



Using Affordable TICs for Teaching Economics: the Potential of Excel Spreadsheet

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Abstract

The teaching of economics is lagging behind other disciplines implementing instructional innovations that engage students more actively in the learning process. This paper deals with the use of one spreadsheet, the Excel program, in teaching subjects related to Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. Concretely, the use of Excel in the classroom exercises could encourage more active and collaborative learning. In fact, Excel should prove an important resource for micro and macro theory instructors, if they find out its potential applications. In that sense, we will do a review of the very little literature about the use of spreadsheet (and Excel) in teaching Economics. After that, we will recount our experiences with Excel teaching. We specify algebraically micro and macroeconomics models and make specific tutorials (a type screencast, using a program like JING project©) to show the students the possibility of solving problems by using an Excel spreadsheet. In this way, the students acquire both specific skills in the macroeconomics field and core skills based on basic skills in the use of the computer or basic computer skills. This learning is very important in the context of the EHAE.