

the class

$$p_i x_i = p_i (x_i - b_i) + u_i \tag{32}$$

for commodity i on observation i , parameter vector b , and error

For the

linear expenditure system the function takes the form

$$x_i = p_i^{-1} (y_i - p_i b_i) + u_i \tag{33}$$

2.1. Simultaneity

The first problem of application is to give a sensible interpretation to the quantity x_i . In loose discussion of the theory x_i is taken as "income" and is assumed to be imposed on the consumer from outside. But, if g_i is the vector of commodity purchases in period i , then (a) only exceptionally is any real consumer given a predetermined and inflexible limit for total commodity expenditure and (b) the only thing which expenditures add up to is total expenditure defined as the sum of expenditures. Clearly then, x_i is in general jointly endogenous with the expenditures and ought to be treated as such, a point argued, for example, by Summers (1959), Cramer (1969) and more recently by Lluch (1973), Lluch and Williams (1974). The most straightforward solution is to instrument x_i , and there are no shortages of theories of the consumption function to suggest exogenous variables. However, in the spirit of demand analysis this can be formalized rather neatly using any intertemporally separable utility function. For example, loosely following Lluch, an intertemporal or extended linear expenditure system can be proposed of the form

$$p_i x_i = p_i (x_i - b_i) + u_i \tag{34}$$

where the y_i , and b_i , parameters are now specific to periods (needs vary over the life-cycle), W is the current present discounted value of present and future income and current financial assets, and p_k is the current discounted price of good k in future period t ($p_k = p_k e^{-r(t-t)}$ since t is the present). As with any such system based on intertemporally separable preferences, see Section 4 below, (34) can be solved for x_i , by summing the left-hand side over i and the result, i.e. the consumption function, used to substitute for W . Hence (34) implies the familiar