

Discussion on Krusell, Mukoyama, Rogerson, and Sahin's
*"Aggregate Labor Market Outcomes: The Role of
Choice and Chance"*

Marco Cozzi

Queen's University

Montreal - Oct 2009

Remark 1 - Results

- Model of the Labor Market with both *frictions* and *endogenous* labor supply.

Remark 1 - Results

- Model of the Labor Market with both *frictions* and *endogenous* labor supply.
- Issue: E/P and u in standard matching models respond drastically to changes in frictions.

Remark 1 - Results

- Model of the Labor Market with both *frictions* and *endogenous* labor supply.
- Issue: E/P and u in standard matching models respond drastically to changes in frictions.
- Findings:

Remark 1 - Results

- Model of the Labor Market with both *frictions* and *endogenous* labor supply.
- Issue: E/P and u in standard matching models respond drastically to changes in frictions.
- Findings:
 - 1 The "choice" channel attenuates the effects of changes in frictions on steady state employment.

Remark 1 - Results

- Model of the Labor Market with both *frictions* and *endogenous* labor supply.
- Issue: E/P and u in standard matching models respond drastically to changes in frictions.
- Findings:
 - 1 The "choice" channel attenuates the effects of changes in frictions on steady state employment.
 - 2 The response of the unemployment rate is unaffected by frictions.

Remark 1 - Results

- Model of the Labor Market with both *frictions* and *endogenous* labor supply.
- Issue: E/P and u in standard matching models respond drastically to changes in frictions.
- Findings:
 - 1 The "choice" channel attenuates the effects of changes in frictions on steady state employment.
 - 2 The response of the unemployment rate is unaffected by frictions.
 - 3 Taxes.

Remark 2 - A Model with Three Labor MKT States

- In the data it's hard to distinguish between U and N (Jones and Ridell ECTA 1999).

Remark 2 - A Model with Three Labor MKT States

- In the data it's hard to distinguish between U and N (Jones and Ridell ECTA 1999).
- Garibaldi and Wasmer (JEEA 2005) provide another "empirically plausible" model with frictions and labor supply.

Remark 2 - A Model with Three Labor MKT States

- In the data it's hard to distinguish between U and N (Jones and Ridell ECTA 1999).
- Garibaldi and Wasmer (JEEA 2005) provide another "empirically plausible" model with frictions and labor supply.
- UI scheme is abstracted from in the model (unemployed get a lump-sum transfer).

Remark 2 - A Model with Three Labor MKT States

- In the data it's hard to distinguish between U and N (Jones and Ridell ECTA 1999).
- Garibaldi and Wasmer (JEEA 2005) provide another "empirically plausible" model with frictions and labor supply.
- UI scheme is abstracted from in the model (unemployed get a lump-sum transfer).
- Employment opportunity probability λ_w is:

Remark 2 - A Model with Three Labor MKT States

- In the data it's hard to distinguish between U and N (Jones and Ridell ECTA 1999).
- Garibaldi and Wasmer (JEEA 2005) provide another "empirically plausible" model with frictions and labor supply.
- UI scheme is abstracted from in the model (unemployed get a lump-sum transfer).
- Employment opportunity probability λ_w is:
 - ① exogenous (vacancies and matching function?)

Remark 2 - A Model with Three Labor MKT States

- In the data it's hard to distinguish between U and N (Jones and Ridell ECTA 1999).
- Garibaldi and Wasmer (JEEA 2005) provide another "empirically plausible" model with frictions and labor supply.
- UI scheme is abstracted from in the model (unemployed get a lump-sum transfer).
- Employment opportunity probability λ_w is:
 - 1 exogenous (vacancies and matching function?)
 - 2 the same for U and N : marginally attached workers might face different frictions.

Remark 2 - A Model with Three Labor MKT States

- In the data it's hard to distinguish between U and N (Jones and Ridell ECTA 1999).
- Garibaldi and Wasmer (JEEA 2005) provide another "empirically plausible" model with frictions and labor supply.
- UI scheme is abstracted from in the model (unemployed get a lump-sum transfer).
- Employment opportunity probability λ_w is:
 - ① exogenous (vacancies and matching function?)
 - ② the same for U and N : marginally attached workers might face different frictions.
- Nature of labor market risk: HIP Vs. RIP (Guisen RED 2009, AER 2007), "Choice" might be heavily affected.

Remark 2 - A Model with Three Labor MKT States

- In the data it's hard to distinguish between U and N (Jones and Ridell ECTA 1999).
- Garibaldi and Wasmer (JEEA 2005) provide another "empirically plausible" model with frictions and labor supply.
- UI scheme is abstracted from in the model (unemployed get a lump-sum transfer).
- Employment opportunity probability λ_w is:
 - ① exogenous (vacancies and matching function?)
 - ② the same for U and N : marginally attached workers might face different frictions.
- Nature of labor market risk: HIP Vs. RIP (Guvenen RED 2009, AER 2007), "Choice" might be heavily affected.
- Wages in the paper are competitive, not bargained.

Remark 3 - Data and Calibration

- Microeconomic studies (Blundell and MaCurdy 1999) find a low Frish elasticity: how much is it in the model?

Remark 3 - Data and Calibration

- Microeconomic studies (Blundell and MaCurdy 1999) find a low Frish elasticity: how much is it in the model?
- A no-borrowing environment seems too extreme (too much precautionary savings): 15% negative net worth (Wolff JEcPers1998).

Remark 3 - Data and Calibration

- Microeconomic studies (Blundell and MaCurdy 1999) find a low Frish elasticity: how much is it in the model?
- A no-borrowing environment seems too extreme (too much precautionary savings): 15% negative net worth (Wolff JEcPers1998).
- Observables (such as age, education, $E-U$ duration) matter for retention rates and unemployment rates (JOLE 1999): life-cycle model?

Remark 3 - Data and Calibration

- Microeconomic studies (Blundell and MaCurdy 1999) find a low Frish elasticity: how much is it in the model?
- A no-borrowing environment seems too extreme (too much precautionary savings): 15% negative net worth (Wolff JEcPers1998).
- Observables (such as age, education, $E-U$ duration) matter for retention rates and unemployment rates (JOLE 1999): life-cycle model?
- "Exploit" Heterogeneity: pick ρ and σ_ε to match moments of the wage (asset?) distribution.

Remark 3 - Data and Calibration

- Microeconomic studies (Blundell and MaCurdy 1999) find a low Frish elasticity: how much is it in the model?
- A no-borrowing environment seems too extreme (too much precautionary savings): 15% negative net worth (Wolff JEcPers1998).
- Observables (such as age, education, $E-U$ duration) matter for retention rates and unemployment rates (JOLE 1999): life-cycle model?
- "Exploit" Heterogeneity: pick ρ and σ_ε to match moments of the wage (asset?) distribution.
- Should the "Pissarides" model match $u = 5.1\%$?

Remark 3 - Data and Calibration

- Microeconomic studies (Blundell and MaCurdy 1999) find a low Frish elasticity: how much is it in the model?
- A no-borrowing environment seems too extreme (too much precautionary savings): 15% negative net worth (Wolff JEcPers1998).
- Observables (such as age, education, $E-U$ duration) matter for retention rates and unemployment rates (JOLE 1999): life-cycle model?
- "Exploit" Heterogeneity: pick ρ and σ_ε to match moments of the wage (asset?) distribution.
- Should the "Pissarides" model match $u = 5.1\%$?
- Taxes: Heathcote (REStud 2005), CKK (AER 2009).

Remark 4 - Quantitative Exercises

- Counterfactuals and decompositions to disentangle the quantitative effects:

Remark 4 - Quantitative Exercises

- Counterfactuals and decompositions to disentangle the quantitative effects:
 - ① Assessing Choice Vs. Chance: just prevent agents in your model to choose.

Remark 4 - Quantitative Exercises

- Counterfactuals and decompositions to disentangle the quantitative effects:
 - ① Assessing Choice Vs. Chance: just prevent agents in your model to choose.
 - ② Calibrate α rather than λ_w to match E/P .

Remark 4 - Quantitative Exercises

- Counterfactuals and decompositions to disentangle the quantitative effects:
 - 1 Assessing Choice Vs. Chance: just prevent agents in your model to choose.
 - 2 Calibrate α rather than λ_w to match E/P .
 - 3 Recalibrate σ to match $E \rightarrow U$.

Remark 4 - Quantitative Exercises

- Counterfactuals and decompositions to disentangle the quantitative effects:
 - 1 Assessing Choice Vs. Chance: just prevent agents in your model to choose.
 - 2 Calibrate α rather than λ_w to match E/P .
 - 3 Recalibrate σ to match $E \rightarrow U$.
 - 4 PE Vs. GE.

Remark 4 - Quantitative Exercises

- Counterfactuals and decompositions to disentangle the quantitative effects:
 - ① Assessing Choice Vs. Chance: just prevent agents in your model to choose.
 - ② Calibrate α rather than λ_w to match E/P .
 - ③ Recalibrate σ to match $E \rightarrow U$.
 - ④ PE Vs. GE.
- The framework can be used to assess many other important issues. E.g. from Figure 1 it seems safe to say that Rising Wage Inequality cannot be explained by changes in frictions in the labor market.