

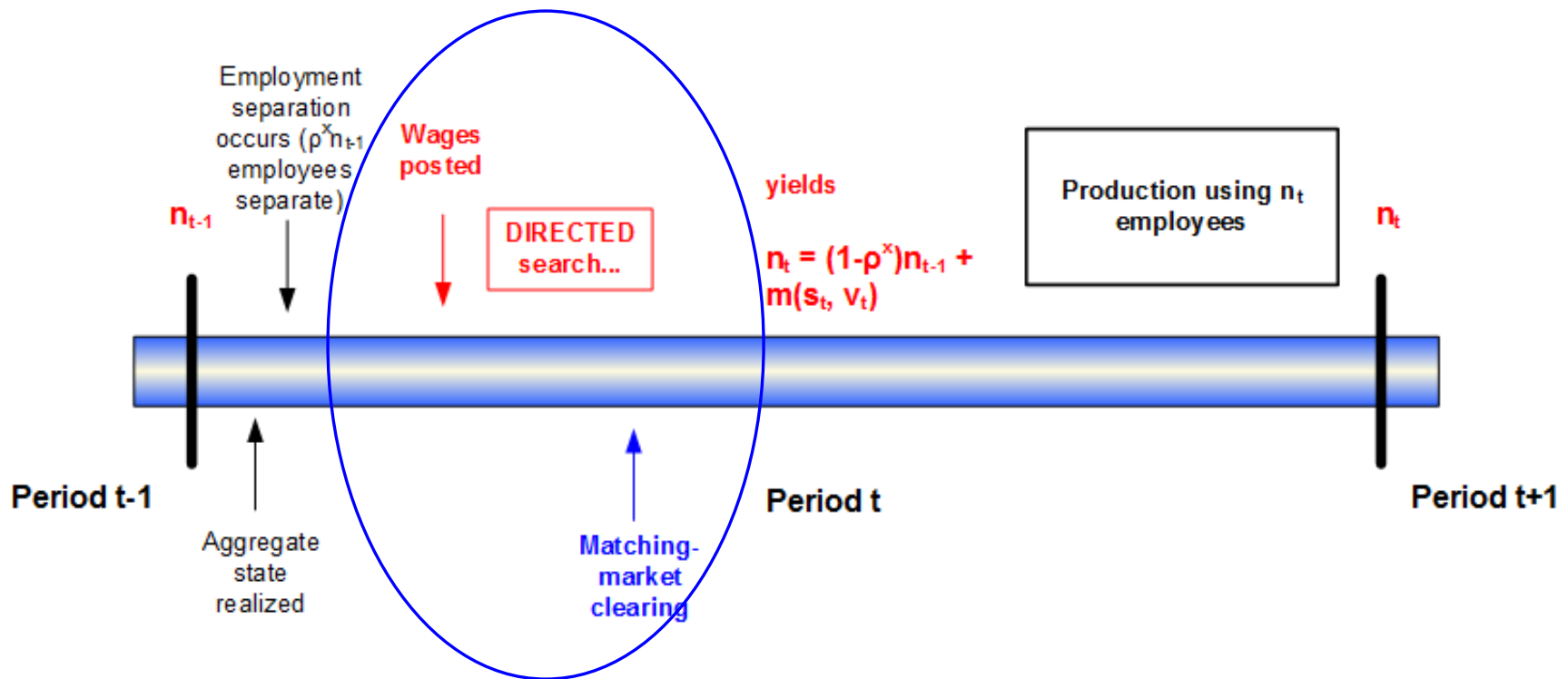


COMPETITIVE SEARCH EQUILIBRIUM (CSE)

JANUARY 24, 2020

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- Question: can a “competitive” notion of wage-setting be entertained in a search and matching model?
 - Wages playing allocational role in determining meeting process
 - In contrast to wage bargaining, which plays small/no allocational role



COMPETITIVE SEARCH EQUILIBRIUM (CSE)

- ❑ Question: can a “**competitive**” notion of wage-setting be entertained in a search and matching model?
 - ❑ Wages playing allocational role in determining meeting process
 - ❑ In contrast to wage bargaining, which plays small/no allocational role
- ❑ May be apriori an appealing way of describing labor markets
 - ❑ Locating a firm or a worker is costly and time-consuming...
 - ❑ ...but once matched, wages are more or less determined by “market forces,” perhaps with little/no room for “bargaining”
- ❑ **Moen (1997 JPE) and Shimer (1996) the pioneers of CSE**
 - ❑ Static partial equilibrium labor matching models
 - ❑ “Small firms” (one firm = one job)
- ❑ Re-explore CSE framework
- ❑ Recent burst of work extending CSE model in various dimensions

CSE – BASICS OF ENVIRONMENT

- ❑ Need “many markets” and “many firms”
- ❑ To rationalize “**competition**”

- ❑ Index continuum of labor “submarkets” by *ij*
 - ❑ Same geographic region
 - ❑ Same career, regardless of geography
 - ❑ *Many ways to interpret.....*

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denotes notion
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- ❑ Several equivalent ways to implement *perfectly* CSE

- ❑ Firms post wages before individuals search for job opportunities
- ❑ Perfectly-competitive recruiting sector
- ❑ Individuals announce wages before firms direct their vacancies

- ❑ Regardless of implementation, market tightness is efficient

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 - ❑ **Regardless of implementation, market tightness is efficient**

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION I

- ❑ Job seekers **direct** their active search (“send an application”) to a particular submarket
 - ❑ Based on wages announced by goods-producing firms in that submarket
 - ❑ And on probability of contacting an open vacancy in that submarket
 - ❑ **Directed search** a key component of CSE...
 - ❑ **...but match formation still subject to probabilities**

- ❑ Ordering of events
 - ❑ Wages determined **before** search...
 - ❑ ...job seekers actively **direct search** according to posted wages...
 - ❑ ...then **probability** of landing a match resolved

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION I

- Firm ij payoff function described by vacancy-posting decision

$$\gamma = k^f(\theta_{ijt}) \left[z_t - w_{ijt} \right]$$

↑
Cost of posting a
vacancy

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↑
Cost of posting a vacancy

Expected benefit of posting a vacancy

= (probability of matching with a worker) x (contemporaneous payoff + continuation payoff)

Note ij subscripts:

Matching probability depends on tightness of “applications” at firm ij ...

...but future asset value of employee depends on market j conditions (i.e., replacement value depends on (sub-)market conditions)

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- Value equations for an individual searching for a match at firm ij

$$W(w_{ijt}) = w_{ijt} + E_t \left\{ \Xi_{t+1|t} \left[(1 - \rho_x) W(w_{j,t+1}) + \rho_x U_{t+1} \right] \right\}$$

With probability $k^h(\theta_{ijt})$, individual gets this payoff

$$U_t = b + E_t \left\{ \Xi_{t+1|t} \left[k^h(\theta_{t+1}) W(w_{t+1}) + (1 - k^h(\theta_{t+1})) U_{t+1} \right] \right\}$$

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With probability $1 - k^h(\theta_{ijt})$, individual gets this payoff

- **Individuals seeking a job optimally direct their search** so that expected payoff of successful contact with a job opening at firm ij is

$$k^h(\theta_{ijt}) W(w_{ijt}) + (1 - k^h(\theta_{ijt})) U_t = \mathbf{X}^H$$

Payoff of searching at another firm or another submarket independent of ij

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION I

- Firm ij maximizes

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taking as constraint

$$k^h(\theta_{ijt}) \mathbf{W}(w_{ijt}) + (1 - k^h(\theta_{ijt})) \mathbf{U}_t = \mathbf{X}^H$$

- Choice variables: w_{ijt} and θ_{ijt} (isomorphic to choosing v_{ijt} for a given number of searchers u_{ijt})

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION I

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- Choice variables: w_{ijt} and θ_{ijt} (isomorphic to choosing v_{ijt} for a given number of searchers u_{ijt})

- First-order conditions

1)
$$-k^f(\theta_{ijt}) - \varphi_{ijt} k^h(\theta_{ijt}) \mathbf{W}'(w_{ijt}) = 0$$

2)
$$\frac{\partial k^f(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} \left[z_t - w_{ijt} + (1 - \rho_x) E_t \left\{ \Xi_{t+1|t} \left(\frac{\gamma}{k^f(\theta_{jt+1})} \right) \right\} \right] - \varphi_{ijt} \frac{\partial k^h(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} [\mathbf{W}(w_{ijt}) - \mathbf{U}_t] = 0$$

Taking into account how matching probabilities are affected by tightness is the central idea

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION I

□ **First-order conditions**

$$1) \quad -k^f(\theta_{ijt}) - \varphi_{ijt} k^h(\theta_{ijt}) \mathbf{W}'(w_{ijt}) = 0 \quad \xrightarrow{w'(\cdot) = 1} \quad \boxed{\varphi_{ijt} = -\frac{k^f(\theta_{ijt})}{k^h(\theta_{ijt})} = -\theta_{ijt}^{-1}}$$

$$2) \quad \frac{\partial k^f(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} \left[z_t - w_{ijt} + (1 - \rho_x) E_t \left\{ \Xi_{t+1|t} \left(\frac{\gamma}{k^f(\theta_{jt+1})} \right) \right\} \right] - \varphi_{ijt} \frac{\partial k^h(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} [\mathbf{W}(w_{ijt}) - \mathbf{U}_t] = 0$$

= \mathbf{J}_{ijt}

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Cobb-Douglas matching

$$m(s, v) = s^\xi v^{1-\xi}$$

Combine and rearrange



= \mathbf{J}_{ijt}

$$k^h(\theta) = \frac{m(s, v)}{s} = m(1, \theta) = \theta^{1-\xi}$$

$$k^f(\theta) = \frac{m(s, v)}{v} = m(\theta^{-1}, 1) = \theta^{-\xi}$$

AND

$$\frac{\partial k^h(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = (1 - \xi)\theta^{-\xi}$$

$$\frac{\partial k^f(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = -\xi\theta^{-\xi-1}$$

$$\xi \cdot \mathbf{J}(w_t) = (1 - \xi) \cdot (\mathbf{W}(w_t) - \mathbf{U}_t)$$

Exactly the Nash-bargained sharing rule with **knife-edge** Hosios condition ($\eta = \xi$)...

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION I

$$m(s, v) = s^\xi \cdot v^{1-\xi}$$

Exactly the Nash-bargained sharing rule with **knife-edge** Hosios condition ($\eta = \xi$)...

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION I

$$m(s, v) = m^{EFF} \cdot s^\xi \cdot v^{1-\xi}$$

Change m^{EFF} to
ensure probabilities
lie within $[0, 1]$
boundaries

Exactly the Nash-
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= J_{ijt}

What if different matching function?

$$m(s, v) = \frac{s \cdot v}{(s^\epsilon + v^\epsilon)^{1/\epsilon}}$$

denHaan, Ramey, Watson (2000 AER)

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION I

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dHRW matching

$$m(\cdot) = \frac{s \cdot \theta}{(1 + \theta^\epsilon)^{1/\epsilon}}$$

$$k^h(\theta) = \frac{m(s, v)}{s} = m(1, \theta) = \frac{\theta}{[1 + \theta^\epsilon]^{1/\epsilon}}$$

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(Competition within submarket *j* and symmetry across submarkets: drop *ij* indices)

Combine and rearrange

$$\frac{\partial k^h(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = \frac{1}{(1 + \theta^\epsilon)^{1/\epsilon}} \cdot \left[1 - \frac{\theta^\epsilon}{1 + \theta^\epsilon} \right] \quad \frac{\partial k^f(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = -\frac{\theta^\epsilon}{(1 + \theta^\epsilon)^{\frac{1+\epsilon}{\epsilon}} \cdot \theta}$$

$$\theta_t^{-\epsilon} \cdot (\mathbf{W}(w_t) - \mathbf{U}_t) = \mathbf{J}(w_t)$$

CSE surplus-sharing rule for dHRW $m(\cdot)$



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CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

- Recruiting agency *ij* total profit function

$$\left(\rho_{ijt} - mc_{jt} \right) \cdot m(s_{ijt}, v_{ijt})$$

recruiter *ij* operates
matching technology m_{ij}

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

- Recruiting agency *ij* **marginal** profit function

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CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

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- **Moen (1997)**
 - **ONE firm = ONE job (“small” firms)**
 - **“Marginal” profit term vacuous in ONE-worker firm**
- **Micro origins of search and matching framework: ONE firm = ONE worker**
 - **Pissarides (1985), Mortensen and Pissarides (1994)**
- **Macro: Goods-producing firms that “need” / hire “many” workers**
 - **CRTS $f(k,n)$: lack of IO structure means number of workers can be ANYTHING**

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

- Recruiting agency *ij* **marginal** profit function

$$\max_{w_{ijt}, \theta_{ijt}} (\rho_{ijt} - mc_{jt}) \cdot m_{v_{ijt}}$$

subject to

$$\gamma - k^f(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt}) - \mathbf{X}^F = 0$$

$$k^h(\theta_{ijt}) \mathbf{W}(w_{ijt}) + (1 - k^h(\theta_{ijt})) \mathbf{U}_t - \mathbf{X}^H = 0$$

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

- Recruiting agency *ij* **marginal** profit function

$$\max_{w_{ijt}, \theta_{ijt}} (\rho_{ijt} - mc_{jt}) \cdot (1 - \xi) \cdot k^f(\theta_{ijt})$$

subject to

$$\gamma - k^f(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt}) - \mathbf{X}^F = 0$$

$$k^h(\theta_{ijt}) \mathbf{W}(w_{ijt}) + (1 - k^h(\theta_{ijt})) \mathbf{U}_t - \mathbf{X}^H = 0$$

Suppose

$$m(s, v) = s^\xi v^{1-\xi}$$

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

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$$k^h(\theta_{ijt}) \mathbf{W}(w_{ijt}) + (1 - k^h(\theta_{ijt})) \mathbf{U}_t - \mathbf{X}^H = 0$$

Suppose

$$m(s, v) = s^\xi v^{1-\xi}$$

multipliers

1

k^H_{ijt}

(given CRS $m(\cdot)$, only one multiplier needed)




FOCs wrt w_{ijt} and θ_{ijt}

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

□ FOCs with respect to w_{ijt} and θ_{ijt}

$$1) \quad -k^f(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt})}{\partial w_{ijt}} + \kappa_{ijt}^H \cdot k^h(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{W}(w_{ijt})}{\partial w_{ijt}} = 0$$

$$2) \quad (\rho_{ijt} - mc_{jt}) \cdot (1 - \xi) \cdot \frac{\partial k^f(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} - \frac{\partial k^f(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} \cdot \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt}) + \kappa_{ijt}^H \cdot \frac{\partial k^h(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} \cdot (\mathbf{W}(w_{ijt}) - \mathbf{U}_t) = 0$$


 = 0

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

□ FOCs with respect to w_{ijt} and θ_{ijt}

$$1) \quad -k^f(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt})}{\partial w_{ijt}} + \kappa_{ijt}^H \cdot k^h(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{W}(w_{ijt})}{\partial w_{ijt}} = 0$$

$$2) \quad -\frac{\partial k^f(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} \cdot \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt}) + \kappa_{ijt}^H \cdot \frac{\partial k^h(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} \cdot (\mathbf{W}(w_{ijt}) - \mathbf{U}_t) = 0$$

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

□ FOCs with respect to w_{ijt} and θ_{ijt}

1)
$$-k^f(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \underbrace{\frac{\partial \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt})}{\partial w_{ijt}}}_{=-1} + \kappa_{ijt}^H \cdot k^h(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \underbrace{\frac{\partial \mathbf{W}(w_{ijt})}{\partial w_{ijt}}}_{=1} = 0$$

b/c zero
proportional
taxation on wage

$$\kappa_{ijt}^H = -\frac{k^f(\theta_{ijt})}{k^h(\theta_{ijt})} = -\theta_{ijt}^{-1}$$

2)
$$-\frac{\partial k^f(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} \cdot \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt}) + \kappa_{ijt}^H \cdot \frac{\partial k^h(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} \cdot (\mathbf{W}(w_{ijt}) - \mathbf{U}_t) = 0$$

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

□ FOCs with respect to w_{ijt} and θ_{ijt}

1)
$$-k^f(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \underbrace{\frac{\partial \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt})}{\partial w_{ijt}}}_{=-1} + \kappa_{ijt}^H \cdot k^h(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \underbrace{\frac{\partial \mathbf{W}(w_{ijt})}{\partial w_{ijt}}}_{=1} = 0$$

$$\kappa_{ijt}^H = -\frac{k^f(\theta_{ijt})}{k^h(\theta_{ijt})} = -\theta_{ijt}^{-1}$$

b/c zero proportional taxation on wage

2)
$$-\frac{\partial k^f(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} \cdot \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt}) + \kappa_{ijt}^H \cdot \frac{\partial k^h(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} \cdot (\mathbf{W}(w_{ijt}) - \mathbf{U}_t) = 0$$

Cobb-Douglas matching

$$m(s, v) = s^\xi v^{1-\xi}$$

Combine and rearrange

Symmetric equilibrium

$$k^h(\theta) = \frac{m(s, v)}{s} = m(1, \theta) = \theta^{1-\xi}$$

$$k^f(\theta) = \frac{m(s, v)}{v} = m(\theta^{-1}, 1) = \theta^{-\xi}$$

AND

$$\frac{\partial k^h(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = (1-\xi)\theta^{-\xi}$$

$$\frac{\partial k^f(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = -\xi\theta^{-\xi-1}$$

$$(1-\xi)(\mathbf{W}(w_t) - \mathbf{U}_t) = \xi \mathbf{J}(w_t)$$

Exactly the Nash-bargained sharing rule with **knife-edge** Hosios condition ($\eta = \xi$)...

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION III

- ❑ Need “many markets” and “many firms”
 - ❑ To rationalize “competition”

 - ❑ Index continuum of labor “submarkets” by *ij*
 - ❑ Same geographic region
 - ❑ Same career, regardless of geography
 - ❑ *Many ways to interpret.....*
- “submarket”
denotes
notion of
“closeness”
-
- ❑ Several equivalent ways to implement perfectly CSE

 - ❑ Firms post wages before individuals search for job opportunities
 - ❑ Perfectly-competitive recruiting sector
 - ❑ **Individuals announce wages before firms direct their vacancies**

 - ❑ **Regardless of implementation, market tightness is efficient**



APPENDIX

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

- Recruiting agency *ij* **marginal** profit function

$$\max_{w_{ijt}, \theta_{ijt}} (\rho_{ijt} - mc_{jt}) \cdot m_{sijt}$$

subject to

$$\gamma - k^f(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt}) - \mathbf{X}^F = 0$$

$$k^h(\theta_{ijt}) \mathbf{W}(w_{ijt}) + (1 - k^h(\theta_{ijt})) \mathbf{U}_t - \mathbf{X}^H = 0$$

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

- Recruiting agency *ij* **marginal** profit function

$$\max_{w_{ijt}, \theta_{ijt}} (\rho_{ijt} - mc_{jt}) \cdot \xi \cdot k^h(\theta_{ijt})$$

subject to

$$\gamma - k^f(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt}) - \mathbf{X}^F = 0$$

$$k^h(\theta_{ijt}) \mathbf{W}(w_{ijt}) + (1 - k^h(\theta_{ijt})) \mathbf{U}_t - \mathbf{X}^H = 0$$

Suppose

$$m(s, v) = s^\xi v^{1-\xi}$$

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

- Recruiting agency *ij* **marginal** profit function

$$\max_{w_{ijt}, \theta_{ijt}} (\rho_{ijt} - mc_{jt}) \cdot \xi \cdot k^h(\theta_{ijt})$$

subject to

$$\gamma - k^f(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt}) - \mathbf{X}^F = 0$$

$$k^h(\theta_{ijt}) \mathbf{W}(w_{ijt}) + (1 - k^h(\theta_{ijt})) \mathbf{U}_t - \mathbf{X}^H = 0$$

Suppose

$$m(s, v) = s^\xi v^{1-\xi}$$

multipliers

$$\mathbf{K}^F_{ijt}$$

$$\mathbf{1}$$

(given CRS $m(\cdot)$, only one multiplier needed)



FOCs wrt w_{ijt} and θ_{ijt}

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

□ FOCs with respect to w_{ijt} and θ_{ijt}

$$1) \quad -\kappa_{ijt}^F \cdot k^f(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt})}{\partial w_{ijt}} + k^h(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{W}(w_{ijt})}{\partial w_{ijt}} = 0$$

$$2) \quad \underbrace{(\rho_{ijt} - mc_{jt}) \cdot \xi}_{= 0} \cdot \frac{\partial k^h(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} - \kappa_{ijt}^F \cdot \frac{\partial k^f(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} \cdot \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt}) + \frac{\partial k^h(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} \cdot (\mathbf{W}(w_{ijt}) - \mathbf{U}_t) = 0$$

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

□ FOCs with respect to w_{ijt} and θ_{ijt}

$$1) \quad -\kappa_{ijt}^F \cdot k^f(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt})}{\partial w_{ijt}} + k^h(\theta_{ijt}) \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{W}(w_{ijt})}{\partial w_{ijt}} = 0$$

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CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

□ FOCs with respect to w_{ijt} and θ_{ijt}

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b/c zero proportional
taxation on wage

$$2) \quad -\kappa_{ijt}^F \cdot \frac{\partial k^f(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} \cdot \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt}) + \frac{\partial k^h(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} \cdot (\mathbf{W}(w_{ijt}) - \mathbf{U}_t) = 0$$

CSE – IMPLEMENTATION II

□ FOCs with respect to w_{ijt} and θ_{ijt}

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b/c zero proportional taxation on wage

2)
$$-\kappa_{ijt}^F \cdot \frac{\partial k^f(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} \cdot \mathbf{J}(w_{ijt}) + \frac{\partial k^h(\theta_{ijt})}{\partial \theta_{ijt}} \cdot (\mathbf{W}(w_{ijt}) - \mathbf{U}_t) = 0$$

Cobb-Douglas matching

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Combine and rearrange

$$k^h(\theta) = \frac{m(s, v)}{s} = m(1, \theta) = \theta^{1-\xi}$$

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AND

$$\frac{\partial k^h(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = (1-\xi)\theta^{-\xi}$$

$$\frac{\partial k^f(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = -\xi\theta^{-\xi-1}$$

$$\boxed{(1-\xi)(\mathbf{W}(w_t) - \mathbf{U}_t) = \xi \mathbf{J}(w_t)}$$

Exactly the Nash-bargained sharing rule with **knife-edge** Hosios condition ($\eta = \xi$)...