

# **How Much Rationality Does the Model Assume?**

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How much rationality do we assume in the model of slack:

- Households maximize utility subject to budget constraint  $\rightarrow$  households do the best they can given their income / wealth.
- Households take as given & therefore anticipate the price of services  $\rightarrow$  prices follow price norms that are by definition understood & followed by everybody
- Households take as given market tightness & therefore anticipate correct market

tightness  $\rightarrow$  a lot of rationality required w/ heterogeneous agents  $\rightarrow$  can introduce statistical agency instead.

( $\hookrightarrow$ ) If government announces tightness  $\alpha$ , and households max. utility given  $\alpha$ , then  $\alpha$  will be realized

$\rightarrow$  | Statistical agency  
| government provides correct forecast  
(which is their objective)

$\rightarrow$  households do best they can b/c they use correct  $\alpha$