

Engineering Economics By Riggs

Engineering Economics By Riggs Decoding Engineering Economics A Deep Dive into Riggs Approach So you're tackling engineering economics and the name Riggs keeps popping up. Don't worry, you're not alone. Engineering economics can seem daunting at first, but with a clear understanding, it becomes a powerful tool for making informed engineering decisions. This blog post breaks down the core concepts of engineering economics, focusing on the perspectives often found in Riggs-style textbooks, making it digestible and relevant to your projects.

What is Engineering Economics Anyway? In a nutshell, engineering economics bridges the gap between engineering and finance. It's all about evaluating the economic viability of engineering projects. Instead of simply focusing on the technical aspects, we incorporate factors like costs, revenues, and time value of money to determine the best course of action. This helps engineers make decisions that are not only technically sound but also financially responsible.

Think of it as giving your engineering projects a financial health check.

Riggs Approach A Practical Framework

While specific textbooks vary, most engineering economics texts following a Riggs-style approach emphasize a structured problem-solving methodology. This usually involves these key steps:

- 1. Problem Definition:** Clearly define the problem and the objectives. What are we trying to achieve? What are the constraints?
- 2. Data Collection Analysis:** Gather all relevant data, including costs, initial investment, operating costs, maintenance costs, revenues, and potential lifespan of different options. Accuracy here is paramount.
- 3. Economic Analysis:** This is where the core economic principles come into play. We use techniques like Present Worth (PW), Bringing all future cash flows back to their current value. This is particularly useful for comparing projects with different lifespans.
- 4. Annual Worth (AW):** Converting all cash flows to an equivalent annual amount. Useful for comparing ongoing expenses and revenues.
- 5. Future Worth (FW):** Projecting the value of an investment at a future date.
- 6. Rate of Return (ROR):** Determining the profitability of an investment as a percentage.
- 7. Benefit-Cost Ratio (BC):** Comparing the total benefits of a project to its total costs.
- 8. Visual Aid:** A simple table comparing different analysis methods.

Method Description: Best Used For

- Present Worth (Value of all cash flows at the present time):** Comparing projects with different lifespans.
- Annual Worth:** Equivalent annual value of cash flows.
- Comparing ongoing costs and benefits:** Future Worth.
- Value of cash flows at a specified future date:** Long-term investment analysis.
- Rate of Return (Profitability as a percentage):** Evaluating investment attractiveness.
- BC Ratio (Ratio of benefits to costs):** Public sector projects where benefits are hard to quantify.

4. Decision Making: Based on the economic analysis, select the most economically viable option. This often involves tradeoffs between initial investment, operating costs, and long-term benefits.

5. Implementation Monitoring: Put the chosen solution into action and monitor its performance to ensure it meets expectations.

How to Calculate Present Worth: Let's illustrate with a simple example. Suppose we have two options for a new machine:

Option	Initial cost	Annual savings	Life	Discount rate (i)	Present Worth Factor (PWF)	Total Present Worth
A	10000	3000	5	10%	1.137244	1137244
B	15000	4000	5	10%	1.1489659	1489659

Total PW A: 10000 - 1137244 = -1037244

Total PW B: 15000 - 1489659 = 10341

Based on this, Option A is economically preferable as it yields a positive present worth.

Beyond the Basics: Advanced techniques Riggs-style texts usually cover more sophisticated techniques like Depreciation Accounting for the decrease in value of assets over time, Inflation Adjusting for the erosion of purchasing power due to inflation, Risk Analysis Assessing the uncertainty associated with different project outcomes, Sensitivity Analysis Determining how changes in key variables affect the economic outcome, Real-World Examples Choosing between different bridge designs Comparing initial construction costs, maintenance needs, and lifespan to determine the most cost-effective option Evaluating the ROI of a new manufacturing process Assessing the cost of implementing new equipment against potential

increases in productivity and reduced waste Determining the optimal capacity of a power plant Balancing the cost of building a larger plant against the potential for unmet demand Summary of Key Points Engineering economics integrates engineering and finance to optimize project decisions Riggsstyle approaches emphasize a systematic problemsolving methodology Key economic analysis techniques include PW AW FW ROR and BC ratio Understanding depreciation inflation and risk analysis is crucial for realistic assessments 5 FAQs 1 Q What is the best way to choose a discount rate A The discount rate should reflect the opportunity cost of capital considering factors like the risk associated with the project and the prevailing interest rates 2 Q How do I handle inflation in my analysis A You can either use real inflationadjusted 4 cash flows or incorporate an inflation rate into your discount rate 3 Q What if my project has uncertain cash flows A Use sensitivity analysis and risk analysis techniques to evaluate the impact of different scenarios on the economic outcome 4 Q Are there software tools to help with engineering economics calculations A Yes several software packages including spreadsheets like Excel can be used to perform these calculations Many also offer specialized engineering economics addins 5 Q How important is the problem definition stage A Critically important A poorly defined problem can lead to inaccurate data collection and flawed economic analysis ultimately resulting in poor decisionmaking By mastering the principles of engineering economics particularly through the structured approach often found in Riggs works youll be empowered to make sound datadriven decisions that maximize the value of your engineering projects Remember to focus on clear problem definition accurate data collection and a thorough application of relevant analytical techniques Good luck

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the 4th edition of this text continues to be a comprehensive authoritative and interesting resource for introductory and advanced courses in engineering economics usually offered by industrial and civil engineering departments however this new edition has streamlined the material into 16 accessible readable chapters the sequence of chapters flows through fundamentals required for economic analysis structural procedures for performing those analyses specific considerations for the public sector depreciation and income tax considerations inflation considerations advanced concepts including risk and decision analysis

traditional building economics has primarily been concerned with issues around project appraisal and cost management

techniques on the other hand modern construction economics has a wider focus with stronger links to mainstream economics reflecting an increased interest in a range of theoretical issues in construction economics both at the macro and micro level in modern construction economics theory and application a variety of approaches are used to present a coherent vision of synthesis between industry economics and project economics topics covered include developing construction economics as industry economics competition and barriers to entry in construction innovation in construction theory testing in construction management research collusion and corruption in the construction sector including contributions from academics in the uk sweden hong kong and australia this is a truly global review of a core issue for the construction industry worldwide the result is a unique book that will push toward the development of a comprehensive theoretical framework of construction economics this is a must read for all serious students of construction economics and all practitioners looking for a deeper understanding of their industry

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