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The Wang Yanan Institute for Studies in Economics
Xiamen University

Macroeconomics, Winterterm 2012/2013

Task Assignment Group 3

This assignment requires you to (i) hand in an Excel file to the teaching assistant where you provide all numerical results and graphs on separate spreadsheets *before* the presentation in class (dates noted on course schedule provided on the syllabus on the website www.marcelbluhm.com), and, (ii), to set up a presentation (preferably in .ppt format) for class. The International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2011/01/weodata/index.aspx>) as well as the Penn World Tables (<http://pwt.econ.upenn.edu/>) are valuable data sources.

1. Collect data on the inflation rates for the Switzerland, China, and Argentina over the period from 1980-2011.
2. Make a line plot of the time series for each country and describe the individual developments. Point out potential underlying reasons for the development in different countries.
3. Compute mean and variance for the inflation time series. Compute the correlation coefficient between the two moments and describe their empirical relation
4. Prepare presentation slides for class (for a presentation of 10 minutes) in which you outline your assignment, the concepts you use as well as your interpretation results from exercises 1-3 above. Make sure to also give the data sources you use.