

# Inter-generational Redistribution in the Great Recession

Andrew Glover   Jonanthan Heathcote   Dirk Krueger  
Jose-Victor Rios-Rull

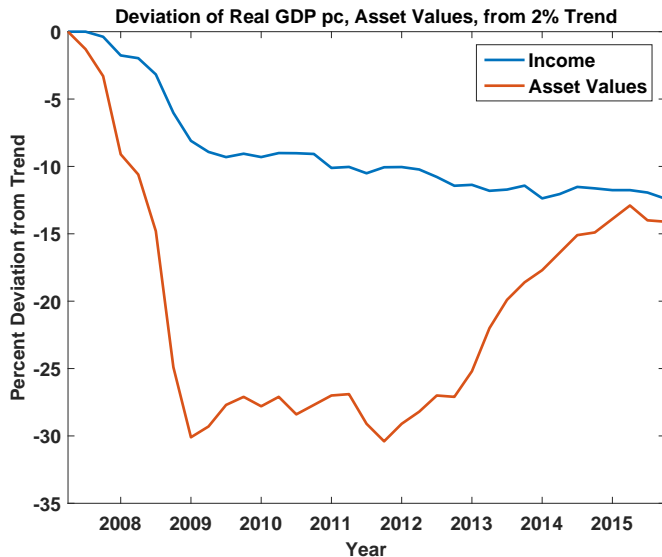
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# Introduction

- Salient features of the great recession:
  - Large fall in output and labor incomes.
  - Larger fall in asset prices (stocks, houses).
- Research Question: What are the distributional consequences for households at different stages of the life cycle?

# Motivating Facts: Aggregate Data

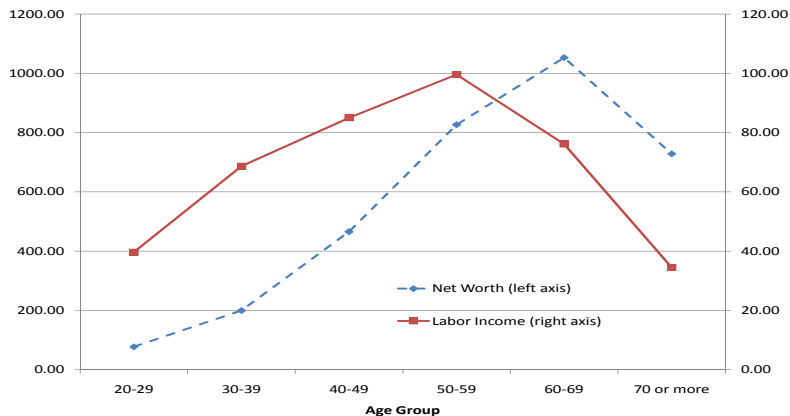


# Motivating Facts

- Why focus on age dimension?
  - Labor income and wealth vary substantially by age.
  - Portfolio composition (risky versus riskless assets) varies substantially by age.
  - Labor income losses in great recession vary substantially by age.
- (1) - (3)  $\implies$  Wealth and welfare losses vary substantially by age.

# Motivating Facts: Income and Wealth Over Life Cycle

Figure: Labor Income and Net Worth by Age, SCF 2007 (\$1,000)



[▶ Details of the Data](#)

# Motivating Facts: Portfolio Shares by Age from 2007

## SCF (in %)

Age Head	(1) Stk	(2) Res. RE	(3) Non bus.	(4) Non RE	(5) Risky NW	(6) Bond +CD	(7) Car	(8) Oth.	(9) Debt	(10) Safe NW
All	30.3	47.0	12.9	3.8	94.0	17.0	3.5	4.2	-18.6	6.0
20-29	13.2	77.7	43.3	1.3	135.5	13.7	15.3	4.5	-68.9	-35.5
30-39	26.3	96.5	12.7	5.0	140.4	13.8	9.7	4.2	-68.2	-40.4
40-49	30.4	57.6	12.6	3.8	104.4	15.2	4.4	4.5	-28.5	-4.4
50-59	32.7	42.4	13.5	3.7	92.4	17.0	2.8	4.0	-16.1	7.7
60-69	32.2	35.6	13.4	4.1	85.3	17.5	2.4	4.7	-9.9	14.7
70+	27.1	39.8	9.0	3.3	79.2	19.3	1.8	3.7	-3.9	20.8

Risky Net Worth (5) is equal to sum of columns (1)+(2)+(3)+(4). Safe Net Worth (10) is sum of columns (6)+(7)+(8)+(9). Total Net Worth is sum of (5)+(10)

## Motivating Facts: Capital Losses by Age Group

Infl. adj. capital losses from 2007:2 to 2009:1-2013:4 (\$1,000, 2007)								
Age of Head	Stocks	Res. RA	Nonc. bus.	Nonres. prop.	Total	(%)net worth	(%) inc.	Total/2009Q1
All	30.6	64.4	15.1	6.5	116.5	21.0	139.6	154.5
20-29	1.9	14.8	7.1	0.3	24.0	31.1	61.9	24.5
30-39	9.5	47.5	5.4	3.0	65.4	32.8	93.7	73.0
40-49	25.7	66.1	12.3	5.4	109.6	23.5	117.3	139.8
50-59	49.1	86.4	23.6	9.4	168.5	20.4	142.8	232.3
60-69	61.5	92.4	29.8	13.3	197.0	18.7	180.6	278.9
70+	35.9	71.4	13.8	7.4	128.5	17.6	223.2	173.9

- Capital losses concentrated among older households

## Motivating Facts: Change in Labor Income 2007 to 2010, Relative to Trend, CPS

	(%)
pc earnings	-9.8
20-29	<b>-14.3</b>
30-39	-12.6
40-49	-10.3
50-59	-11.1
60-69	-6.0
70+	-1.4

- Current earnings losses concentrated among younger households



# Motivating Facts

- Why focus on age dimension?
  - Labor income and wealth vary substantially by age.
  - Portfolio composition (risky versus riskless assets) varies substantially by age.
  - Labor income losses in great recession vary substantially by age.
- (1) - (3)  $\implies$  Wealth and welfare losses vary substantially by age.

# The Plan for Remainder of Talk

- The Approach
  - Construct and compute a quantitative OLG model with aggregate risk.
  - Calibrate it to life cycle facts from 2007 SCF.
  - Engineer a great recession.
- Questions:
  - Can model generate magnitude of asset price declines as observed in the data?
  - Can the model generate realistic age profile of asset portfolios?
  - How are wealth and welfare losses from great recession distributed across different age cohorts?

# An OLG Model with Aggregate Risk

- Labor income and asset prices driven by **aggregate shock**  
 $z \in Z = \{z_n, z_r, z_d\}$ .
- $z$  follows Markov process with transition matrix  $\Gamma_{z,z'}$ .

- **Technology**

$$Y(z) = zK^\theta L^{1-\theta} = z$$

- Supply of fixed factor (land, capital) normalized to  $K = 1$ . Labor income (wages) equals  $w(z) = (1 - \theta)z$ . Capital income equals  $\theta z$ .
- **Households** live for  $I$  periods. Supply one unit of time, relative labor efficiency (income)  $\{\varepsilon_i(z)\}_{i=1}^I$ . Normalize  $\sum_i \varepsilon_i(z) = L = 1$ .
- Time discount factors  $\{\beta_i\}_{i=1}^I$  vary with age. Utility function  $u(c) = \frac{c^{1-\sigma}-1}{1-\sigma}$ . Wealth distribution  $A = \{A_i\}_{i=1}^I$ . No bequests.
- **Market Structure**: Ownership shares of  $K$  traded at price  $p(z, A)$ . Exogenous net supply  $B$  of corporate bonds, price  $q(z, A)$ .

# Calibration Strategy

- Model period 10 years. Agents enter at age 20, live for 6 periods.
- Aggregate endowment process  $z \in Z = \{z_n, z_r, z_d\}$ ,  $\Gamma_{z,z'}$  derived directly from aggregate time series data. In Great Recession ( $z_r$ ) output falls 9.84%.
- Life cycle profiles  $\{\beta_i, \varepsilon_i(z)\}$  chosen so that model with  $z = z_n$  matches life cycle earnings and net worth profiles from 2007 SCF.
- Choose  $(\theta = 30\%, B = 0.07)$  s.t. model matches 2007 SCF aggregate wealth to earnings ratio (7.88), share of risky assets (91.8%).
- Choose  $\sigma = 4.24$  s.t. model  $\xi$  lines up with Great Recession  $\xi = \Delta W / \Delta z = 26.8\% / 9.84\% = 2.7$ . Why need low IES  $1/\sigma$ ?

# Calibration: Productivity Process

- States  $z \in Z = \{z_n, z_r, z_d\}$ . Normal times  $z_n = 1$ , Great Recession  $z_r < 1$ , Great Depression  $z_d < z_r$ .
  - Set  $z_r$  s.t. transition from  $z_n$  to  $z_r$  involves output decline of **9.84%** (average 2009-2013 deviation from 2% growth trend).
  - Set  $z_d$  s.t. output in  $z_d$  is **28.9%** below  $z_n$ , (average 1932-1936 deviation from trend).
- Transition matrix  $\Gamma$ 
  - Impose (perhaps arbitrary) restrictions  $\Gamma_{n,d} = \Gamma_{r,r} = \Gamma_{d,r} = 0$ . Note: makes markets sequentially complete with two assets.
  - Choose  $\Gamma_{n,r}, \Gamma_{r,d}$  such that unconditional probability of Great Recession is **13.7%** and Great Depression is **2.84%** (as estimated from Maddison data, 1800-2010.)

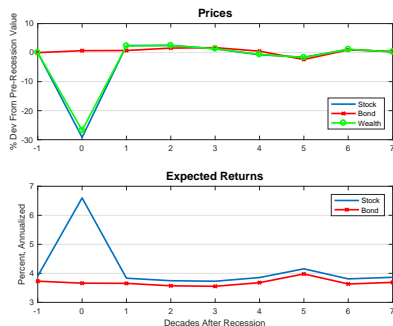
$$z = \begin{pmatrix} 1.0000 \\ 0.9016 \\ 0.7109 \end{pmatrix}, \Gamma_{z,z'} = \begin{pmatrix} & z & z' \\ z & 0.835 & 0.165 & 0.000 \\ & 0.793 & 0.000 & 0.207 \\ & 1.000 & 0.000 & 0.000 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Calibration: Earnings Losses in Great Recession

- Estimate age-specific earnings declines (relative to aggregate trend) from 2007 to 2010 using CPS data to obtain  $\{\varepsilon_i(z_r)\}_{i=1}^I$ .

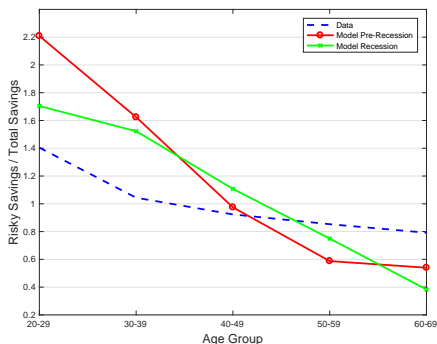
	(%)
20-29	<b>-14.3</b>
30-39	-12.6
40-49	-10.3
50-59	-11.1
60-69	-6.0
70+	-1.4
Average	-9.8

# Results: Asset Price Decline



- Thought experiment: Following long period of normal times, Great Recession for 10 years with  $\Delta z = 9.8\%$ , then recovery.
- $p$  falls by 29.2% ( $\sigma > 1$  is key), price of bonds  $q$  barely moves.
  - Positive expected consumption growth ( $q$  should fall)
  - But: Increase in income *risk*  $\implies$  precautionary savings up. Keeps  $q$  from falling, risk free rate from rising (as in actual Great Recession).

# Results: Portfolio Shares: Models and Data



- Share of risky assets in portfolio declines strongly with age. Why?
  - Markets sequentially complete  $\implies$  All households *born prior to recession* share recession consumption risk perfectly.
  - For same risk exposure, young require more leveraged portfolios.
- Portfolio age profile flattens in model Great Recession: Fear of Great Depression curbs appetite of young for risky assets in Great Recession.
- Endogenous portfolio shares depend too strongly on age. Will consider model with exogenous (factual) portfolios.



## Results: Welfare Losses from the Great Recession

- Welfare measured as percentage change in consumption (in all future dates, states) under no-recession scenario needed to make households indifferent between current state being  $z_n$  and  $z_r$ .

Age	$\Delta$ Welf.
20-29	<b>-1.07%</b>
30-39	-4.78%
40-49	-5.69%
50-59	-7.48%
60-69	<b>-9.61%</b>
70+	<b>-10.00%</b>

► Wealth-Based Welfare Measure

# Exploring the Welfare Losses: Consumption



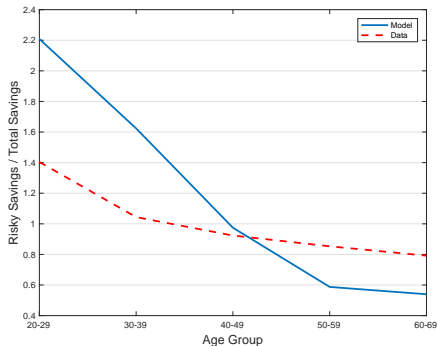
- Immediate age-specific consumption response to recession symmetric ( $-10\%$ ) across generations alive prior to recession.
- Newborns see smaller consumption drop (relative to no recession ( $-7.0\%$ ) percent. Permanent consumption advantage in future.

# Importance of Asset Pricing Channel?

- Three welfare impacts from Great Recession in baseline model:
  - ① Reduced PDV of future labor earnings
  - ② Reduced value of asset portfolio on impact
  - ③ Gains from future asset price recovery
- Now: Partial equilibrium with *constant*  $q$ 's. Goal: isolate effect 3.
  - Counterfactual A: Hold wealth distribution constant at onset of recession. Only effect 1.
  - Counterfactual B: Reduction in age-specific wealth implied by asset price fall. Effects 1 and 2.

Age	Benchmark	A (Eff 1.)	B (Eff. 1. & 2.)
20-29	-1.07	-6.53	-6.53
30-39	-4.78	-7.19	-14.03
40-49	-5.69	-6.90	-17.40
50-59	-7.48	-6.55	-16.33
60-69	-9.61	-3.38	-11.27
70+	-10.00	-1.88	-10.00

# Exogenous Portfolios



- Now households are forced to hold empirical portfolios (from 2007 SCF). Still make consumption-savings decisions.
- Key plus: more realistic capital losses in Great Recession
- Key minus: Asset price movements do not reflect time-varying appetite for taking on aggregate risk.

## Exogenous Portfolios

- Elasticity of Asset Prices to Output. Key: bond prices fall a lot too (big increase in risk-free rate in recession).

Asset	Endog.	Exog.
Wealth	2.72	2.02
Stock	2.97	2.08
Bond	-0.07	1.31

- Welfare? More significant welfare losses of very young, very old.

Age	Endog.	Exog.
20-29	-1.07%	-2.39%
30-39	-4.78%	-2.91%
40-49	-5.69%	-2.54%
50-59	-7.48%	-7.30%
60-69	-9.61%	-13.73%
70+	-10.00%	-11.37%

# Welfare Losses from Recession by Age: Symmetric Earnings Losses

- Given asset pricing channel, why do the young actually lose?
- Answer: because they are especially hard-hit by the Great Recession in the labor market.

Age	Bench.	Sym. $\Delta$ Earn.
20-29	-1.07%	0.32%
30-39	-4.78%	-5.04%
40-49	-5.69%	-5.90%
50-59	-7.48%	-7.64%
60-69	-9.61%	-9.74%
70+	-10.00%	-10.09%

# Implications for the Dynamics of the Wealth Distribution: Model vs. Data

Age	Endog. Portfolios			Exog. Portfolios			Data: NW, SCF		
	2007	2010	2013	2007	2010	2010	2007	2010	2013
20-29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.30	1.27	1.50
<b>30-39</b>	<b>6.29</b>	<b>4.20</b>	<b>7.74</b>	<b>6.25</b>	<b>5.67</b>	<b>5.75</b>	<b>5.95</b>	<b>4.20</b>	<b>6.05</b>
40-49	14.73	11.98	14.61	14.42	14.06	13.35	13.94	13.97	14.25
50-59	25.59	25.20	25.23	25.31	25.28	24.90	24.70	24.52	22.92
<b>60-69</b>	<b>31.76</b>	<b>34.71</b>	<b>31.21</b>	<b>32.03</b>	<b>32.44</b>	<b>31.84</b>	<b>31.45</b>	<b>32.66</b>	<b>30.53</b>
70+	21.62	23.91	21.21	21.99	22.55	24.16	21.67	23.38	24.74

- Wealth share of young cohort (30-39) declines in Great Recession, then rebounds. Both in model and in data.
- Wealth Share of retiring cohort (60-69) increases in Great Recession, then returns to normal. Both in model and in data.

## Level- or Growth Rate Shocks?

- So far aggregate output  $z$  mean reverting, thus in a great recession output and asset prices are expected to recover.
- Robustness to *permanent* shocks to  $z$ ? See also Khan (2017). We explored this in a 3-generation OLG model calibrated to the same income losses.
- Three basic results
  - For given risk aversion, asset price decline comparable to model with trend-stationary output if (*and only if*) output growth over ten or twenty years is *negatively* correlated, as in U.S. data (corr  $\approx -0.55$ ).
  - Absolute welfare losses from the great recession significantly larger in the stochastic growth economy for all (but oldest) generation.
  - *Relative welfare losses* of young vs. middle aged comparable in both economies.



# Incorporating (Limited) Intra-Cohort Heterogeneity

- Assume the wealthy are passive investors.
- Calibrate model to bottom 90% earnings, wealth life cycle profile.
- Requires (on average) less patient individuals.
- Overall: asset price mechanism less relevant to bottom 90%.

Age Group	Economy	
	Baseline	Low Wealth
20-29	-1.07%	-5.12%
30-39	-4.78%	-6.76%
40-49	-5.69%	-7.23%
50-59	-7.48%	-8.20%
60-69	-9.61%	-9.57%
70+	-10.00%	-9.88%

# Conclusion

- We have explored **asset price implications** of large recessions. Can rationalize large price drops of (only) risky assets with fear of Great Recession (and IES  $1/\sigma < 1$ ).
- We have explored the **portfolio implications** of the model. It can account for (too much of the) relatively risky portfolios of young and relatively safe portfolios of the old in the data.
- We have explored the **redistributive implications** of such recessions. Old lose a lot, young little. Might have gained if it wasn't for the dismal labor market.
- Heterogeneity within young generation?
  - Winners not the ones that **don't much participate in financial markets** ....

# Conclusion

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- We have explored the **redistributive implications** of such recessions. Old lose a lot, young little. Might have gained if it wasn't for the dismal labor market.
- Heterogeneity within young generation?
  - Winners not the ones that **don't much participate in financial markets** ....
  - ... but rather those who plan to have **large wealth-to-income ratio** in their 50's.

# What Is This Useful For?

- Policy implications?
  - By construction nothing can be done about the recession itself.
  - But: government can of course affect distribution of welfare losses or gains.
  - E.g. by purchasing assets at distressed prices (TARP?) government may have mitigated welfare losses of elderly at expense of welfare gains of young.
  - Same might be true for expansion of outstanding government debt.

THANK YOU FOR COMING  
AND LISTENING

# Discussion of the Assumptions I: Housing

- Can re-interpret the model as explicit model of housing. Assume:
  - Fixed supply 1 of perfectly divisible houses. Competitive rental markets.
  - Cobb Douglas utility over non-durables, housing services  $\frac{(c^\nu s^{1-\nu})^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma}$
  - Households can freely invest in three assets: bonds, stocks, houses.
- Results: rents are proportional to dividends, housing prices proportional to stock prices.
- Thus model with housing has exactly the same asset pricing and welfare implications as our model without explicit housing.

## Discussion of the Assumptions II: Unemployment

- In recession labor incomes fall because real wages  $w(z) = (1 - \theta)z$  fall, whereas hours worked  $L = 1$  remain constant.
- Could equivalently assume that labor income in recession falls due to reduction in hours worked  $L(z)$ :

$$Y(z) = L(z)^{1-\theta}$$

- As long as  $L(z_r)/L(z_n) = (z_r/z_n)^{\frac{1}{1-\theta}}$  model with TFP shocks  $z$  and model with aggregate shocks to hours worked  $L(z)$  (or aggregate shocks to unemployment) are isomorphic.

## Calibration: Model with Exogenous Portfolios

- Alternative version of the model in which savings is a choice, but in which the portfolio shares are exogenous.
- New parameters: age-varying portfolio shares  $\{\lambda_i(z)\}_{i=1}^I$ .
- Set equal to age-specific shares of risky assets from SCF:

Age	$\lambda_i(\%)$
20-29	135
30-39	140
40-49	104
50-59	92
60-69	85
70+	79
Aggr.	94



# Results

- Asset Prices in a Great Recession
- Portfolio Choices
- Welfare Results
- Quantifying the Asset Price Channel
- Exploring the Sensitivity of Results
  - Exogenous (Data Implied) Portfolios
  - The Importance of Asymmetric Earnings Declines
  - Intracohort Heterogeneity

## Motivating Facts: Income and Wealth Over the Life Cycle (2007 SCF, \$1,000)

Age	Total Income	Labor Income	Asset Income	Assets	Debts	Net Worth
All	83.43	70.07	13.36	659.00	103.34	555.66
20-29	38.83	39.68	-0.85	130.66	53.30	77.36
30-39	69.83	68.68	1.15	335.87	136.12	199.75
40-49	93.40	84.97	8.43	598.21	132.62	465.59
50-59	117.97	99.56	18.41	959.77	133.24	826.53
60-69	109.06	76.15	32.90	1156.96	104.10	1052.86
70+	57.56	34.46	23.11	756.76	28.48	728.28

[▶ Back to Plot](#)

# Key Channel

- The young have lots of future labor income, few financial assets.
- Hurt by lower current wages, might benefit from lower asset prices.
- Welfare consequences of downturn depend on:
  - Size of labor income asset price decline
  - Its persistence
  - Behavioral response of households (consumption-savings and portfolio allocation choices).
- Thus want labor income, asset prices and household choices be *endogenously* determined in quantitative life cycle model.

# The Model: Market Structure

- Exogenous net supply  $B$  of corporate bonds. Unit supply of shares.
- Aggregate state of the economy  $(z, A)$ , where  $A = (A_1, \dots, A_I)$  denotes the beginning of period wealth distribution across age cohorts.
- Stock price  $p(z, A)$ , bond price  $q(z, A)$ .
- Stocks pay dividends  $d(z, A) = \theta z - [1 - q(z, A)] B$
- Aggregate (start of period) wealth:  
$$W(z, A) = p(z, A) + d(z, A) + B$$

# Recursive Problem of the Household

- State space  $(i, a, z, A)$ , where  $a$  is the individual share of total wealth  $W(z, A)$  held by the household.

$$\begin{aligned}v_i(a, z, A) &= \max_{c \geq 0, y, \lambda, a'} \left\{ u(c) + \beta_{i+1} \sum_{z' \in Z} \Gamma_{z, z'} v_{i+1}(a', z', A') \right\} \\c + y &= \varepsilon_i(z) w(z) + W(z, A) a \\a' W(z', A') &= \left( \lambda \frac{p(z', A') + d(z', A')}{p(z, A)} + (1 - \lambda) \frac{1}{q(z, A)} \right) y \\A' &= G(z, A, z')\end{aligned}$$

- Policy functions  $c_i(a, z, A)$ ,  $y_i(a, z, A)$ ,  $\lambda_i(a, z, A)$  and  $a'_i(a, z, A, z')$ .

# Equilibrium: Markets, Prices and Aggregation

- Labor market: wages  $w(z) = (1 - \theta)z$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^I \varepsilon_i(z) = L = 1$ .
- Financial Markets: Share prices  $p(z, S)$  and bond prices  $q(z, A)$

$$\sum_{i=1}^I y_i(A_i, z, A) \lambda_i(A_i, z, A) = p(z, A)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^I y_i(A_i, z, A) [1 - \lambda_i(A_i, z, A)] = q(z, A)B$$

- Law of Motion:  $A'_1 = 0$  and  $A'_{i+1} = G_{i+1}(z, A, z') = a'_i(A_i, z, A, z')$ .

► Back to Model

## Calibration: Productivity Process

- States  $z \in Z = \{z_n, z_r, z_d\}$ . Normal times  $z_n = 1$ , Great Recession  $z_r < 1$ , Great Depression  $z_d < z_r$ .
  - Set  $z_r$  s.t. transition from  $z_n$  to  $z_r$  involves output decline of **9.84%** (average 2009-2013 deviation from 2% growth trend).
  - Set  $z_d$  s. t. output in  $z_d$  is **28.9%** below  $z_n$ , (average 1932-1936 deviation from trend).
- Transition matrix  $\Gamma$ 
  - Impose (perhaps arbitrary) restrictions  $\Gamma_{n,d} = \Gamma_{r,r} = \Gamma_{d,r} = 0$ . Note: makes markets sequentially complete with two assets.
  - Choose  $\Gamma_{n,r}, \Gamma_{r,d}$  such that unconditional probability of Great Recession is **13.7%** and Great Depression is **2.84%** (as estimated from Maddison data, 1800-2010.)

$$z = \begin{pmatrix} 1.0000 \\ 0.9016 \\ 0.7109 \end{pmatrix}, \Gamma_{z,z'} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.835 & 0.165 & 0.000 \\ z & 0.793 & 0.000 & 0.207 \\ 1.000 & 0.000 & 0.000 \\ & & & z' \end{pmatrix}$$

# Developing Intuition: A Three Period Model

- Key assumptions:
  - Households only productive when young:  $\varepsilon_1 = 1, \varepsilon_2 = \varepsilon_3 = 0$ .
  - Households derive no utility from consumption when young. By construction young save everything.
  - Only stocks are traded:  $B = 0$ .
  - Aggregate shock can only take two values:  $Z = \{z_r, z_n\}$ .
- State  $(z, A)$  where  $A = A_3$  is share of assets held by old. Share of wealth held by middle-aged is  $1 - A$ .
- Only middle-aged make meaningful decision: how many of their shares to sell.
- Note: wealth distribution irrelevant in Rep. Agent model or 2 period OLG model.



## Developing Intuition: A Three Period Model

- Measure of asset price collapse:

$$\xi(A) = \frac{\log(p(z_r, A)/p(z_n, A))}{\log(z_r/z_n)}$$

Note: in RA economy with  $CRRA = \sigma$ , iid  $z$  shocks:  $\xi^{RA} = \sigma$ .

- Choice of middle-aged: purchase shares  $A' = G(z, A)$ , at  $p(z, A)$
- Consumption when middle aged and old:

$$\begin{aligned}c_m(z, A) &= (1 - A)(p(z, A) + \theta z) - G(z, A)p(z, A) \\c_o(z, A; z', A') &= G(z, A)p(z', A')\end{aligned}$$

- Euler equation

$$\begin{aligned}& u' [(1 - A)(p(z, A) + \theta z) - G(z, A)p(z, A)] \\&= \beta \sum_{z'} \Gamma_{z, z'} \frac{[p(z', A') + \theta z']}{p(z, A)} u' [G(z, A)p(z', A')]\end{aligned}$$

- Second equation: young's labor income equals their share purchase

$$[1 - G(z, A)]p(z, A) = (1 - \theta)z$$

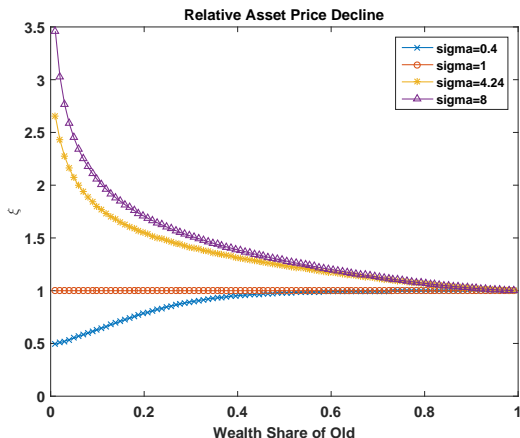
## Developing Intuition: A Three Period Model

- Solution is pair of functional equations in the unknown functions  $p(z, A), G(z, A)$ .
- Consumption, welfare can be calculated from  $p(z, A), G(z, A)$ .
- Note: for log-utility complete analytical characterization of RCE:
  - Asset prices are proportional to output  $z$ , that is  $\xi = 1$ .
  - Wealth distribution  $(1 - A, A)$  does not respond to shock  $z$ .
  - Consumption of all generations move one for one with  $z$ .
  - If  $z$  is iid, then young are exactly indifferent between being born into a Great Recession and being born into normal times.

▶ More on the Log-Case

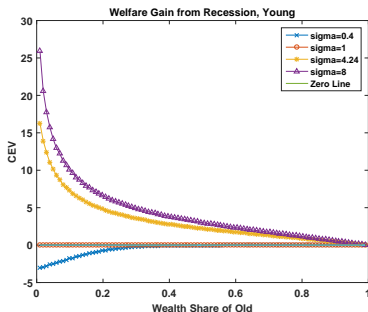
- Now: display (numerical) solution for  $\sigma \neq 1$ . Other parameters consistent with calibration of full model (e.g. income falls 9.84%)

# Asset Price Decline Relative to Output



- The more households dislike consumption fluctuations (the higher  $\sigma$ ) the larger is the fall in  $p$  relative to  $z$  in the recession.
- When  $IES = 1/\sigma < 1$  a larger wealth share of the middle-aged (smaller  $A$ ) translates into greater asset price collapse  $\xi(A)$ .

# Welfare Consequences of Recessions for the Young



- Welfare measured as % consumption equivalent variation (positive numbers indicate welfare gains from recession).
- Welfare consequences mirror the elasticity of asset prices to output. Young can easily win from Great Recession. But in the simple model:
  - Young do not value consumption in Great Recession.
  - Young not disproportionately affected by labor income declines.
  - Middle-aged (and old) only have access to risky assets.

# Logarithmic Utility ( $\sigma = 1$ )

## Proposition

Let  $\sigma = 1$  and  $\varepsilon_i(z) = \varepsilon_i \forall z$ . Then there exists a recursive competitive equilibrium such that

- The distribution of wealth  $A = \bar{A} = (\bar{A}_1, \dots, \bar{A}_I)$  is constant over time:  $\forall z, z', i = 1, \dots, I - 1$

$$\begin{aligned}G_{i+1}(z, \bar{A}, z') &= a'_i(z, \bar{A}, z', \bar{A}_i) = \bar{A}_{i+1} \\G_1(z, \bar{A}, z') &= 0 \quad \forall z, z'\end{aligned}$$

- Aggregate wealth is proportional to the aggregate shock:  $\forall z$

$$p(z, \bar{A}) + q(z, \bar{A})B = z\Psi$$

- Asset Portfolios are identical across age groups:

$$\lambda_i(z, \bar{A}, \bar{A}_i) = \lambda(z) = \frac{p(z)}{z\Psi} \quad \forall z, \forall i = 1, \dots, I - 1.$$

- Consumption and savings at each age are given by:

$$\begin{aligned}c_i(z, \bar{A}, \bar{A}_i) &= z [(1 - \theta)\varepsilon_i + \theta\bar{A}_i + (\bar{A}_i - \bar{A}_{i+1})\Psi], \\y_i(z, \bar{A}, \bar{A}_i) &= z\bar{A}_{i+1}\Psi \quad \forall z, \forall i = 1, \dots, I - 1.\end{aligned}$$

▶ back

# Logarithmic Utility ( $\sigma = 1$ )

## Proposition

Let  $\sigma = 1$  and  $\varepsilon_i(z) = \varepsilon_i \forall z$ . Then there exists a recursive competitive equilibrium with the following properties:

- Stock and bond prices are given by

$$\begin{aligned}p(z, \bar{A}) &= p(z) = z\Psi - B \frac{z}{R} \sum_{z' \in Z} \Gamma_{z, z'} \frac{1}{z'} \\q(z, \bar{A}) &= q(z) = \frac{z}{R} \sum_{z' \in Z} \Gamma_{z, z'} \frac{1}{z'} \quad \forall z.\end{aligned}$$

where  $R = (\Psi + \theta)/\Psi$ .

- The equity premium is given by

$$R \sum_z \frac{\Pi_z}{z} \left\{ \frac{\sum_{z' \in Z} \Gamma_{z, z'} \frac{1}{z'} - \left( \sum_{z' \in Z} \Gamma_{z, z'} \frac{1}{z'} \right)^{-1}}{1 - \frac{B}{R\Psi} \sum_{z' \in Z} \Gamma_{z, z'} \frac{1}{z'}} \right\}$$

▶ back

# Logarithmic Utility ( $\sigma = 1$ )

## Proposition

If  $z$  is iid then for all  $z \in Z$

$$p(z) = z \left( \Psi - \frac{B}{R} \sum_{z' \in Z} \Pi_{z'} \frac{1}{z'} \right)$$
$$q(z) = z \left( \frac{1}{R} \sum_{z' \in Z} \Pi_{z'} \frac{1}{z'} \right)$$

and the average equity premium is given by

$$R \frac{\left( \sum_z \frac{\Pi_z}{z} \sum_z \Pi_z z - 1 \right)}{\left( 1 - \frac{B}{R\Psi} \sum_z \frac{\Pi_z}{z} \right)}$$

## Proposition

In the limit as  $\Gamma_{z,z} \rightarrow 1 \forall z$  (perfectly persistent shocks),  $q(z) \rightarrow R^{-1}$  and  $p(z) \rightarrow z\Psi - BR^{-1}$ .

▶ back

## Wealth-Based Welfare Measures

- Wealth-based welfare measure invariant to remaining lifetime horizon.
- How much must *wealth* be reduced in the no-recession state for households to be indifferent between life with or without the recession in the current period?
- Normalize wealth measure by pc consumption in normal times.

▶ back

Age	Bench.	Sym. $\Delta$ Earn.	Exog.
20-29	-1.98%	0.60%	-3.90%
30-39	-11.20%	-11.87%	-6.30%
40-49	-15.79%	-16.38%	-6.83%
50-59	-22.83%	-23.31%	-20.39%
60-69	-25.90%	-26.24%	-35.77%
70+	-14.95%	-15.08%	-19.11%



# Standard Asset Pricing Statistics

Return Stats: Benchmark Model			
Asset	Average	Std. Dev.	Corr. w/ Stock
Stock	4.50%	31.2%	1.00
Bond	4.09%	25.3%	0.79
Return Stats: Model w/o Great Depr.			
Asset	Average	Std. Dev.	Corr. w/ Stock
Stock	4.41%	16.6%	1.00
Bond	3.68%	1.2%	-0.07
Return Stats: Data			
Asset	Average	Std. Dev.	Corr. w/ Stock
Stock	6.62%	36.4%	1.00
Bond	2.29%	30.4%	0.01

▶ back

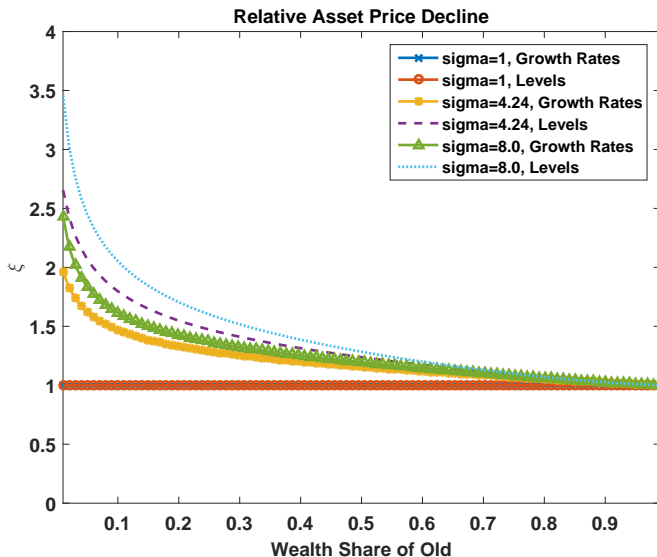
# Implications for the Dynamics of the Wealth Distribution: Model vs. Data

Age	Model End. Portf.			Model Exog. Portf.			Data		
	PreR	Rec.	Reco	PreR	Rec.	Reco	2007	2010	2013
20-29	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	1.3	1.5
30-39	2.6	-1.4	6.0	4.9	3.9	4.5	6.0	4.2	6.1
40-49	9.9	4.6	12.0	13.6	13.0	12.5	13.9	14.0	14.3
50-59	24.9	24.1	23.4	25.2	25.2	24.8	24.7	24.5	22.9
60-69	36.9	42.6	32.8	33.0	33.7	32.7	31.5	32.7	30.5
70+	25.6	30.1	25.8	23.3	24.2	25.6	21.7	23.4	24.7

## Level- or Growth Rate Shocks?

- So far aggregate output  $z$  mean reverting, thus in a great recession output and asset prices are expected to recover.
- Robustness to permanent shocks to  $z$ ? Consider 3-period model but assume that  $g' = z'/z$  follows Markov process with  $\Gamma_{g,g'}$ .
- Calibrate s.t. output falls 9.83% in recession.
- Three basic results
  - For given risk aversion,  $\xi$  comparable to model with trend-stationary output if (*and only if*) output. growth over ten or twenty years *negatively* correlated, as in U.S. data (corr  $\approx -0.55$ ).
  - Absolute welfare losses from the great recession significantly larger in the stochastic growth economy (for all but oldest generation).
  - *Relative welfare losses* by age are comparable in both economies.

# Asset Prices: Two Economies



# Relative Welfare Losses by Age: Two Economies

Age Group	Economy	
	Shocks to $z$	Shocks to $z'/z$
Old (absolute)	-12.3%	-11.4%
Middle (absolute)	-3.7%	-6.0%
Young (absolute)	2.9%	-5.0%
Middle rel.to Old	8.6%	5.4%
Young rel. to Old	15.2%	6.4%

## Incorporating (Limited) Intra-Cohort Heterogeneity

- Are welfare losses of "average household" within an age group representative? Now consider limited intra-cohort heterogeneity.
- Two types of households: a wealthy type and a low-wealth type.
- Assume that wealthy type accounts for a fixed fraction  $\kappa_y$  of aggregate labor earnings, passively holds a fixed fraction  $\kappa_a$  of aggregate debt, equity.
- Thus the wealthy consume a fixed fraction  $(1 - \theta)\kappa_y + \kappa_a\theta$  of aggregate output at each date.
- Assets are priced by the low-wealth type, and prices fluctuate such that this type always demands  $(1 - \kappa_a)$  shares and  $\kappa_a B$  bonds.
- In essence: recalibration of a model with lower income- and wealth households. Key difference: wealth-to-income ratio is lower among asset pricers now.
- Results fairly unchanged relative to baseline model, but asset price channel somewhat less important.

## Related Literature

- OLG economies with aggregate risk:
  - Asset pricing: Labadie (1986), Huffman (1987), Constantinides, Donaldson and Mehra (2002), Storesletten, Telmer and Yaron (2007), Kubler and Schmedders (2015)
  - Allocations: a) Business cycles: Rios-Rull (1994, 1996), Gomes, Michaelides and Polkovnichenko (2010), b) Intergenerational risk sharing: Bohn (1998), Shiller (1999), Demange (2002), Smetters (2006), Krueger and Kubler (2006), Ball and Mankiw (2007), Miyazaki, Sato and Yamada (2009), Olovsson (2010).
- Redistributive consequences by age of other aggregate shocks:
  - Inflation: Doepke and Schneider (2006a,b), Meh, Rios-Rull and Terajima (2010).
  - Demographics: Demange and Laroque (1999), Rios-Rull (2001), Abel (2003), Attanasio, Kitao and Violante (2007), Krueger and Ludwig (2007).
- Consumption disasters: Barro (2006, 2009), Nakamura, Steinsson, Barro and Ursua (2013), Gourio (2010).