Econ 3040 - Assignment 4: Polynomials, Logs, Heteroskedasticity

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Due date: November 30th. Worth 3% of your final grade.

Instructions: Submit your assignment in the "Assignment 4" drop box on UM Learn. Include your name and student number. Do not copy and paste output from `R`. Format your results nicely. Submit the `R` code that you used for each question in your assignment.

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1. Use the diamond data from class:

   ```
   diam <- read.csv("https://rtgodwin.com/data/diamond.csv")
   ```

   a) Estimate a model with price as the dependent variable. As explanatory variables, use: $carat$, $carat^2$, $carat^3$, $colour$, and $clarity$.

   b) Determine the appropriate degree of the polynomial in the variable $carat$.

   c) What is the estimated effect of an increase in $carats$ of 0.1 on the price of a diamond? Use your model from part (b), and remember that for a non-linear relationship the effect of an increase in $carats$ depends on the value of $carats$ (so you should try two different scenarios).

2. Use the CPS dataset from class:

   ```
   cps <- read.csv("http://rtgodwin.com/data/cps1985.csv")
   ```

   a) Estimate a model with $\log(wage)$ as the dependent variable (note the **log**!). For explanatory variables use $education$, $gender$, age, and $experience$.

   b) What is the estimated effect of education on $wage$?

   c) Test for heteroskedasticity.

   d) Use White's heteroskedastic robust standard errors, regardless of the result of the test. What changes when you use White's estimator?

   You need to install and load the following packages:

   ```
   install.packages("lmtest")
   library(lmtest)
   install.packages("sandwich")
   library(sandwich)
   ```