# Economics 314 Project #3 Assignment

# Spring 2014 Due: 9am, Wednesday, February 19

### Partner assignments

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## Problems

## Romer's Problem 1.12 with the following modification:

- Follow Romer's suggested solution strategy to get the math, then widen your focus once you have the mathematical result to figure out the economic meaning.
- *Add the following part (f):* When technological progress is embodied in capital, we can make either of two assumptions: (1) that an improvement in technology affects *all installed capital* as well as new capital, or (2) that an improvement in technology affects *only new capital* and does not improve the productivity of the capital already installed.
  - Which assumption does each part of Problem 1.12 make?
  - What, if any, difference does it make for the behavior of the growth model?

## Romer's Problem 2.6 with the following modifications:

• *Add to part (a):* Differentiate both sides of the  $\dot{c} = 0$  equation with respect to g to derive an expression for  $\frac{\partial k^*}{\partial g}$  and verify that its sign corresponds to your graphical answer

answer.

• *Add to part (b):* Use the  $\dot{k} = 0$  equation and your answer above (remembering that  $k^*$  is a function of g) to derive an expression for  $\frac{\partial c}{\partial g}^*$  and verify that its sign corresponds to your graphical answer. (The utility function condition in Romer's

equation (2.2) is useful here.) In part (d), it is useful to start by using the k = 0 equation to write the steady-state

saving rate  $s^* = \frac{f(k^*) - c^*}{f(k^*)}$  solely as a function of  $k^*$ . You can then use the result of

the part (a) extension above.

- *Do not do Romer's part (e).* It is just algebra and not economically enlightening. Instead substitute the following question:
  - *New part (e):* Write a short paragraph describing the economic question posed in this problem and what your answer means.

### Romer's Problem 2.7 with the following modification:

- *In part (a):* The parameter θ measures how unwilling households are to accept non-smooth consumption over time. Given that *g* > 0 implies that the equilibrium consumption path for each consumer must rise over time, **explain the intuition of your result**.
- In part (b): Assume that the downward shift is proportional, not parallel. In other words, both f(k) and f'(k) fall at each level of k.
- *In part (c):* Be sure to consider both curves in this question.