

Economics 362, Macroeconomic Theory

Problem set on Solow Model

You might want to use a calculator for this problem set.

1) Suppose an economy's aggregate production function is  $Y = K^{1/4}L^{3/4}$ , its savings rate  $s$  is three-tenths (people save three tenths of their income), and its depreciation rate is ten percent per year (one-tenth of the capital stock disappears each year through depreciation). The population (labor force) is stable, not growing.

a) What is the "per-worker" production function that relates output per worker  $y$  to capital per worker  $k$ ?

b) Find  $k^*$ , the long-run steady state value of  $k$ .

2) Suppose the savings rate rises to one-half. What is the new value of  $k^*$ ?

3) Using a graph that has  $k$  on the horizontal axis and  $y$  on the vertical axis, show what happens in the *short run* and in the *long run* when the savings rate rises from three-tenths to one-half.

4) In words, describe what happens to  $k$  over this transition, and what happens to  $y$ . Be clear. Use full sentences.