PHD21 Computational methods: Assignments

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1 Assignment 1

Questions 1 through 4

Question:

1. *Label and interpret the model ingredients properly.*
2. *Characterise the individual labor supply curve.*
3. *Characterise the aggregate labor supply curve.*
4. *Characterise the aggregate labor demand curve*

Step 1A: Working households → intensive margin labour supply. Start with the working household's problem.

$$W(a,z) = \max_{c,n,a'} \left\{ \log(c) - \eta \frac{1}{1+\frac{1}{\chi}} n^{1+\frac{1}{\chi}} + \beta v(a') \right\} \quad (1.1)$$
$$\text{s.t. } c + a' = zw(1-\tau)n + a(1+r(1-\tau)) + T$$

Construct the Lagrangian, assuming that $v(a') = \log(a')$:

$$\mathcal{L} = \log(c) - \eta \frac{1}{1+\frac{1}{\chi}} n^{1+\frac{1}{\chi}} + \beta \log(a') + \lambda \left[zw(1-\tau)n + a(1+r(1-\tau)) + T - c - a' \right]. \quad (1.2)$$

The first-order conditions are as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}_c = \frac{1}{c} + \lambda = 0 \implies \lambda = \frac{1}{c}, \quad (1.3a)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_n = -\eta n^{\frac{1}{\chi}} + \lambda z w(1-\tau) = 0 \implies \eta n^{\frac{1}{\chi}} = \frac{zw(1-\tau)}{c}, \quad (1.3b)$$

and

$$\mathcal{L}_{a'} = \frac{\beta}{a'} - \lambda = 0 \implies a' = \beta c. \quad (1.3c)$$

Combine the results of Equations (1.3b) and (1.3c) with the budget contraint to arrive at the Euler equation:

$$\underbrace{c + a'}_{\text{Use (1.3c)}} = \underbrace{zw(1-\tau)n}_{\text{Use (1.3b)}} + a(1+r(1-\tau)) + T, \quad (1.4a)$$

$$\boxed{c(1+\beta) = zw(1-\tau)\left(\frac{zw(1-\tau)}{\eta c}\right)^{\chi} + a(1+r(1-\tau)) + T.} \quad \text{(WH-ILS)}$$

Equation (WH-ILS) governs the **intensive labour supply of a working household**, $c_w^\star(a,z)$ is their consumption level.

Further, notice that $c_w^\star(a,z)$ increases in z:

$$\frac{\partial c_w^\star(a,z)}{\partial z}(1+\beta) = \underbrace{\left[w(1-\tau)\eta^{-1}\right]^{1+\chi}}_{\equiv \theta > 0} \times \frac{(1+\chi)z^{\chi} c_w^\star(a,z) - z^{\chi}\frac{\partial c_w^\star(a,z)}{\partial z}}{c_w^\star(a,z)^2} \implies \quad (1.5a)$$

$$\frac{\partial c_w^\star(a,z)}{\partial z}\left(1+\beta+\theta\frac{z^{\chi}}{c_w^\star(a,z)^2}\right) = \frac{\theta(1+\chi)z^{\chi}}{c_w^\star(a,z)} \implies \quad (1.5b)$$

$$\frac{\partial c_w^\star(a,z)}{\partial z} = \frac{\frac{\theta(1+\chi)z^{\chi}}{c_w^\star(a,z)}}{1+\beta+\theta\frac{z^{\chi}}{c_w^\star(a,z)^2}} > 0. \quad (1.5c)$$

Also, differentiate Equation (1.3b):

$$\eta\chi^{-1}n^{\frac{1}{\chi}-1}\frac{\partial n^\star(a,z)}{\partial c_w^\star(a,z)} = -zw(1-\tau)c_w^\star(a,z)^{-2} \implies \tag{1.6a}$$

$$\frac{\partial n^\star(a,z)}{\partial c_w^\star(a,z)} = \frac{-\chi zw(1-\tau)}{\eta n^{\frac{1}{\chi}-1}c_w^\star(a,z)^2}. \tag{1.6b}$$

Using the combination of the Envelope Theorem and chain rule, this implies that, at the optimal consumption-hours bundle, the household sees:

$$\frac{\partial W(a,z)}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{c_w^\star(a,z)}\frac{\partial c_w^\star(a,z)}{\partial z} - \eta n^{\frac{1}{\chi}}\frac{\partial n^\star(a,z)}{\partial z} \implies \tag{1.7a}$$

$$\frac{\partial W(a,z)}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{c_w^\star(a,z)}\frac{\partial c_w^\star(a,z)}{\partial z} - \eta n^{\frac{1}{\chi}}\frac{\partial n^\star(a,z)}{\partial c_w^\star(a,z)}\frac{\partial c_w^\star(a,z)}{\partial z} \implies \tag{1.7b}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial W(a,z)}{\partial z} > 0.} \tag{1.7c}$$

Equation (1.7c) effectvely means that $W(a,z)$ **monotonically increases in** z.

Step 1B: Non-working households. The problem is similar here, apart from the labour first order condition. Skipping the Lagrangian setup, I arrive at the following first-order conditions:

$$\mathcal{L}_c = \frac{1}{c} + \lambda = 0 \implies \lambda = \frac{1}{c} \tag{1.8a}$$

and

$$\mathcal{L}_{a'} = \frac{\beta}{a'} - \lambda = 0 \implies a' = \beta c, \tag{1.8b}$$

both of which are identical to what we see for the working household. Combining it with the budget constraint, we obtain the consumption function for the non-working household:

$$\boxed{c_{nw}^\star(a) = \frac{b + a(1+r(1-\tau)) + T}{1+\beta}.} \tag{1.9}$$

This effectively implies that:

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial N(a,z)}{\partial z} = 0.} \tag{1.10}$$

Step 2: Extensive margin labour supply decision. Household (a,z) enters the labour market when:

$$\mathbf{I}_n(a,z) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if} \quad W(a,z) \geq N(a,z) \\ 0 & \text{if} \quad W(a,z) < N(a,z), \end{cases} \tag{1.11}$$

where $W(\cdot,\cdot)$ and $N(\cdot,\cdot)$ are the value functions of working and not working, respectively.

Even abstracting from the Unique Point Theorem, we can see that if there exists $z^\star$ such that:

$$W(a,z^\star) = N(a,z^\star) \tag{1.12}$$

then for $z > z^\star$, we have:

$$\mathbf{I}_n(a,z) = 1. \tag{1.13}$$

This will come handy while numerically solving the model.

Step 3: Aggregate labour supply. Assuming that $\Phi(a,z)$ is the joint distribution of ex-ante wealth and productivity, the **aggregate labour supply** is:

$$L^S = \int \mathbf{I}_n(a,z) h(a,z)\, \mathrm{d}\Phi(a,z) \tag{1.14}$$

Step 4A: Aggregate labour demand. We abstract from the capital markets, which makes the representative firm's problem near-trivial:

$$Y = \max_L \left\{ AK^\alpha L^{1-\alpha} - wL - rK \right\} \implies \tag{1.15a}$$

$$w = A(1-\alpha)\left(\frac{L^D}{K}\right)^{-\alpha}, \tag{1.15b}$$

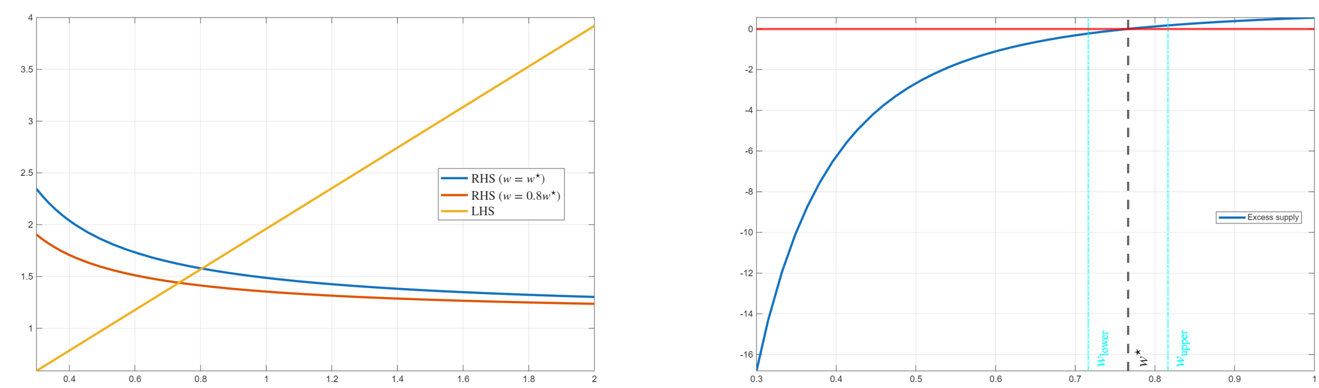
or, putting L^D on the LHS:

$$\boxed{L^D = \left(\frac{(1-\alpha)A}{w}\right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} K.} \tag{1.15c}$$

Figure 1: Household block of the model.

(a) Euler equation & consumption decision.

(b) Excess labour supply on the aggregate level.



Question 5

Question: *Suppose the following parameter levels:*

$$a = 1, \quad \alpha = 0.3, \quad \tau = 0.15, \quad \bar{z} = 1, \quad A = 1, \quad r = 0.04, \quad \beta = 0.96$$

Define and characterize the stationary recursive competitive equilibrium.

Step 1: Parameters left. $\mathbf{\Xi}$ represents the original vector of parameters:

$$\mathbf{\Xi} = (a, \eta, \xi, \tau, b, \beta, \sigma_z, A, \alpha, r)^T. \tag{1.16}$$

Given the pre-specified parameters, the unknown ones are:

$$\hat{\Xi} = (\eta, b, \sigma_z, \chi)^T \, . \tag{1.17}$$

In my further work, I already use the calibrated parameters (see question 8).

Step 2: Equilibrium. Given the distribution of labour productivity, Φ, a set of functions $\{n, c, a', z^\star, L, w, T\}$ is a **stationary competitive equilibrium** if

1. $(n, c, a', z^\star)$ solves the household's problem.
2. (K, L) solves the production sector's problem.
3. The labour and capital markets clear.

Step 3: Equilibrium algorithm. I set out the **algorithm used to compute the equilibrium** given a set of parameters.

1. Guess (w_0, T_0).
2. Compute individual decisions.
   - `fnIntensiveLabourSupply` computes the **intensive labour supply for a working household**. The following equations flesh out the approach leveraging concavity of Equation (WH-ILS). Start at the initial consumption guess, c_0. The code follows the logic fleshed out by the equations below:

     $$RHS\,(c) \equiv zw(1-\tau)\left(\frac{zw(1-\tau)}{\eta c}\right)^{\chi} + a(1 + r(1-\tau)) + T \tag{1.18a}$$

     $$LHS\,(c) \equiv (1+\beta)c \implies \tag{1.18b}$$

     $$c_1 = \frac{RHS\,(c_0)}{1+\beta} \tag{1.18c}$$

     and

     $$\epsilon_n \equiv c_n - c_{n-1} \implies \tag{1.18d}$$

     $$\epsilon_1 = c_1 - c_0. \tag{1.18e}$$

     If it's above the tolerance level, then repeat until it works:

     $$c_n = \frac{RHS\,(c_{n-1})}{1+\beta} \implies \tag{1.18f}$$

     $$\epsilon_n = c_n - c_{n-1}. \tag{1.18g}$$

     This approach computes the indiviually optimal values of consumption and labour market participation, (c_w, n_w), provided the household chooses to work.
   - `fnExtensiveLabourSupply` determines if household (a, z) chooses to work based on Equation (1.11).
3. Aggregate all labour supply decisions (`fnAggregateLabourSupply`) and compare them with the aggregate labour demand. `fnSolvePrices` iterates w and T until both clear the labour market.
   - One way of doing that is following the same method as for `fnIntensiveLabourSupply`, with Equations (1.14) and (1.15c) used to compute labour supply and demand, respectively.
   - Another method is to use bisection, in `fnSolvePricesBisection`. As illustrated in Figure 1b, the method is based on creating a grid for different wage values, finding the negative value closest to 0, w_{lower}, and taking the weighted average of w_{lower} and w_{upper} (the next value in the grid). **Note**: I use the "naive" approach in my code, as bisection seems to produce a
4. If the error is too large, update (w_n, T_n) and iterate until convergence.

Question 6

Question: *Visualize the aggregate supply and demand curves in the labor market.*

Question 7

Question: *Visualize the comparative statics of the wage with respect to the change in A.*

Question 8

Question: *Estimate parameters $(\eta, b, \chi, \sigma_z)$ to match the following hypothetical moments in general equilibrium:*

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