Should My Car Move or Should We? An Intra-Household Model of Residential and Commuting Choices

Motivation

• Canonical residential choice model assumes households make choices as if there is a **single decision maker** for the family (McFadden, 1978)

 $\max \qquad U\left(c^{H}+c^{W},L^{H},L^{W}\right)$ s.t. $p\left(c^{H}+c^{W}\right) = w^{H}L^{H}+w^{W}L^{W}$

• Defensible assumption only if *all*

Methodology

 Cannot model individual optimization without unobserved individual consumptions

$$max \qquad U^{H}\left(c^{H},L^{H}\right) + U^{W}\left(c^{W},L^{W}\right)$$
$$s.t.\ pc^{H} = \left[\rho\right]\left(w^{H}L^{H} + w^{W}L^{W}\right)$$
$$pc^{W} = \left[\left(1-\rho\right)\right]\left(w^{H}L^{H} + w^{W}L^{W}\right)$$

• Collective Model solves this problem with

characteristics of a residence are **public** goods within the family

• If different individuals within a household commute to different locations, commutes are **private** goods



the sharing rule (rho)



Identification

- Must observe at least one private good (individual commute times!)
- I model bargaining within the household with the **collective model** of the household (Chiappori 1988, 1992)
- Allows me to extend residential and commuting choice model in Clapp (2014) to dual-earner households
- Failure to address this issue would lead to biased estimates and flawed policy prescriptions

• Exogenous sharing shifters

Ongoing & Future Research

- Structural model estimation is ongoing

 Restricted-access ACS micro-data
 Novel GIS commute characteristics
- Will use model estimates to simulate the effects of congestion reduction policies (congestion pricing, fuel taxes, highway expansion, etc.)



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