

Intertemporal movements (for individuals - "age effects")  
 Aggregate components ("year effects")  
 Cross-sectional components ("person effects" if time invariant)

Any within-person variance over time other than age effects  
 (some of this might be intertemporal substitution)

Cohort effects: cohort crowding is a possible cause

The hours profile is much flatter than the wage profile.

Educated workers work more, but this doesn't make sense, since they make more forever, and hence wealth effects would predict that hours would be lower.

### Perfect information

$$\max U(c_{1t}, \dots, c_{Tt}; l_{1t}, \dots, l_{Tt})$$

$$\bullet w_{1t}, \dots, w_{Tt}$$

$$\bullet p_1, \dots, p_T \quad (\text{invariant across people})$$

$$\bullet A_0$$

$$\text{s.t. } A_0 = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T p_t c_{1t} - w_{1t}(T - l_{1t})}{1 + r_t}$$

First simplification: intertemporal additivity

$$U = \sum_{t=0}^T u_t(c_{it}, l_{it})$$

Second simplification: constant discounting and stable w/in period utility fcn:

$$U = \sum_{t=0}^T \frac{u(c_{it}, l_{it})}{(1+\rho)^t}$$

Benchmark life-cycle model.

• There is a fair amount of functional form inherent in this additivity

• There are a lot of assumptions in the budget constraint

• perfect credit markets

• parametric prices

• adding uncertainty changes this model surprisingly little.

$$\max_{\{c_{it}\}, \{l_{it}\}} \sum_{t=0}^T \frac{u(c_{it}, l_{it})}{(1+\rho)^t}$$

$$s.t. \quad A_0 = \sum_{t=0}^T \frac{P_t c_{it} - W_t l_{it}}{(1+r)^t}$$

$$h = \sum_{t=0}^T \left(\frac{1}{1+p}\right)^t u(c_{it}, l_{it}) - \lambda_i \left[ A_0 - \sum_{t=0}^T \frac{P_t c_{it} - w_{it}(T-l_{it})}{(1+r)^t} \right]$$

FOCs:

$$c_{it}) : \left(\frac{1}{1+p}\right)^t u_c(c_{it}, l_{it}) = \lambda_i P_t \left(\frac{1}{1+p}\right)^t \quad t=0, \dots, T$$

$$l_{it}) : \left(\frac{1}{1+p}\right)^t u_l(c_{it}, l_{it}) = \lambda_i \frac{w_{it}}{(1+r)^t} \quad t=0, \dots, T$$

$$\Rightarrow c_{it} = f(r, p, \lambda_i, P_t, w_{it})$$

$$l_{it} = g(r, p, \lambda_i, P_t, w_{it})$$

• plug this into budget constraint, solve for  $\lambda_i$

• We can typically stop here.

•  $\lambda_i$  has everything we need to know about all future wages and prices.

$\lambda_i = \text{"complicated f"}(w_{i0}, \dots, w_{iT}, P_0, \dots, P_T, A_0)$   
marginal utility of wealth.

• can introduce  $w_{it}(l_{it-1}, \dots, l_{i0})$ , but we will not now.

Lucas-Rapping (1970), Hedeman-Macurdy (1980)

$$\text{let } u(c_{it}, h_{it}) = \pi_{1i} c_{it}^{\delta_1} - \pi_{2i} h_{it}^{\delta_2}$$

o within period additivity.

FOC:

$$(h_{it}) \quad \frac{\delta_2 \lambda_{2i} h_{it}^{\delta_2 - 1}}{(1+p)^t} = \lambda_i \frac{w_{it}}{(1+r)^t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_{2i} \delta_2 h_{it}^{\delta_2 - 1} = \left(\frac{1+p}{1+r}\right)^t \lambda_i w_{it}$$

$\ln\left(\frac{1+p}{1+r}\right)^t = t[\ln(1+p) - \ln(1+r)]$   
 $\approx t(p-r)$   
 since  $\ln(1+p) \approx p$

$$\Rightarrow \log \lambda_{2i} + \log \delta_2 + (\delta_2 - 1) \log h_{it} = t(p-r) + \ln \lambda_i + \ln w_{it}$$

$$\Rightarrow \log h_{it} = \underbrace{\left(\cdot\right)}_{\substack{\text{everything} \\ \text{here doesn't depend} \\ \text{on } t, \\ \text{person effect}}} + \frac{1}{\delta_2 - 1} \ln w_{it} + \underbrace{t(p-r)}_{\text{trend}}$$

◦ wages affect contemporaneous labor supply  $\frac{1}{\delta_2 - 1}$

$$\left. \frac{\partial \log h_{it}}{\partial \log w_{it}} \right|_{\lambda_i \text{ fixed}} = \frac{1}{\delta_2 - 1} \equiv \delta$$

(need  $\delta_2 > 1$  for SOCs to hold)

Intertemporal labor supply elasticity

◦ Heckman-Macurdy and Stone-Geary preferences are the ones most often used

Why is  $\delta$  important? It answers the question: "What are the consequences of a change in wages that don't affect lifetime wealth."