Adv. Math. Econ. 14, 47-98 (2010)



On two classical turnpike results for the Robinson-Solow-Srinivasan (RSS) model

M. Ali Khan¹ and Alexander J. Zaslavski²

¹ Department of Economics, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA (akhanjhu.edu)

² Department of Mathematics, The Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, 32000 Haifa, Israel (ajzasltx.technion.ac.il)

Received: September 22, 2008 Revised: October 20, 2009

JEL classification: C62, D90, Q23

Mathematical Subject Classification (2000): 49J99, 54E52

Abstract. Turnpike theory as originally conceived by Samuelson pertains to optimal programs over a large but finite time horizon with given initial and terminal stocks. In this paper, we present two turnpike results in the context of a model proposed by Robinson, Solow and Srinivasan, and the subject of extensive recent analysis as the RSS model. Our results are classical except that they are phrased in terms of (i) approximately optimal programs, and (ii) golden-rule stocks rather than their parent facet, and they underscore the distinction between the original theory and the asymptotic stability of optimal infinite horizon programs. Our results, and the arguments used to prove them, go beyond the RSS model to contribute to the general theory.

Key words: Turnpike, asymptotic stability, choice of technique, good program, optimal program, approximately optimal program, large but finite time horizon