Crash Course in Money (3/19/2012)

Econ 390-001

Definitions

- barter (direct exchange) trade for something that can be used directly in consumption or production
- double coincidence of wants each person must want the good his trading partner is offering
- **transaction costs** opportunity costs of finding a trading partner, negotiating a deal, and monitoring the terms
- *medium of exchange* (indirect exchange) something not wanted for commodity value, but rather for trade value
- money commonly accepted medium of exchange
- commodity money money with a close relationship between money value and commodity value
- fiat money money in which monetary value far exceeds trade value
- unit of account common numerator of all prices

More properly:

- o medium of account good used as a pricing or accounting unit
- o unit of account specific quantity of the good used as a pricing or accounting unit
- store of value separates act of buying from selling (saving with low transaction costs)
- standard of deferred payment money is a good way of paying back loans
- degree of marketability more highly marketable goods are easier to sell for a "good price" (best price with full information)
- network effect the value of a good increases the more people use it
- uniform purity can be tested at low cost (biting, sounding, or assaying)
- assay chemically test the quality of metals
- durable no extra carrying cost due to spoilage
- divisible (and fusible) payment can be tailored to purchase size
- portable high ratios of value to bulk
- **stable value** not subject to seasonal variations
- coinage the process of fashioning monetary metal into standardized marked discs
- seigiorage profit that results from producing coins (difference between face value and metal value)
- purchasing power of money the basket of goods and services that a single dollar can buy
- **price level** weighted average of prices in the economy
- *inflation* a rise in the price level (fall in PPM)
- deflation a fall in the price level (rise in PPM)
- relative prices implicit barter ratios between goods
- real variables "constant" dollars
- *nominal variables* "current" dollars
- aggregate output total production of final goods and services in the economy
- aggregate income Total income of factors of production (land, labor, capital) in the economy
- *real money balance* quantity of money in real terms
- velocity of money average number of times a unit of money turns over in a given period
- transactions motive money is a medium of exchange that can be used to carry out transactions
- precautionary motive people hold money as a cushion against an unexpected purchase need
- speculative motive people hold money as an alternative store of wealth to bonds
- transactions demand money demand for transactions
- portfolio demand money demand as a store of value (captures precautionary and speculative)
- permanent income present discounted value of all future earnings

Principles

- Transaction costs (especially search costs) can be very high under barter.
- Barter remains where laws or social norms retard indirect trade.
- Using a medium of exchange (indirect exchange) can make more beneficial trades possible.
- When a circulating medium of exchange becomes commonly accepted (widely adopted by most traders), it becomes money.
- Many forms of money have been adopted around the world.
- Carl Menger theorized that money came about through evolution from barter aka, through the "invisible hand" (Adam Smith) or spontaneous order (F.A. Hayek).
- Traders carry an inventory of various media of exchange, preferring the most marketable commodities.
- Most civilizations converged to gold and/or silver.
- When traders from two regions with different commodity monies came into contact, the better of the two monies spread to the other region.
- Coins first appeared in ancient Lydia (Turkey) and China.
- The earliest coins were punched, later coins were stamped, finally coins were minted.
- Merchants would mark a piece of assessed gold to avoid the cost of re-assessing upon payout.
- Private mints were common around gold and silver mines.
- Marketability of coins was discontinuously greater than marketability of unminted gold.
- Marketability of money was discontinuously greater than that of other commodities.
- Price level is stated in terms of price indexes.
- Price levels move independently of relative prices.
- Capital letter variables are nominal. Lowercase letter variables are real. (nominal/P = real, e.g.: Y/P = y)
- The money supply can be in terms of any of the monetary aggregates: M1, M2, M3, MB, MZM.
- Equation of exchange is an identity, not a theory $(V \equiv Py/M^S)$
- Right side of equation of exchange is nominal output (Y = Py)
- Quantity theory of money: $VM^S = VP$, P is flexible & y is sticky: $\Delta M^S \rightarrow \Delta P$ (doubling M^S will double P)
- Keynes: interest rates should be in a narrow band: when interest high, people expect it to fall.
- Keynes: If interest rates rise, then the price of a bond falls. So if ie[↑], expect a capital loss from bonds.
- Baumol & Tobin showed transactions and precautionary demand are also sensitive to the interest rate because people will vary how frequently they visit the bank.
- The permanent income hypothesis is that people spend money based on perceived average life income.
- Under Friedman's theory, changes in interest rates have little effect on the demand for money.
- Friedman's velocity isn't constant, but it is stable: relationship between y_P and y is predictable.
- If something doesn't affect M^S or M^D, then it can't affect the price level.

Evolution

barter (direct exchange)

medium of exchange (indirect exchange)

commodity money (commonly accepted medium of exchange)

Places barter survives

- to evade or reduce taxes
- underground economy
- marriage, dating, sex
- new car (trade in old)
- health/dental benefits (less taxes)

Functions of money

- medium of exchange
- medium of account
- store of value
- standard of deferred payment

Characteristics of good money

- uniform
- durable
- divisible
- portable
- stable value

Quantity theory assumptions

- velocity is constant
- wages and prices are completely flexible

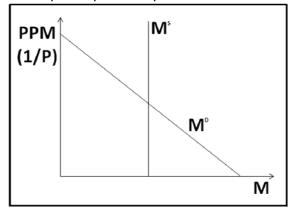
Transactions demand vectors

- population: $N \uparrow \rightarrow y \uparrow \rightarrow M^{D} \uparrow$
- output/person: $y/N \uparrow \rightarrow y \uparrow \rightarrow M^{D} \uparrow$
- vertical integration: merge $\uparrow \rightarrow M^{D} \downarrow$
- clearing system efficiency: eff. ↑ → M^D↓

Transaction demand causes

- population: e.g., black death, baby boom
- output/person: e.g., Internet revolution
- vertical integration: e.g., oil company buys gas stations
- clearing system efficiency: e.g., credit cards

Quantity theory of money:



Government price indexes

- consumer price index (CPI)
- producer price index (PPI)
- GDP deflator

Keynes' reasons individuals hold money

- transactions motive (+ related to y)
- precautionary motive (+ related to y)
- speculative motive (- related to i)

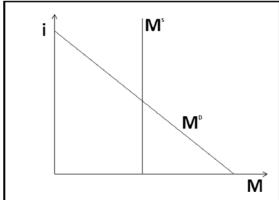
Portfolio demand vectors

- wealth: $W \uparrow \rightarrow M^D \uparrow$
- uncertainty: uncertainty $\uparrow \rightarrow M^{D} \uparrow$
- interest differential: $i \uparrow \rightarrow M^D \downarrow$
- anticipations about inflation: $\pi_e \downarrow \rightarrow M^D \uparrow$

Portfolio demand causes

- wealth: e.g., win the lottery
- uncertainty: e.g., travel to a foreign country
- interest differential: i.e., interest rate soars
- anticipations about inflation: e.g., print money non-stop

Liquidity preference theory:



Equations

• M^sV = Py

• $V \equiv Py/M^S$

• Y = Py

• $M^D = Py/V$

• $M^S = C$

• $\overline{V}M^S = \overline{y}P$

M^D/P = f(i,y)

 $\bullet \quad M^D/P = f(y_P)$

equation of exchange definition of velocity

nominal output = price level x real output

money demand for graphical model money supply for graphical model

quantity theory of money: bar means constant

liquidity preference theory: $f_i < 0$, $f_v > 0$

Friedman's quantity theory of money approximated

Variable definitions

- PPM = purchasing power of money
- PPM ≡ 1/P
- $P \equiv \text{price level}$
- V ≡ velocity
- y ≡ aggregate output = aggregate income
- $Y \equiv nominal output$
- y ≡ real output
- $M^D \equiv$ money demand
- $M^S \equiv money supply$
- $M^S/P \equiv real money stock$
- $y_P \equiv permanent income$
- $M^D/P \equiv$ demand for real money balances
- $\pi^e \equiv \text{expected inflation rate}$