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Macro III

Problem #1

We consider the following matching model.

The matching function is given by

$$m(u, v) = \frac{uv}{u + v}.$$

There is free entry in vacancy posting and the cost of posting a vacancy per unit of time is equal to c . Wages are set by intertemporal Nash bargaining so that

$$V_e = V_u + \varphi W,$$

and

$$J = (1 - \varphi)W$$

The job destruction rate is s and the real interest rate is r .

1. What is the function $q(\theta)$? Check that $m(u, v)$ has constant returns to scale and is concave in each of its arguments. What is the elasticity of m with respect to u as a function of θ ?

2. Show that the Beveridge curve has the following equation:

$$\theta = \frac{s(1 - u)}{u - s(1 - u)}$$

3. Show that the equilibrium value of θ must satisfy:

$$y/c = \frac{r + s}{1 - \varphi}(1 + \theta) + \frac{\varphi}{1 - \varphi}\theta \quad (1)$$

4. What is the steady-state unemployment rate u ? How does it depend on r, s, c, y , and φ ? Why?

5. Show that the following relationship exists between the wage w and θ :

$$w = \frac{\varphi c}{1 - \varphi}[(r + s)(1 + \theta) + \theta]$$

6. How do wages depend on r, s, c, φ, θ according to this formula? Explain?

7. What would be the observed correlation between wages and unemployment if the driving force for changes in unemployment was:

- changes in productivity ?
- changes in the discount rate?
- changes in the cost of posting vacancies?
- changes in workers' bargaining power?

8. Write down the central planner's problem, the Hamiltonian, and the corresponding first-order conditions.

9. Show that along the optimal path the marginal value of an extra job λ is related to θ according to:

$$\lambda = c(1 + \theta)^2.$$

Explain the economic intuition for why it increases with c and θ .

10. Show that in steady state the optimal value of θ must satisfy

$$y/c = (r + s)(1 + \theta)^2 + c\theta^2 \tag{2}$$

11. What relationship must hold among the model's parameters for (2) to have the same solution as (1) ?

12. Check that this is equivalent to

$$\varphi = \frac{\theta}{1 + \theta},$$

with θ being the common solution to these two equations.

13. How does this last condition relate to the Hosios efficiency condition?