

Syllabus

Instructor: Gerald Willmann

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Course description:

This is a new and somewhat experimental class that aims to improve your understanding of microeconomic modelling by using the software package Mathematica. As economic models grow more sophisticated, using a mathematics package like Mathematica enables us to understand economic models more easily and faster. After an introduction to Mathematica, we will use well-known Micro problems to illustrate the use of the software, and then tackle problems that are of interest to you.

Textbooks:

The main text for this class is *Mathematica for Microeconomics: Learning by Example* by John R. Stinespring, Academic Press, 2002.

As for Mathematica, you might find the Mathematica book published by Wolfram Research useful but most of the documentation is available online. As for Micro, you might want to consult a textbook such as Mas-Colell/Whinston/Green, Jehle/Reny or the venerable Varian or Kreps if you need to browse up on a topic.

Coursework and grading:

Your grade will be based on a project to be presented in class, occasional homeworks, and on a final (possibly "take-home") exam. The feasibility of each of these and the exact weights will be determined and announced once attendance has stabilized.

Outline:

1. Introduction to Mathematica
2. Solving familiar Micro problems using Mathematica
3. Solving advanced Micro problems using Mathematica
4. Presentation of student projects

Logistics:

- Class website at willmann.bwl.uni-kiel.de/~gerald/mwm
- We meet W 12-2 in room 401 (or the PC-lab once the software is available).