

# Mathematics for Economics

## Fall 2023

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### Schedule:

There will be 18 lectures of one and a half hour each. All lectures will be on Wednesday and Friday, from **10h30** to **12h00**.

A tutorial (exercises) session will run each Monday from **11h00** to **12h30**.

**Location:** tba

### Textbooks

Simon, C. P. and Blume, L. (1994), *Mathematics for Economists*, Norton, New York NY.

Knut Sydsaeter, Peter Hammond, Atle Seierstad, and Arne Strøm (2008), *Further mathematics for economic analysis*, Prentice Hall.

### Evaluation:

Midterm exam: 50 %

Final exam: 50 %

Exams will be based on a list of recommended problems.

### Syllabus:

1. **Linear Algebra** (S&B Ch. 7,8,9; Sydsaeter et al. Ch. 1)
  - a) Matrix Algebra
  - b) Gauss-Jordan Elimination
  - c) Matrix Methods for Linear Systems
  - d) Determinants
  - e) Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors
2. **Unconstrained Optimization** (S&B Ch. 16,17; Sydsaeter et al. Ch. 1,2)
  - a) Maxima and Minima in  $\mathbb{R}^n$
  - b) First Order Conditions
  - c) Second Order Conditions
  - d) Global Maxima and Minima
  - e) Concave, Convex, Quasiconcave and Quasiconvex functions
3. **Constrained Optimization** (S&B Ch. 18,19; Sydsaeter et al. Ch. 3)
  - a) Lagrange's method
  - b) Envelope Theorem
  - c) Maximization under several inequality constraints (Kuhn-Tucker method)
  - d) Non-negativity Constraints

4. **Functions** (S&B, Part I)
  - a) Most common symbols
  - b) Introduction to Functions
  - c) Graphing Functions
  - d) Limit of a Function
  - e) Continuity
5. **Calculus** (Sydsaeter et al. Ch. 4, Appendix A)
  - a) Sequences
  - b) Infimum, Supremum, Minimum and Maximum
  - c) Differentiation in Several Variables
  - d) The Indefinite Integral: The Antiderivative
  - e) The Definite Integral: The Area under the Curve
  - f) The Leibniz integral rule
6. **Difference equations** (Sydsaeter et al. Chapter 11)
  - a) First order difference equations
  - b) Application: net present value
  - c) Second order difference equations
  - d) Stability analysis
7. **Discrete time dynamic optimization** (Sydsaeter et al. Chapter 12)
  - a) Euler equation,
  - b) Infinite horizon problems
  - c) The Maximum principle
  - d) Stochastic optimization
  - e) Stationary problems
8. **General topology** (Sydsaeter et al. Chapter 13)
  - a) Convergence
  - b) Continuity
  - c) Compactness
  - d) Maximum theorems
  - e) Convexity and separation theorems
9. **Correspondences and Fixed point theorems** (Sydsaeter et al. Chapter 14)
  - a) Contraction mapping theorem
  - b) Brouwer's Fixed Point Theorem
  - c) Correspondences. Upper/lower hemicontinuity
  - d) Kakutani's Fixed Point Theorem
  - e) Applications to existence of Nash and Walrasian equilibria
  - f) Tarski's Fixed Point Theorem
10. **(time permitting) Differential equations** (Sydsaeter et al. Chapter 5)
  - a) First order linear and nonlinear equations
  - b) Second order linear and nonlinear equations
  - c) Equilibria & stability analysis for linear systems
  - d) Phase plane analysis
  - e) Equilibria & stability analysis for nonlinear systems

**Advice:** We will follow the textbooks closely. Thus, it is *strongly recommended* that you obtain copies of the textbooks, and read the recommended sections of the book *before* each lecture. Come to class prepared to ask questions. Be an active learner. After each class, review the exercises solved in class, and solve the other assigned problems.