

Mathematics 4557
Partial Differential Equations
Autumn, Spring
3 credits

Catalog Description:

First and second-order PDE's; existence and uniqueness, initial and boundary value problems, Fourier series; Green's functions; wave, heat and Laplace equations; nonlinear PDE's; applications.

Prerequisite:

C- or better in 2255, 2415, 4556, or 5520H; or credit for 255, 415.xx, or 521H.

Exclusions:

Not open to students with credit for Math 4512 or 512.

Text:

Partial Differential Equations, an Introduction, 2nd edition, Walter A.Strauss, published by Wiley, ISBN: 0471548685.

Topics List:

- 1. Definition of a PDE, linearity; solution of first-order linear (transport) equation; modeling with PDEs.
- 2. Well-posed problems, initial- and boundary conditions; secondorder equations; classification into types; the wave equation.
- 3. Causality and energy; diffusion equation; diffusion on the whole line.
- 4. Solution of the wave and diffusion equations on a half-line; diffusion and waves with sources.
- 5. Separation of variables for the wave equation, Dirichlet, Neumann and Robin conditions.
- 6. Fourier series; sine and cosine series; orthogonality and general Fourier series; completeness and convergence.
- 7. Midterm. Gibbs phenomenon.
- 8. Laplace's equation; maximum principle; rectangular coordinates.
- 9. Poisson's formula; Laplace's equation in circular coordinates.
- 10. Green's identities; maximum principle; Dirichlet principle; Green's second identity.
- 11. Green's functions; symmetry; half-space and sphere.
- 12. Wave equation in two and three dimensions; energy; causality; Huyghens' principle.
- 13. Rays and characteristics; relativistic geometry; sources; the diffusion equation.
- 14. The Schrödinger equation; the hydrogen atom.