$ for all states.

- ▶ We now have a way to get the Transition matrix for assets on our grid
 - ▶ To get the index of assets on the grid we use inverse interpolation:

▶
$$h^* = \text{floor}\left(\left(\frac{a^{'}(\epsilon, a) - \min(\vec{a})}{\max(\vec{a}) - \min(\vec{a})}\right)^{\frac{1}{\theta_a}}(n_a - 1) + 1\right) \text{ if }$$

$$a^{'}(\epsilon, a) \in [\min(\vec{a}), \max(\vec{a})]$$
▶ If not then either $h^* = 1$ or $h^* = n_a$

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$$a^{'}(\epsilon, a) \in \left[\min(\vec{a}), \max(\vec{a})\right]$$
▶ If not then either $h^* = 1$ or $h^* = n_a$

- ▶ We have at least three options to get the stationary distribution:
 - 1. Loops
 - 2. Matrices
 - 3. Smart matrices

Algorithm: Stationary distribution with loops

Algorithm 4: Histogram Method - Updating distributions

```
Function EGM(\Gamma, g(\epsilon, a, a'), P(\epsilon, \epsilon')):

for i=1:n_e # Income state do

for j=1:n_a # Assets do

for k=1:n_e # Future income state do

\Gamma'(k, h(i,j)) = \Gamma'(k, h(i,j)) + g(\vec{\epsilon}_i, \vec{a}_j) \cdot P(\vec{\epsilon}_i, \vec{\epsilon}_k) \cdot \Gamma(i,j)
\Gamma'(k, h(i,j) + 1) = \Gamma'(k, h(i,j) + 1) + (1 - g(\vec{\epsilon}_i, \vec{a}_j)) \cdot P(\vec{\epsilon}_i, \vec{\epsilon}_k) \cdot \Gamma(i,j)
```

Repeat until convergence

The state space is now effectively discrete, so we can list them:

$$\vec{s} = \begin{bmatrix} (\vec{\epsilon}_1, \vec{a}_1) & \dots & (\vec{\epsilon}_{n_{\epsilon}}, \vec{a}_1) & (\vec{\epsilon}_1, \vec{a}_2) & \dots & (\vec{\epsilon}_{n_{\epsilon}}, \vec{a}_2) & \dots & (\vec{\epsilon}_1, \vec{a}_{n_a}) & \dots & (\vec{\epsilon}_{n_{\epsilon}}, \vec{a}_{n_a}) \end{bmatrix}^T$$

can then get a transition matrix from \vec{s} to \vec{s} :

Size: $(n_{\epsilon}n_a)\times n_a$

$$T = (P \otimes 1_{n_a \times n_a}) \odot G$$

where P is the transition matrix for the exogenous income process:

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} \Pr\left(\epsilon_{1}^{'}|\epsilon_{1}\right) & \dots & \Pr\left(\epsilon_{n_{e}}^{'}|\epsilon_{1}\right) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \\ \Pr\left(\epsilon_{1}^{'}|\epsilon_{n_{e}}\right) & \dots & \Pr\left(\epsilon_{n_{e}}^{'}|\epsilon_{n_{e}}\right) \end{bmatrix}$$

and
$$G = \left[g\left(\underbrace{\epsilon,a}_{s_i},a^{'}\right)\right] \otimes 1_{1\times n_e}$$
 is the transition matrix for assets.

- ▶ Armed with a transition matrix T we can either:
 - Iterate on $\Gamma' = T^T \Gamma$ many times
 - Solve the eigenvalue problem

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 - ▶ Iterate on $\Gamma' = T^T \Gamma$ many times
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- ▶ Iteration wins because this matrix is likely to be too large to manage
- ► However the matrix G (and thus T) is very sparse, you can use that to your advantage!
- Despite sparseness these matrices are expensive to store and use
 - ▶ Lots of wasteful storage because of repeated versions of G and P

Algorithm: Smarter matrices (Tan, 2020)

Key idea: Take the distribution forward one dimension at a time

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Key idea: Take the distribution forward one dimension at a time

- 1. Define $G_{n_e n_a \times n_e n_a}$ that maps $(\epsilon, a) \to (\epsilon, a')$ (we will construct in in next slide)
- 2. Start from a distribution Γ , an $n_{\epsilon}n_{a}$ vector
- 3. Update only the savings decision: $\hat{\Gamma} = G'\Gamma$
- 4. Reshape $\hat{\Gamma}$ into a $n_{\epsilon} \times n_{a}$ matrix (This matrix is interpreted as (ϵ, a'))
- 5. Update exogenous state: $\Gamma' = P'\hat{\Gamma}$ (result is a $n_{\epsilon} \times n_{a}$ matrix)
- 6. Reshape into new distribution Γ'

Algorithm: The histogram method (Tan, 2020)

Algorithm 5: Histogram Method - Transition matrix

Function EGM($a'(\epsilon, a), \vec{a}, \vec{\epsilon}$):

0. Generate fine grid for assets and interpolate policy function a' to it.

for $i=1:n_e \# Income state do$

for $j=1:n_a \# Assets do$

- 1. Identify h^{\star} s.t. $a^{'}(\vec{\epsilon_i}, \vec{a_j}) \in [\vec{a_{j^{\star}}}, \vec{a_{h^{\star}+1}}]$
- 2. Define weight on lower grid node: $\omega = \frac{a'(\vec{\epsilon_i}, \vec{a_j}) \vec{a_h} \star}{\vec{a_h} \star_{+1} \vec{a_h} \star}$
- 3. Assign weights to transition function for assets: $\frac{1}{2} (\vec{r} + \vec{r} + \vec$

$$g(\vec{\epsilon_i}, \vec{a_j}, \vec{\epsilon_i}, \vec{a_{h^*}}) = \omega$$
 $g(\vec{\epsilon_i}, \vec{a_j}, \vec{\epsilon_i}, \vec{a_{h^*+1}}) = 1 - \omega$
The second ϵ is just a repeat of the same state

- 4. All other entries for $(\vec{\epsilon_i}, \vec{a_j})$ are zero so **g** is sparse.
- 5. Check that $g \in [0, 1]$ for all states.

Algorithm: S-RCE

Algorithm 6: S-RCE Algorithm

```
input : Guess for price (r) output: V, a', \Gamma, r
```

- 1. Solve the DP problem of the agent given r: (V, a') = T(V; r) (a fixed point problem);
- 2. Find stationary distribution with histogram method;
- 3. Check market clearing: $\sum_{i} \sum_{j} a'(\vec{\epsilon_i}, \vec{a_j}) \cdot \Gamma(i, j)$;
- 4. Update prices to clear market

 Manually by tatonnement or with a Root finder;
- 5. Repeat (1)-(4) until market clears;

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 - Waste to iterate until convergence without the "true" policy function
- Alternative:
 - 2'. Iterate forward the distribution N times
 - ► After you iterate *N* times you check market clearing and update prices, then get new policy functions
 - Doing this means you have to change the convergence criteria
 - 4'. Repeat (1),(2'),(3),(4) until convergence in Γ and market clearing
 - You should also dampen the updating of the distribution (no need to update fully if you are not using the right policy function)

Aiyagari (1994) Economy

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- Production is just as in NGM:
 - Representative firm with CRS technology
 - This will greatly simplify market clearing!

Key difference: Move from an endowment to a production economy

- Aiyagari reconciles the heterogeneous agent framework of Bewley-Hugget with the workhorse model of macro (the NGM)
- Production is just as in NGM:
 - Representative firm with CRS technology
 - This will greatly simplify market clearing!
- Reinterpretation of the shock to individual agents
 - Shock is now labor efficiency instead of income endowment
 - ► This does not really change the problem

Individual problem

- ▶ Income depends on labor efficiency (ϵ) and the market wage (w)
 - $ightharpoonup \epsilon$ is stochastic and follows a Markov process P
 - ▶ This is the only shock in the economy
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s.t. $c + a' = (1+r)a + w\epsilon$ $a' \geq \underline{a}$

Euler equation:

$$u'((1+r)a+w\epsilon)=\beta E\left[V_a\left(\epsilon',a'\right)|\epsilon\right]$$

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Production and savings

Output is produced from capital and labor: Y = F(K, L)

- ▶ Key: F has constant returns to scale
 - ▶ Demand for inputs is perfectly elastic at equilibrium prices
 - ▶ The only way to clear the market is to make producers indifferent
- ► Equilibrium prices

$$r = F_k(K, L) - \delta$$
 $w = F_L(K, L)$

where the aggregate capital and labor come from distribution:

$$K = \int \int a \cdot \Gamma(\epsilon, a) \, da d\epsilon$$
 $L = \int \int \epsilon \cdot \Gamma(\epsilon, a) \, da d\epsilon$

But L supply is exogenous! So we can say: $L = \int \epsilon \Gamma_{\epsilon}(\epsilon) d\epsilon = 1$

Changes to RCE

Algorithm 7: S-RCE Algorithm

```
input : Guess for price (r) output: V, a', \Gamma, r
```

- 1. Solve the DP problem of the agent given (r, w): (V, a') = T(V; r) (a fixed point problem);
- 2. Find stationary distribution with histogram method Alternatively update distribution N times ;
- 3. Update prices to ensure market clearing:

$$K = \sum_{i} \sum_{j} a \cdot \Gamma(i,j) \longrightarrow r = F_k(K,1) - \delta \quad w = F_L(K,1)$$
;

- 3.1. Dampen updating of prices if necessary;
- 4. Repeat (1)-(3) until prices converge;

OLG Aiyagari Economy

Life cycle: OLG

 Many applications in macro-labor require life cycle dynamics with heterogeneity

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- Many applications in macro-labor require life cycle dynamics with heterogeneity
- ▶ That implies two changes:
 - 1. A new state: Age
 - 2. A new solution method for the agent's problem: Backward induction
- ▶ Age is a tricky state. It will increase the dimension of the problem. There is no way around it.
- ► Backward induction is a blessing! No need for value functions!
 - lacktriangle Main benefit: No more approximation of the derivative $V_a!$
 - Other benefit: No fixed point to solve agent's problem

Individual problem

Agent's Problem:

$$V^{h}\left(\epsilon, a\right) = \max_{\left\{c_{h}, a_{h}^{'}\right\}} u\left(c_{h}\right) + \beta E\left[V^{h+1}\left(\epsilon^{'}, a^{'}\right) | \epsilon\right]$$
s.t. $c_{h} + a_{h}^{'} = (1+r) a + w\epsilon$ $a_{h}^{'} \geq \underline{a}$

► Age is a state (h), but we write it as an index

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Age is a state (h), but we write it as an index

Euler equation:

$$u'(c_h(\epsilon, a)) = \beta E\left[V_a^{h+1}(\epsilon', a') | \epsilon\right]$$

▶ Pair with envelope condition to get rid of value function:

$$u^{'}\left(c_{h}\left(\epsilon,a\right)\right)=\beta E\left[u^{'}\left(c^{h+1}\left(\epsilon^{'},a^{'}\right)\right)\left(1+r\right)|\epsilon\right]$$

OLG-RCE

A S-RCE is a set of a value function (V), policy function (a'), distribution (Γ) , and prices (r, w) such that:

- 1. Given (r, w) the value and policy functions solve the agent's problem
 - ▶ Recall that both value and policy functions are indexed by age
- 2. Given policy functions, Γ is a fixed point of the adjoint operator
- 3. Given the distribution the input markets clear:

$$K = \sum_{h=1}^{H} \int \int a \cdot \Gamma^{h}(\epsilon, a) \, dad\epsilon \qquad L = \sum_{h=1}^{H} \int \int \epsilon \cdot \Gamma^{h}(\epsilon, a) \, dad\epsilon$$
$$r = F_{k}(K, L) - \delta \qquad w = F_{L}(K, L)$$

Algorithm: Backward induction

Algorithm 8: Backward Induction EGM for S-RCE problem

Function EGM($\vec{a}, \vec{\epsilon}, r, w, parameters$):

0. Last period we apply terminal conditions $a^{H}(\epsilon, a) = 0$ and $c^{H} = (1 + r)a + w\epsilon$

for h=H-1:1 # Age, counting backwards **do**

for $i=1:n_e$ # Income state (exogenous, current period) do

for $j=1:n_a$ # Savings (endogenous, future period) do

1. Consumption from Euler (Solve analytically for \tilde{c}_{ij}^h):

$$u_c\left(\tilde{c}_{ij}^h\right) = \beta E\left[u_c\left(\tilde{c}^{h+1}(\epsilon', \vec{a}_j)\right) | \vec{\epsilon_i}\right]$$

- 2. Endo. assets: $\hat{a}_{ij}^h = \left(\tilde{c}_{ij}^h + \vec{a}_j w\vec{\epsilon}_i\right)/1 + r$
- 3. Interpolate **policy functions** to exogenous grid:

$$c^{h}[i,:] = lp(\hat{a}^{h}, \tilde{c}^{h}, \vec{a})$$
 and $a^{h}[i,:] = (1+r)\vec{a} + w\vec{\epsilon_{i}} - c^{h}[i,:]$

- ▶ The solution is found in one iteration of the algorithm
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- ▶ The solution is found in one iteration of the algorithm
 - No fixed point involved
- Cost comes with age! Another loop to go through
- After interpolation we need to check for borrowing constraint or negative consumption
- ▶ The problem is quite flexible
 - Terminal conditions can involve bequests
 - ► The agent's problem can change with age (working/retirement)

Stationary distribution

- ► Finding the distribution is not conceptually different than before
- ▶ Practical difference: We need to index transition function g by age
- Implementation requires additional outer loop that goes through age
 - ▶ It is better to have this loop go backwards in age
 - ▶ Distribution of agents of age H maps into new-borns: $\Gamma^{H}(\epsilon, a) \longrightarrow \Gamma^{1}(\epsilon', a')$
 - ▶ Distribution of agents of age H-1 maps into age H: $\Gamma^{H-1}\left(\epsilon,a\right)\longrightarrow\Gamma^{H}\left(\epsilon^{'},a^{'}\right)$

Algorithm: S-RCE

Algorithm 9: S-RCE Algorithm

```
input : Guess for price (r) output: V, a', \Gamma, r
```

- 1. Solve the DP problem of the agent given (r, w): Single iteration of Backwards Induction;
- 2. Find stationary distribution with histogram method Alternatively update distribution N times ;
- 3. Update prices to ensure market clearing:

$$K = \sum_{h} \sum_{i} \sum_{j} a \cdot \Gamma^{h}(i,j) \longrightarrow r = F_{k}(K,1) - \delta \quad w = F_{L}(K,1);$$

- 3.1. Dampen updating of prices if necessary;
- 4. Repeat (1)-(3) until prices converge;

Final comments

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- Julia has built-in parallel options
 - Multithreading is the way to start
 - Multithreading distributes tasks across processors
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 - ▶ Loops are the bottleneck of the code

Parallel programming and simulation

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- Julia has built-in parallel options
 - Multithreading is the way to start
 - Multithreading distributes tasks across processors
 - Easiest to implement for loops
 - ▶ Loops are the bottleneck of the code
- Many results come from simulation
 - Need to simulate draws from the exogenous Markov Process
 - Check code for simulation of MP in Lecture 5
 - Simulation is parallelizable!