

ECON 204C - Macroeconomic Theory

Equilibrium with Complete Markets

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Learning Objective

- Equilibrium with Complete Markets
 - Date 0 trading: Arrow-Debreu securities
 - Sequential trading: Arrow securities
 - Recursive competitive equilibrium

Stochastic Event

In each period $t \geq 0$, there is a realization of a stochastic event $s_t \in S$. Let the history of events up and until time t be denoted by $s^t = (s_t, s_{t-1}, \dots, s_1, s_0) \in S^t$.

- Unconditional probability of observing a particular sequence of events s^t is $\pi_t(s^t)$.
- Probability of observing s^τ conditional on the realization of s^t $\pi_\tau(s^\tau | s^t)$.

There are I agents named $i \in \mathcal{I} = \{1, \dots, I\}$.

- Agent i owns a stochastic endowment $y_t^i(s^t)$ that depends on s^t .
- The history s^t is **publicly observable**.

Preferences

Household i purchases a **history-dependent consumption plan** $c^i = \{c_t^i(s^t)\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$.

$$U(c^i) = \mathbb{E}_0 \left[\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t u(c_t^i) \right] = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s^t} \beta^t u(c_t^i(s^t)) \pi_t(s^t) \quad \text{where} \quad \beta \in (0, 1)$$

- u is an increasing, twice continuously differentiable, and strictly concave function.
- The utility function satisfies the Inada condition.

$$\lim_{c \rightarrow 0} u'(c) = \infty$$

- We are imposing identical preference across all individuals i that can be represented in terms of discounted expected utility with common discount factor β , common Bernoulli utility function u , and common probability distributions $\pi_t(s^t)$.

Date 0 Trading - Arrow-Debreu Structure

- Households trade dated history-contingent claims to consumption.
- There is a complete set of Arrow-Debreu securities.
- Trades occur at time 0, after s_0 has been realized.
 - we assume that $\pi_0(s_0) = 1$ for the initially given value of s_0 .

Date 0 Trading - Household i 's UMP

Household $i \in \mathcal{I}$ purchases a **history-dependent consumption plan** $c^i = \{c_t^i(s^t)\}_{t=0}^\infty$.

$$\max_{\{c_t^i(s^t)\}_{t=0}^\infty} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s^t} \beta^t u(c_t^i(s^t)) \pi_t(s^t) \quad s.t. \quad \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s^t} q_t^0(s^t) c_t^i(s^t) \leq \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s^t} q_t^0(s^t) y_t^i(s^t)$$

- $q_t^0(s^t)$ denotes the price of time t consumption contingent on history s^t at time t **in terms of an abstract unit of account or numeraire**.
 - If we assume $q_0^0(s_0) = 1$, then $c_0(s_0)$ is numeraire.
 - $\frac{q_\tau^0(s^\tau)}{q_t^0(s^t)}$ denotes the price of time τ consumption contingent on history s^τ at time τ **in terms of time t consumption contingent on history s^t at time t** .
- All trades occur at time 0. After time 0, trades that were agreed to at time 0 are executed, but no more trades occur.

Date 0 Trading - Household i 's UMP

$$\mathcal{L}_{AD}^i = \max_{\{c_t^i(s^t)\}_{t=0}^{\infty}, \mu^i} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s^t} \beta^t u(c_t^i(s^t)) \pi_t(s^t) + \mu^i \left(\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s^t} q_t^0(s^t) y_t^i(s^t) - \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s^t} q_t^0(s^t) c_t^i(s^t) \right)$$

$$\beta^t u'(c_t^{i*}(s^t)) \pi_t(s^t) = \mu^{i*} q_t^0(s^t) \quad (\text{FOC w.r.t. } c_t^i(s^t))$$

$$\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s^t} q_t^0(s^t) y_t^i(s^t) = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s^t} q_t^0(s^t) c_t^{i*}(s^t) \quad (\text{FOC w.r.t. } \mu^i)$$

$$\frac{\beta^{\tau} u'(c_{\tau}^{i*}(s^{\tau})) \pi_{\tau}(s^{\tau})}{\beta^t u'(c_t^{i*}(s^t)) \pi_t(s^t)} = \frac{q_{\tau}^0(s^{\tau})}{q_t^0(s^t)} \quad (\text{within } i \text{ across histories})$$

$$\frac{u'(c_t^{i*}(s^t))}{u'(c_t^{j*}(s^t))} = \frac{\mu^{i*}}{\mu^{j*}} \quad (\text{given } s^t \text{ across individuals})$$

Date 0 Trading - Household i 's UMP

Given two histories s^t and s^τ , MRS of $c_t(s^t)$ for $c_\tau(s^\tau)$ is the same across individuals.

$$\underbrace{\frac{\beta^\tau u'(c_\tau^{i*}(s^\tau)) \pi_\tau(s^\tau)}{\beta^t u'(c_t^{i*}(s^t)) \pi_t(s^t)}}_{MRS_{s^t, s^\tau}^i(c^{i*})} = \underbrace{\frac{\beta^\tau u'(c_\tau^{j*}(s^\tau)) \pi_\tau(s^\tau)}{\beta^t u'(c_t^{j*}(s^t)) \pi_t(s^t)}}_{MRS_{s^t, s^\tau}^j(c^{j*})}$$

Given two individuals i and j , the ratio of $MU_{s^t}^i$ to $MU_{s^t}^j$ is the same across histories.

$$\frac{u'(c_t^{i*}(s^t))}{u'(c_t^{j*}(s^t))} = \frac{u'(c_\tau^{i*}(s^\tau))}{u'(c_\tau^{j*}(s^\tau))}$$

Date 0 Trading - Competitive Equilibrium

Definition A competitive equilibrium is a price system $\{q_t^0(s^t)\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ and allocation $\{c^{i*}\}_{i \in \mathcal{I}}$ such that

1. Given a price system, each individual $i \in \mathcal{I}$ solves the following problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \{c_t^{i*}(s^t)\}_{t=0}^{\infty} &= \arg \max_{\{c_t^i(s^t)\}_{t=0}^{\infty}} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s^t} \beta^t u(c_t^i(s^t)) \pi_t(s^t) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s^t} q_t^0(s^t) c_t^i(s^t) \leq \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s^t} q_t^0(s^t) y_t^i(s^t) \end{aligned}$$

2. On every history s^t at time t , market clears

$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} c_t^{i*}(s^t) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} y_t^i(s^t)$$

Date 0 Trading - Competitive Equilibrium

- Unknowns

$$\{q_t^0(s^t)\}_{t=0}^{\infty} \quad \left\{ \{c_t^{i*}(s^t)\}_{t=0}^{\infty} \right\}_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \quad \{\mu^{i*}\}_{i \in \mathcal{I}}$$

- System of equations

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} c_t^{i*}(s^t) &= \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} y_t^i(s^t) \\ \beta^t u'(c_t^{i*}(s^t)) \pi_t(s^t) &= \mu^{i*} q_t^0(s^t) \\ \frac{u'(c_t^{i*}(s^t))}{u'(c_t^{1*}(s^t))} &= \frac{\mu^{i*}}{\mu^{1*}} \quad \forall i \in \{2, \dots, I\} \\ q_0^0(s_0) &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Sequential Trading

- New one-period markets are re-opened for trading each period.
- In time t , history-dependent wealth is properly assigned to each agent.
- At each date $t \geq 0$, but only at the history s^t actually realized, trades occur in a set of claims to **one-period-ahead state-contingent consumption**.
- We build on an insight of Arrow (1964) that **one-period securities are enough to implement complete markets**.

Sequential Trading - Household i 's UMP

On every history s^t at time t , household $i \in \mathcal{I}$ purchases a **consumption plan** $c_t^i(s^t)$ and **one-period-ahead state-contingent claims** $\{a_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t)\}_{s_{t+1} \in S}$ subject to

$$c_t^i(s^t) + \sum_{s_{t+1} \in S} a_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t) Q_t(s_{t+1} | s^t) \leq y_t^i(s^t) + a_t^i(s^t) \quad (\text{Budget constraint})$$

$$a_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t) \geq -A_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t) \quad \forall s_{t+1} \in S \quad (\text{Borrowing limit})$$

- $a_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t)$ denotes the claims to time $t + 1$ consumption, other than its time $t + 1$ endowment $y_{t+1}^i(s^{t+1})$, that household i brings into time $t + 1$ in history s^{t+1} .
- $Q_t(s_{t+1} | s^t)$ is the price of one unit of time $t + 1$ consumption, contingent on the realization s_{t+1} at time $t + 1$.

Sequential Trading - Natural Borrowing Limit (NBL)

Let $q_\tau^t(s^\tau) = \frac{q_\tau^0(s^\tau)}{q_t^0(s^t)}$ be the Arrow-Debreu price, denominated in units of the date t , history s^t consumption good.

$$A_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t) = \sum_{\tau=t+1}^{\infty} \sum_{s^\tau | (s_{t+1}, s^t)} q_\tau^t(s^\tau) y_\tau^i(s^\tau)$$

- It is **the maximal value that agent i can repay starting from $t + 1$** , assuming that his consumption is zero always.
- We shall require that household i at time t and history s^t cannot promise to pay more than $A_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t)$ conditional on the realization of s_{t+1} tomorrow, because it will not be feasible to repay more.
- Household i at time t faces one such borrowing constraint for each possible realization of $s_{t+1} \in S$ tomorrow.

Sequential Trading - Household i 's UMP

$$\mathcal{L}_{Seq}^i = \max_{\{c_t^i(s^t), \{a_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t)\}_{s_{t+1} \in S}, \eta^i(s^t), \{v(s_{t+1}, s^t)\}_{s_{t+1} \in S}\}_{t=0}^{\infty}} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s^t} \left\{ \beta^t u(c_t^i(s^t)) \pi_t(s^t) \right. \\ \left. + \eta^i(s^t) \left(y_t^i(s^t) + a_t^i(s^t) - c_t^i(s^t) - \sum_{s_{t+1}} a_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t) Q_t(s_{t+1} | s^t) \right) \right. \\ \left. + \sum_{s_{t+1}} v_t^i(s^t; s_{t+1}) \left(a_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t) + A_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t) \right) \right\}$$

$$\beta^t u'(c_t^i(s^t)) \pi_t(s^t) = \eta_t^i(s^t) \quad (\text{FOC w.r.t. } c_t^i(s^t))$$

$$-\eta_t^i(s^t) Q_t(s_{t+1} | s^t) + \underbrace{v_t^i(s^t; s_{t+1})}_{\xrightarrow{0}} + \eta_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t) = 0 \quad \forall s_{t+1} \in S \quad (\text{FOC w.r.t. } a_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t))$$

$$\because \lim_{c \rightarrow 0} u'(c) = \infty$$

$$c_t^i(s^t) + \sum_{s_{t+1}} a_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t) Q_t(s_{t+1} | s^t) = y_t^i(s^t) + a_t^i(s^t) \quad \forall s_{t+1} \in S \quad (\text{FOC w.r.t. } \eta^i(s^t))$$

Sequential Trading - Household i 's UMP

On every history s^t at time t , the following holds for all $s_{t+1} \in S$.

$$Q_t(s_{t+1}|s^t) = \frac{\beta^{t+1} u'(\tilde{c}_{t+1}^i(s^{t+1})) \pi_{t+1}(s^{t+1})}{\beta^t u'(\tilde{c}_t^i(s^t)) \pi_t(s^t)}$$

$$Q_t(s_{t+1}|s^t) = \beta \frac{u'(\tilde{c}_{t+1}^i(s^{t+1}))}{u'(\tilde{c}_t^i(s^t))} \pi_t(s^{t+1}|s^t)$$

Sequential Trading - Competitive Equilibrium

Definition A competitive equilibrium is a price system $\{\{Q_t(s_{t+1}|s^t)\}_{s_{t+1} \in S}\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$, an allocation $\left\{\{\tilde{c}_t^i(s^t), \{\tilde{a}_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t)\}_{s_{t+1} \in S}\}_{t=0}^{\infty}\right\}_{i \in \mathcal{I}}$, an initial distribution of wealth $\{a_0^i(s_0) = 0\}_{i \in \mathcal{I}}$, and a collection of natural borrowing limits $\left\{\{A_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t)\}_{s_{t+1} \in S}\right\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ such that

1. Given a price system, an initial distribution of wealth, and a collection of natural borrowing limits, each individual $i \in \mathcal{I}$ solves the following problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \{\tilde{c}_t^i(s^t), \{\tilde{a}_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t)\}_{s_{t+1} \in S}\}_{t=0}^{\infty} = \arg \max_{\{c_t^i(s^t), \{a_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t)\}_{s_{t+1} \in S}\}_{t=0}^{\infty}} & \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s^t} \beta^t u(c_t^i(s^t)) \pi_t(s^t) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & c_t^i(s^t) + \sum_{s_{t+1} \in S} a_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t) Q_t(s_{t+1}|s^t) \leq y_t^i(s^t) + a_t^i(s^t) \\ & a_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t) \geq -A_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t) \quad \forall s_{t+1} \in S \end{aligned}$$

2. On every history s^t at time t , markets clear.

$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \tilde{c}_t^i(s^t) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} y_t^i(s^t) \quad (\text{Commodity market clearing})$$

$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \tilde{a}_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t) = 0 \quad \forall s_{t+1} \in S \quad (\text{Asset market clearing})$$

Equivalence of Allocations

$$Q_t(s_{t+1}|s^t) = \frac{q_{t+1}^0(s^{t+1})}{q_t^0(s^t)} \Rightarrow \beta \frac{u'(\tilde{c}_{t+1}^i(s^{t+1}))}{u'(\tilde{c}_t^i(s^t))} \pi_t(s^{t+1}|s^t) = \beta \frac{u'(c_{t+1}^{i*}(s^{t+1}))}{u'(c_t^{i*}(s^t))} \pi_t(s^{t+1}|s^t)$$

Guess for Portfolio

On every history s^t at time t ,

$$\tilde{a}_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t) = \sum_{\tau=t+1}^{\infty} \sum_{s^\tau | (s_{t+1}, s^t)} \frac{q_\tau^0(s^\tau)}{q_{t+1}^0(s^{t+1})} \left(c_\tau^{i*}(s^\tau) - y_\tau^i(s^\tau) \right) \quad \forall s_{t+1} \in S$$

Value of this portfolio expressed in terms of the date t , history s^t consumption good is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{s_{t+1} \in S} \tilde{a}_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t) Q_t(s_{t+1} | s^t) &= \sum_{s_{t+1} \in S} \sum_{\tau=t+1}^{\infty} \sum_{s^\tau | (s_{t+1}, s^t)} \frac{q_\tau^0(s^\tau)}{q_{t+1}^0(s^{t+1})} \left(c_\tau^{i*}(s^\tau) - y_\tau^i(s^\tau) \right) Q_t(s_{t+1} | s^t) \\ &= \sum_{s_{t+1} \in S} \sum_{\tau=t+1}^{\infty} \sum_{s^\tau | (s_{t+1}, s^t)} \frac{q_\tau^0(s^\tau)}{\cancel{q_{t+1}^0(s^{t+1})}} \left(c_\tau^{i*}(s^\tau) - y_\tau^i(s^\tau) \right) \frac{\cancel{q_{t+1}^0(s^{t+1})}}{q_t^0(s^t)} \\ &= \sum_{\tau=t+1}^{\infty} \sum_{s^\tau | s^t} \frac{q_\tau^0(s^\tau)}{q_t^0(s^t)} \left(c_\tau^{i*}(s^\tau) - y_\tau^i(s^\tau) \right) \end{aligned}$$

Verify Portfolio

On history $s^0 = s_0$ at time $t = 0$, assume that $q_0^i(s_0) = 0$. Then

$$\tilde{c}_0^i(s_0) + \sum_{s_1 \in S} \tilde{a}_1^i(s_1, s_0) Q_1(s_1 | s_0) = y_0^i(s_0) + 0$$

$$\tilde{c}_0^i(s_0) + \sum_{\tau=1}^{\infty} \sum_{s^\tau | s_0} \frac{q_\tau^0(s^\tau)}{q_0^0(s_0)} \left(c_\tau^{i*}(s^\tau) - y_t^i(s^\tau) \right) = y_0^i(s_0) + 0$$

$$q_0^0(s_0) c_0^{i*}(s_0) + \sum_{\tau=1}^{\infty} \sum_{s^\tau | s_0} q_\tau^0(s^\tau) \left(c_\tau^{i*}(s^\tau) - y_t^i(s^\tau) \right) = q_0^0(s_0) y_0^i(s_0) \quad (\text{if } \tilde{c}_0^i(s_0) = c_0^{i*}(s_0))$$

$$\sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s^t} q_t^0(s^t) y_t^i(s^t) = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s^t} q_t^0(s^t) c_t^{i*}(s^t)$$

Therefore, given $\tilde{c}_0^i(s_0) = c_0^{i*}(s_0)$, portfolio $\{\tilde{a}_1^i(s_1, s_0)\}_{s_1 \in S}$ is affordable.

Verify Portfolio

On history s^t at time t , assume that $\tilde{a}_t^i(s^t) = \sum_{\tau=t}^{\infty} \sum_{s^\tau | s^t} \frac{q_\tau^0(s^\tau)}{q_t^0(s^t)} \left(c_\tau^{i*}(s^\tau) - y_\tau^i(s^\tau) \right)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{c}_t^i(s^t) + \sum_{s_{t+1} \in S} \tilde{a}_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t) Q_t(s_{t+1} | s^t) &= y_t^i(s^t) + \sum_{\tau=t}^{\infty} \sum_{s^\tau | s^t} \frac{q_\tau^0(s^\tau)}{q_t^0(s^t)} \left(c_\tau^{i*}(s^\tau) - y_\tau^i(s^\tau) \right) \\
 \tilde{c}_t^i(s^t) + \sum_{\tau=t+1}^{\infty} \sum_{s^\tau | s^t} \frac{q_\tau^0(s^\tau)}{q_t^0(s^t)} \left(c_\tau^{i*}(s^\tau) - y_\tau^i(s^\tau) \right) &= y_t^i(s^t) + \sum_{\tau=t}^{\infty} \sum_{s^\tau | s^t} \frac{q_\tau^0(s^\tau)}{q_t^0(s^t)} \left(c_\tau^{i*}(s^\tau) - y_\tau^i(s^\tau) \right) \\
 q_t^0(s^t) \tilde{c}_t^i(s^t) + \sum_{\tau=t+1}^{\infty} \sum_{s^\tau | s^t} q_\tau^0(s^\tau) \left(c_\tau^{i*}(s^\tau) - y_\tau^i(s^\tau) \right) &= q_t^0(s^t) y_t^i(s^t) + \sum_{\tau=t}^{\infty} \sum_{s^\tau | s^t} q_\tau^0(s^\tau) \left(c_\tau^{i*}(s^\tau) - y_\tau^i(s^\tau) \right) \\
 &\quad \text{(if } \tilde{c}_t^i(s^t) = c_t^{i*}(s^t) \text{)} \\
 \sum_{\tau=t}^{\infty} \sum_{s^\tau | s^t} q_\tau^0(s^\tau) \left(c_\tau^{i*}(s^\tau) - y_\tau^i(s^\tau) \right) &= \sum_{\tau=t}^{\infty} \sum_{s^\tau | s^t} q_\tau^0(s^\tau) \left(c_\tau^{i*}(s^\tau) - y_\tau^i(s^\tau) \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, given $\tilde{c}_t^i(s^t) = c_t^{i*}(s^t)$, portfolio $\{\tilde{a}_{t+1}^i(s_{t+1}, s^t)\}_{s_{t+1} \in S}$ is affordable.

Equivalence of Allocations

- We have shown that the proposed portfolio strategy attains the same consumption plan as in the competitive equilibrium of the Arrow-Debreu economy.
- What precludes household i from further increasing current consumption by reducing some component of the asset portfolio?
 - Natural borrowing limits
- These are all nice, but terribly abstract and complicated. So we impose a Markov structure, which admits a beautiful recursive structure.

Household's Recursive Problem

$$V(a, s) = \max_{c, \{a'(s')\}_{s' \in S}} \left\{ u(c) + \underbrace{\beta \sum_{s' \in S} V(a'(s'), s') \pi(s'|s)}_{\mathbb{E}_s [V(a'(s'), s')]} \right\}$$

$$s.t. \quad c + \sum_{s' \in S} Q(s'|s) a'(s') \leq y(s) + a$$

$$a'(s') \geq -A(s') \quad \text{where} \quad A(s') = y(s') + \sum_{s'' \in S} Q(s''|s') A(s'')$$

$h(a, s)$ and $\{g(a, s, s')\}_{s' \in S}$ are associated policy function for consumption and Arrow securities.

Recursive Competitive Equilibrium (RCE)

Definition A recursive competitive equilibrium is a price kernel $\{Q(s'|s)\}_{s' \in S}$, sets of value functions $\{V^i(a, s)\}_{i \in \mathcal{I}}$, sets of policy functions $\{h^i(a, s), \{g^i(a, s, s')\}_{s' \in S}\}_{i \in \mathcal{I}}$, an initial distribution of wealth $\{a^i\}_{i \in \mathcal{I}}$ where $\sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} a^i = 0$, and a collection of natural borrowing limits $\{\{A^i(s')\}_{s' \in S}\}_{i \in \mathcal{I}}$ such that

1. The state-by-state borrowing constraints satisfy the recursion.

$$A(s') = y(s') + \sum_{s'' \in S} Q(s''|s') A(s'')$$

2. Given a price kernel, an initial distribution of wealth, and a collection of natural borrowing limits, each individual $i \in \mathcal{I}$'s value function and policy function solves the household's recursive problem.
3. On every state s , given a , markets clear.

$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} c^i = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} y^i(s) \quad \text{where} \quad c^i = h(a, s) \quad (\text{Commodity market clearing})$$

$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} a^{i'}(s') = 0 \quad \forall s' \in S \quad \text{where} \quad a^{i'}(s') = g(a, s, s') \quad (\text{Asset market clearing})$$

Reference

Ljungqvist, L., & Sargent, T. J. (2018). Recursive macroeconomic theory. MIT press.