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Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply

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Short-Run Economic Fluctuations

- Classical dichotomy
  - Separation of variables into:
    - Real variables
    - Nominal variables
- Monetary neutrality
  - Changes in the money supply
    - Affect nominal variables
    - Do not affect real variables

Short-Run Economic Fluctuations

- Classical theory holds in the long-run
  - Changes in money supply
    - Affect prices, and other nominal variables
    - Do not affect real GDP, unemployment, or other real variables

Short-Run Economic Fluctuations

- Short-run
  - Assumption of monetary neutrality: no longer appropriate
  - Real and nominal variables are highly intertwined
  - Changes in the money supply
    - Can temporarily push real GDP away from its long-run trend

Short-Run Economic Fluctuations

- AD-AS model
  - Model of aggregate demand (AD) and aggregate supply (AS)
  - Most economists use it to explain short-run fluctuations in economic activity
    - Around its long-run trend

Short-Run Economic Fluctuations

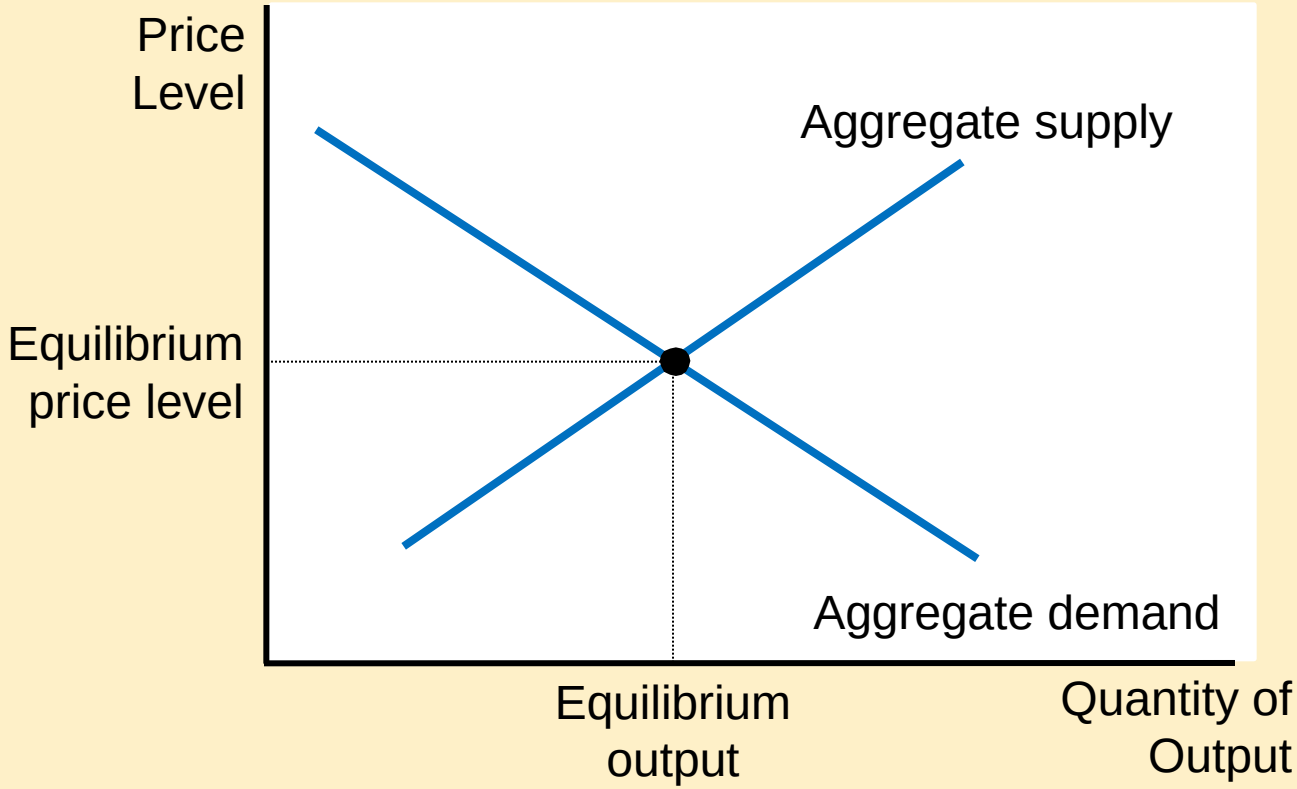
- Aggregate-demand curve
  - Shows the quantity of goods and services
  - That households, firms, the government, and customers abroad
  - Want to buy at each price level
  - Downward sloping

Short-Run Economic Fluctuations

- Aggregate-supply curve
  - Shows the quantity of goods and services
  - That firms choose to produce and sell
  - At each price level
  - Upward sloping

Figure 2

Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply



Economists use the model of aggregate demand and aggregate supply to analyze economic fluctuations. On the vertical axis is the overall level of prices. On the horizontal axis is the economy's total output of goods and services. Output and the price level adjust to the point at which the aggregate-supply and aggregate-demand curves intersect.

The Aggregate-Demand Curve

$$Y = C + I + G + NX$$

- Three effects explain why AD curve slopes downward:
  - Wealth effect (C)
  - Interest-rate effect (I)
  - Exchange-rate effect (NX)
- Assumption: government spending (G)
  - Fixed by policy

The Aggregate-Demand Curve

- Price level and consumption (C): the wealth effect
  - Decrease in price level
    - Increase in the real value of money
    - Consumers are wealthier
    - Increase in consumer spending
    - Increase in quantity demanded of goods and services

The Aggregate-Demand Curve

- Price level and investment (I): the interest-rate effect
  - Decrease in price level
    - Decrease in the interest rate
    - Increase spending on investment goods
    - Increase in quantity demanded of goods and services

The Aggregate-Demand Curve

- Price level and net exports (NX): the exchange-rate effect
  - Decrease in U.S. price level
    - Decrease in the interest rate
    - U.S. dollar depreciates
    - Stimulates U.S. net exports
    - Increase in quantity demanded of goods and services

The Aggregate-Demand Curve

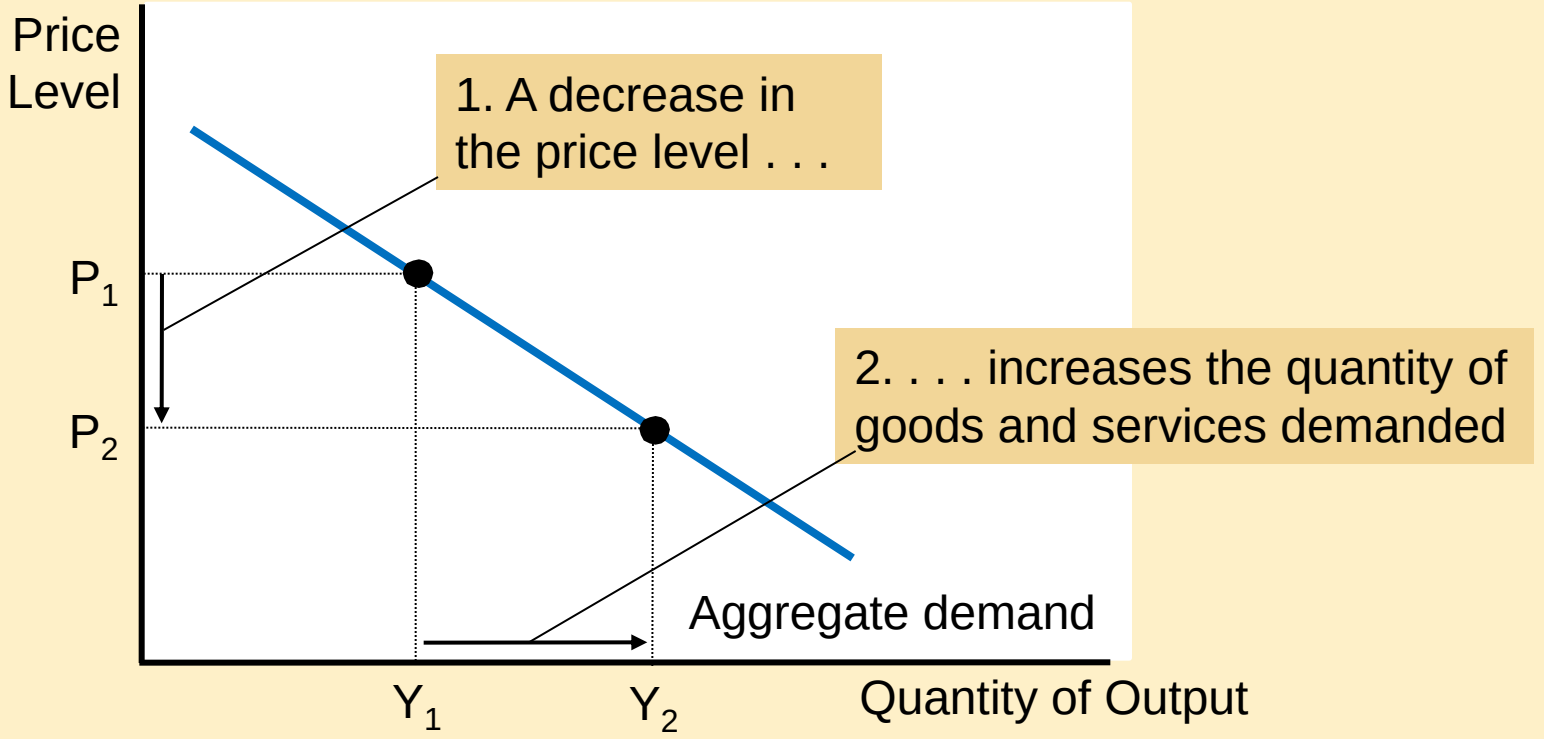
- A fall in price level
  - Increases quantity of goods and services demanded
  - Because:
    1. Consumers are wealthier: stimulates the demand for consumption goods
    2. Interest rates fall: stimulates the demand for investment goods
    3. Currency depreciates: stimulates the demand for net exports

The Aggregate-Demand Curve

- A rise in price level
  - Decreases the quantity of goods and services demanded
  - Because:
    1. Consumers are poorer: depress consumer spending
    2. Higher interest rates fall: depress investment spending
    3. Currency appreciates: depress net exports

Figure 3

The Aggregate-Demand Curve



A fall in the price level from P_1 to P_2 increases the quantity of goods and services demanded from Y_1 to Y_2. There are three reasons for this negative relationship. As the price level falls, real wealth rises, interest rates fall, and the exchange rate depreciates. These effects stimulate spending on consumption, investment, and net exports. Increased spending on any or all of these components of output means a larger quantity of goods and services demanded.

The Aggregate-Demand Curve

- The AD curve might shift:
  - Changes in consumption, C
  - Changes in investment, I
  - Changes in government purchases, G
  - Changes in net exports, NX

The Aggregate-Demand Curve

- Changes in consumption, C
  - Events that change how much people want to consume at a given price level
    - Changes in taxes, wealth
  - Increase in consumer spending
    - Aggregate-demand curve: shift right

The Aggregate-Demand Curve

- Changes in investment, I
  - Events that change how much firms want to invest at a given price level
    - Better technology
    - Tax policy
    - Money supply
  - Increase in investment
    - Aggregate-demand curve: shift right

The Aggregate-Demand Curve

- Changes in government purchases, G
  - Policy makers – change government spending at a given price level
    - Build new roads
  - Increase in government purchases
    - Aggregate-demand curve: shift right

The Aggregate-Demand Curve

- Changes in net exports, NX
  - Events that change net exports for a given price level
    - Recession in trading partners' economy
    - International speculators – change in exchange rate
  - Increase in net exports
    - Aggregate-demand curve: shift right

Table 1

The Aggregate-Demand Curve: Summary

Why Does the Aggregate-Demand Curve Slope Downward?

1. *The Wealth Effect:* A lower price level increases real wealth, which stimulates spending on consumption.
2. *The Interest-Rate Effect:* A lower price level reduces the interest rate, which stimulates spending on investment.
3. *The Exchange-Rate Effect:* A lower price level causes the real exchange rate to depreciate, which stimulates spending on net exports.

Table 1

The Aggregate-Demand Curve: Summary

Why Might the Aggregate-Demand Curve Shift?

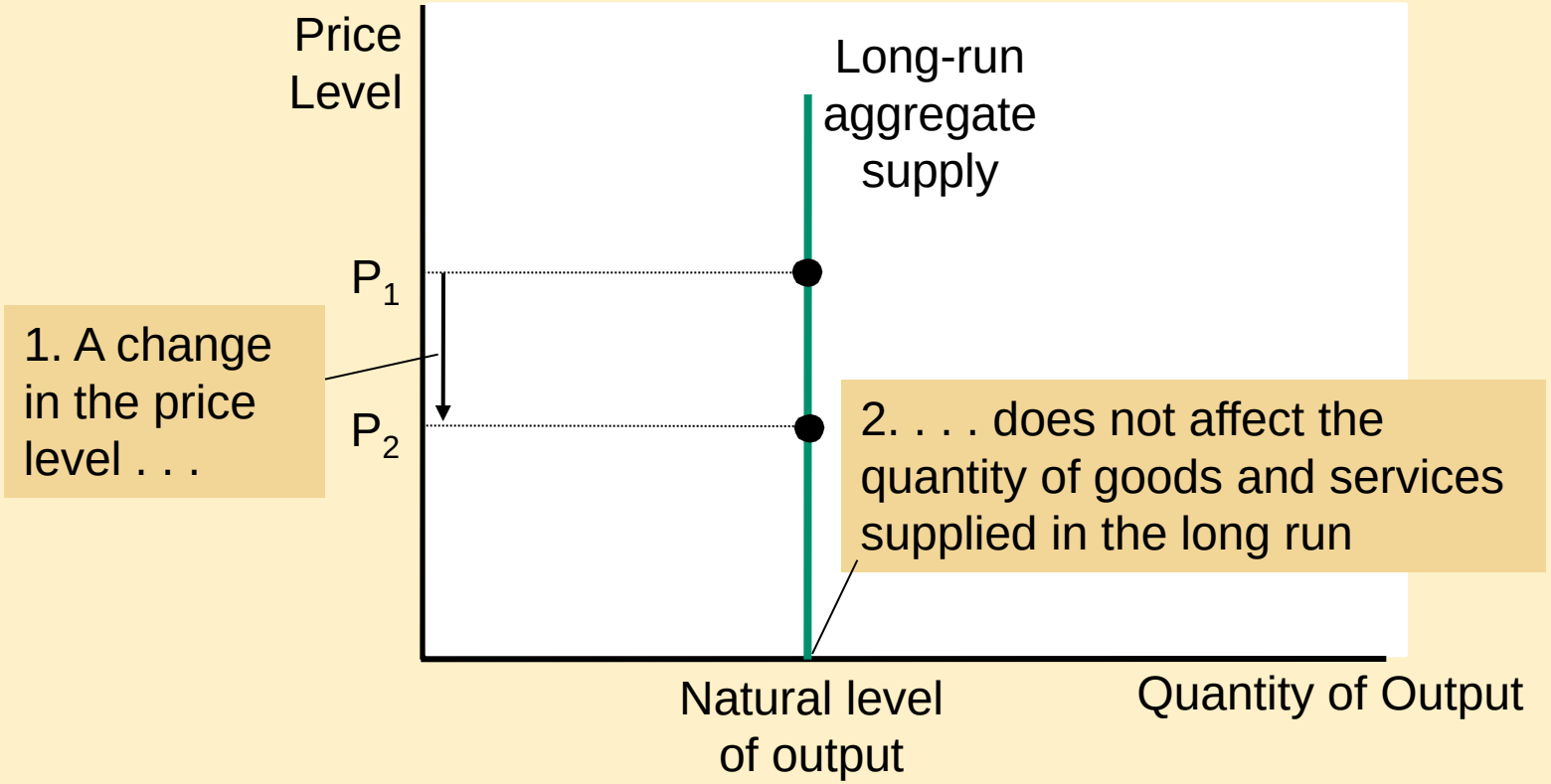
1. *Shifts Arising from Changes in Consumption:* An event that causes consumers to spend more at a given price level (a tax cut, a stock market boom) shifts the aggregate-demand curve to the right. An event that causes consumers to spend less at a given price level (a tax hike, a stock market decline) shifts the aggregate-demand curve to the left.
2. *Shifts Arising from Changes in Investment:* An event that causes firms to invest more at a given price level (optimism about the future, a fall in interest rates due to an increase in the money supply) shifts the aggregate-demand curve to the right. An event that causes firms to invest less at a given price level (pessimism about the future, a rise in interest rates due to a decrease in the money supply) shifts the aggregate-demand curve to the left.
3. *Shifts Arising from Changes in Government Purchases:* An increase in government purchases of goods and services (greater spending on defense or highway construction) shifts the aggregate-demand curve to the right. A decrease in government purchases on goods and services (a cutback in defense or highway spending) shifts the aggregate-demand curve to the left.
4. *Shifts Arising from Changes in Net Exports:* An event that raises spending on net exports at a given price level (a boom overseas, speculation that causes an exchange-rate depreciation) shifts the aggregate-demand curve to the right. An event that reduces spending on net exports at a given price level (a recession overseas, speculation that causes an exchange-rate appreciation) shifts the aggregate-demand curve to the left.

The Aggregate-Supply Curve

- Long run aggregate-supply curve, LRAS
  - Aggregate-supply curve is vertical
    - Price level does not affect the long-run determinants of GDP:
      - Supplies of labor, capital, and natural resources
      - Available technology
- Short run
  - Aggregate-supply curve is upward sloping

Figure 4

The Long-Run Aggregate-Supply Curve



In the long run, the quantity of output supplied depends on the economy's quantities of labor, capital, and natural resources and on the technology for turning these inputs into output. Because the quantity supplied does not depend on the overall price level, the long-run aggregate-supply curve is vertical at the natural level of output.

The Aggregate-Supply Curve

- Natural level of output
  - Production of goods and services
  - That an economy achieves in the long run
    - When unemployment is at its normal rate
  - Potential output
  - Full-employment output

The Aggregate-Supply Curve

- The LRAS curve might shift
  - Any change in natural level of output
    - Changes in labor
    - Changes in capital
    - Changes in natural resources
    - Changes in technological knowledge

The Aggregate-Supply Curve

- Changes in labor
  - Quantity of labor – increases
    - Aggregate-supply curve: shifts right
  - Natural rate of unemployment – increases
    - Aggregate-supply curve: shifts left
- Changes in capital
  - Capital stock – increase
    - Aggregate-supply curve: shifts right
  - Physical and human capital

The Aggregate-Supply Curve

- Changes in natural resources
  - New discovery of natural resource
    - Aggregate-supply curve: shifts right
  - Weather
  - Availability of natural resources

The Aggregate-Supply Curve

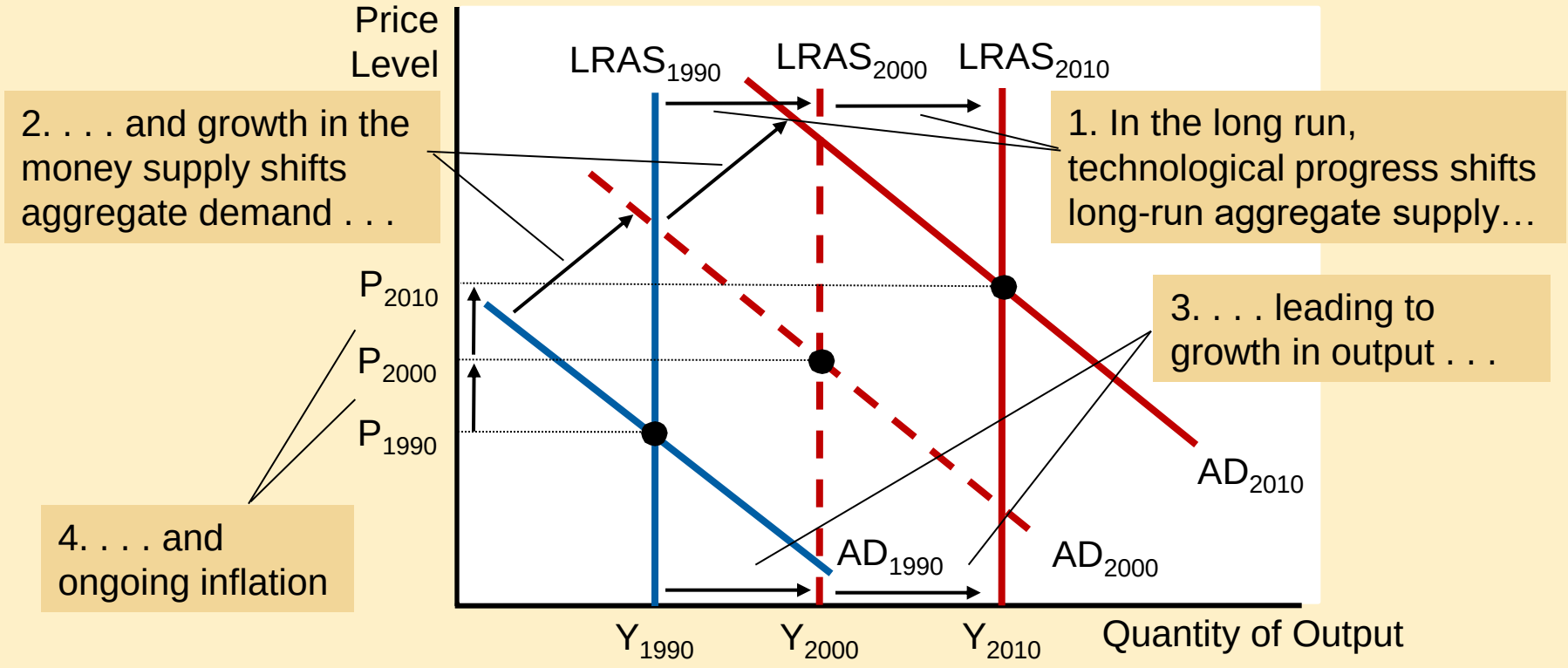
- Changes in technology
  - New technology, for given labor, capital and natural resources
    - Aggregate-supply curve: shifts right
  - International trade
  - Government regulation

Long-Run Growth and Inflation

- In long run: both AD and LRAS curve shift
  - Continual shifts of LRAS curve to right
    - Technological progress
  - AD curve shifts to right
    - Monetary policy
    - The Fed increases money supply over time
  - Result:
    - Continuing growth in output
    - Continuing inflation

Figure 5

Long-Run Growth and Inflation in the Model of Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply



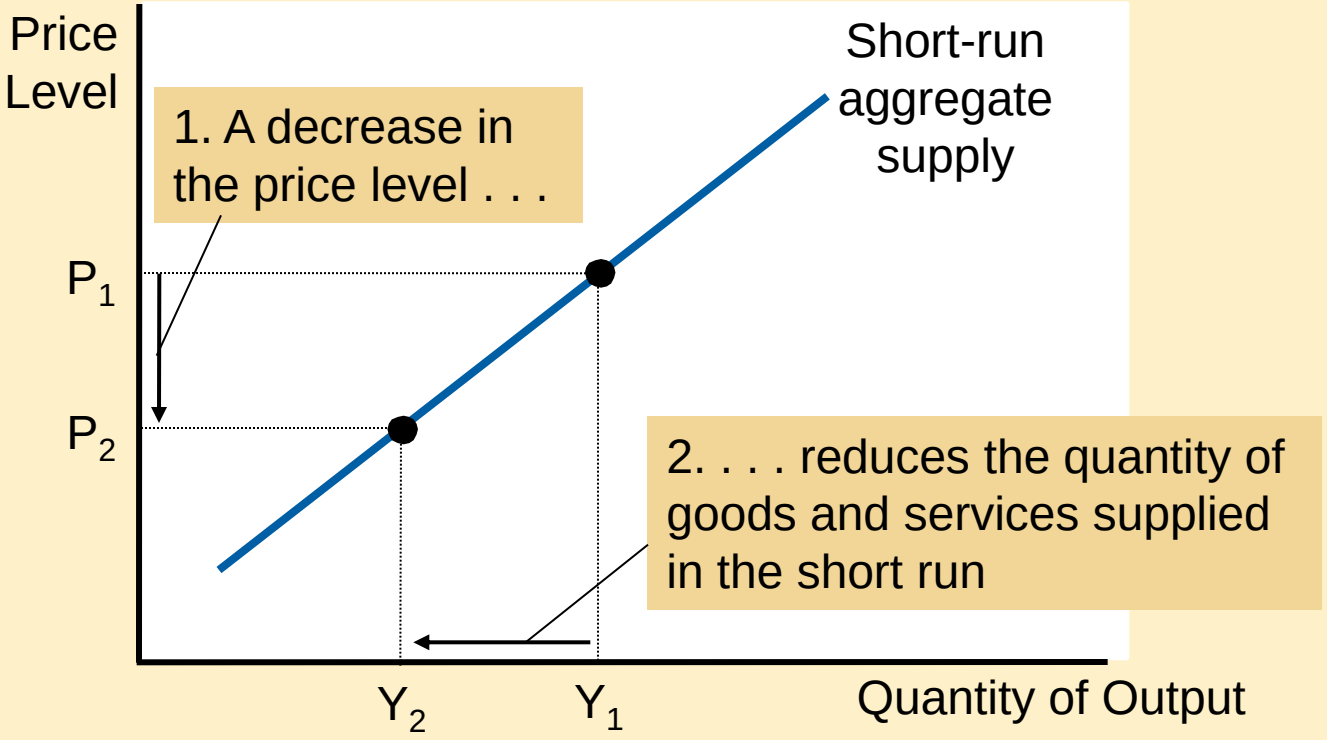
As the economy becomes better able to produce goods and services over time, primarily because of technological progress, the long-run aggregate-supply curve shifts to the right. At the same time, as the Fed increases the money supply, the aggregate-demand curve also shifts to the right. In this figure, output grows from Y_{1990} to Y_{2000} and then to Y_{2010}, and the price level rises from P_{1990} to P_{2000} and then to P_{2010}. Thus, the model of aggregate demand and aggregate supply offers a new way to describe the classical analysis of growth and inflation.

The Aggregate-Supply Curve

- In the short-run:
  - Increase in overall level of prices in economy
    - Tends to raise the quantity of goods and services supplied
  - Decrease in level of prices
    - Tends to reduce quantity of goods and services supplied

Figure 6

The Short-Run Aggregate-Supply Curve



In the short run, a fall in the price level from P_1 to P_2 reduces the quantity of output supplied from Y_1 to Y_2. This positive relationship could be due to sticky wages, sticky prices, or misperceptions. Over time, wages, prices, and perceptions adjust, so this positive relationship is only temporary.

The Aggregate-Supply Curve

- Theories that explain why the AS curve slopes upward in short-run:
  - Sticky-wage theory
  - Sticky-price theory
  - Misperceptions theory

The Aggregate-Supply Curve

- Sticky-wage theory
  - Nominal wages - slow to adjust to changing economic conditions
    - Long-term contracts: workers and firms
    - Slowly changing social norms
    - Notions of fairness - influence wage setting
  - Nominal wages - based on expected prices
    - Don’t respond immediately when actual price level – different from what was expected

The Aggregate-Supply Curve

- Sticky-wage theory
  - If price level < expected
    - Firms – incentive to produce less output
  - If price level > expected
    - Firms – incentive to produce more output

The Aggregate-Supply Curve

- Sticky-price theory
  - Prices of some goods and services
    - Slow to adjust to changing economic conditions
    - Menu costs
      - Costs to adjusting prices

The Aggregate-Supply Curve

- Misperceptions theory
  - Changes in the overall price level
    - Can temporarily mislead suppliers
      - About changes in individual markets
      - Changes in relative prices
    - Suppliers - respond to changes in level of prices
      - Change - quantity supplied of goods and services

The Aggregate-Supply Curve

- Quantity of output supplied =

  = Natural level of output +

  + *a*(Actual price level – Expected price level)

  - Where *a* - number that determines how much output responds to unexpected changes in the price level

The Aggregate-Supply Curve

- The short-run AS curve might shift:
  - Changes in labor, capital, natural resources, or technological knowledge
  - Expected price level increases
    - Aggregate-supply curve: shifts left

Table 2

The Short-Run Aggregate-Supply Curve: Summary

Why Does the Short-Run Aggregate-Supply Curve Slope Upward?

1. *The Sticky-Wage Theory:* An unexpectedly low price level raises the real wage, which causes firms to hire fewer workers and produce a smaller quantity of goods and services.
2. *The Sticky-Price Theory:* An unexpectedly low price level leaves some firms with higher-than-desired prices, which depresses their sales and leads them to cut back production.
3. *The Misperceptions Theory:* An unexpectedly low price level leads some suppliers to think their relative prices have fallen, which induces a fall in production.

Table 2

The Short-Run Aggregate-Supply Curve: Summary

Why Might the Short-Run Aggregate-Supply Curve Shift?

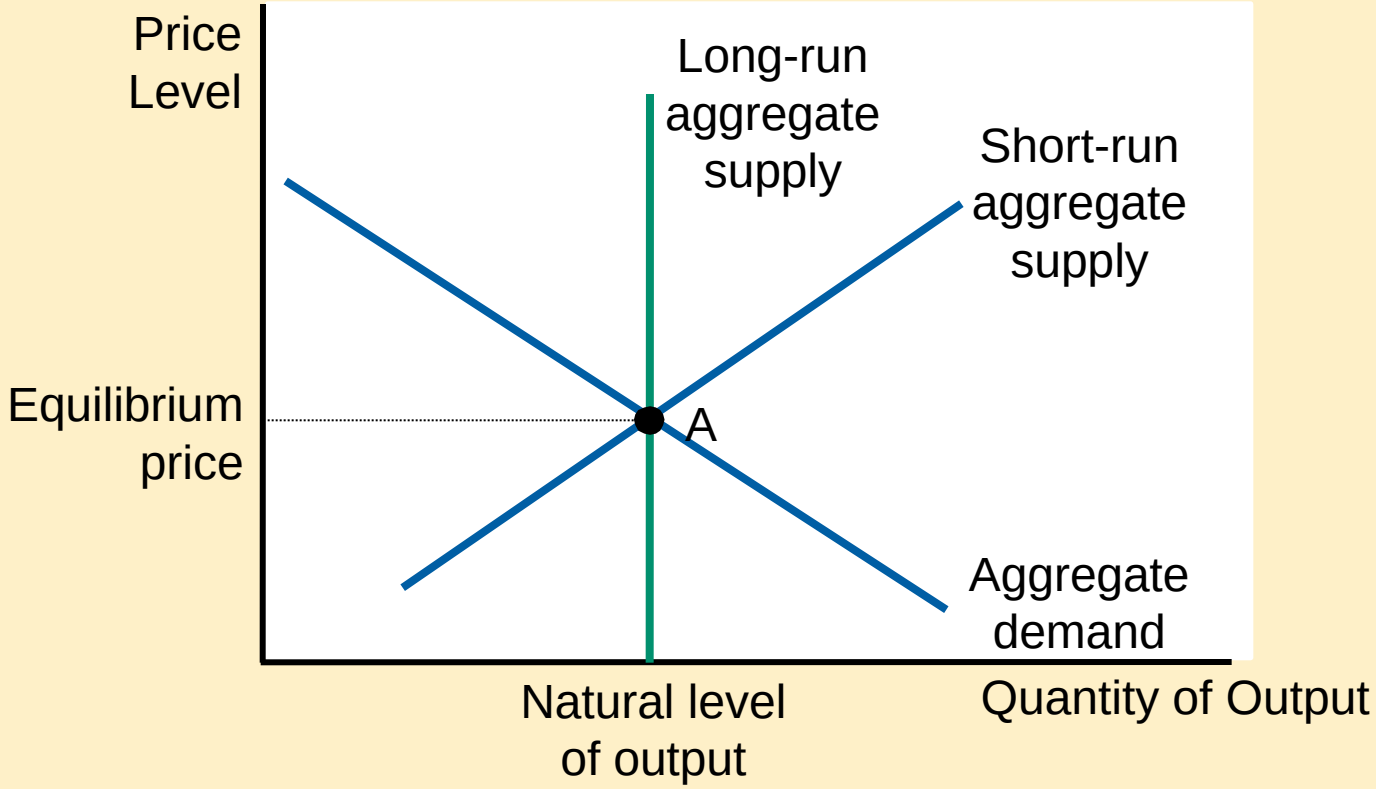
1. *Shifts Arising from Changes in Labor:* An increase in the quantity of labor available (perhaps due to a fall in the natural rate of unemployment) shifts the aggregate-supply curve to the right. A decrease in the quantity of labor available (perhaps due to a rise in the natural rate of unemployment) shifts the aggregate-supply curve to the left.
2. *Shifts Arising from Changes in Capital:* An increase in physical or human capital shifts the aggregate-supply curve to the right. A decrease in physical or human capital shifts the aggregate-supply curve to the left.
3. *Shifts Arising from Changes in Natural Resources:* An increase in the availability of natural resources shifts the aggregate-supply curve to the right. A decrease in the availability of natural resources shifts the aggregate-supply curve to the left.
4. *Shifts Arising from Changes in Technology:* An advance in technological knowledge shifts the aggregate-supply curve to the right. A decrease in the available technology (perhaps due to government regulation) shifts the aggregate-supply curve to the left.
5. *Shifts Arising from Changes in the Expected Price Level:* A decrease in the expected price level shifts the short-run aggregate-supply curve to the right. An increase in the expected price level shifts the short-run aggregate-supply curve to the left.

Causes of Economic Fluctuations

- Assumption
  - Economy begins in long-run equilibrium
- Long-run equilibrium:
  - Intersection of AD and LRAS curves
    - Natural level of output
    - Actual price level
  - Intersection of AD and short-run AS curve
    - Expected price level = Actual price level

Figure 7

The Long-Run Equilibrium



The long-run equilibrium of the economy is found where the aggregate-demand curve crosses the long-run aggregate-supply curve (point A). When the economy reaches this long-run equilibrium, the expected price level will have adjusted to equal the actual price level. As a result, the short-run aggregate-supply curve crosses this point as well.

Causes of Economic Fluctuations

- Shift in aggregate demand
  - Wave of pessimism: AD shifts left
  - Short-run
    - Output falls
    - Price level falls
  - Long-run
    - Short-run aggregate-supply curve shifts right
    - Output – natural level
    - Price level – falls

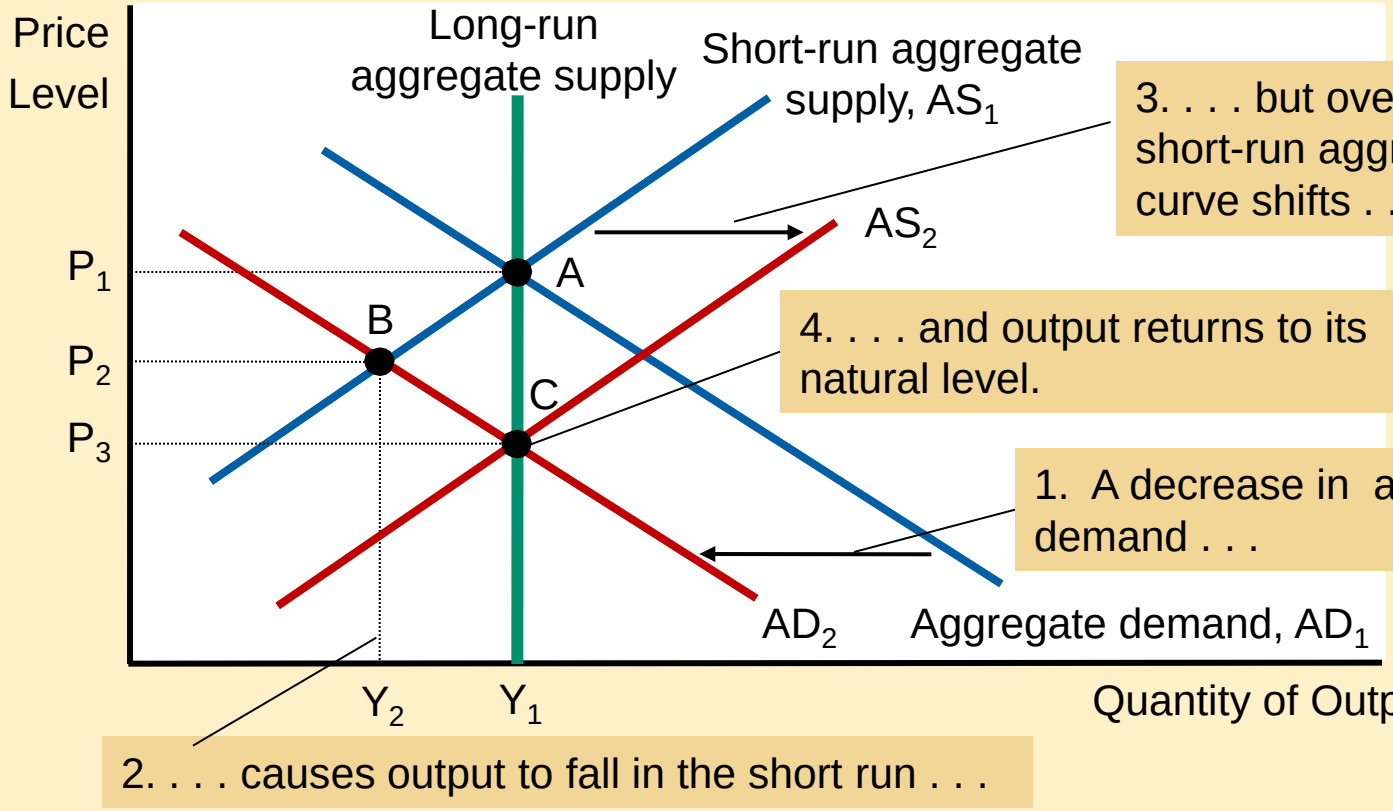
Table 3

Four Steps for Analyzing Macroeconomic Fluctuations

1. Decide whether the event shifts the aggregate-demand curve or the aggregate-supply curve (or perhaps both).
2. Decide the direction in which the curve shifts.
3. Use the diagram of aggregate demand and aggregate supply to determine the impact on output and the price level in the short run.
4. Use the diagram of aggregate demand and aggregate supply to analyze how the economy moves from its new short-run equilibrium to its long-run equilibrium.

Figure 8

A Contraction in Aggregate Demand



A fall in aggregate demand is represented with a leftward shift in the aggregate-demand curve from AD_1 to AD_2. In the short run, the economy moves from point A to point B. Output falls from Y_1 to Y_2, and the price level falls from P_1 to P_2. Over time, as the expected price level adjusts, the short-run aggregate-supply curve shifts to the right from AS_1 to AS_2, and the economy reaches point C, where the new aggregate-demand curve crosses the long-run aggregate-supply curve. In the long run, the price level falls to P_3, and output returns to its natural level, Y_1.