# Macroeconomic Theory

# —From the Classical to the New Keynesian

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# 1 Overlapping Generations Models (OLG)

See Heer and NauBner, 2009 2nd ed., Dynamic General Equilibrium Modeling–Computatoinal Methods and Applications.

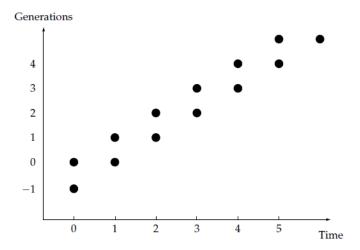
Ch.9 Deterministic Overlapping Generations Models Ch.10 Stochastic Overlapping Generations Models

- 1) The OLG model vs. The Solow model: The Savings rate is given exogenously or endogenously;
- 2) The OLG model vs. The Ramsey model: The household is homogenous or heterogeneous.

The heterogenous household (Endowment Economies vs. Production Economies)
Samuelson (1958) vs. Diamond (1965)

In each period, some old generations die and a new generation is born.

$$C_t = L_t c_{1t}^{\text{young}} + L_{t-1} c_{2t}^{\text{old}},$$
 note that  $c_{1t}^{\text{young}} = c_{2,t+1}^{\text{old}},$   $c_{2t}^{\text{old}} = c_{1,t-1}^{\text{young}},$   $L_t = (1+n)L_{t-1} \Leftrightarrow L_t = (1+n)^t L_0 = (1+n)^t :: L_0 \equiv 1,$   $S_t = s_t L_t.$   $\leftarrow$  total savings of generation t



### Growth with Overlapping Generations

- In many situations, the assumption of a representative household is not appropriate because
  - households do not have an infinite planning horizon
  - new households arrive (or are born) over time.
- New economic interactions: decisions made by older "generations" will affect the prices faced by younger "generations".
- Overlapping generations models
  - Capture potential interaction of different generations of individuals in the marketplace;
  - Provide tractable alternative to infinite-horizon representative agent models;
  - Some key implications different from neoclassical growth model;
  - Dynamics in some special cases quite similar to Solow model rather than the neoclassical model;
  - Generate new insights about the role of national debt and Social Security in the economy.

Figure 1: Overlapping generations <sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Source: Croix and Michel (20??, 4th ed.) and Acemoglu (2019).

### 1.1 The Baseline OLG Model

a. Households (individual born in period t solves the problem of life-time utility maximization)

$$\max_{c_{1t}, c_{2,t+1}, s_t} u(c_{1t}) + \beta u(c_{2,t+1}),$$

s.t.  $c_{1t} + s_t \le w_t$ ,  $\leftarrow$  individuals only work when young and supply 1 unit of labor  $c_{2,t+1} \le R_{t+1}s_t$  where  $R_{t+1} \equiv 1 + r_{t+1}$ .

$$\mathcal{L} = u(c_{1t}) + \beta u(c_{2,t+1}) + \lambda_{1t}(w_t - c_{1t} - s_t) + \lambda_{2,t+1}(R_{t+1}s_t - c_{2,t+1}),$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{L}}{c_{1t}} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad u'(c_{1t}) - \lambda_{1t} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad u'(c_{1t}) = \lambda_{1t},$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{L}}{c_{2,t+1}} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \beta u'(c_{2,t+1}) - \lambda_{2,t+1} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \beta u'(c_{2,t+1}) = \lambda_{2,t+1},$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{L}}{s_t} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad -\lambda_{1t} + \lambda_{2,t+1}R_{t+1} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\lambda_{1t}}{\lambda_{2,t+1}} = R_{t+1},$$

$$\downarrow \downarrow$$

 $u'(c_{1t}) = \beta R_{t+1} u'(c_{2,t+1}). \leftarrow \text{the consumption Euler equation}$ 

$$\Rightarrow$$
  $s_t < w_t$ .  $\leftarrow$  savings are always less than earnings

$$\Rightarrow s_w \equiv \frac{\partial s_t}{\partial w_t} \quad \leftarrow \text{ the impact of wage on savings}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\beta^{-\frac{1}{\theta}} R_{t+1}^{-\frac{1-\theta}{\theta}} + 1},$$

$$\Rightarrow s_w \in (0,1)$$

$$\Rightarrow s_{R} \equiv \frac{\partial s_{t}}{\partial R_{t+1}} \leftarrow \text{the impact of gross interest rate on savings}$$

$$= -\left(\beta^{-\frac{1}{\theta}} R_{t+1}^{-\frac{1-\theta}{\theta}} + 1\right)^{-1-1} w_{t} \left(-\frac{1-\theta}{\theta}\right) \beta^{-\frac{1}{\theta}} R_{t+1}^{-\frac{1-\theta}{\theta}} - 1$$

$$= \frac{1-\theta}{\theta} \frac{w_{t}}{\beta^{-\frac{1}{\theta}} R_{t+1}^{-\frac{1-\theta}{\theta}} + 1} \frac{1}{\beta^{-\frac{1}{\theta}} R_{t+1}^{-\frac{1-\theta}{\theta}} + 1} (\beta R_{t+1})^{-\frac{1}{\theta}}$$

$$= \frac{1-\theta}{\theta} \frac{s_{t}}{\beta^{-\frac{1}{\theta}} R_{t+1}^{-\frac{1-\theta}{\theta}} + 1} (\beta R_{t+1})^{-\frac{1}{\theta}},$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} s_R > 0, & 0 < \theta < 1, \\ s_R = 0, & \theta = 1, \\ s_R < 0, & \theta > 1. \end{cases} \rightarrow \text{the substitution effects wins out}$$

#### ① The elasticity of inter-temporal substitution

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{C_t} V_0 &= u(C_t) + \beta u(C_{t+1}), \quad \text{s.t.} \quad C_t + \frac{C_{t+1}}{1+r_t} &= Y_t + \frac{Y_{t+1}}{1+r_t}, \\ \text{.O.C.} \quad u'(C_t) &= \beta(1+r_t)u'(C_{t+1}), \\ u'(C_t) &= \beta(1+r_t)u'[(1+r_t)(Y_t-C_t) + Y_{t+1}]. \\ \log(1+r_t) &= \log U'(C_t) - \log u'(C_{t+1}), \\ \log(1+r_t) &= \frac{U''(C_t)}{U'(C_t)} \, dC_t - \frac{U''(C_{t+1})}{U'(C_{t+1})} \, dC_{t+1}, \\ d\log(1+r_t) &= \frac{C_tU''(C_t)}{U'(C_t)} \, d\log C_t - \frac{C_{t+1}U''(C_{t+1})}{U'(C_{t+1})} \, d\log C_{t+1}, \\ d\log(1+r_t) &= \frac{CU''(C)}{U'(C)} \, d\log \left(\frac{C_t}{C_{t+1}}\right) = -\frac{CU''(C)}{U'(C)} \, d\log \left(\frac{C_{t+1}}{C_t}\right), \\ \frac{d\log\left(\frac{C_{t+1}}{C_t}\right)}{d\log\left(\frac{1+r_t}{C_t}\right)} &= -\frac{U'(C)}{CU''(C)} = \sigma(C). \\ u(C) &= \frac{C^{1-\frac{1}{\sigma}}}{1-\frac{1}{\sigma}}, \quad \sigma > 0, \quad \frac{1}{\sigma} \equiv \theta, \\ &= \log(C), \quad \sigma = 1. \\ F(C_t, r_t) &= u'(C_t) - \beta(1+r_t)u'[(1+r_t)(Y_t-C_t) + Y_{t+1}] = 0, \\ F(C_t, r_t) &= 0 \Rightarrow F_{C_t}dC_t + F_{r_t}dr_t = 0, \\ \frac{dC_t}{dr_t} &= -\frac{F_{r_t}}{F_{C_t}} = \frac{\beta u'(C_{t+1}) + \beta(1+r_t)u''(C_{t+1})(Y_t-C_t)}{u''(C_t) + \beta(1+r_t)^2u''(C_{t+1})}, \\ \frac{dC_t}{dr_t} &= \frac{\beta u'(C_{t+1})}{\frac{u''(C_t)}{u''(C_{t+1})} + \beta(1+r_t)u''(C_{t+1})(T_{t+1})}(Y_t-C_t)}{\frac{u''(C_{t+1})}{u''(C_{t+1})} \frac{u''(C_t)}{u''(C_{t+1})} + \beta(1+r_t)^2(-\frac{1}{\sigma})}, \\ &= \frac{\beta C_{t+1} + \beta(1+r_t)(-\frac{1}{\sigma})(Y_t-C_t)}{\frac{C_{t+1}u''(C_{t+1})}{u''(C_{t+1})} \frac{u''(C_t)}{u''(C_{t+1})} + \beta(1+r_t)^2(-\frac{1}{\sigma})}, \\ &= \frac{\beta C_{t+1} + \beta(1+r_t)(-\frac{1}{\sigma})(Y_t-C_t)}{\frac{C_{t+1}u''(C_{t+1})}{u''(C_{t+1})} \frac{u''(C_t)}{u''(C_{t+1})} + \beta(1+r_t)^2(-\frac{1}{\sigma})}, \\ &= \frac{\beta C_{t+1} + \beta(1+r_t)(-\frac{1}{\sigma})(Y_t-C_t)}{\frac{1-r_t}{u''(C_{t+1})} \frac{u''(C_t)}{u''(C_{t+1})} + \beta(1+r_t)^2(-\frac{1}{\sigma})}, \\ &= \frac{\beta C_{t+1} + \beta(1+r_t)(-\frac{1}{\sigma})(Y_t-C_t)}{\frac{1-r_t}{u''(C_{t+1})} + \beta(1+r_t)^2(-\frac{1}{\sigma})}, \\ &= \frac{\beta C_{t+1} + \beta(1+r_t)(-\frac{1}{\sigma})(Y_t-C_t)}{\frac{1-r_t}{u''(C_{t+1})} \frac{u''(C_t)}{u''(C_{t+1})} + \beta(1+r_t)^2(-\frac{1}{\sigma})}, \\ &= \frac{\beta C_{t+1} + \beta(1+r_t)(-\frac{1}{\sigma})(Y_t-C_t)}{\frac{1-r_t}{u''(C_{t+1})} \frac{u''(C_t)}{u''(C_{t+1})} + \beta(1+r_t)^2(-\frac{1}{\sigma})}, \\ &= \frac{\beta C_{t+1} + \beta(1+r_t)(-\frac{1}{\sigma})(Y_t-C_t)}{\frac{1-r_t}{u''(C_t)} + \beta(1+r_t)^2(-\frac{1}{\sigma})}, \\ &= \frac{\beta C_{t+1} + \beta(1+r_t)(-\frac{1}{\sigma})(Y_t-C_t)}{\frac{1-r_t}{u''(C_t)} + \beta(1+r_t)}, \\ &= \frac{\alpha$$

#### 2) The substitution, income, and wealth effects

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}C_t}{\mathrm{d}r_t} = \frac{(Y_t - C_t) - \frac{\sigma C_{t+1}}{1 + r_t}}{\frac{C_{t+1}}{C_t} + (1 + r_t)}.$$

Obviously, when  $Y_t < C_t$  (Borrower), a rise in  $r_t$  has a negative effect on current consumption; However, if  $Y_t > C_t$  (Saver), a rise in  $r_t$  has an ambiguous effect on current consumption. Recall that we have  $C_t + \frac{C_{t+1}}{1+r_t} = Y_t + \frac{Y_{t+1}}{1+r_t}$ .

$$u(C_{t}) = \log C_{t} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{1}{C_{t}} = \beta(1+r_{t})\frac{1}{C_{t+1}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad C_{t+1} = \beta(1+r_{t})C_{t},$$

$$C_{t} = \frac{1}{1+\beta} \left( Y_{t} + \frac{Y_{t+1}}{1+r_{t}} \right) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial C_{t}}{\partial r_{t}} = -\frac{Y_{t+1}}{1+\beta} (1+r_{t})^{-2};$$

$$u(C_{t}) = \frac{C_{t}^{1-\frac{1}{\sigma}}}{1-\frac{1}{\sigma}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad C_{t}^{-\frac{1}{\sigma}} = \beta(1+r_{t})C_{t+1}^{-\frac{1}{\sigma}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad C_{t+1} = \beta^{\sigma} (1+r_{t})^{\sigma} C_{t},$$

$$C_{t} = \frac{1}{1+\beta^{\sigma} (1+r_{t})^{\sigma-1}} \left( Y_{t} + \frac{Y_{t+1}}{1+r_{t}} \right).$$

This consumption function reflects three distinct ways in which a change in the interest rate affects the household:

- 1) Substitution effect. A rise in  $r_t$  is a rise in the price of  $C_t$  in terms of  $C_{t+1}$ .  $\to C_t \downarrow$ ,  $S_t \uparrow$ . When  $\sigma > 1$  this effect dominates because consumers are relatively willing to substitute consumption between periods;
- 2) Income effect. A rise in  $r_t$  also allows higher  $C_{t+1}$  given  $Y_t + \frac{Y_{t+1}}{1+r_t}$ . This expansion of the feasible consumption set is a positive income effect that leads people  $\to C_t \uparrow$  and  $S_t \downarrow$ . When  $\sigma < 1$  this effect wins out.

When  $\sigma = 1$  and  $Y_{t+1} = 0$ , the previous two effects would exactly cancel out.

3) Wealth effect. The above two effects refer to the fraction of lifetime income devoted to present consumption. The wealth effect, however, comes from the change in lifetime income caused by an interest rate change and reinforces the interest rate's substitution effect.

I refer the reader to Obstfeld and Rogoff (1996, ch.1, pp.28-31).

#### b. Firms

$$\max_{K_t, L_t} \Pi_t = Y_t - w_t L_t - R_t K_t,$$

$$Y_t = F(K_t, L_t), \quad \text{note that generation t-1 don't work when old in period t}$$

$$\downarrow \downarrow$$

$$\pi_t \equiv \frac{\Pi_t}{L_t}, \quad y_t \equiv \frac{Y_t}{L_t}, \quad k_t \equiv \frac{K_t}{L_t}, \quad \frac{K_{t+1}}{L_t} = \frac{K_{t+1}}{L_{t+1}} \frac{L_{t+1}}{L_t} = (1+n)k_{t+1}, \quad s_t \equiv \frac{S_t}{L_t}$$

$$\downarrow \downarrow$$

$$\max_{k_t} \pi_t = y_t - w_t - R_t k_t,$$
s.t. 
$$y_t = f(k_t) = k_t^{\alpha},$$
one of form
$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} R_t = f'(k_t), \\ w_t = f(k_t) - k_t f'(k_t). & \leftarrow \text{Euler's theorem} \end{cases}$$

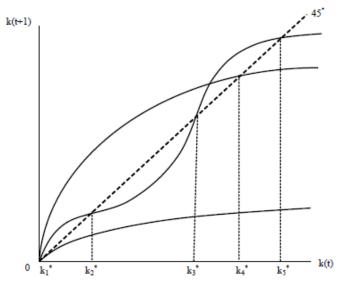
#### c. Equilibrium

$$K_{t+1} - \underbrace{(1 - \delta)K_t} = I_t = S_t = s_t L_t = s(w_t, R_{t+1}) L_t, \quad \text{with } \delta = 1,$$

$$\Rightarrow k_{t+1} = \frac{s(w_t, R_{t+1})}{1 + n} = \frac{w_t}{\left(1 + \beta^{-\frac{1}{\theta}} R_{t+1}^{-\frac{1-\theta}{\theta}}\right) (1 + n)} = \frac{f(k_t) - k_t f'(k_t)}{\left[1 + \beta^{-\frac{1}{\theta}} f'(k_{t+1})^{-\frac{1-\theta}{\theta}}\right] (1 + n)},$$

$$\begin{cases} \begin{cases} L_t = L \\ \frac{S_t}{S_t} \equiv s_t = sy_t \equiv s\frac{Y_t}{L} \\ k_{t+1} = (1 - \delta)k_t + sf(k_t) \end{cases} \\ \text{the Solow model} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} L_t = (1 + n)L_{t-1} \\ k_{t+1} = \frac{s(f(k_t) - k_t f'(k_t), f'(k_{t+1}))}{1 + n} \end{cases} \end{cases} \begin{cases} \begin{cases} L_t = L \\ \frac{K_{t+1}}{L} \equiv k_{t+1} = i_t \equiv \frac{I_t}{L} \\ k_{t+1} = f(k_t) + c_t \\ \frac{u'(c_t)}{u'(c_{t+1})} = \beta f'(k_{t+1}) \end{cases} \end{cases} \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow k^* = \frac{s(f(k^*) - k^* f'(k^*), f'(k^*))}{1 + n}, \quad \text{the CRRA utility function} \text{ a steady state} \end{cases} \end{cases} \Rightarrow k^* = \text{a unique solution}.$$



Possible patterns <sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Source: Acemoglu (2019, Lecture Notes for Economic Growth)

$$\theta = 1$$
 (use log preferences)

Income and substitution effects exactly cancel each other: changes in the interest rate (and thus in the capital-labor ratio of the economy) have no effect on the saving rate.

Structure of the equilibrium is essentially identical to the basic Solow model (cf. Acemoglu, 2019).

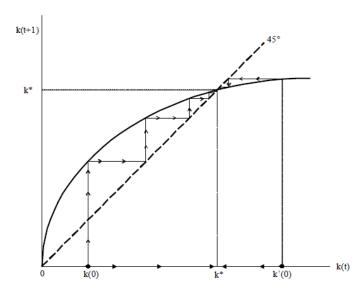
$$\log c_{1t} + \beta \log c_{2,t+1}, \quad \beta \in (0,1],$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{c_{2,t+1}}{c_{1t}} = \beta R_{t+1},$$

$$\Rightarrow s_t = \frac{w_t}{\beta^{-\frac{1}{\theta}} R_{t+1}^{-\frac{1-\theta}{\theta}} + 1},$$

$$= \frac{w_t}{\beta^{-1} + 1}, \quad \leftarrow \theta = 1$$

$$= \underbrace{\frac{\beta}{1+\beta}}_{s: \text{ constant saving rate}} w_t.$$



Log preferences  $^{3}$ 

$$k_{t+1} = \frac{s_t}{1+n},$$

$$= \frac{\beta w_t}{(1+\beta)(1+n)},$$

$$= \frac{\beta(1-\alpha)k_t^{\alpha}}{(1+\beta)(1+n)},$$

$$\Rightarrow k^* = \left[\frac{\beta(1-\alpha)}{(1+\beta)(1+n)}\right]^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}}.$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Source: Acemoglu (2019, Lecture Notes for Economic Growth)

#### 1.2The Social Planner's Problem

$$\begin{cases} u'(c_{1t}) = \frac{\beta}{\beta_s}(1+n)u'(c_{2t}); \\ u'(c_{1t}) = \beta f'(k_{t+1})u'(c_{2,t+1}) & \stackrel{R_{t+1}=f'(k_{t+1})}{\longrightarrow} \quad u'(c_{1t}) = \beta R_{t+1}u'(c_{2,t+1}). \end{cases}$$
Lecture Notes for Economic Growth):

Acemoglu (2019, Lecture Notes for Economic Growth):

Not surprising: allocate consumption of a given individual in exactly the same way as the individual himself would do.

No "market failures" in the over-time allocation of consumption at given prices.

### Dynamic Inefficiency

In steady state

$$c^* \equiv c_1^* + \frac{c_2^*}{1+n} = f(k^*) - (1+n)k^*.$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial c^*}{\partial k^*} = f'(k^*) - (1+n) = 0 & \Rightarrow \quad f'(k^*) = f'(k_{\text{gold}}) \equiv 1+n, \\ \frac{\partial c^*}{\partial k^*} = f'(k^*) - (1+n) < 0 & \Leftarrow \quad f'(k^*) = \alpha(k^*)^{\alpha-1} = \alpha \left\{ \left[ \frac{\beta(1-\alpha)}{(1+\beta)(1+n)} \right]^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}} \right\}^{\alpha-1} = \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \frac{1+\beta}{\beta} (1+n) < 1+n \quad \Rightarrow \quad k^* > k_{\text{gold}}. \end{cases}$$

Pareto Suboptimal/Dynamically Inefficient:

if  $k^* > k_{\text{gold}}$ , then  $\frac{\partial c^*}{\partial k^*} < 0$  (reducing savings can increase total consumption for everybody).

With dynamic inefficiency, discouraging savings may lead to a Pareto improvement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Source: Acemoglu (2019, Lecture Notes for Economic Growth)

