COURSE DETAILS

Course Code: F10MM
Full Course Title: Optimisation
SCQF Level: 10
SCAF Credits: 15
Available as Elective: No

DELIVERY LEVEL

Undergraduate: Yes  Postgraduate Taught: No  Postgraduate Research: No

COURSE AIMS

Problems in optimisation are the most common applications of mathematics. The main aim of this course is to present different methods of solving optimisation problems in the three area of linear programming, nonlinear programming, and classical calculus of variations. In addition to theoretical treatments, there will be some introduction to numerical methods for optimisation problems.

LEARNING OUTCOMES – SUBJECT MASTERY

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- understand the broad classification of optimization problems, and where they arise in simple applications.
- understand the concept of an objective function, a feasible region, and a solution set of an optimization problem.
- write down the dual linear programming problem.
- use the simplex method to find an optimal vector for the standard linear programming problem and the corresponding dual problem.
- prove the optimality condition for feasible vectors for LP and DLP.
- use Lagrange multipliers to solve nonlinear optimization problems.
- write down and apply Kuhn-Tucker conditions for constrained nonlinear optimization problems.
- understand the importance of convexity in nonlinear optimization problems.
- apply basic line search methods to one-dimensional optimization problems.
- apply gradient methods to optimization problems.
- apply conjugate gradient methods to optimization problems.
- apply approximate methods for constraint problems.
- derive the Euler-Lagrange equation.
- use the Euler-Lagrange equation to solve the classical problem of calculus of variations.

LEARNING OUTCOMES – PERSONAL ABILITIES

- Demonstrate the ability to learn independently.
- Demonstrate knowledge of an area of mathematics.
- Manage time, work to deadlines and prioritise workloads.

SYLLABUS
F10MM Optimisation

Introduction: A survey of some simplified examples of common real world situations leading to optimisation problems. Basic formulation and theory of optimisation problems.

Linear programming: Linear programming (optimisation of linear functions subject to linear constraints): basic theory; simplex method; duality, practical techniques.

Nonlinear programming: Nonlinear programming (optimisation of nonlinear functions subject to constraints): Lagrange multipliers, Karush-Kuhn-Tucker optimality conditions, convexity, duality.


Calculus of variations: Euler-Lagrange equation, boundary conditions, constraints, introduction to dynamic programming, basic ideas on numerical approximation.

Revision and problem solving

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