

Paper 07: MATHEMATICAL METHODS IN ECONOMICS - II

Course Description

This course is the second part of a compulsory two-course sequence. This part is to be taught in Semester II following the first part in Semester I. The first course covered single variable functions and optimization and this course covers the essentials of linear algebra and optimization techniques required for the analysis of functions of several variables that are commonly used in economics.

Course Outline

1. Differential equations

First-order differential equations; integral curve, direction diagram and slope field; qualitative theory and stability.

2. Linear algebra

Vector spaces: algebraic and geometric properties, scalar products, norms, orthogonality; linear transformations: properties, matrix representations and elementary operations; systems of linear equations: properties of their solution sets; determinants: characterization, properties and applications.

3. Functions of several real variables

Geometric representations: graphs and level curves; differentiable functions: characterizations, properties with respect to various operations and applications; second order derivatives: properties and applications; the implicit function theorem, and application to comparative statics problems; homogeneous and homothetic functions: characterizations and applications.

4. Multi-variable optimization

Convex sets; geometric properties of functions: convex functions, their characterizations, properties and applications; further geometric properties of functions: quasiconvex functions, their characterizations, properties and applications; unconstrained optimization: geometric characterizations, characterizations using calculus and applications; constrained optimization with equality constraints: geometric characterizations, Lagrange characterization using calculus and applications; properties of value function: envelope theorem and applications.

Readings:

K. Sydsaeter and P. Hammond, *Mathematics for Economic Analysis*, Pearson Educational Asia, Delhi, 2002.