

THE  
QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
OF  
ECONOMICS

AUGUST, 1936

THE PURE THEORY OF CONSUMER'S BEHAVIOR

SUMMARY

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I

All essential differences between static and dynamic economics center upon the fundamentally distinct ways in which their mathematical treatments are elaborated. Most, if not all, of the functional relations used in the set-up of static problems are likely, because of the rationale of the problem itself, to be resolved into some simple type of general function in the sense given to this concept by Dirichlet.<sup>1</sup> The use of such functions in dynamic problems has not yet been justified by any analysis. The functions used in many attempts at a mathematical treatment of dynamic economics, besides involving the time element introduced in a way that seems to imply a certain causal relation between *facts* and

1. In this sense,  $u$  is said to be a function of  $x, y, z, \dots$  if to any set of values of the latter there corresponds unequivocally one value of  $u$ . Another type of function may be defined so as to make the value of  $u$  depend not only upon the values  $x, y, z, \dots$  but also upon the path by which any particular set of these values is reached.