

Solow Growth Model: Steady-State Derivation.

①

Given $Y = F(K, L) = AK^a L^b$ where $a + b = 1$
and $0 < a < 1$
 $0 < b < 1$

And $\Delta K = sY - dk.$

Write everything in terms of per capita:

$$k = \frac{K}{L} \Rightarrow y = \frac{Y}{L} = \frac{AK^a L^b}{L} = \frac{AK^a L^{1-a}}{L} = \frac{AK^a}{L^a}$$

$$\therefore y = A\left(\frac{K}{L}\right)^a = Ak^a \quad \text{--- ①}$$

From $\Delta K = sY - dk$

$$\frac{\Delta K}{K} = \frac{sY}{K} - \frac{dK}{K} = \frac{sY}{K} - d \quad \text{--- ②}$$

Since $k = \frac{K}{L}$, $\ln(k) = \ln\left(\frac{K}{L}\right) = \ln(K) - \ln(L)$

Take total differentiation:

$$d[\ln(k)] = d[\ln(K) - \ln(L)]$$

$$\frac{1}{k} \cdot dk = \frac{1}{K} dK - \frac{1}{L} dL \quad \text{(Note: } d = \text{differential, or derivative)}$$

Since $dk \approx \Delta k$, we have

$$\frac{\Delta k}{k} = \frac{\Delta K}{K} - \frac{\Delta L}{L} \quad \text{--- ③}$$

From ② & ③,

$$\frac{\Delta k}{k} = \underbrace{\left[\frac{sY}{K} - d \right]}_{\frac{\Delta K}{K}} - \frac{\Delta L}{L}$$

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Sub in $Y = AK^a L^b$: depreciation rate

$$\frac{\Delta k}{k} = \frac{s}{k} \cdot (AK^a L^b) - d - n \quad (\text{since } \frac{\Delta L}{L} = n)$$

$$\frac{\Delta k}{k} = s \cdot AK^{a-1} L^{1-a} - (d+n).$$

$$\frac{\Delta k}{k} = s \cdot A \left(\frac{k}{L} \right)^{a-1} - (d+n) = s \cdot A k^{a-1} - (d+n) \rightarrow$$

At steady-state, $\Delta k = 0$,

$$\frac{\Delta k}{k} = 0 = s A k_{ss}^{a-1} - (d+n)$$

$$\Rightarrow s A k_{ss}^{a-1} = (n+d)$$

$$k_{ss}^{a-1} = \frac{(n+d)}{sA}$$

$$\therefore k_{ss} = \left[\frac{n+d}{sA} \right]^{1/(a-1)}$$

or $k_{ss} = \left[\frac{sA}{(n+d)} \right]^{1/(1-a)}$ since $0 < a < 1$

At s.s, $y_{ss} = A k_{ss}^a = A \left[\frac{sA}{(n+d)} \right]^{a/(1-a)}$.

Also, at s.s., $g_y = 0$ because $g_y = \frac{\Delta y}{y}$ and $\frac{\Delta y}{y} = 0$ ($\because \Delta k_{ss} = 0$)

But, $g_Y = \frac{\Delta Y}{Y} = \frac{\Delta y}{y} + \frac{\Delta L}{L}$, since $y = \frac{Y}{L} \Rightarrow \frac{\Delta y}{y} = \frac{\Delta Y}{Y} - \frac{\Delta L}{L}$

$\therefore g_Y = \frac{\Delta Y}{Y} = n$ \rightarrow Read explanation on slide #17 in lecture #3.