



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Faculty of Mathematics

SCHEDULES OF LECTURE COURSES
AND FORM OF EXAMINATIONS
FOR THE MATHEMATICAL TRIPOS 2025-26

THE MATHEMATICAL TRIPOS 2025-26

CONTENTS

This booklet is the formal description of the content and structure of Parts IA, IB and II of the Mathematical Tripos.¹ In particular, it contains the schedules, or syllabus specifications, that define each course in the undergraduate Tripos, and it contains detailed information about the structure and marking of examinations, and the classification criteria. In addition, the booklet contains many useful pieces of advice and information for students regarding the Mathematical Tripos. It is updated every year to reflect changes approved by the Faculty Board.

Lectures and Examinations Post COVID-19

On 5 May 2023 the WHO Director-General declared, with great hope, the end to COVID-19 as a global health emergency. Therefore, it is the working assumption of the Faculty that lectures and examinations in 2025-26 will all be held ‘normally’ and in person. Students are expected to attend lectures in order to take full advantage of the benefits of in-person teaching.

SCHEDULES

Syllabus

The *schedule* for each lecture course is a list of topics that define the course. The schedule is agreed by the Faculty Board. Some schedules contain topics that are ‘starred’ (listed between asterisks); all the topics must be covered by the lecturer but examiners can only set questions on unstarred topics.

The numbers which appear in brackets at the end of subsections or paragraphs in these schedules indicate the approximate number of lectures likely to be devoted to that subsection or paragraph. Lecturers decide upon the amount of time they think appropriate to spend on each topic, and also on the order in which they present topics. There is no requirement for this year’s lectures to match the previous year’s notes. Some topics in Part IA and Part IB courses have to be introduced in a certain order so as to tie in with other courses.

Recommended Books

A list of books is given after each schedule. Books marked with † are particularly well suited to the course. Some of the books are out of print; these are retained on the list because they should be available in college libraries (as should all the books on the list) and may be found in second-hand bookshops. There may well be many other suitable books not listed; it is usually worth browsing college libraries (and/or the internet).

In most cases, the contents of the book will not be exactly the same as the content of the schedule, and different styles suit different people. Hence you are advised to consult library copies in the first instance to decide which, if any, would be of benefit to you. Up-to-date prices, and the availability of hard- and soft-back versions, can most conveniently be checked online.

STUDY SKILLS

The Faculty produces a booklet *Study Skills in Mathematics* which can be obtained online in PDF format linked from <https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/studyskills/>.

¹ This booklet, full name *Schedules of Lecture Courses and Form of Examinations for the Mathematical Tripos* but often referred to simply as ‘*The Schedules*’, can be found online linked from <https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/course/>.

There is also a booklet, *Supervision in Mathematics*, that gives guidance to supervisors, which can be obtained online in PDF format linked from <https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/supervisions/> which may also be of interest to students.

Aims, objectives and competence standards

The **aims** of the Faculty for Parts IA, IB and II of the Mathematical Tripos are:

- to provide a challenging course in mathematics and its applications for a range of students that includes some of the best in the country;
- to provide a course that is suitable both for students aiming to pursue research and for students going into other careers;
- to provide an integrated system of teaching which can be tailored to the needs of individual students;
- to develop in students the capacity for learning and for clear logical thinking, and the ability to solve unseen problems;
- to continue to attract and select students of outstanding quality;
- to produce the high calibre graduates in mathematics sought by employers in universities, the professions and the public services.
- to provide an intellectually stimulating environment in which students have the opportunity to develop their skills and enthusiasms to their full potential;
- to maintain the position of Cambridge as a leading centre, nationally and internationally, for teaching and research in mathematics.

The **objectives** of Parts IA, IB and II of the Mathematical Tripos are as follows:

After completing Part IA, students should have:

- made the transition in learning style and pace from school mathematics to university mathematics;
- been introduced to basic concepts in higher mathematics and their applications, including (i) the notions of proof, rigour and axiomatic development, (ii) the generalisation of familiar mathematics to unfamiliar contexts, (iii) the application of mathematics to problems outside mathematics;
- laid the foundations, in terms of knowledge and understanding, of tools, facts and techniques, to proceed to Part IB.

After completing Part IB, students should have:

- covered material from a range of pure mathematics, statistics and operations research, applied mathematics, theoretical physics and computational mathematics, and studied some of this material in depth;
- acquired a sufficiently broad and deep mathematical knowledge and understanding to enable them both to make an informed choice of courses in Part II and also to study these courses.

After completing Part II, students should have:

- developed the capacity for (i) solving both abstract and concrete unseen problems, (ii) presenting a concise and logical argument, and (iii) (in most cases) using standard software to tackle mathematical problems;
- studied advanced material in the mathematical sciences, some of it in depth.

Competence Standards

Within the Equalities Act 2010, competence standards are defined as the “academic, medical or other standard[s] applied for the purpose of determining whether or not a person has a particular level of competence or ability”. The Faculty Board has approved the following statement of Competence Standards for the Mathematical Tripos, in conjunction with the Aims and Objectives for each Part of the Tripos.

- **Primary competence standard** (attracting a substantial majority of possible examination credit): The capacity to understand and recall mathematical concepts and results of an appropriately advanced level and to use these to devise arguments to solve unseen problems,
 - without access to external resources (except such as may be approved by the Examiners from time to time)
 - and under an appropriate time constraint.

This competence standard should apply to all subjects within a given Part of the Tripos, with assessment being carried out at the end of the entire period of study for that Part, thereby requiring a synoptic understanding of the relevant course material.

- **Secondary competence standards** (attracting a minority of possible examination credit): For Parts IB and II: The ability to investigate mathematical problems by means of computational project work and to analyse and report on the results.

EXAMINATIONS

There are three examinations for the undergraduate Mathematical Tripos: Parts IA, IB and II, normally taken in consecutive years. Candidates are awarded a class in each examination and are required to pass in order to progress from one year to the next and to be eligible to graduate with a BA (honours) degree after completing all three years. In the Mathematical Tripos, the overall class for the BA degree is the class awarded in the Part II examination.

The following sections contain information that is common to the examinations in Parts IA, IB and II. Information that is specific to individual examinations is given later in this booklet in the *General Arrangements* sections for the appropriate part of the Tripos.

Overview of Responsibilities

The form of each examination (number of papers, numbers of questions on each lecture course, distribution of questions in the papers and in the sections of each paper, number of questions which may be attempted) is determined by the Faculty Board of Mathematics. The main structure has to be agreed by University committees and is published as a Regulation in the Statutes and Ordinances of the University of Cambridge (<https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/so>). Any significant change to the format is announced in the *Reporter* as a *Form and Conduct Notice*. The actual questions and marking schemes, and precise borderlines (following general classification criteria agreed by the Faculty Board — see below) are determined by the examiners.

The examiners for each part of the Tripos are appointed by the General Board of the University. The internal examiners are normally teaching staff of the two mathematics departments and they are joined by one or more external examiners from other universities (one for Part IA, two for Part IB and three for Part II).

For all three parts of the Tripos, the examiners are collectively responsible for the examination questions, though for Part II the questions are proposed by the individual lecturers. All questions have to be signed off by the relevant lecturer; no question can be used unless the lecturer agrees that it is fair and appropriate to the course which has been lectured.

Form of the Examination

The form of the examination is guided by the core competence standard for assessment in the Mathematical Tripos as a whole (as approved by the Faculty Board of Mathematics), which is the ability to recall and accurately apply knowledge to solve unseen problems within a time limit.

The examination for each part of the Tripos consists of four written papers and candidates take all four. For Parts IB and II, candidates may in addition submit Computational Projects. Each written paper has two sections: Ssection I contains questions that are intended to be accessible to any student who has studied the material conscientiously. They should not contain any significant ‘problem’ element. Ssection II questions are intended to be more challenging.

Calculators are not allowed in any paper of the Mathematical Tripos; questions will be set in such a way as not to require the use of calculators. The rules for the use of calculators in the Physics paper of the Mathematics-with-Physics option of Part IA are set out in the regulations for the Natural Sciences Tripos. Formula booklets are not permitted, but candidates will not be required to quote elaborate formulae from memory.

Marking Conventions

On the written papers of the Mathematical Tripos, Ssection I questions are marked out of 10 and Ssection II questions are marked out of 20. In addition to a numerical mark, extra credit in the form of a quality mark may be awarded for each question depending on the completeness and quality of each answer. For a Ssection I question, a *beta* quality mark is awarded for a mark of 7 or more. For a Ssection II question, an *alpha* quality mark is awarded for a mark of 15 or more, and a *beta* quality mark is awarded for a mark between 10 and 14, inclusive.

On each written paper the number of questions for which credit may be obtained is restricted. The relevant restrictions are specified in the introductions to Parts IA, IB and II later in this booklet, and indicated on the examination paper by a rubric such as ‘*Candidates may obtain credit from attempts on at most N questions from Section M*’. If a candidate submits more attempts than are allowed for credit in the rubric then examiners will mark all attempts and the candidate is given credit only for the best attempts consistent with the rubric. This policy is intended to deal with candidates who accidentally attempt too many questions: it is clearly not in candidates’ best interests to spend time tackling extra questions for which they will receive no credit.

The marks available on the Computational Projects courses are described later in this booklet in the introductions to Parts IB and II, and in more detail in the Computational Projects Manuals, which are available at <https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/catam/>

Examinations are ‘single-marked’, but safety checks are made on all scripts to ensure that all work is marked and that all marks are correctly added and transcribed. Faculty policy is that examiners should make every effort to read poor handwriting (and they almost always succeed), but if an answer, or part of an answer, is indecipherable then it will not be awarded the relevant marks. Exceptions will be made, where appropriate, for candidates with disabilities or diagnosed specific learning difficulties.

Scripts are identified only by candidate number until the final class list has been drawn up. In drawing up the class list, examiners make decisions based only on the work they see: no account is taken of the candidates’ personal situation or of supervision reports.

Following the posting of results on CamSIS, candidates and their Colleges will be sent a more detailed list of the marks gained on each question and each computational project attempted.

Mitigating Circumstances

Candidates who are seriously hindered in preparing for, or sitting, their examinations should contact their College Tutor at the earliest possible opportunity. The Tutor will advise on what further action is needed (e.g. securing medical or other evidence) and, in cases of illness or other grave cause, the Tutor can make an application on the candidate’s behalf to the University for an Examination Allowance.

Queries and Corrections

Examiners are present for the duration of each examination paper and available to answer queries if a candidate suspects there may be an error in one of the questions. The candidate should raise their hand to gain the attention of an invigilator, write the query clearly on a piece of rough paper so that it can be taken to the duty examiners, then continue to work on the exam paper while waiting for a response. If an error in a question is discovered, a correction will be announced to all candidates. The examiner will mark each attempt at the question generously if there is any evidence that the candidate has been affected by the error, and will note any candidate whose script shows evidence that they lost significant time due to the error, for example by making several attempts to reach an answer that is actually incorrect.

Classification Criteria

For each examination, each candidate is placed in one of the following categories: *first class* (1), *upper second class* (2.1), *lower second class* (2.2), *third class* (3), *fail*² or *other*. ‘Other’ here includes, for example, candidates who were ill for all or part of the examination.

The examiners place candidates into the different classes with particular attention given to all candidates near each borderline. The primary classification criteria for each borderline, which are determined by the Faculty Board, are as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| First / upper second | $30\alpha + 5\beta + m$ | |
| Upper second / lower second | $15\alpha + 5\beta + m$ | |
| Lower second / third | $15\alpha + 5\beta + m$ | |
| Third/ fail | $\begin{cases} 15\alpha + 5\beta + m & \text{in Part IB and Part II;} \\ 2\alpha + \beta \text{ together with } m & \text{in Part IA.} \end{cases}$ | |

Here, *m* denotes the number of marks and α and β denote the numbers of quality marks. Other factors besides marks and quality marks may be taken into account.

At the third/fail borderline, examiners may consider if most of the marks have been obtained on only one or two courses.

The Faculty Board recommends that no distinction should be made between marks obtained on the Computational Projects courses in Parts IB and II and marks obtained on the written papers.

The Faculty Board recommends approximate percentages of candidates for each class: 30% firsts; 70–75% upper seconds and above; 90–95% lower seconds and above; and 5–10% thirds and below. (These percentages exclude candidates who did not sit all the written papers.)

The Faculty Board expects that the classification criteria described above should result in classes that can be broadly characterised as follows (after allowing for the possibility that in Parts IB and II stronger performance on the Computational Projects may compensate for weaker performance on the written papers or vice versa):

First Class

Candidates placed in the first class will have demonstrated a good command and secure understanding of examinable material. They will have presented standard arguments accurately, showed skill in applying their knowledge, and generally will have produced substantially correct solutions to a significant number of more challenging questions.

Upper Second Class

Candidates placed in the upper second class will have demonstrated good knowledge and understanding of examinable material. They will have presented standard arguments accurately and will have shown some ability to apply their knowledge to solve problems. A fair number of their answers to both straightforward and more challenging questions will have been substantially correct.

Lower Second Class

Candidates placed in the lower second class will have demonstrated knowledge but sometimes imperfect understanding of examinable material. They will have been aware of relevant mathematical issues, but their presentation of standard arguments will sometimes have been fragmentary or imperfect. They will have produced substantially correct solutions to some straightforward questions, but will have had limited success at tackling more challenging problems.

² Very few candidates are placed in the fail category, but anyone who finds themselves in this position should contact their Tutor or Director of Studies at once. There are no ‘re-sits’ and, in order to continue to study at Cambridge, or to graduate, an application (based, for example, on medical evidence) must be made to the University.

Third Class

Candidates placed in the third class will have demonstrated some knowledge of the examinable material. They will have made reasonable attempts at a small number of questions, but will not have shown the skills needed to complete many of them.

Transcripts and Overall Degree Classification

The class that a student is assigned in each Tripos examination is part of their academic record and appears on their University transcript, which can be accessed via **CamSIS**.

Until recently there had been no official *overall* class assigned to a BA degree at Cambridge. However, in a change to past practice, from 2023 onwards, students who graduate with a BA are awarded an official overall class for their degree (provided they started their course in 2020 or later). Following consideration by the Faculty Board, it has been agreed that *in the Mathematical Tripos, the overall class for the BA degree will be the class awarded in Part II*.

For each Tripos examination, University guidelines also require the Faculty to produce a UMS percentage mark and a rank for each candidate, to appear on their University transcript. These are calculated from the distribution of ‘merit marks’ as follows.

The merit mark M is defined in terms of the numbers of marks, alphas and betas by

$$M = \begin{cases} 30\alpha + 5\beta + m - 120 & \text{for candidates in the first class, or in the upper second class with } \alpha \geq 8, \\ 15\alpha + 5\beta + m & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

The UMS percentage mark is obtained by piecewise linear scaling of the merit marks within each class. The 1/2.1, 2.1/2.2, 2.2/3 and 3/fail boundaries are mapped to 69.5%, 59.5%, 49.5% and 39.5% respectively and the merit mark of the 5th ranked candidate is mapped to 95%. If, after linear mapping of the first class, the percentage mark of any candidate is greater than 100, it is reduced to 100%. The percentage of each candidate is then rounded appropriately to integer values. The rank of the candidate is determined by merit-mark order within each class.

Mark Checks and Examination Reviews

All appeals must be made through official channels, and examiners must not be approached directly, either by the candidate or their Director of Studies.

A candidate who thinks that there is an error in their detailed marks should discuss this with their Director of Studies.

If there is good reason to believe that an error has occurred, the *Director of Studies* should contact the Undergraduate Office within 14 days of the detailed marks being released, requesting a mark check and providing details of the reason for the request. A request for a mark check outside the aforementioned time frame will not be accepted unless an evidenced good reason for lateness is included.

The Faculty procedure exists to check for errors in the marking (including the *extremely rare* cases of errors in questions or model answers). Matters of academic judgement of the assessors or examiners will not be re-visited.

A candidate can also appeal to the University if they believe there is a case for an Examination Review using the procedure outlined at <https://www.studentcomplaints.admin.cam.ac.uk/examination-reviews>. Further information can be obtained from College Tutors, and also from the exams section of the students’ advice service website: see <https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/advice/student-advice-service/>.

Examination Data Retention Policy

To meet the University’s obligations under the data protection legislation, the Faculty deals with data relating to individuals and their examination marks as follows:

- All marks for individual questions and computational projects are released routinely to individual candidates and their Colleges after the examinations. The final examination mark book is kept indefinitely by the Undergraduate Office.
- Scripts and Computational Projects submissions are kept, in line with the University policy, for six months following the examinations (in case of appeals). Scripts are then destroyed; and Computational Projects are anonymised and stored in a form that allows comparison (using anti-plagiarism software) with current projects.
- Neither the Data Protection Act³ nor the Freedom of Information Act entitle candidates to have access to their scripts. Data appearing on individual examination scripts is technically available on application to the University Information Compliance Officer. However, such data consists only of a copy of the examiner’s ticks, crosses, underlines, etc., and the mark subtotals and totals.

Examiners’ Reports

For each part of the Tripos, the examiners (internal and external) write a joint report. In addition, the external examiners each submit a report addressed to the Vice-Chancellor. The reports of the external examiners are scrutinised by the Education Committee of the University’s General Board.

All the reports, the examination statistics (number of attempts per question, etc.), student feedback on the examinations and lecture courses (via the end of year questionnaire and paper questionnaires), and other relevant material are considered by the Faculty Teaching Committee at the start of the Michaelmas term. The Teaching Committee includes two student representatives, and may include other students (for example, previous members of the Teaching Committee and student members of the Faculty Board).

The Teaching Committee compiles a detailed report on examinations including various recommendations for the Faculty Board to consider at its second meeting in the Michaelmas term. This report also forms the basis of the Faculty Board’s response to the reports of the external examiners. Previous Teaching Committee reports and recent examiners’ comments on questions can be found at <https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/facultyboard/teachingcommittee>.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Numbers of Supervisions, Example Sheets and Workload

The primary responsibility for supervisions rests with colleges, and Directors of Studies are expected to make appropriate arrangements for their students.

Lecturers provide example sheets for each course, which supervisors are generally recommended to use. According to Faculty Board guidelines, the number of example sheets for 24-lecture, 16-lecture and 12-lecture courses should be 4, 3 and 2, respectively, and the content and length of each example sheet should be suitable for discussion (with a typical pair of students) in an hour-long supervision. For a student studying the equivalent of 4 24-lecture courses in each of Michaelmas and Lent Terms, as in Part IA, the 32 example sheets would then be associated with an average of about two supervisions per week, and with revision supervisions in the Easter Term, a norm of about 40 supervisions over the year. Since supervisions on a given course typically begin sometime after the first two weeks of lectures, the fourth supervision of a 24-lecture course is often given at the start of the next term to spread the workload and allow students to catch up.

³<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/schedule/2/part/4/crossheading/exam-scripts-and-exam-marks>

As described later in this booklet, the structure of Parts IB and II allows considerable flexibility over the selection and number of courses to be studied, which students can use, in consultation with their Directors of Studies, to adjust their workload as appropriate to their interests and to their previous experience in Part IA. Dependent on their course selection, and the corresponding number of example sheets, most students have 35–45 supervisions in Part IB and Part II, with the average across all students being close to 40 supervisions per year.

It is impossible to say how long an example sheet ‘should’ take. If a student is concerned that they are regularly studying for significantly more than 48 hours per week in total then they should seek advice from their Director of Studies.

Past Papers

Past Tripos papers, since circa 2001, are available for download from the Faculty web site at <https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/pastpapers/>. Some examples of solutions and mark schemes for the 2011 Part IA examination can be found with an explanatory comment at <https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/examples-solutions-part-ia>. Otherwise, solutions and mark schemes are not available except in rough draft form for supervisors.

Student Support: Colleges and the Wider University

An extensive support network is available through colleges and the wider university, to help students get the most from their time in Cambridge and to assist with any issues of a more personal nature that may arise. The first points of contact for any student should be their College Director of Studies (for academic matters) and their College Tutor (for both academic and pastoral concerns). They will be able to offer help and advice directly, or to guide students to others with appropriate expertise, either within their College or elsewhere. While pastoral matters do not usually fall within the remit of the Mathematics Faculty, we strongly encourage our students to seek help and get support if they are experiencing any difficulties, and a summary of some relevant resources can be found by following the Student Support links on the undergraduate course webpages <https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/undergrad>

Faculty Committees and Student Representation

The Faculty Board is responsible for setting policies governing arrangements for lecturing and examining in the Mathematical Tripos (<https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/internal/faculty/facultyboard>) such as, for example, those described in these *Schedules*. It meets formally, and also considers other matters.

There are two committees that deal exclusively with matters relating to the undergraduate Tripos, namely the Teaching Committee (<https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/facultyboard/teachingcommittee/>) and the Curriculum Committee (<https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/facultyboard/curriculumcommittee/>).

The role of the Teaching Committee is mainly to monitor feedback (questionnaires, examiners’ reports, etc.) and make recommendations to the Faculty Board on the basis of this feedback. It also formulates policy recommendations at the request of the Faculty Board.

The Curriculum Committee is responsible for recommending (to the Faculty Board) changes to the undergraduate Tripos and to the schedules for individual lecture courses.

Student representatives have a very important role to play on each of these committees: to advise on the student point of view and to collect opinion and liaise with the wider student body. There are two student representatives on both the Teaching and Curriculum Committees (others may be co-opted). There are also three student members on the Faculty Board, two undergraduate and one graduate, elected each year in November.

Further details regarding the student representatives, their roles and contributions, can be found at <https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/student-representation>. They can be contacted by email at student.reps@maths.cam.ac.uk.

Feedback

Constructive feedback of all sorts and from all sources is welcomed by everyone concerned in providing courses for the Mathematical Tripos.

There are many different feedback routes.

- Each lecturer distributes a questionnaire towards the end of the course.
- There are brief web-based questionnaires issued about a quarter of the way through each course.
- Students are sent a combined online questionnaire at the end of each year.
- Students (or supervisors) can e-mail feedback@maths.cam.ac.uk at any time. Such e-mails are received by the Director of Undergraduate Education and the Chair of the Teaching Committee, who will either deal with your comment, or pass your e-mail (after stripping out your identity) to the relevant person (a lecturer, for example). Students should receive a prompt response.
- If a student wishes to be entirely anonymous and does not want any response, the web-based comment form that can be found at <https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/feedback.html> can be used. (A consequence of anonymity is that clarifying information cannot be sought to help us deal with the comment.)
- Feedback on college-provided teaching (supervisions, classes) can be given to Directors of Studies or Tutors at any time.

The questionnaires are particularly important in shaping the future of the Tripos and the Faculty Board urges all students to respond.

Formal Complaints

The formal complaints procedure to be followed within the University can be found at <https://www.studentcomplaints.admin.cam.ac.uk/student-complaints>. The Responsible Officer in Step 1 of this procedure for the Faculty of Mathematics is the Chair of the Faculty Board — see <https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/facultyboard> for the name of the current Chair.

Part IA

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Structure of Part IA

- There are two options:
- (a) Pure and Applied Mathematics;
 - (b) Mathematics with Physics.

Option (a) is intended primarily for students who expect to continue to Part IB of the Mathematical Tripos, while Option (b) is intended primarily for those who are undecided about whether they will continue to Part IB of the Mathematical Tripos or change to Part IB of the Natural Sciences Tripos (Physics option). For Option (b), two of the lecture courses (Numbers and Sets, and Dynamics and Relativity) are replaced by the complete Physics course from Part IA of the Natural Sciences Tripos; Numbers and Sets because it is the least relevant to students taking this option, and Dynamics and Relativity because much of this material is covered in the Natural Sciences Tripos anyway. Students wishing to examine the schedules for the physics courses should consult the documentation supplied by the Physics department, for example on <https://www.phy.cam.ac.uk/students/teaching/>.

Examinations

Details of arrangements common to all examinations of the undergraduate Mathematical Tripos start on page 2 of this booklet.

All candidates for Part IA of the Mathematical Tripos take four papers, as follows:

- (a) Candidates taking Option (a) (Pure and Applied Mathematics) will take Papers 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Mathematical Tripos (Part IA).
- (b) Candidates taking Option (b) (Mathematics with Physics) take Papers 1, 2 and 3 of the Mathematical Tripos (Part IA) and the Physics paper of the Natural Sciences Tripos (Part IA); they must also submit practical notebooks.

For Mathematics-with-Physics candidates, the marks for the Physics paper are scaled to bring them in line with Paper 4. This is done as follows. The Physics scripts of the Mathematics-with-Physics candidates are marked by the Natural Sciences examiners for Part IA Physics, and a mark for each candidate is given to the Mathematics examiners. Class boundaries for the Physics paper are determined such that the percentages in each class (1, 2.1, 2.2, 3) of all candidates on the Physics paper (including those from NST are 25, 35, 30, 10 (which are the guidelines across Natural Sciences). All candidates for Paper 4 (ranked by merit mark on that paper) are assigned nominally to classes so that the percentages in each class are 30, 40, 20, 10 (which is the Faculty Board rough guideline for the initial proportion in each class prior to the final overall classification). Piecewise linear mapping of the Physics marks in each Physics class to the Mathematics merit marks in each nominal Mathematics class is used to provide a merit mark for each Mathematics-with-Physics candidate. The merit mark is then broken down into marks, alphas and betas by comparison (for each candidate) with the break down for Papers 1, 2 and 3.

Examination Papers

Papers 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Part IA of the Mathematical Tripos are each divided into two Sections. There are four questions in Section I and eight questions in Section II. Candidates may obtain credit for attempts on all the questions in Section I and at most five questions from Section II, of which no more than three may be on the same lecture course.

Each section of each of Papers 1–4 is divided equally between two courses as follows:

| | |
|----------|--|
| Paper 1: | Vectors and Matrices, Analysis I |
| Paper 2: | Differential Equations, Probability |
| Paper 3: | Groups, Vector Calculus |
| Paper 4: | Numbers and Sets, Dynamics and Relativity. |

Approximate Class Boundaries

The following tables, based on information supplied by the examiners, show approximate borderlines.

For convenience, we define M_1 and M_2 by

$$M_1 = 30\alpha + 5\beta + m - 120, \qquad M_2 = 15\alpha + 5\beta + m.$$

M_1 is related to the primary classification criterion for the first class and M_2 is related to the primary classification criterion for the upper and lower second classes.

The second column of each table shows a sufficient criterion for each class. The third and fourth columns show M_1 (for the first class) or M_2 (for the other classes), raw mark, number of alphas and number of betas of two representative candidates placed just above the borderline. The sufficient condition for each class is not prescriptive: it is just intended to be helpful for interpreting the data. Each candidate near a borderline is scrutinised individually. The data given below are relevant to one year only; borderlines may go up or down in future years.

| Part IA 2025 | | | |
|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Class | Sufficient condition | Borderline candidates | |
| 1 | $M_1 > 545$ | 546/281, 12, 5 | 556/291, 12, 5 |
| 2.1 | $M_2 > 329$ | 330/220, 7, 1 | 332/232, 5, 5 |
| 2.2 | $M_2 > 266$ | 267/207, 1, 9 | 268/183, 4, 5 |
| 3 | $2\alpha + \beta > 10$ | 197/137, 2, 6 | 203/143, 2, 6 |

| Part IA 2024 | | | |
|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Class | Sufficient condition | Borderline candidates | |
| 1 | $M_1 > 485$ | 483/288, 9, 9 | 499/284, 10, 7 |
| 2.1 | $M_2 > 321$ | 322/212, 5, 7 | 325/200, 6, 7 |
| 2.2 | $M_2 > 243$ | 244/174, 2, 8 | 245/200, 1, 6 |
| 3 | $2\alpha + \beta > 10$ | 207/162, 1, 6 | 215/155, 2, 6 |

GROUPS

24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Examples of groups

Axioms for groups. Examples from geometry: symmetry groups of regular polygons, cube, tetrahedron. Permutations on a set; the symmetric group. Subgroups and homomorphisms. Symmetry groups as subgroups of general permutation groups. The Möbius group; cross-ratios, preservation of circles, the point at infinity. Conjugation. Fixed points of Möbius maps and iteration. [4]

Lagrange’s theorem

Cosets. Lagrange’s theorem. Groups of small order (up to order 8). Quaternions. Fermat-Euler theorem from the group-theoretic point of view. [5]

Group actions

Group actions; orbits and stabilizers. Orbit-stabilizer theorem. Cayley’s theorem (every group is isomorphic to a subgroup of a permutation group). Conjugacy classes. Cauchy’s theorem. [4]

Quotient groups

Normal subgroups, quotient groups and the isomorphism theorem. [4]

Matrix groups

The general and special linear groups; relation with the Möbius group. The orthogonal and special orthogonal groups. Proof (in \mathbb{R}^3) that every element of the orthogonal group is the product of reflections and every rotation in \mathbb{R}^3 has an axis. Basis change as an example of conjugation. [3]

Permutations

Permutations, cycles and transpositions. The sign of a permutation. Conjugacy in S_n and in A_n . Simple groups; simplicity of A_5 . [4]

Appropriate books

M.A. Armstrong *Groups and Symmetry*. Springer–Verlag 1988
† Alan F Beardon *Algebra and Geometry*. CUP 2005
R.P. Burn *Groups, a Path to Geometry*. Cambridge University Press 1987
J.A. Green *Sets and Groups: a first course in Algebra*. Chapman and Hall/CRC 1988
W. Lederman *Introduction to Group Theory*. Longman 1976
Nathan Carter *Visual Group Theory*. Mathematical Association of America Textbooks

VECTORS AND MATRICES

24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Complex numbers

Review of complex numbers, including complex conjugate, inverse, modulus, argument and Argand diagram. Informal treatment of complex logarithm, n -th roots and complex powers. de Moivre’s theorem. [2]

Vectors

Review of elementary algebra of vectors in \mathbb{R}^3 , including scalar product. Brief discussion of vectors in \mathbb{R}^n and \mathbb{C}^n ; scalar product and the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality. Concepts of linear span, linear independence, subspaces, basis and dimension.

Suffix notation: including summation convention, δ_{ij} and ϵ_{ijk} . Vector product and triple product: definition and geometrical interpretation. Solution of linear vector equations. Applications of vectors to geometry, including equations of lines, planes and spheres. [5]

Matrices

Elementary algebra of 3×3 matrices, including determinants. Extension to $n \times n$ complex matrices. Trace, determinant, non-singular matrices and inverses. Matrices as linear transformations; examples of geometrical actions including rotations, reflections, dilations, shears; kernel and image, rank–nullity theorem (statement only). [4]

Simultaneous linear equations: matrix formulation; existence and uniqueness of solutions, geometric interpretation; Gaussian elimination. [3]

Symmetric, anti-symmetric, orthogonal, hermitian and unitary matrices. Decomposition of a general matrix into isotropic, symmetric trace-free and antisymmetric parts. [1]

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

Eigenvalues and eigenvectors; geometric significance. [2]

Proof that eigenvalues of hermitian matrix are real, and that distinct eigenvalues give an orthogonal basis of eigenvectors. The effect of a general change of basis (similarity transformations). Diagonalization of general matrices: sufficient conditions; examples of matrices that cannot be diagonalized. Canonical forms for 2×2 matrices. [5]

Discussion of quadratic forms, including change of basis. Classification of conics, cartesian and polar forms. [1]

Rotation matrices and Lorentz transformations as transformation groups. [1]

Appropriate books

Alan F Beardon *Algebra and Geometry*. CUP 2005
Gilbert Strang *Linear Algebra and Its Applications*. Thomson Brooks/Cole, 2006
Richard Kaye and Robert Wilson *Linear Algebra*. Oxford science publications, 1998
D.E. Bourne and P.C. Kendall *Vector Analysis and Cartesian Tensors*. Nelson Thornes 1992
E. Sernesi *Linear Algebra: A Geometric Approach*. CRC Press 1993
James J. Callahan *The Geometry of Spacetime: An Introduction to Special and General Relativity*. Springer 2000

NUMBERS AND SETS

24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

[Note that this course is omitted from Option (b) of Part IA.]

Introduction to number systems and logic

Overview of the natural numbers, integers, real numbers, rational and irrational numbers, algebraic and transcendental numbers. Brief discussion of complex numbers; statement of the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra.

Ideas of axiomatic systems and proof within mathematics; the need for proof; the role of counter-examples in mathematics. Elementary logic; implication and negation; examples of negation of compound statements. Proof by contradiction. [2]

Sets, relations and functions

Union, intersection and equality of sets. Indicator (characteristic) functions; their use in establishing set identities. Functions; injections, surjections and bijections. Relations, and equivalence relations. Counting the combinations or permutations of a set. The Inclusion-Exclusion Principle. [4]

The integers

The natural numbers: mathematical induction and the well-ordering principle. Examples, including the Binomial Theorem. [2]

Elementary number theory

Prime numbers: existence and uniqueness of prime factorisation into primes; highest common factors and least common multiples. Euclid’s proof of the infinity of primes. Euclid’s algorithm. Solution in integers of $ax+by = c$.

Modular arithmetic (congruences). Units modulo n . Chinese Remainder Theorem. Wilson’s Theorem; the Fermat-Euler Theorem. Public key cryptography and the RSA algorithm. [8]

The real numbers

Least upper bounds; simple examples. Least upper bound axiom. Sequences and series; convergence of bounded monotonic sequences. Irrationality of $\sqrt{2}$ and e . Decimal expansions. Construction of a transcendental number. [4]

Countability and uncountability

Definitions of finite, infinite, countable and uncountable sets. A countable union of countable sets is countable. Uncountability of \mathbb{R} . Non-existence of a bijection from a set to its power set. Indirect proof of existence of transcendental numbers. [4]

Appropriate books

R.B.J.T. Allenby *Numbers and Proofs*. Butterworth-Heinemann 1997
R.P. Burn *Numbers and Functions: steps into analysis*. Cambridge University Press 2000
H. Davenport *The Higher Arithmetic*. Cambridge University Press 1999
A.G. Hamilton *Numbers, sets and axioms: the apparatus of mathematics*. Cambridge University Press 1983
C. Schumacher *Chapter Zero: Fundamental Notions of Abstract Mathematics*. Addison-Wesley 2001
I. Stewart and D. Tall *The Foundations of Mathematics*. Oxford University Press 1977

DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Basic calculus

Informal treatment of differentiation as a limit, the chain rule, Leibnitz’s rule, Taylor series, informal treatment of O and o notation and l’Hôpital’s rule; integration as an area, fundamental theorem of calculus, integration by substitution and parts. [3]

Informal treatment of partial derivatives, geometrical interpretation, statement (only) of symmetry of mixed partial derivatives, chain rule, implicit differentiation. Informal treatment of differentials, including exact differentials. Differentiation of an integral with respect to a parameter. [2]

First-order linear differential equations

Equations with constant coefficients: exponential growth, comparison with discrete equations, series solution; modelling examples including radioactive decay.

Equations with non-constant coefficients: solution by integrating factor. [2]

Nonlinear first-order equations

Separable equations. Exact equations. Sketching solution trajectories. Equilibrium solutions, stability by perturbation; examples, including logistic equation and chemical kinetics. Discrete equations: equilibrium solutions, stability; examples including the logistic map. [4]

Higher-order linear differential equations

Complementary function and particular integral, linear independence, Wronskian (for second-order equations), Abel’s theorem. Equations with constant coefficients and examples including radioactive sequences, comparison in simple cases with difference equations, reduction of order, resonance, transients, damping. Homogeneous equations. Response to step and impulse function inputs; introduction to the notions of the Heaviside step-function and the Dirac delta-function. Series solutions including statement only of the need for the logarithmic solution. [8]

Multivariate functions: applications

Directional derivatives and the gradient vector. Statement of Taylor series for functions on \mathbb{R}^n . Local extrema of real functions, classification using the Hessian matrix. Coupled first order systems: equivalence to single higher order equations; solution by matrix methods. Non-degenerate phase portraits local to equilibrium points; stability.

Simple examples of first- and second-order partial differential equations, solution of the wave equation in the form $f(x + ct) + g(x - ct)$. [5]

Appropriate books

J. Robinson *An introduction to Differential Equations*. Cambridge University Press, 2004
W.E. Boyce and R.C. DiPrima *Elementary Differential Equations and Boundary-Value Problems (and associated web site: google Boyce DiPrima)*. Wiley, 2004
G.F.Simmons *Differential Equations (with applications and historical notes)*. McGraw-Hill 1991
D.G. Zill and M.R. Cullen *Differential Equations with Boundary Value Problems*. Brooks/Cole 2001

ANALYSIS I

24 lectures, Lent Term

Limits and convergence

Sequences and series in \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{C} . Sums, products and quotients. Absolute convergence; absolute convergence implies convergence. The Bolzano-Weierstrass theorem and applications (the General Principle of Convergence). Comparison and ratio tests, alternating series test. [6]

Continuity

Continuity of real- and complex-valued functions defined on subsets of \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{C} . The intermediate value theorem. A continuous function on a closed bounded interval is bounded and attains its bounds. [3]

Differentiability

Differentiability of functions from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} . Derivative of sums and products. The chain rule. Derivative of the inverse function. Rolle's theorem; the mean value theorem. One-dimensional version of the inverse function theorem. Taylor's theorem from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} ; Lagrange's form of the remainder. Complex differentiation. [5]

Power series

Complex power series and radius of convergence. Exponential, trigonometric and hyperbolic functions, and relations between them. *Direct proof of the differentiability of a power series within its circle of convergence*. [4]

Integration

Definition and basic properties of the Riemann integral. A non-integrable function. Integrability of monotonic functions. Integrability of piecewise-continuous functions. The fundamental theorem of calculus. Differentiation of indefinite integrals. Integration by parts. The integral form of the remainder in Taylor's theorem. Improper integrals. [6]

Appropriate books

T.M. Apostol *Calculus, vol 1*. Wiley 1967-69
† J.C. Burkill *A First Course in Mathematical Analysis*. Cambridge University Press 1978
D.J.H.Garling *A Course in Mathematical Analysis (Vol 1)*. Cambridge University Press 2013
J.B. Reade *Introduction to Mathematical Analysis*. Oxford University Press
M. Spivak *Calculus*. Addison–Wesley/Benjamin–Cummings 2006
David M. Bressoud *A Radical Approach to Real Analysis*. Mathematical Association of America Textbooks

PROBABILITY

24 lectures, Lent Term

Basic concepts

Classical probability, equally likely outcomes. Combinatorial analysis, permutations and combinations. Stirling's formula (asymptotics for $\log n!$ proved). [3]

Axiomatic approach

Axioms (countable case). Probability spaces. Inclusion-exclusion formula. Continuity and subadditivity of probability measures. Independence. Binomial, Poisson and geometric distributions. Relation between Poisson and binomial distributions. Conditional probability, Bayes's formula. Examples, including Simpson's paradox. [5]

Discrete random variables

Expectation. Functions of a random variable, indicator function, variance, standard deviation. Covariance, independence of random variables. Generating functions: sums of independent random variables, random sum formula, moments.

Conditional expectation. Random walks: gambler's ruin, recurrence relations. Difference equations and their solution. Mean time to absorption. Branching processes: generating functions and extinction probability. Combinatorial applications of generating functions. [7]

Continuous random variables

Distributions and density functions. Expectations; expectation of a function of a random variable. Uniform, normal and exponential random variables. Memoryless property of exponential distribution.

Joint distributions: transformation of random variables (including Jacobians), examples. Simulation: generating continuous random variables, Box–Muller transform, rejection sampling. Geometrical probability: Bertrand's paradox, Buffon's needle. Correlation coefficient, bivariate normal random variables. [6]

Inequalities and limits

Markov's inequality, Chebyshev's inequality. Weak law of large numbers. Convexity: Jensen's inequality for general random variables, AM/GM inequality.

Moment generating functions and statement (no proof) of continuity theorem. Statement of central limit theorem and sketch of proof. Examples, including sampling. [3]

Appropriate books

W. Feller *An Introduction to Probability Theory and its Applications, Vol. I*. Wiley 1968
† G. Grimmett and D. Welsh *Probability: An Introduction*. Oxford University Press 2nd Edition 2014
† S. Ross *A First Course in Probability*. Prentice Hall 2009
D.R. Stirzaker *Elementary Probability*. Cambridge University Press 1994/2003

VECTOR CALCULUS

24 lectures, Lent Term

Curves in \mathbb{R}^3

Parameterised curves and arc length, tangents and normals to curves in \mathbb{R}^3 ; curvature and torsion. [1]

Integration in \mathbb{R}^2 and \mathbb{R}^3

Line integrals. Surface and volume integrals: definitions, examples using Cartesian, cylindrical and spherical coordinates; change of variables. [4]

Vector operators

Directional derivatives. The gradient of a real-valued function: definition; interpretation as normal to level surfaces; examples including the use of cylindrical, spherical *and general orthogonal curvilinear* coordinates.

Divergence, curl and ∇^2 in Cartesian coordinates, examples; formulae for these operators (statement only) in cylindrical, spherical *and general orthogonal curvilinear* coordinates. Solenoidal fields, irrotational fields and conservative fields; scalar potentials. Vector derivative identities. [5]

Integration theorems

Divergence theorem, Green's theorem, Stokes's theorem, Green's second theorem: statements; informal proofs; examples; application to fluid dynamics, and to electromagnetism including statement of Maxwell's equations. [5]

Laplace's equation

Laplace's equation in \mathbb{R}^2 and \mathbb{R}^3 : uniqueness theorem and maximum principle. Solution of Poisson's equation by Gauss's method (for spherical and cylindrical symmetry) and as an integral. [4]

Cartesian tensors in \mathbb{R}^3

Tensor transformation laws, addition, multiplication, contraction, with emphasis on tensors of second rank. Isotropic second and third rank tensors. Symmetric and antisymmetric tensors. Revision of principal axes and diagonalization. Quotient theorem. Examples including inertia and conductivity. [5]

Appropriate books

H. Anton *Calculus*. Wiley Student Edition 2000

T.M. Apostol *Calculus*. Wiley Student Edition 1975

M.L. Boas *Mathematical Methods in the Physical Sciences*. Wiley 1983

[†] D.E. Bourne and P.C. Kendall *Vector Analysis and Cartesian Tensors*. 3rd edition, Nelson Thornes 1999

E. Kreyszig *Advanced Engineering Mathematics*. Wiley International Edition 1999

J.E. Marsden and A.J.Tromba *Vector Calculus*. Freeman 1996

P.C. Matthews *Vector Calculus*. SUMS (Springer Undergraduate Mathematics Series) 1998

[†] K. F. Riley, M.P. Hobson, and S.J. Bence *Mathematical Methods for Physics and Engineering*. Cambridge University Press 2002

H.M. Schey *Div, grad, curl and all that: an informal text on vector calculus*. Norton 1996

M.R. Spiegel *Schaum's outline of Vector Analysis*. McGraw Hill 1974

DYNAMICS AND RELATIVITY

24 lectures, Lent Term

[Note that this course is omitted from Option (b) of Part IA.]

Familiarity with the topics covered in the non-examinable Mechanics course is assumed.

Basic concepts

Space and time, frames of reference, Galilean transformations. Newton's laws. Dimensional analysis. Examples of forces, including gravity, friction and Lorentz. [4]

Newtonian dynamics of a single particle

Equation of motion in Cartesian and plane polar coordinates. Work, conservative forces and potential energy, motion and the shape of the potential energy function; stable equilibria and small oscillations; effect of damping.

Angular velocity, angular momentum, torque.

Orbits: the $u(\theta)$ equation; escape velocity; Kepler's laws; stability of orbits; motion in a repulsive potential (Rutherford scattering).

Rotating frames: centrifugal and Coriolis forces. *Brief discussion of Foucault pendulum.* [8]

Newtonian dynamics of systems of particles

Momentum, angular momentum, energy. Motion relative to the centre of mass; the two body problem. Variable mass problems; the rocket equation. [2]

Rigid bodies

Moments of inertia, angular momentum and energy of a rigid body. Parallel axis theorem. Simple examples of motion involving both rotation and translation (e.g. rolling). [3]

Special relativity

The principle of relativity. Relativity and simultaneity. The invariant interval. Lorentz transformations in (1 + 1)-dimensional spacetime. Time dilation and length contraction. The Minkowski metric for (1 + 1)-dimensional spacetime.

Lorentz transformations in (3 + 1) dimensions. 4-vectors and Lorentz invariants. Proper time. 4-velocity and 4-momentum. Conservation of 4-momentum in particle decay. Collisions. The Newtonian limit. [7]

Appropriate books

[†] D. Gregory *Classical Mechanics*. Cambridge University Press 2006

G.F.R. Ellis and R.M. Williams *Flat and Curved Space-times*. Oxford University Press 2000

A.P. French and M.G. Ebison *Introduction to Classical Mechanics*. Kluwer 1986

T.W.B. Kibble and F.H. Berkshire *Introduction to Classical Mechanics*. Kluwer 1986

M.A. Lunn *A First Course in Mechanics*. Oxford University Press 1991

P.J. O'Donnell *Essential Dynamics and Relativity*. CRC Press 2015

[†] W. Rindler *Introduction to Special Relativity*. Oxford University Press 1991

E.F. Taylor and J.A. Wheeler *Spacetime Physics: introduction to special relativity*. Freeman 1992

COMPUTATIONAL PROJECTS 8 lectures, Easter Term of Part IA

The Computational Projects course is examined in Part IB. However introductory lectures are given in the Easter Full Term of the Part IA year. The lectures cover an introduction to algorithms and aspects of the MATLAB programming language.

The projects that need to be completed for credit are published by the Faculty in a manual usually at the end of July or the beginning of August at the end of the Part IA year. The manual contains details of the projects and information about course administration. The manual is available on the Faculty website at <https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/catam/>.

Full credit may obtained from the submission of the two core projects and a further two additional projects. Once the manual is available, these projects may be undertaken at any time up to the submission deadlines, which are near the start of the Full Lent Term in the Part IB year for the two core projects, and near the start of the Full Easter Term in the Part IB year for the two additional projects.

A list of suitable books can be found in the manual.

MECHANICS (non-examinable) 10 lectures, Michaelmas Term

This course is intended for students who have taken only a limited amount of Mechanics at A-level (or the equivalent). The material is prerequisite for Dynamics and Relativity in the Lent Term.

Lecture 1
Brief introduction

Lecture 2: Kinematics of a single particle
Position, velocity, speed, acceleration. Constant acceleration in one-dimension. Projectile motion in two-dimensions.

Lecture 3: Equilibrium of a single particle
The vector nature of forces, addition of forces, examples including gravity, tension in a string, normal reaction (Newton’s third law), friction. Conditions for equilibrium.

Lecture 4: Equilibrium of a rigid body
Resultant of several forces, couple, moment of a force. Conditions for equilibrium.

Lecture 5: Dynamics of particles
Newton’s second law. Examples of pulleys, motion on an inclined plane.

Lecture 6: Dynamics of particles
Further examples, including motion of a projectile with air-resistance.

Lecture 7: Energy
Definition of energy and work. Kinetic energy, potential energy of a particle in a uniform gravitational field. Conservation of energy.

Lecture 8: Momentum
Definition of momentum (as a vector), conservation of momentum, collisions, coefficient of restitution, impulse.

Lecture 9: Springs, strings and SHM
Force exerted by elastic springs and strings (Hooke’s law). Oscillations of a particle attached to a spring, and of a particle hanging on a string. Simple harmonic motion of a particle for small displacement from equilibrium.

Lecture 10: Motion in a circle
Derivation of the central acceleration of a particle constrained to move on a circle. Simple pendulum; motion of a particle sliding on a cylinder.

Appropriate books

Peter J O’Donnell *Essential Dynamics and Relativity*. CRC Press, 2014
J. Hebborn and J. Littlewood *Mechanics 1, Mechanics 2 and Mechanics 3 (Edexel)*. Heinemann, 2000
Anything similar to the above, for the other A-level examination boards

Part IB

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Structure of Part IB

Sixteen courses, including Computational Projects, are examined in Part IB. The schedules for Complex Analysis and Complex Methods cover much of the same material, but from different points of view: students may attend either (or both) sets of lectures. One course, Optimisation, can be taken in the Easter term of either the first year or the second year. Another course, Variational Principles, can also be taken in either Easter term, but is normally taken in the first year as the material forms a good background for a number of courses in Part IB.

Students are not expected to take all the courses in Part IB, and the structure of the Part IB examination papers allows for considerable flexibility. The Faculty Board guidance regarding choice of courses in Part IB is as follows:

Part IB of the Mathematical Tripos provides a wide range of courses from which students should, in consultation with their Directors of Studies, make a selection based on their individual interests and preferred workload, bearing in mind that it is better to do a smaller number of courses thoroughly than to do many courses scrappily.

Students might sensibly assess their workload by comparing the numbers of example sheets and lectures they are taking on per term with their previous experience in Part IA (see page 6 of this booklet). The table of dependencies on the next page may also help them with their choice.

Computational Projects

The lectures for Computational Projects should be attended in the Easter term of the first year. The Computational Projects themselves are best started in the summer vacation between Part IA and Part IB, and then completed in the Michaelmas and Lent terms, and the Christmas and Easter vacations, of the second year.

No questions on the Computational Projects are set on the written examination papers, credit for examination purposes being gained by the submission of reports. The maximum credit obtainable is 160 marks and there are no alpha or beta quality marks. Credit obtained is added directly to the credit gained on the written papers. The maximum contribution to the final merit mark is thus 160, which is roughly the same (averaging over the alpha weightings) as for a 16-lecture course. The Computational Projects are considered to be a single piece of work within the Mathematical Tripos.

Examinations

Details of arrangements common to all examinations of the undergraduate Mathematical Tripos start on page 2 of this booklet.

Each of the four papers is divided into two sections. Candidates may obtain credit for attempts on at most four questions from Section I and at most six questions from Section II.

The number of questions set on each course varies according to the number of lectures given, as shown:

| Number of lectures | Section I | Section II |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| 24 | 2 | 4 |
| 16 | 2 | 3 |
| 12 | 2 | 2 |

Note: The number of Section I questions on a 24-lecture course was changed after 2018/19, and the distribution of questions among the papers also changed.

Examination Papers

Questions on the different courses are distributed among the papers as specified in the following table. The letters S and L appearing in the table denote a question in Section I and a question in Section II, respectively.

| | Paper 1 | Paper 2 | Paper 3 | Paper 4 |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| Linear Algebra | L+S | L | L | L+S |
| Groups, Rings and Modules | L | L+S | L+S | L |
| Analysis II | L | L+S | L | L+S |
| Topological Spaces | S | L | L+S | L |
| Complex Analysis | L+S [†] | L [†] | L | S |
| Complex Methods | | | S | L |
| Variational Principles | S | L | S | L |
| Methods | L | L+S | L+S | L |
| Quantum Mechanics | L | L | S | L+S |
| Electromagnetism | L | L+S | L | S |
| Fluid Dynamics | L | S | L+S | L |
| Numerical Analysis | L+S | L | L | S |
| Statistics | L+S | S | L | L |
| Markov Chains | L | L | S | S |
| Optimisation | S | S | L | L |

[†] On Paper 1 and Paper 2, Complex Analysis and Complex Methods are examined by means of common questions, each of which contains two sub-questions, one on each course, of which candidates may attempt only one (‘either/or’).

The following tables, based on information supplied by the examiners, show approximate borderlines in recent years.

$$M_1 = 30\alpha + 5\beta + m - 120, \quad M_2 = 15\alpha + 5\beta + m.$$

The second column of each table shows a sufficient criterion for each class (in terms of M_1 for the first class and M_2 for the other classes). The third and fourth columns show M_1 (for the first class) or M_2 (for the other classes), raw mark, number of alphas and number of betas of two representative candidates placed just above the borderline.

The sufficient condition for each class is not prescriptive: it is just intended to be helpful for interpreting the data. Each candidate near a borderline is scrutinised individually. The data given below are relevant to one year only; borderlines may go up or down in future years.

| Part IB 2025 | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Class | Sufficient condition | Borderline candidates | |
| 1 | $M_1 > 724$ | 725/445, 12, 8 | 728/428, 13, 6 |
| 2.1 | $M_2 > 479$ | 480/340, 7, 7 | 480/335, 8, 5 |
| 2.2 | $M_2 > 373$ | 319/247, 0, 11 | 374/249, 7, 4 |
| 3 | $M_2 > 239$ | 240/215, 0, 5 | 257/217, 1, 5 |

| Part IB 2024 | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Class | Sufficient condition | Borderline candidates | |
| 1 | $M_1 > 651$ | 652/407, 11, 7 | 665/425, 11, 6 |
| 2.1 | $M_2 > 443$ | 444/319, 7, 4 | 446/331, 5, 8 |
| 2.2 | $M_2 > 314$ | 315/260, 2, 5 | 322/292, 1, 3 |
| 3 | $M_2 > 217$ | 218/163, 1, 8 | 231/181, 1, 7 |

The relationships between Part IB courses and Part II courses are shown in the following tables. A blank in the table means that the material in the Part IB course is not directly relevant to the Part II course.

Background: (B) some knowledge of the Part IB course would provide a useful background.

| | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Linear Algebra Groups, Rings and Modules </div> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| Number Theory | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Topics in Analysis | | B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coding and Cryptography | D | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Automata and Form. Lang. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Statistical Modelling | | | | | | | | | | | | | E | | | |
| Mathematical Biology | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Further Complex Methods | | | E* | E* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Classical Dynamics | | | | | | E | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cosmology | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Quantum Inf. and Comp. | | | | | | | | D | | | | | | | | |
| Logic and Set Theory | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Graph Theory | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Galois Theory | D | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Representation Theory | E | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number Fields | | E | D | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Algebraic Topology | | E | | | | E | | | | | | | | | | |
| Linear Analysis | E | | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Analysis of Functions | E | | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Riemann Surfaces | | | | E | | D | | | | | | | | | | |
| Algebraic Geometry | | E | | | | E | | | | | | | | | | |
| Differential Geometry | | | | | | D | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prob. and Measure | | | E | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Applied Prob. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | E | |
| Princ. of Stats | | | | | | | | | | | | | E | | | |
| Stochastic FM's | | | | | | | D | | | | | | D | | D | |
| Maths. Machine Learning | | | | | | | | | | | | | E | D | | |
| Asymptotic Methods | | | E* | E* | | | D | | | | | | | | | |
| Dynamical Systems | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Integrable Systems | | | E* | E* | | | E | D | | | | | | | | |
| Principles of QM | | | | | | | D | E | | | | | | | | |
| Applications of QM | | | | | | | B | E | | | | | | | | |
| Statistical Physics | | | | | | | | E | | | | | | | | |
| Electrodynamics | | | | | | | D | | E | | | | | | | |
| General Relativity | | | | | | D | D | | | | | | | | | |
| Fluid Dynamics II | | | | | | | E | | | E | | | | | | |
| Waves | | | | | | | E | | | D | | | | | | |
| Numerical Analysis | D | | D | D* | D* | | | | | | | E | | | | |

*Either of Complex Methods or Complex Analysis

LINEAR ALGEBRA

24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Definition of a vector space (over \mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C}), subspaces, the space spanned by a subset. Linear independence, bases, dimension. Direct sums and complementary subspaces. Quotient spaces. [3]

Linear maps, isomorphisms. Relation between rank and nullity. The space of linear maps from U to V , representation by matrices. Change of basis. Row rank and column rank. [4]

Determinant and trace of a square matrix. Determinant of a product of two matrices and of the inverse matrix. Determinant of an endomorphism. The adjugate matrix. [3]

Eigenvalues and eigenvectors. Diagonal and triangular forms. Characteristic and minimal polynomials. Cayley–Hamilton Theorem over \mathbb{C} . Algebraic and geometric multiplicity of eigenvalues. Statement and illustration of Jordan normal form. [4]

Dual of a finite-dimensional vector space, dual bases and maps. Matrix representation, rank and determinant of dual map [2]

Bilinear forms. Matrix representation, change of basis. Symmetric forms and their link with quadratic forms. Diagonalisation of quadratic forms. Law of inertia, classification by rank and signature. Complex Hermitian forms. [4]

Inner product spaces, orthonormal sets, orthogonal projection, $V = W \oplus W^\perp$. Gram–Schmidt orthogonalisation. Adjoints. Diagonalisation of Hermitian matrices. Orthogonality of eigenvectors and properties of eigenvalues. [4]

Appropriate books

C.W. Curtis *Linear Algebra: an introductory approach*. Springer 1984

P.R. Halmos *Finite-dimensional vector spaces*. Springer 1974

K. Hoffman and R. Kunze *Linear Algebra*. Prentice-Hall 1971

GROUPS, RINGS AND MODULES

24 lectures, Lent Term

Groups

Basic concepts of group theory recalled from Part IA Groups. Normal subgroups, quotient groups and isomorphism theorems. Permutation groups. Groups acting on sets, permutation representations. Conjugacy classes, centralizers and normalizers. The centre of a group. Elementary properties of finite p -groups. Examples of finite linear groups and groups arising from geometry. Simplicity of A_n .

Sylow subgroups and Sylow theorems. Applications, groups of small order. [8]

Rings

Definition and examples of rings (commutative, with 1). Ideals, homomorphisms, quotient rings, isomorphism theorems. Prime and maximal ideals. Fields. The characteristic of a field. Field of fractions of an integral domain.

Factorization in rings; units, primes and irreducibles. Unique factorization in principal ideal domains, and in polynomial rings. Gauss’ Lemma and Eisenstein’s irreducibility criterion.

Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$ of algebraic integers as subsets of \mathbb{C} and quotients of $\mathbb{Z}[x]$. Examples of Euclidean domains and uniqueness and non-uniqueness of factorization. Factorization in the ring of Gaussian integers; representation of integers as sums of two squares.

Ideals in polynomial rings. Hilbert basis theorem. [10]

Modules

Definitions, examples of vector spaces, abelian groups and vector spaces with an endomorphism. Submodules, homomorphisms, quotient modules and direct sums. Equivalence of matrices, canonical form. Structure of finitely generated modules over Euclidean domains, applications to abelian groups and Jordan normal form. [6]

Appropriate books

P.M.Cohn *Classic Algebra*. Wiley, 2000

P.J. Cameron *Introduction to Algebra*. OUP

J.B. Fraleigh *A First Course in Abstract Algebra*. Addison Wesley, 2003

B. Hartley and T.O. Hawkes *Rings, Modules and Linear Algebra: a further course in algebra*. Chapman and Hall, 1970

I. Herstein *Topics in Algebra*. John Wiley and Sons, 1975

P.M. Neumann, G.A. Stoy and E.C. Thomson *Groups and Geometry*. OUP 1994

M. Artin *Algebra*. Prentice Hall, 1991

ANALYSIS II

24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Uniform convergence

The general principle of uniform convergence. A uniform limit of continuous functions is continuous. Limits of differentiable functions are differentiable provided the derivatives (not assumed continuous) converge uniformly. Series of functions, the Weierstrass M-test. Local uniform convergence of power series. [4]

Uniform continuity and integration

Uniform continuity. Continuous functions on closed bounded intervals are uniformly continuous. Riemann integration, including review of basic facts (from Analysis I). A uniform limit of integrable functions is integrable, and the integral of the limit is the limit of the integrals. [3]

Metric spaces

Definition of a metric space, examples including the Euclidean metric on \mathbb{R}^n . Limits, open and closed sets. Sequential compactness, Bolzano–Weierstrass theorem. Continuity, every continuous function on sequentially compact set is bounded and is uniformly continuous. Definition of a norm; examples, including matrix norms; all norms on finite-dimensional vector spaces are (Lipschitz) equivalent. Path-connectedness. [6]

Differentiation from \mathbb{R}^m to \mathbb{R}^n

Definition of derivative as a linear map; elementary properties; the chain rule. Partial derivatives; continuous partial derivatives imply differentiability. Higher-order derivatives; symmetry of mixed partial derivatives (assumed continuous). Hessian, second order Taylor expansion for real-valued C^2 functions, classification of critical points. The mean-value inequality. A function having zero derivative on a path-connected open subset is constant. [6]

The contraction mapping theorem

Definition of completeness, examples including incomplete spaces. Completeness of \mathbb{R}^n and $C^0([a, b])$ with the uniform norm; a subset of a complete space is complete if and only if it is closed. The contraction mapping theorem. [3]

Applications of the contraction mapping theorem

The inverse function theorem; the implicit function theorem. Picard’s solution of systems of ordinary differential equations. [2]

Appropriate books

[†] J.C. Burkill and H. Burkill *A Second Course in Mathematical Analysis*. Cambridge University Press 2002
D.J.H. Garling *A Course in Mathematical Analysis (Vol 2)*. Cambridge University Press 2014
T.W. Körner *A Companion to Analysis*. AMS, 2004
W. Rudin *Principles of Mathematical Analysis*. McGraw–Hill 1976
[†] W.A. Sutherland *Introduction to Metric and Topological Spaces*. Clarendon 1975

TOPOLOGICAL SPACES

16 lectures, Lent Term

Part IB Analysis II is essential.

Topological spaces

Definition of topology. Topologies from metrics. Further examples. Neighbourhoods, closed sets, convergence and continuity. Hausdorff spaces. Homeomorphisms. Topological and non-topological properties. Subspace, quotient and product topologies; their universal properties. [4]

Connectedness

Definition using open sets. Examples including $[0,1]$. Components. The continuous image of a connected space is connected. Path-connectedness and its relation to connectedness. Connected open sets in Euclidean space are path-connected. Connectedness of products. [3]

Compactness

Definition using open covers. Examples including $[0,1]$. Closed subsets of compact spaces are compact. Compact subsets of Hausdorff spaces are closed. Continuous images of compact sets are compact. A continuous bijection from a compact space to a Hausdorff space is a homeomorphism. Compactness of finite products. The compact subsets of Euclidean space. Compactness of metric spaces via sequences. [3]

Topology of manifolds

The definition of a topological manifold. Examples including spheres via stereographic projection, tori, the real projective plane, and polygons with side identifications. Non examples. Connected manifolds are homogeneous. Compact manifolds embed into a Euclidean space. [4]

Triangulable surfaces

Triangulations of surfaces. Euler characteristic. Orientability. Statement of the classification. [2]

Appropriate books

J. R. Munkres *Topology (second edition)*. Prentice Hall 2000
J. M. Lee *Introduction to topological manifolds*. Springer 2000

COMPLEX ANALYSIS

16 lectures, Lent Term

Analytic functions

Complex differentiation and the Cauchy-Riemann equations. Examples. Conformal mappings. Informal discussion of branch points, examples of $\log z$ and z^c . [3]

Contour integration and Cauchy’s theorem

Contour integration (for piecewise continuously differentiable curves). Statement and proof of Cauchy’s theorem for star domains. Cauchy’s integral formula, maximum modulus theorem, Liouville’s theorem, fundamental theorem of algebra. Morera’s theorem. [5]

Expansions and singularities

Uniform convergence of analytic functions; local uniform convergence. Differentiability of a power series. Taylor and Laurent expansions. Principle of isolated zeros. Residue at an isolated singularity. Classification of isolated singularities. [4]

The residue theorem

Winding numbers. Residue theorem. Jordan’s lemma. Evaluation of definite integrals by contour integration. Rouché’s theorem, principle of the argument. Open mapping theorem. [4]

Appropriate books

L.V. Ahlfors *Complex Analysis*. McGraw–Hill 1978
† A.F. Beardon *Complex Analysis*. Wiley
D.J.H. Garling *A Course in Mathematical Analysis (Vol 3)*. Cambridge University Press 2014
† H.A. Priestley *Introduction to Complex Analysis*. Oxford University Press 2003
I. Stewart and D. Tall *Complex Analysis*. Cambridge University Press 1983

COMPLEX METHODS

16 lectures, Lent Term

Analytic functions

Definition of an analytic function. Cauchy-Riemann equations. Analytic functions as conformal mappings; examples. Application to the solutions of Laplace’s equation in various domains. Discussion of $\log z$ and z^a . [6]

Contour integration and Cauchy’s Theorem

[*Proofs of theorems in this section will not be examined in this course.*]
Contours, contour integrals. Cauchy’s theorem and Cauchy’s integral formula. Liouville’s theorem. Taylor and Laurent series. Zeros, poles and essential singularities. [4]

Residue calculus

Residue theorem, calculus of residues. Jordan’s lemma. Evaluation of definite integrals by contour integration. [3]

Fourier and Laplace transforms

Laplace transform: definition and basic properties; inversion theorem (proof not required); convolution theorem. Examples of inversion of Fourier and Laplace transforms by contour integration. Applications to differential equations. [3]

Appropriate books

M.J. Ablowitz and A.S. Fokas *Complex Variables: Introduction and Applications*. CUP 2003
G.B. Arfken, H.J. Weber & F.E. Harris *Mathematical Methods for Physicists*. Elsevier 2013
G.J.O. Jameson *A First Course in Complex Functions*. Chapman and Hall 1970
T. Needham *Visual Complex Analysis*. Clarendon 1998
† H.A. Priestley *Introduction to Complex Analysis*. Clarendon 1990
† K. F. Riley, M. P. Hobson, and S.J. Bence *Mathematical Methods for Physics and Engineering: a Comprehensive Guide*. Cambridge University Press 2002

VARIATIONAL PRINCIPLES

12 lectures, Easter Term

Stationary points for functions on \mathbb{R}^n . Necessary and sufficient conditions for minima and maxima. Importance of convexity. Variational problems with constraints; method of Lagrange multipliers. The Legendre Transform; need for convexity to ensure invertibility; illustrations from thermodynamics. [4]

The idea of a functional and a functional derivative. First variation for functionals, Euler-Lagrange equations, for both ordinary and partial differential equations. Use of Lagrange multipliers and multiplier functions. [3]

Fermat's principle; geodesics; least action principles, Lagrange's and Hamilton's equations for particles and fields. Noether theorems and first integrals, including two forms of Noether's theorem for ordinary differential equations (energy and momentum, for example). Interpretation in terms of conservation laws. [3]

Second variation for functionals; associated eigenvalue problem. [2]

Appropriate books

D.S. Lemons *Perfect Form*. Princeton University Press 1997

C. Lanczos *The Variational Principles of Mechanics*. Dover 1986

R. Weinstock *Calculus of Variations with applications to physics and engineering*. Dover 1974

I.M. Gelfand and S.V. Fomin *Calculus of Variations*. Dover 2000

W. Yourgrau and S. Mandelstam *Variational Principles in Dynamics and Quantum Theory*. Dover 2007

S. Hildebrandt and A. Tromba *Mathematics and Optimal Form*. Scientific American Library 1985

METHODS

24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Self-adjoint ODEs

Periodic functions. Fourier series: definition and simple properties; Parseval's theorem. Equations of second order. Self-adjoint differential operators. The Sturm–Liouville equation; eigenfunctions and eigenvalues; reality of eigenvalues and orthogonality of eigenfunctions; eigenfunction expansions (Fourier series as prototype), approximation in mean square, statement of completeness. [5]

PDEs on bounded domains: separation of variables

Physical basis of Laplace's equation, the wave equation and the diffusion equation. General method of separation of variables in Cartesian, cylindrical and spherical coordinates. Legendre's equation: derivation, solutions including explicit forms of P_0 , P_1 and P_2 , orthogonality. Bessel's equation of integer order as an example of a self-adjoint eigenvalue problem with non-trivial weight.

Examples including potentials on rectangular and circular domains and on a spherical domain (axisymmetric case only), waves on a finite string and heat flow down a semi-infinite rod. [6]

Inhomogeneous ODEs: Green's functions

Properties of the Dirac delta function. Initial value problems and forced problems with two fixed end points; solution using Green's functions. Eigenfunction expansions of the delta function and Green's functions. [3]

Fourier transforms

Fourier transforms: definition and simple properties; inversion and convolution theorems. The discrete Fourier transform. Examples of application to linear systems. Relationship of transfer function to Green's function for initial value problems. [4]

PDEs on unbounded domains

Classification of PDEs in two independent variables. Well posedness. Solution by the method of characteristics. Green's functions for PDEs in 1, 2 and 3 independent variables; fundamental solutions of the wave equation, Laplace's equation and the diffusion equation. The method of images. Application to the forced wave equation, Poisson's equation and forced diffusion equation. Transient solutions of diffusion problems: the error function. [6]

Appropriate books

G.B. Arfken, H.J. Weber & F.E. Harris *Mathematical Methods for Physicists*. Elsevier 2013

M.L. Boas *Mathematical Methods in the Physical Sciences*. Wiley 2005

J. Mathews and R.L. Walker *Mathematical Methods of Physics*. Benjamin/Cummings 1970

K. F. Riley, M. P. Hobson, and S.J. Bence *Mathematical Methods for Physics and Engineering: a comprehensive guide*. Cambridge University Press 2002

Erwin Kreyszig *Advanced Engineering Mathematics*. Wiley

QUANTUM MECHANICS 16 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Physical background
Photoelectric effect. Electrons in atoms and line spectra. Particle diffraction. [1]

Schrödinger equation and solutions
De Broglie waves. Schrödinger equation. Superposition principle. Probability interpretation, density and current. [2]
Stationary states. Free particle, Gaussian wave packet. Motion in 1-dimensional potentials, parity. Potential step, square well and barrier. Harmonic oscillator. [4]

Observables and expectation values
Position and momentum operators and expectation values. Canonical commutation relations. Uncertainty principle. [2]
Observables and Hermitian operators. Eigenvalues and eigenfunctions. Formula for expectation value. [2]

Hydrogen atom
Spherically symmetric wave functions for spherical well and hydrogen atom.
Orbital angular momentum operators. General solution of hydrogen atom. [5]

Appropriate books

Feynman, Leighton and Sands *vol. 3 Ch 1-3 of the Feynman lectures on Physics*. Addison-Wesley 1970
† S. Gasiorowicz *Quantum Physics*. Wiley 2003
P.V. Landshoff, A.J.F. Methereil and W.G Rees *Essential Quantum Physics*. Cambridge University Press 1997
† A.I.M. Rae *Quantum Mechanics*. Institute of Physics Publishing 2002
L.I. Schiff *Quantum Mechanics*. McGraw Hill 1968

ELECTROMAGNETISM 16 lectures, Lent Term

Electrostatics
Currents and the conservation of charge. Lorentz force law and Maxwell’s equations. Gauss’s law. Application to spherically symmetric and cylindrically symmetric charge distributions. Point, line and surface charges. Electrostatic potentials; general charge distributions, dipoles. Electrostatic energy. Conductors. [4]

Magnetostatics
Magnetic fields due to steady currents. Ampère’s law. Simple examples. Vector potentials and the Biot–Savart law for general current distributions. Magnetic dipoles. Lorentz force on current distributions and force between current-carrying wires. [3]

Electrodynamics
Faraday’s law of induction for fixed and moving circuits. Ohm’s law. Plane electromagnetic waves in vacuum, polarization. Electromagnetic energy and Poynting vector. [4]

Electromagnetism and relativity
Review of special relativity; tensors and index notation. Charge conservation. 4-vector potential, gauge transformations. Electromagnetic tensor. Lorentz transformations of electric and magnetic fields. Maxwell’s equations in relativistic form. Lorentz force law. [5]

Appropriate books

D.J. Griffiths *Introduction to Electrodynamics*. Cambridge University Press 2017
E.M. Purcell and D.J. Morin *Electricity and Magnetism*. Cambridge University Press 2013
A. Zangwill *Modern Electromagnetism*. Cambridge University Press 2013
J.D. Jackson *Classical Electrodynamics*. Wiley 1999
P. Lorrain and D. Corson *Electromagnetism, Principles and Applications*. Freeman 1990
R. Feynman, R. Leighton and M. Sands *The Feynman Lectures on Physics, Vol 2*. Basic Books 2011

FLUID DYNAMICS 16 lectures, Lent Term

Kinematics

Continuum fields. Streamlines and path lines. Material time derivative. Conservation of mass and the kinematic boundary condition. Incompressibility; streamfunctions for two-dimensional *and axisymmetric* flow. [2]

Dynamics of inviscid flow

Surface and volume forces; pressure. Conservation of momentum integral; Euler momentum equation. Bernoulli’s equation for steady flows with potential forces. Hydrostatic and modified pressure. Vorticity, vorticity equation, vortex line stretching, irrotational flow remains irrotational. [4]

Introduction to viscous flow

Plane Couette flow, shear stress, dynamic viscosity. Equations and boundary conditions for planar parallel viscous flow. Steady flows including plane Poiseuille flow. Unsteady flows including the Rayleigh problem and the Stokes layer, kinematic viscosity. *Statement of the Navier-Stokes equation, informal discussion of Reynolds number and boundary layers.* [3]

Potential flows

Velocity potential; Laplace’s equation, examples of solutions in spherical and cylindrical geometry by separation of variables. Translating sphere. Lift on a cylinder with circulation.

Expression for pressure in time-dependent potential flows with potential forces. Oscillations in a manometer and of a bubble. Accelerating sphere. [3]

Geophysical flows

Linear water waves: dispersion relation, deep and shallow water, standing waves in a container, Rayleigh-Taylor instability.

Euler equations in a rotating frame. Rossby number. Steady geostrophic flow, pressure as streamfunction. Motion in a shallow layer, hydrostatic assumption, depth-integrated continuity equation. Conservation of potential vorticity, Rossby radius of deformation. [4]

Appropriate books

[†] D.J. Acheson *Elementary Fluid Dynamics*. Oxford University Press 1990
G.K. Batchelor *An Introduction to Fluid Dynamics*. Cambridge University Press 2000
G.M. Homsey et al. *Multi-Media Fluid Mechanics*. Cambridge University Press 2008
M. van Dyke *An Album of Fluid Motion*. Parabolic Press
M.G. Worster *Understanding Fluid Flow*. Cambridge University Press 2009

NUMERICAL ANALYSIS 16 lectures, Lent Term

Polynomial approximation

Interpolation by polynomials. Divided differences of functions and relations to derivatives. Orthogonal polynomials and their recurrence relations. Least squares approximation by polynomials. Gaussian quadrature formulae. Peano kernel theorem and applications. [6]

Computation of ordinary differential equations

Euler’s method and proof of convergence. Multistep methods, including order, the root condition and the concept of convergence. Runge-Kutta schemes. Stiff equations and A-stability. [5]

Systems of equations and least squares calculations

LU triangular factorization of matrices. Relation to Gaussian elimination. Column pivoting. Factorizations of symmetric and band matrices. The Newton-Raphson method for systems of non-linear algebraic equations. QR factorization of rectangular matrices by Gram–Schmidt, Givens and Householder techniques. Application to linear least squares calculations. [5]

Appropriate books

[†] S.D. Conte and C. de Boor *Elementary Numerical Analysis: an algorithmic approach*. McGraw–Hill 1980
G.H. Golub and C. Van Loan *Matrix Computations*. Johns Hopkins University Press 1996
A Iserles *A first course in the Numerical Analysis of Differential Equations*. CUP 2009
E. Suli and D.F. Meyers *An introduction to numerical analysis*. CUP 2003
A. Ralston and P. Rabinowitz *A first course in numerical analysis*. Dover 2001
M.J.D. Powell *Approximation Theory and Methods*. CUP 1981
P.J. Davis *Interpolation and Approximation*. Dover 1975

STATISTICS

16 lectures, Lent Term

Estimation

Review of distribution and density functions, parametric families. Examples: binomial, Poisson, gamma. Sufficiency, minimal sufficiency, the Rao–Blackwell theorem. Maximum likelihood estimation. Confidence intervals. Use of prior distributions and Bayesian inference. [6]

Hypothesis testing

Simple examples of hypothesis testing, null and alternative hypothesis, critical region, size, power, type I and type II errors, Neyman–Pearson lemma. Significance level of outcome. Uniformly most powerful tests. Likelihood ratio, and use of generalised likelihood ratio to construct test statistics for composite hypotheses. Examples, including t -tests and F -tests. Relationship with confidence intervals. Goodness-of-fit tests and contingency tables. [4]

Linear models

Derivation and joint distribution of maximum likelihood estimators, least squares, Gauss-Markov theorem. Testing hypotheses, geometric interpretation. Examples, including simple linear regression and one-way analysis of variance. *Use of software*. [6]

Appropriate books

D.A. Berry and B.W. Lindgren *Statistics, Theory and Methods*. Wadsworth 1995
G. Casella and R.L. Berger *Statistical Inference*. Duxbury 2001
M.H. DeGroot and M.J. Schervish *Probability and Statistics*. Pearson Education 2001

MARKOV CHAINS

12 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Discrete-time chains

Definition and basic properties, the transition matrix. Calculation of n -step transition probabilities. Communicating classes, closed classes, absorption, irreducibility. Calculation of hitting probabilities and mean hitting times; survival probability for birth and death chains. Stopping times and statement of the strong Markov property. [5]

Recurrence and transience; equivalence of transience and summability of n -step transition probabilities; equivalence of recurrence and certainty of return. Recurrence as a class property, relation with closed classes. Simple random walks in dimensions one, two and three. [3]

Invariant distributions, statement of existence and uniqueness. Mean return time, positive recurrence; equivalence of positive recurrence and the existence of an invariant distribution. Convergence to equilibrium for irreducible, positive recurrent, aperiodic chains and proof by coupling. *Long-run proportion of time spent in given state*. [3]

Time reversal, detailed balance, reversibility; random walk on a graph. [1]

Appropriate books

G.R. Grimmett and D.R. Stirzaker *Probability and Random Processes*. OUP 2001
G.R. Grimmett and D. Welsh *Probability, An Introduction*. OUP, 2nd edition, 2014
J.R. Norris *Markov Chains*. CUP 1997

OPTIMISATION

12 lectures, Easter Term

Elements of convex optimisation

Convex sets and functions in \mathbb{R}^n , global and constrained optimality. Algorithms for unconstrained convex optimisation: gradient descent, Newton's algorithm. Introduction to convex optimisation on a convex set, the barrier method. Examples. [3]

Lagrangian methods & duality

General formulation of constrained problems; the Lagrangian sufficiency theorem. Interpretation of Lagrange multipliers as shadow prices. The dual linear problem, duality theorem in a standardized case, complementary slackness, dual variables and their interpretation as shadow prices. Relationship of the primal simplex algorithm to dual problem. Examples. [3]

Linear programming in the nondegenerate case

Convexity of feasible region; sufficiency of extreme points. Standardization of problems, slack variables, equivalence of extreme points and basic solutions. The primal simplex algorithm and the tableau. Examples. [3]

Applications of linear programming

Two person zero-sum games. Network flows; the max-flow min-cut theorem; the Ford–Fulkerson algorithm, the rational case. Network flows with costs, the transportation algorithm, relationship of dual variables with nodes. Examples. Conditions for optimality in more general networks. The formulation of simple practical and combinatorial problems as linear programming or network problems. [3]

Appropriate books

- [†] M.S. Bazaraa, J.J. Jarvis and H.D. Sherali *Linear Programming and Network Flows*. Wiley 1988
 D. Luenberger *Linear and Nonlinear Programming*. Addison–Wesley 1984
 S. Boyd and L. Vandenberghe *Convex Optimization*. Cambridge University Press 2004
 D. Bertsimas, J.N. Tsitsiklis *Introduction to Linear Optimization*. Athena Scientific 1997

COMPUTATIONAL PROJECTS

8 lectures, Easter Term of Part IA

Lectures are given in the Part IA year.

The projects that need to be completed for credit are published by the Faculty in a manual usually by the end of July or the beginning of August preceding the Part IB year. The manual contains details of the projects and information about course administration. The manual is available on the Faculty website at <https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/catam/>.

Full credit may be obtained from the submission of the two core projects and a further two additional projects. Once the manual is available, these projects may be undertaken at any time up to the submission deadlines, which are near the start of the Lent Full Term in the IB year for the two core projects, and near the start of the Easter Full Term in the IB year for the two additional projects.

A list of suitable books can be found in the CATAM manual.

Part II

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Structure of Part II

There are two types of lecture courses in Part II: C courses and D courses. C courses are intended to be straightforward and accessible, and of general interest, whereas D courses are intended to be more demanding. The Faculty Board recommend that students who have not obtained at least a good second class in Part IB should include a significant number of C courses amongst those they choose.

There are 10 C courses and 27 D courses. All C courses are 24 lectures; of the D courses, 21 are 24 lectures and 6 are 16 lectures. The complete list of courses is as follows (an asterisk denotes a 16-lecture course):

| C courses | D courses | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Number Theory | Logic and Set Theory | Stochastic Financial Models |
| Topics in Analysis | Graph Theory | *Mathematics of Machine Learning |
| Coding and Cryptography | Galois Theory | *Asymptotic Methods |
| Automata and Formal Lang. | Representation Theory | Dynamical Systems |
| Statistical Modelling | *Number Fields | *Integrable Systems |
| Mathematical Biology | Algebraic Topology | Principles of Quantum Mechanics |
| Further Complex Methods | Linear Analysis | Applications of Quantum Mechanics |
| Classical Dynamics | Analysis of Functions | Statistical Physics |
| Cosmology | *Riemann Surfaces | *Electrodynamics |
| Quantum Inf. and Comp. | Algebraic Geometry | General Relativity |
| | Differential Geometry | Fluid Dynamics |
| | Probability and Measure | Waves |
| | Applied Probability | Numerical Analysis |
| | Principles of Statistics | |

As in Part IB, students should, in consultation with their Directors of Studies, make a selection based on their individual interests and preferred workload, bearing in mind that it is better to do a smaller number of courses thoroughly than to do many courses scrappily. Students might sensibly assess their proposed workload by comparing the numbers of example sheets and lectures they are taking on per term with their previous experiences in Parts IA and IB.

Computational Projects

In addition to the lectured courses, there is a Computational Projects course. No questions on the Computational Projects are set on the written examination papers, credit for examination purposes being gained by the submission of reports. The maximum credit obtainable is 150 marks and there are no alpha or beta quality marks. Credit obtained is added directly to the credit gained on the written papers. The maximum contribution to the final merit mark is thus 150, which is the same as the maximum for a 16-lecture course. The Computational Projects are considered to be a single piece of work within the Mathematical Tripos.

Examinations

Details of arrangements common to all examinations of the undergraduate Mathematical Tripos start on page 2 of this booklet.

There are no restrictions on the number or type of courses that may be presented for examination, but examiners may consider if most of the marks are obtained on only one or two courses. The Faculty Board has recommended to the examiners that no distinction be made, for classification purposes, between quality marks obtained on the C-course questions in Section II and quality marks obtained on D course questions.

On each of the four papers, candidates may obtain credit for attempts on at most six questions in Section I; there is no restriction on the number of questions in Section II that may be attempted for credit.

The number of questions set on each course is determined by the type and length of the course, as shown in the following table:

| | Section I | Section II |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|
| C course, 24 lectures | 4 | 2 |
| D course, 24 lectures | – | 4 |
| D course, 16 lectures | – | 3 |

In Section I of each paper, there are 10 questions, one on each C course.

In Section II of each paper, there are 5 questions on C courses, one question on each of the 20 24-lecture D courses and either one question or no questions on each of the 7 16-lecture D courses, giving a total of 30 or 31 questions on each paper.

The distribution in Section II of the C course questions and the 16-lecture D course questions is shown in the following table.

| | P1 | P2 | P3 | P4 | | P1 | P2 | P3 | P4 |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| C courses | | | | | 16-lecture D courses | | | | |
| Number Theory | | | * | * | Number Fields | * | * | | * |
| Topics in Analysis | | * | | * | Riemann Surfaces | * | * | * | |
| Coding and Cryptography | * | * | | | Maths. Machine Learning | * | * | | * |
| Automata and Form. Lang. | * | | * | | Asymptotic Methods | | * | * | * |
| Statistical Modelling | * | | | * | Integrable Systems | * | * | * | |
| Mathematical Biology | | | * | * | Electrodynamics | * | | * | * |
| Further Complex Methods | * | * | | | | | | | |
| Classical Dynamics | | * | | * | | | | | |
| Cosmology | * | | * | | | | | | |
| Quantum Inf. and Comp. | | * | * | | | | | | |

Approximate Class Boundaries

The following tables, based on information supplied by the examiners, show approximate borderlines in recent years.

For convenience, we define M_1 and M_2 by

$$M_1 = 30\alpha + 5\beta + m - 120, \qquad M_2 = 15\alpha + 5\beta + m.$$

M_1 is related to the primary classification criterion for the first class and M_2 is related to the primary classification criterion for the upper and lower second and third classes.

The second column of each table shows a sufficient criterion for each class (in terms of M_1 for the first class and M_2 for the other classes). The third and fourth columns show M_1 (for the first class) or M_2 (for the other classes), raw mark, number of alphas and number of betas of two representative candidates placed just above the borderline.

The sufficient condition for each class is not prescriptive: it is just intended to be helpful for interpreting the data. Each candidate near a borderline is scrutinised individually. The data given below are relevant to one year only; borderlines may go up or down in future years.

| Part II 2025 | | |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Class | Sufficient condition | Borderline candidates |
| 1 | $M_1 > 650$ | 627/462, 7, 15 658/398, 12, 4 |
| 2.1 | $M_2 > 430$ | 431/326, 5, 6 433/318, 6, 5 |
| 2.2 | $M_2 > 290$ | 291/251, 0, 8 295/250, 1, 6 |
| 3 | $M_2 > 151$ | 152/162, 0, 4 183/163, 0, 4 |

| Part II 2024 | | |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Class | Sufficient condition | Borderline candidates |
| 1 | $M_1 > 653$ | 654/429, 10, 9 658/398, 12, 4 |
| 2.1 | $M_2 > 453$ | 454/329, 7, 4 455/350, 2, 15 |
| 2.2 | $M_2 > 320$ | 321/236, 2, 11 326/221, 3, 12 |
| 3 | $M_2 > 186$ | 187/162, 0, 5 194/159, 1, 4 |

NUMBER THEORY (C) 24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Review from Part IA Numbers and Sets: Euclid’s Algorithm, prime numbers, fundamental theorem of arithmetic. Congruences. The theorems of Fermat and Euler. [2]
Chinese remainder theorem. Lagrange’s theorem. Primitive roots to an odd prime power modulus. [3]
The mod- p field, quadratic residues and non-residues, Legendre’s symbol. Euler’s criterion. Gauss’ lemma, quadratic reciprocity. [2]
Proof of the law of quadratic reciprocity. The Jacobi symbol. [1]
Binary quadratic forms. Discriminants. Standard form. Representation of primes. [5]
Distribution of the primes. Divergence of $\sum_p p^{-1}$. The Riemann zeta-function and Dirichlet series. Statement of the prime number theorem and of Dirichlet’s theorem on primes in an arithmetic progression. Legendre’s formula. Chebyshev’s theorem. [4]
Continued fractions. Pell’s equation. [3]
Primality testing. Fermat, Euler and strong pseudo-primes. [2]
Factorization. Fermat factorization, factor bases, the continued-fraction method. Pollard’s method. [2]

Appropriate books

A. Baker *A Concise Introduction to the Theory of Numbers*. Cambridge University Press 1984
Alan Baker *A Comprehensive Course in Number Theory*. Cambridge University Press 2012
G.H. Hardy and E.M. Wright *An Introduction to the Theory of Numbers*. Oxford University Press
N. Koblitz *A Course in Number Theory and Cryptography*. Springer 1994
T. Nagell *Introduction to Number Theory*. AMS 1964
H. Davenport *The Higher Arithmetic*. Cambridge University Press
A. Granville *Number Theory Revealed: an Introduction*. AMS 2019

TOPICS IN ANALYSIS (C) 24 lectures, Lent Term

Analysis courses from IB will be helpful, but it is intended to introduce and develop concepts of analysis as required.
Discussion of metric spaces; compactness and completeness. Brouwer’s fixed point theorem. Proof(s) in two dimensions. Equivalent formulations, and applications. The degree of a map. The fundamental theorem of algebra, the Argument Principle for continuous functions, and a topological version of Rouché’s theorem. [6]
The Weierstrass approximation theorem. Chebyshev polynomials and best uniform approximation. Gaussian quadrature converges for all continuous functions. Review of basic properties of analytic functions. Runge’s theorem on the polynomial approximation of analytic functions. [8]
Liouville’s proof of the existence of transcendentals. The irrationality of e and π . The continued fraction expansion of real numbers; the continued fraction expansion of e . [4]
Review of countability, topological spaces, and the properties of compact Hausdorff spaces. The Baire category theorem for a complete metric space. Applications. [6]

Appropriate books

A.F. Beardon *Complex Analysis: the Argument Principle in Analysis and Topology*. John Wiley & Sons, 1979
E.W. Cheney *Introduction to Approximation Theory*. AMS, 1999
G.H. Hardy and E.M. Wright *An Introduction to the Theory of Numbers*. Clarendon Press, Oxford, fifth edition, reprinted 1989
T. Sheil-Small *Complex Polynomials*. Cambridge University. Press, 2002

CODING AND CRYPTOGRAPHY (C) 24 lectures, Lent Term

Part IB Linear Algebra is useful and Part IB Groups, Rings and Modules is very useful.

Introduction to communication channels, coding and channel capacity. [1]
Data compression; decipherability. Kraft’s inequality. Huffman and Shannon-Fano coding. Shannon’s noiseless coding theorem. [2]
Codes, error detection and correction, Hamming distance. Examples: simple parity, repetition, Hamming’s original [7,16] code. Maximum likelihood decoding. The Hamming and Gilbert–Shannon–Varshamov bounds. Shannon entropy. [4]
Information rate of a Bernoulli source. Capacity of a memoryless binary symmetric channel; Shannon’s noisy coding theorem for such channels. [3]
Linear codes, weight, generator matrices, parity checks. Syndrome decoding. Dual codes. Examples: Hamming, Reed–Muller. [3]
Cyclic codes. Discussion without proofs of the abstract algebra (finite fields, polynomial rings and ideals) required. Generator and check polynomials. BCH codes. Error-locator polynomial and decoding. Recurrence (shift-register) sequences. Berlekamp–Massey algorithm. [5]
Introduction to cryptography. Unicity distance, one-time pad. Shift-register based pseudo-random sequences. Polynomial time algorithms. Simple cipher machines. [2]
Public-key cryptography. Secrecy and authentication. The RSA system. The discrete logarithm problem and Elgamal signatures. Hash functions. Bit commitment and coin tossing. [4]

Appropriate books

[†] G.M. Goldie and R.G.E. Pinch *Communication Theory*. Cambridge University Press 1991
D. Welsh *Codes and Cryptography*. Oxford University Press 1988
T.M. Cover and J.A. Thomas *Elements of Information Theory*. Wiley 1991
W. Trappe and L.C. Washington *Introduction to Cryptography with Coding Theory*. Prentice Hall 2002
J. Talbot and D. Welsh *Complexity and cryptography, an introduction*. CUP 2006

AUTOMATA AND FORMAL LANGUAGES (C) 24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Part IA Numbers and Sets is essential.

Recursively enumerable languages
Register machines. Recursive functions. Recursively enumerable sets. Church’s thesis. Undecidability of the halting problem. Universal register machines. The recursion theorem. The *s-m-n* theorem. Reductions. Rice’s theorem. Degrees of unsolvability. Hardness and completeness. [10]

Regular languages
Deterministic and non-deterministic finite-state automata. Regular languages. Regular expressions. Limitations of finite-state automata: closure properties; the pumping lemma; examples of non-regular languages. Minimisation. [9]

Context-free languages
Context-free grammars. Context-free languages. Chomsky normal form. Regular languages are context-free. Limitations of context-free grammars: the pumping lemma for context-free languages; examples of non-context-free languages. [5]

Appropriate books

S.B. Cooper *Computability theory (CRC Mathematics Series)*. Chapman Hall 2003
J.E. Hopcroft, R. Motwani and J.D. Ullman *Introduction to automata theory, languages and computation, 3rd ed.* Pearson 2013
P.T. Johnstone *Notes on logic and set theory (Chapter 4)*. CUP 1987
D.C. Kozen *Automata and computability*. Springer 1997
R.I. Soare *Turing computability: theory and applications (Theory and applications of computability)*. Springer 2016
M. Sipser *Introduction to the theory of computation, 3rd ed.* Cengage 2012

STATISTICAL MODELLING (C) 24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Part IB Statistics is essential. About two thirds of this course will be lectures, with the remaining hours as practical classes, using R. R may be downloaded at no cost via <https://cran.r-project.org>

Likelihood inference for normal linear models

Bias, maximum likelihood estimator, confidence intervals, hypothesis tests. Statement of the asymptotic distribution of the MLE and Wilks’ theorem. Delta method. Normal linear model, ordinary least squares, orthogonal projection, exact distribution of the maximum likelihood estimator. Exact inference for the normal linear model: t-test, F-test, confidence sets. [3+0]

Basic statistical computing in R

Basic data structures and matrix computation. Data visualisation. Writing simple functions. Simulation. Loops and vectorisation. Fitting normal linear models. [0+2]

Advanced linear models

Generalised least squares. Heteroscedasticity and sandwich variance estimator. Diagnostics: leverages, residuals, qq-plots, multiple R² and Cook’s distances. Bias-variance trade-off. Model selection: Mallows’ C_p , information criteria, cross-validation. Omitted variable bias, instrumental variables and two-stage least squares. Examples in R. [4+2]

Exponential families

Exponential tilting. Cumulant generating function and mean-variance relationship. MLE in exponential family and its asymptotic distribution. *Posterior distribution and empirical Bayes. One-sided hypothesis testing. Deviance and Wilks’ theorem. Overdispersion due to clustering. Examples in R. [3+1]

Generalised linear models

Approximate inference for GLMs with the canonical link based on Fisher information, and application of the Delta method. Dispersion parameter. Analysis of deviance. Iterative solution of score equations: Newton-Raphson, Fisher scoring, iteratively reweighted least squares. Regression for binomial data; use of logit and other link functions. Poisson regression models, and their surrogate use for multinomial data. Contingency tables. Model selection. Residuals and model checking. Examples in R. [5+2]

Binary classification

Loss functions and Bayes classifier. k -nearest neighbours. Linear discriminant analysis. Logistic regression. k -fold cross-validation. Examples in R. [1+1]

Appropriate books

A.J. Dobson *An Introduction to Generalized Linear Models*. Chapman and Hall 2002
A.C. Davison *Statistical Models*. CUP 2008
D. Freedman *Statistical Models: Theory and Practice*. Cambridge University Press 2009
J. Albert and M. Rizzo *R by Example*. Springer 2012
A. Agresti *Foundations of Linear and Generalized Linear Models*. Wiley 2015
G. James, D. Witten, T. Hastie, R. Tibshirani *An Introduction to Statistical Learning with Applications in R..* Springer 2023

MATHEMATICAL BIOLOGY (C) 24 lectures, Lent Term

Part II Dynamical Systems is useful.

Introduction to the role of mathematics in biology [1]

Systems without spatial structure: deterministic systems

Examples: population dynamics, epidemiology, chemical reactions, physiological systems.

Continuous and discrete population dynamics governed by deterministic ordinary differential equations or difference equations. Single population models: the logistic model and bifurcation to chaos; systems with time delay; age-structured populations. Two-species models: predator-prey interactions, competition, enzyme kinetics, infectious diseases. Phase-plane analysis, null-clines and stability of equilibrium. Systems exhibiting nonlinear oscillations: limit cycles; excitable systems. [9]

Stochastic systems

Discrete stochastic models of birth and death processes. Master equations and Fokker-Planck equations. The continuum limit and the importance of fluctuations. Comparison of deterministic and stochastic models, including implications for extinction/invasion. Simple random walk and derivation of the diffusion equation. [6]

Systems with spatial structure: diffusion and reaction-diffusion systems

The general transport equation. Fundamental solutions for steady and unsteady diffusion. Models with density-dependent diffusion. Fischer-Kolmogorov equation: propagation of reaction-diffusion waves. Chemotaxis and the growth of chemotactic instability. General conditions for diffusion-driven (Turing) instability: linear stability analysis and evolution of spatial pattern. [8]

Appropriate books

L. Edelstein-Keshet *Mathematical Models in Biology*. SIAM classics in applied mathematics reprint, 2005
J.D. Murray *Mathematical Biology (3rd edition), especially volume 1*. Springer, 2002
S.P. Ellner and J. Guckenheimer *Dynamic Models in Biology*. Princeton University Press, 2006

FURTHER COMPLEX METHODS (C) 24 lectures, Lent Term

Complex Methods (or Complex Analysis) is essential.

Complex variable

Revision of complex variable. Analyticity of a function defined by an integral (statement and discussion only). Analytic and meromorphic continuation.

Cauchy principal value of finite and infinite range improper integrals. The Hilbert transform. Kramers-Kronig relations.

Multivalued functions: definitions, branch points and cuts, integration; examples, including inverse trigonometric functions as integrals and elliptic integrals. [8]

Special functions

Gamma function: Euler integral definition; brief discussion of product formulae; Hankel representation; reflection formula; discussion of uniqueness (e.g. Wielandt's theorem). Beta function: Euler integral definition; relation to the gamma function. Riemann zeta function: definition as a sum; integral representations; functional equation; *discussion of zeros and relation to $\pi(x)$ and the distribution of prime numbers*. [6]

Differential equations by transform methods

Solution of differential equations by integral representation; Airy equation as an example. Solution of partial differential equations by transforms; the wave equation as an example. Causality. Nyquist stability criterion. [4]

Second order ordinary differential equations in the complex plane

Classification of singularities, exponents at a regular singular point. Nature of the solution near an isolated singularity by analytic continuation. Fuchsian differential equations. The Riemann P-function, hypergeometric functions and the hypergeometric equation, including brief discussion of monodromy. [6]

Appropriate books

[†] M.J. Ablowitz and A.S. Fokas *Complex Variables: Introduction and Applications*. CUP 2003

[†] E.T. Whittaker and G.N. Watson *A course of modern analysis*. CUP 1996

E.T. Copson *Functions of a Complex Variable*. Oxford University Press 1935

B. Spain and M.G. Smith *Functions of Mathematical Physics*. Van Nostrand 1970

CLASSICAL DYNAMICS (C) 24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Part IB Variational Principles is essential.

Review of Newtonian mechanics

Newton's second law. Motion of N particles under mutual interactions. Euclidean and Galilean symmetry. Conservation laws of momentum, angular momentum and energy. [2]

Lagrange's equations

Configuration space, generalized coordinates and velocities. Holonomic constraints. Lagrangian, Hamilton's principle and Euler-Lagrange equations of motion. Examples: N particles with potential forces, planar and spherical pendulum, charged particle in a background electromagnetic field, purely kinetic Lagrangians and geodesics. Ignorable coordinates. Symmetries and Noether's theorem. [5]

Quadratic Lagrangians, oscillations, normal modes. [1]

Motion of a rigid body

Kinematics of a rigid body. Angular momentum, kinetic energy, diagonalization of inertia tensor. Euler top, conserved angular momentum, Euler equations and their solution in terms of elliptic integrals. Lagrange top, steady precession, nutation. [6]

Hamilton's equations

Phase space. Hamiltonian and Hamilton's equations. Simple examples. Poisson brackets, conserved quantities. Principle of least action. Liouville theorem. Action and angle variables for closed orbits in 2-D phase space. Adiabatic invariants (proof not required). Mention of completely integrable systems, and their action-angle variables. [7]

Hamiltonian systems in nonlinear phase spaces, e.g. classical spin in a magnetic field. 2-D motion of ideal point vortices. *Connections between Lagrangian/Hamiltonian dynamics and quantum mechanics.* [3]

Appropriate books

[†] L.D. Landau and E.M. Lifshitz *Mechanics*. Butterworth-Heinemann 1976

V.I. Arnold *Mathematical methods of classical mechanics*. Springer 1989

H. Goldstein, C.P. Poole and J.L. Safko *Classical mechanics*. Pearson 2001

L.N. Hand and J.D. Finch *Analytical mechanics*. CUP 1998

F. Scheck *Mechanics: from Newton's laws to deterministic chaos*. Springer 2010

COSMOLOGY(C)

24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

The expanding universe

The Cosmological Principle: homogeneity and isotropy. The FRW metric and the scale factor of the universe. Hubble parameter and Hubble's law. Kinematic effects, including redshift and horizons. Luminosity distance. [3]

Perfect fluids. Newtonian derivation of Friedmann and Raychaudhuri equations. Simple solutions including open, closed, and flat models. The cosmological constant. Different epochs: radiation-, matter- and dark-energy-dominated eras. The energy budget today and observational parameters H and Ω . Age of the universe. Evidence for dark matter and dark energy. Problems of the standard cosmology and inflation. [8]

The hot universe

Introduction to statistical mechanics: the Boltzmann and Maxwell–Boltzmann distributions. Blackbody radiation and the cosmic microwave background. Chemical potential. Bose–Einstein and Fermi–Dirac distributions. Recombination and photon decoupling. Baryon-to-photon ratio. Ultra-relativistic particles. Evolution of temperature. Basics of nucleosynthesis. [7]

Structure formation

Linear density perturbations. Sound waves, Jeans instability and the evolution of perturbations in an expanding spacetimes. Transfer function. Adiabatic, gaussian perturbations and the Harrison–Zel'dovich spectrum. The observed power spectrum. Baryon acoustic oscillations. *Fluctuations in the cosmic microwave background*. [6]

Appropriate books

B. Ryden *Introduction to cosmology*. Addison-Wesley 2003
 A. Liddle *An introduction to modern cosmology*. Wiley 2003
 E.R. Harrison *Cosmology: The science of the universe*. CUP 2000
 S. Weinberg *Cosmology*. OUP 2008 (A more advanced text)

QUANTUM INFORMATION AND COMPUTATION (C)

24 lectures, Lent Term

Part IB Quantum Mechanics is desirable.

Introduction

Why *quantum* information and computation. The basic idea of polynomial vs exponential computational complexity. [1]

Quantum mechanics and quantum information

Basic principles of quantum mechanics and Dirac notation in a finite-dimensional setting. Composite systems and tensor products, projective measurements. Two-dimensional systems: qubits and Pauli operations. Definition of an entangled state. [3]

Quantum states as information carriers

The no-cloning theorem. Optimal discrimination of non-orthogonal pure states; the Helstrom bound. Local quantum operations. The no-signalling theorem. [4]

Quantum teleportation and dense coding

Bell states and basic properties; quantum dense coding. Exposition of quantum teleportation. Consistency of quantum teleportation with the no-signalling and no-cloning theorems. [2]

Quantum cryptography

Cryptographic key distribution and the one-time pad. Quantum key distribution: the BB84 protocol. Sketch of the security of the BB84 protocol against individual attacks. *Brief discussion of implementations of quantum key.* [3]

Basic principles of quantum computing

Quantum logic gates and the circuit model of quantum computation. Universal gate sets. *Brief discussion of implementations of quantum computers*. Basic notions of quantum computational complexity. Informal definition of the complexity classes P, BPP and BQP. [3]

Basic quantum algorithms

Query complexity and promise problems. The Deutsch–Jozsa algorithm. The quantum Fourier transform. Quantum algorithm for periodicity finding. [4]

Grover's quantum searching algorithm

Introduction to search problems and the complexity class NP. Exposition of Grover's quantum searching algorithm. [2]

Shor's quantum factoring algorithm

Exposition of Shor's quantum factoring algorithm (proofs of classical number-theory ingredients not examinable). [2]

Appropriate books

M. Nielsen and I. Chuang *Quantum Computation and Quantum Information*. CUP 2000
 B. Schumacher and M. Westmoreland *Quantum Processes, Systems, and Information*. CUP 2010
 S. Loepp and W. Wootters *Protecting Information: From Classical Error Correction to Quantum Cryptography*. Academic Press 2006
 J. Preskill *Lecture Notes for Physics 229: Quantum Information and Computation*. Should be available at <https://www.theory.caltech.edu/~preskill/ph229/notes/book.ps>, which is linked from <https://www.theory.caltech.edu/~preskill/ph229/>.

LOGIC AND SET THEORY (D)

24 lectures, Lent Term

No specific prerequisites.

Ordinals and cardinals

Well-orderings and order-types. Examples of countable ordinals. Uncountable ordinals and Hartogs’ lemma. Induction and recursion for ordinals. Ordinal arithmetic. Cardinals; the hierarchy of alephs. Cardinal arithmetic.

Posets and Zorn’s lemma

Partially ordered sets; Hasse diagrams, chains, maximal elements. Lattices and Boolean algebras. Complete and chain-complete posets; fixed-point theorems. The axiom of choice and Zorn’s lemma. Applications of Zorn’s lemma in mathematics. The well-ordering principle.

Propositional logic

The propositional calculus. Semantic and syntactic entailment. The deduction and completeness theorems. Applications: compactness and decidability.

Predicate logic

The predicate calculus with equality. Examples of first-order languages and theories. Statement of the completeness theorem; *sketch of proof*. The compactness theorem and the Löwenheim-Skolem theorems. Limitations of first-order logic. Model theory.

Set theory

Set theory as a first-order theory; the axioms of ZF set theory. Transitive closures, epsilon-induction and epsilon-recursion. Well-founded relations. Mostowski’s collapsing theorem. The rank function and the von Neumann hierarchy.

Consistency

Problems of consistency and independence.

Appropriate books

B.A. Davey and H.A. Priestley *Lattices and Order*. Cambridge University Press 2002
T. Forster *Logic, Induction and Sets*. Cambridge University Press 2003
A. Hajnal and P. Hamburger *Set Theory*. LMS Student Texts number 48, CUP 1999
A.G. Hamilton *Logic for Mathematicians*. Cambridge University Press 1988
† P.T. Johnstone *Notes on Logic and Set Theory*. Cambridge University Press 1987
D. van Dalen *Logic and Structure*. Springer-Verlag 1994

GRAPH THEORY (D)

24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

No specific prerequisites.

Introduction

Basic definitions. Trees and spanning trees. Bipartite graphs. Euler circuits. Elementary properties of planar graphs. Statement of Kuratowski’s theorem.

Connectivity and matchings

Matchings in bipartite graphs; Hall’s theorem and its variants. Connectivity and Menger’s theorem.

Extremal graph theory

Long paths, long cycles and Hamilton cycles. Complete subgraphs and Turán’s theorem. Bipartite subgraphs and the problem of Zarankiewicz. The Erdős-Stone theorem; *sketch of proof*.

Eigenvalue methods

The adjacency matrix and the Laplacian. Strongly regular graphs.

Graph colouring

Vertex and edge colourings; simple bounds. The chromatic polynomial. The theorems of Brooks and Vizing. Equivalent forms of the four colour theorem; the five colour theorem. Heawood’s theorem for surfaces; the torus and the Klein bottle.

Ramsey theory

Ramsey’s theorem (finite and infinite forms). Upper bounds for Ramsey numbers.

Probabilistic methods

Basic notions; lower bounds for Ramsey numbers. The model $\mathcal{G}(n, p)$; graphs of large girth and large chromatic number. The clique number.

Appropriate books

† B.Bollobás *Modern Graph Theory*. Springer 1998
R.Diestel *Graph Theory*. Springer 2000
D.West *Introduction to Graph Theory*. Prentice Hall 1999

GALOIS THEORY (D) 24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Groups, Rings and Modules is essential.

Field extensions, tower law, algebraic extensions; irreducible polynomials and relation with simple algebraic extensions. Finite multiplicative subgroups of a field are cyclic. Existence and uniqueness of splitting fields. [6]
Existence and uniqueness of algebraic closure. [1]
Separability. Theorem of primitive element. Trace and norm. [3]
Normal and Galois extensions, automorphism groups. Fundamental theorem of Galois theory. [3]
Galois theory of finite fields. Reduction mod p . [2]
Cyclotomic polynomials, Kummer theory, cyclic extensions. Symmetric functions. Galois theory of cubics and quartics. [4]
Solubility by radicals. Insolubility of general quintic equations and other classical problems. [3]
Artin’s theorem on the subfield fixed by a finite group of automorphisms. Polynomial invariants of a finite group; examples. [2]

Appropriate books

E. Artin *Galois Theory*. Dover Publications
I. Stewart *Galois Theory*. Taylor & Francis Ltd Chapman & Hall/CRC 3rd edition
B. L. van der Waerden *Modern Algebra*. Ungar Pub 1949
S. Lang *Algebra (Graduate Texts in Mathematics)*. Springer-Verlag New York Inc
I. Kaplansky *Fields and Rings*. The University of Chicago Press

REPRESENTATION THEORY (D) 24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Linear Algebra, and Groups, Rings and Modules are essential.

Representations of finite groups
Representations of groups on vector spaces, matrix representations. Equivalence of representations. Invariant subspaces and submodules. Irreducibility and Schur’s Lemma. Complete reducibility for finite groups. Irreducible representations of Abelian groups.

Character theory
Determination of a representation by its character. The group algebra, conjugacy classes, and orthogonality relations. Regular representation. Permutation representations and their characters. Induced representations and the Frobenius reciprocity theorem. Mackey’s theorem. Frobenius’s Theorem. [12]

Arithmetic properties of characters
Divisibility of the order of the group by the degrees of its irreducible characters. Burnside’s $p^a q^b$ theorem. [2]

Tensor products
Tensor products of representations and products of characters. The character ring. Tensor, symmetric and exterior algebras. [3]

Representations of S^1 and SU_2
The groups S^1 , SU_2 and $SO(3)$, their irreducible representations, complete reducibility. The Clebsch-Gordan formula. *Compact groups.* [4]

Further worked examples
The characters of one of $GL_2(F_q)$, S_n or the Heisenberg group. [3]

Appropriate books

J.L. Alperin and R.B. Bell *Groups and representations*. Springer 1995
I.M. Isaacs *Character theory of finite groups*. Dover Publications 1994
G.D. James and M.W. Liebeck *Representations and characters of groups*. Second Edition, CUP 2001
J-P. Serre *Linear representations of finite groups*. Springer-Verlag 1977
M. Artin *Algebra*. Prentice Hall 1991

NUMBER FIELDS (D)

16 lectures, Lent Term

Part IB Groups, Rings and Modules is essential and Part II Galois Theory is desirable.

- Definition of algebraic number fields, their integers and units. Norms, bases and discriminants.
- [3]
- Ideals, principal and prime ideals, unique factorisation. Norms of ideals.
- [3]
- Dedekind’s theorem on the factorisation of primes. Application to quadratic fields.
- [2]
- Minkowski’s theorem on convex bodies. Ideal classes, finiteness of the class group. Calculation of class numbers using statement of the Minkowski bound.
- [3]
- Statement of Dirichlet’s unit theorem. The logarithmic embedding, determination of its kernel and proof of the upper bound for the unit rank. Determination of units in quadratic fields.
- [2]
- Discussion of the cyclotomic field and the Fermat equation.
- [3]

Appropriate books

Alan Baker *A Comprehensive Course in Number Theory*. Cambridge University Press 2012

[†] Z.I. Borevich and I.R. Shafarevich *Number Theory*. Elsevier 1986

[†] J. Esmonde and M.R. Murty *Problems in Algebraic Number Theory*. Springer 1999

E. Hecke *Lectures on the Theory of Algebraic Numbers*. Springer 1981

[†] D.A. Marcus *Number Fields*. Springer 1977

I.N. Stewart and D.O. Tall *Algebraic Number Theory and Fermat’s Last Theorem*. A K Peters 2002

ALGEBRAIC TOPOLOGY (D)

24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Part IB Groups, Rings and Modules, and Topological Spaces are essential.

The fundamental group
Homotopy of continuous functions and homotopy equivalence between topological spaces. The fundamental group of a space, homomorphisms induced by maps of spaces, change of base point, invariance under homotopy equivalence.

[3]

Covering spaces
Covering spaces and covering maps. Path-lifting and homotopy-lifting properties, and their application to the calculation of fundamental groups. The fundamental group of the circle; topological proof of the fundamental theorem of algebra. *Construction of the universal covering of a path-connected, locally simply connected space*. The correspondence between connected coverings of X and conjugacy classes of subgroups of the fundamental group of X .

[5]

The Seifert–Van Kampen theorem
Free groups, generators and relations for groups, free products with amalgamation. Statement *and proof* of the Seifert–Van Kampen theorem. Applications to the calculation of fundamental groups.

[4]

Simplicial complexes
Finite simplicial complexes and subdivisions; the simplicial approximation theorem.

[3]

Homology
Simplicial homology, the homology groups of a simplex and its boundary. Functorial properties for simplicial maps. *Proof of functoriality for continuous maps, and of homotopy invariance*.

[4]

Homology calculations
The homology groups of S^n , applications including Brouwer’s fixed-point theorem. The Mayer-Vietoris theorem. *Sketch of the classification of closed combinatorial surfaces*; determination of their homology groups. Rational homology groups; the Euler–Poincaré characteristic and the Lefschetz fixed-point theorem

[5]

Appropriate books

M. A. Armstrong *Basic topology*. Springer 1983

W. Massey *A basic course in algebraic topology*. Springer 1991

C. R. F. Maunder *Algebraic Topology*. Dover Publications 1980

A. Hatcher *Algebraic Topology*. Cambridge University Press, 2001

LINEAR ANALYSIS (D) 24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Part IB Linear Algebra, and Analysis II are essential.

Normed and Banach spaces. Linear mappings, continuity, boundedness, and norms. Finite-dimensional normed spaces. [4]
The Baire category theorem. The principle of uniform boundedness, the closed graph theorem and the inversion theorem; other applications. [5]
The normality of compact Hausdorff spaces. Urysohn’s lemma and Tietze’s extension theorem. Spaces of continuous functions. The Stone–Weierstrass theorem and applications. Equicontinuity: the Ascoli–Arzelà theorem. [5]
Inner product spaces and Hilbert spaces; examples and elementary properties. Orthonormal systems, and the orthogonalization process. Bessel’s inequality, the Parseval equation, and the Riesz–Fischer theorem. Duality; the self duality of Hilbert space. [5]
Bounded linear operations, invariant subspaces, eigenvectors; the spectrum and resolvent set. Compact operators on Hilbert space; discreteness of spectrum. Spectral theorem for compact Hermitian operators. [5]

Appropriate books

[†] B. Bollobás *Linear Analysis*. 2nd Edition, Cambridge University Press 1999
C. Goffman and G. Pedrick *A First Course in Functional Analysis*. 2nd Edition, Oxford University Press 1999
W. Rudin *Real and Complex Analysis*. McGraw–Hill International Editions: Mathematics Series

ANALYSIS OF FUNCTIONS (D) 24 lectures, Lent Term

Part II Linear Analysis and Part II Probability and Measure are essential.

Lebesgue integration theory
Review of integration: simple functions, monotone and dominated convergence; existence of Lebesgue measure; definition of L^p spaces and their completeness. The Lebesgue differentiation theorem. Egorov’s theorem, Lusin’s theorem. Mollification by convolution, continuity of translation and separability of L^p when $p \neq \infty$. [5]
Banach and Hilbert space analysis
Strong, weak and weak-* topologies; reflexive spaces. Review of the Riesz representation theorem for Hilbert spaces; the Radon–Nikodym theorem; the dual of L^p . Compactness: review of the Ascoli–Arzelà theorem; weak-* compactness of the unit ball for separable Banach spaces. The Riesz representation theorem for spaces of continuous functions. The Hahn–Banach theorem and its consequences: separation theorems; Mazur’s theorem. [7]

Fourier analysis
Definition of Fourier transform in L^1 ; the Riemann–Lebesgue lemma. Fourier inversion theorem. Extension to L^2 by density and Plancherel’s isometry. Duality between regularity in real variable and decay in Fourier variable. [3]

Generalized derivatives and function spaces
Definition of generalized derivatives and of the basic spaces in the theory of distributions: \mathcal{D}/\mathcal{D}' and \mathcal{S}/\mathcal{S}' . The Fourier transform on \mathcal{S}' . Periodic distributions; Fourier series; the Poisson summation formula. Definition of the Sobolev spaces H^s in \mathbb{R}^d . Sobolev embedding. The Rellich–Kondrashov theorem. The trace theorem. [5]

Applications
Construction and regularity of solutions for elliptic PDEs with constant coefficients on \mathbb{R}^n . Construction and regularity of solutions for the Dirichlet problem of Laplace’s equation. The spectral theorem for the Laplacian on a bounded domain. *The direct method of the Calculus of Variations.* [4]

Appropriate books

H. Brézis *Functional Analysis, Sobolev Spaces and Partial Differential Equations*. Universitext, Springer 2011
A.N. Kolmogorov, S.V. Fomin *Elements of the Theory of Functions and Functional Analysis*. Dover Books on Mathematics 1999
E.H. Lieb and M. Loss *Analysis*. Second edition, AMS 2001

RIEMANN SURFACES (D) 16 lectures, Lent Term

Part IB Complex Analysis is essential, and Topological Spaces is desirable.

The complex logarithm. Analytic continuation in the plane; natural boundaries of power series. Informal examples of Riemann surfaces of simple functions (via analytic continuation). Examples of Riemann surfaces, including the Riemann sphere, and the torus as a quotient surface. [4]

Analytic, meromorphic and harmonic functions on a Riemann surface; analytic maps between two Riemann surfaces. The open mapping theorem, the local representation of an analytic function as $z \mapsto z^k$. Complex-valued analytic and harmonic functions on a compact surface are constant. [2]

Germes of an analytic map between two Riemann surfaces; the space of germes as a covering surface (in the sense of complex analysis). The monodromy theorem (statement only). The analytic continuation of a germ over a simply connected domain is single-valued. [3]

The degree of a map between compact Riemann surfaces; Branched covering maps and the Riemann-Hurwitz relation (assuming the existence of a triangulation). The fundamental theorem of algebra. Rational functions as meromorphic functions from the sphere to the sphere. [3]

Meromorphic periodic functions; elliptic functions as functions from a torus to the sphere. The Weierstrass P-function. [3]

Statement of the Uniformization Theorem; applications to conformal structure on the sphere, *to tori, and the hyperbolic geometry of Riemann surfaces*. [1]

Appropriate books

L.V.Ahlfors *Complex Analysis*. McGraw-Hill, 1979
A.F.Beardon *A Primer on Riemann Surfaces*. Cambridge University Press, 2004
G.A.Jones and D.Singerman *Complex functions: an algebraic and geometric viewpoint*. Cambridge University Press, 1987
E.T.Whittaker and G.N.Watson *A Course of Modern Analysis Chapters XX and XXI, 4th Edition*. Cambridge University Press, 1996

ALGEBRAIC GEOMETRY (D) 24 lectures, Lent Term

Part IB Groups, Rings and Modules and Topological Spaces are essential.

Affine varieties and coordinate rings. Projective space, projective varieties and homogenous coordinates. Rational and regular maps. [4]

Discussion of basic commutative algebra. Dimension, singularities and smoothness. [4]

Conics and plane cubics. Quadric surfaces and their lines. Segre and Veronese embeddings. [4]

Curves, differentials, genus. Divisors, linear systems and maps to projective space. The canonical class. [8]

Statement of the Riemann-Roch theorem, with applications. [4]

Appropriate books

[†] K. Hulek *Elementary Algebraic Geometry*. American Mathematical Society, 2003
F. Kirwan *Complex Algebraic Curves*. Cambridge University Press, 1992
M. Reid *Undergraduate Algebraic Geometry*. Cambridge University Press 1989
B. Hassett *Introduction to Algebraic Geometry*. Cambridge University Press, 2007
K. Ueno *An Introduction to Algebraic Geometry*. American Mathematical Society 1977
R. Hartshorne *Algebraic Geometry, chapters 1 and 4*. Springer 1997

DIFFERENTIAL GEOMETRY (D)**24 lectures, Lent Term***Part IB Topological Spaces is very useful.*

Smooth manifolds in \mathbb{R}^n , tangent spaces, smooth maps and the inverse function theorem. Examples, regular values, Sard's theorem (statement only). Transverse intersection of submanifolds. [4]

Manifolds with boundary, degree mod 2 of smooth maps, applications. [3]

Curves in 2-space and 3-space, arc-length, curvature, torsion. The isoperimetric inequality. [2]

Smooth surfaces in 3-space, first fundamental form, area. [1]

The Gauss map, second fundamental form, principal curvatures and Gaussian curvature. Theorema Egregium. [3]

Minimal surfaces. Normal variations and characterization of minimal surfaces as critical points of the area functional. Isothermal coordinates and relation with harmonic functions. The Weierstrass representation. Examples. [3]

Parallel transport and geodesics for surfaces in 3-space. Geodesic curvature. [2]

The exponential map and geodesic polar coordinates. The Gauss-Bonnet theorem (including the statement about classification of compact surfaces). [4]

Global theorems on curves: Fenchel's theorem (the total curvature of a simple closed curve is greater than or equal to 2π); the Fary-Milnor theorem (the total curvature of a simple knotted closed curve is greater than 4π). [2]

Appropriate books

P.M.H. Wilson *Curved Spaces*. CUP, January 2008

M. Do Carmo *Differential Geometry of Curves and Surfaces*. Pearson Higher Education, 1976

V. Guillemin and A. Pollack *Differential Topology*,. Pearson Higher Education, 1974

J. Milnor *Topology from the differentiable viewpoint*. Revised reprint of the 1965 original. Princeton Landmarks in Mathematics. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 1997

B. O'Neill *Elementary Differential Geometry*. Harcourt 2nd ed 1997

A. Pressley *Elementary Differential Geometry*,. Springer-Verlag, 2010

I.M. Singer and J.A. Thorpe *Lecture notes on elementary topology and geometry*. Undergraduate Texts in Mathematics. Springer-Verlag, New York-Heidelberg, 1996

M. Spivak *A Comprehensive Introduction to Differential Geometry*. Vols. I-V, Publish or Perish, Inc. 1999

J.A. Thorpe *Elementary Topics in Differential Geometry*. Springer-Verlag 1994

PROBABILITY AND MEASURE (D)**24 lectures, Michaelmas Term***Part IB Analysis II is essential.*

Measure spaces, σ -algebras, π -systems and uniqueness of extension, statement *and proof* of Carathéodory's extension theorem. Construction of Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R} . The Borel σ -algebra of \mathbb{R} . Existence of non-measurable subsets of \mathbb{R} . Lebesgue-Stieltjes measures and probability distribution functions. Independence of events, independence of σ -algebras. The Borel–Cantelli lemmas. Kolmogorov's zero-one law. [6]

Measurable functions, random variables, independence of random variables. Construction of the integral, expectation. Convergence in measure and convergence almost everywhere. Fatou's lemma, monotone and dominated convergence, differentiation under the integral sign. Discussion of product measure and Fubini's theorem. [6]

Chebyshev's inequality, tail estimates. Jensen's inequality. Completeness of L^p for $1 \leq p \leq \infty$. The Hölder and Minkowski inequalities, uniform integrability. [4]

L^2 as a Hilbert space. Orthogonal projection, relation with elementary conditional probability. Variance and covariance. Gaussian random variables, the multivariate normal distribution. [2]

The strong law of large numbers, proof for independent random variables with bounded fourth moments. Measure preserving transformations, Bernoulli shifts. Statements *and proofs* of maximal ergodic theorem and Birkhoff's almost everywhere ergodic theorem, proof of the strong law. [4]

The Fourier transform of a finite measure, characteristic functions, uniqueness and inversion. Weak convergence, statement of Lévy's convergence theorem for characteristic functions. The central limit theorem. [2]

Appropriate books

P. Billingsley *Probability and Measure*. Wiley 1995

R.M. Dudley *Real Analysis and Probability*. Cambridge University Press 2002

R.T. Durrett *Probability: Theory and Examples*. Wadsworth and Brooks/Cole 1991

D. Williams *Probability with Martingales*. Cambridge University Press 1991

APPLIED PROBABILITY (D) 24 lectures, Lent Term

Part IB Markov Chains is essential and Part II Probability and Measure is desirable

Finite-state continuous-time Markov chains: basic properties. Q-matrix (or generator), backward and forward equations. The homogeneous Poisson process and its properties (thinning, superposition). Birth and death processes. [6]
General continuous-time Markov chains. Jump chains. Explosion. Minimal Chains. Communicating classes. Hitting times and probabilities. Recurrence and transience. Positive and null recurrence. Convergence to equilibrium. Reversibility. [6]
Applications: the $M/M/1$ and $M/M/\infty$ queues. Burke’s theorem. Jackson’s theorem for queueing networks. The $M/G/1$ queue. [4]
Renewal theory: renewal theorems, equilibrium theory (proof of convergence only in discrete time). Renewal-reward processes. Little’s formula. [4]
Spatial Poisson processes in d dimensions. The superposition, mapping, and colouring theorems. Rényi’s theorem. Applications including Olbers’ paradox. [4]

Appropriate books

G.R. Grimmett and D.R. Stirzaker *Probability and Random Processes*. OUP 2001
J.R. Norris *Markov Chains*. CUP 1997
J.F.C. Kingman *Poisson processes*. OUP 1992

PRINCIPLES OF STATISTICS (D) 24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Part IB Statistics is essential

The likelihood principle
Basic inferential principles. Likelihood and score functions, Fisher information, Cramer–Rao lower bound. Stochastic convergence concepts. Maximum likelihood estimators and their asymptotic properties: consistency, efficiency, asymptotic normality. Wald, score and likelihood ratio tests, confidence sets, Wilks’ theorem. [9]
Bayesian inference
Prior and posterior distributions. Conjugate families, improper priors, predictive distributions. Asymptotic theory for posterior distributions. Point estimation, credible regions, hypothesis testing and Bayes factors. [3]

Decision theory
Basic elements of a decision problem, including loss and risk functions. Decision rules, admissibility, minimax and Bayes rules. Minimax optimality of the sample mean with univariate Gaussian data. Stein estimator. [4]

Multivariate analysis
Classification problems, linear discriminant analysis. Correlation coefficient. Conditional independence. Conditional distributions of multivariate Gaussians. Partial correlation coefficients. Principal component analysis. [3]

Nonparametric inference and Monte Carlo techniques
Glivenko–Cantelli theorem, Kolmogorov–Smirnov tests and confidence bands. Bootstrap methods: jackknife, roots (pivots), parametric and nonparametric bootstrap. Monte Carlo simulation, the Metropolis–Hastings algorithm and the Gibbs sampler. [5]

Appropriate books

G. Casella and R.L. Berger *Statistical Inference*. Duxbury (2001)
A.W. van der Vaart *Asymptotic Statistics*. CUP (1998)
T.W. Anderson *An introduction to multivariate statistical analysis*. Wiley (2003)
E.L. Lehmann and G Casell *Theory of Point estimation*. Springer (1998)

STOCHASTIC FINANCIAL MODELS (D) 24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Methods, Statistics, Probability and Measure, and Markov Chains are desirable.

Utility and mean-variance analysis

Utility functions; risk aversion and risk neutrality. Portfolio selection with the mean-variance criterion; the efficient frontier when all assets are risky and when there is one riskless asset. The capital-asset pricing model. Reservation bid and ask prices, marginal utility pricing. Simplest ideas of equilibrium and market clearing. State-price density. [5]

Martingales

Conditional expectation, definition and basic properties. Stopping times. Martingales, supermartingales, submartingales. Use of the optional sampling theorem. [3]

Dynamic models

Introduction to dynamic programming; optimal stopping and exercising American puts; optimal portfolio selection. [3]

Pricing contingent claims

Lack of arbitrage in one-period models; hedging portfolios; martingale probabilities and pricing claims in the binomial model. Extension to the multi-period binomial model. Axiomatic derivation. [4]

Brownian motion

Introduction to Brownian motion; Brownian motion as a limit of random walks. Hitting-time distributions; changes of probability. [3]

Black–Scholes model

The Black–Scholes formula for the price of a European call; sensitivity of price with respect to the parameters; implied volatility; pricing other claims. Binomial approximation to Black–Scholes. Use of finite-difference schemes to compute prices [6]

Appropriate books

J. Hull *Options, Futures and Other Derivative Securities*. Prentice-Hall 2003
J. Ingersoll *Theory of Financial Decision Making*. Rowman and Littlefield 1987
A. Rennie and M. Baxter *Financial Calculus: an introduction to derivative pricing*. Cambridge University Press 1996
P. Wilmott, S. Howison and J. Dewynne *The Mathematics of Financial Derivatives: a student introduction*. Cambridge University Press 1995

MATHEMATICS OF MACHINE LEARNING (D) 16 lectures, Lent Term

Part IB Statistics is essential. Part IB Optimisation is helpful, but relevant material will be reviewed in the course.

Introduction to statistical learning

Concept of risk in Machine Learning. Empirical risk minimisation. Regression and classification. Bayes classifier. Bias–variance decomposition. Illustration with linear regression. [2]

Statistical learning theory

Chernoff bounds. Sub-Gaussian random variables and their properties. Rademacher random variables. Statement of Hoeffding’s lemma. Risk bound for finite hypothesis class. Symmetrisation. Rademacher complexities. Bound on expected risk. Shattering coefficient and relation to Rademacher complexity. VC dimension and statement of Sauer–Shelah lemma. Examples of VC classes including finite-dimensional function classes. [5]

Computation for empirical risk minimisation

Properties of convex sets and functions. Surrogate losses including logistic, exponential and hinge losses. Statement of Ledoux–Talagrand contraction inequality. Expected risk bounds for ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 -constrained hypothesis classes with surrogate losses. Support vector classifier. Projections onto closed convex sets. Subgradients. Gradient descent and stochastic gradient descent. Analysis of convergence. [5]

Popular machine learning methods

Cross-validation. Adaboost. Gradient boosting. Decision trees. Random forests. Feedforward neural networks. [4]

Appropriate books

C. Giraud *Introduction to High-Dimensional Statistics*. CRC press, 2015
T. Hastie, R. Tibshirani and J. Friedman *The Elements of Statistical Learning, 2nd ed*. Springer, 2001
M. Wainwright *High-Dimensional Statistics: A Non-Asymptotic Viewpoint*. CUP, 2019
L. Devroye, L. Györfi and G. Lugosi *A Probabilistic Theory of Pattern Recognition*. Springer, 1996
S. Shalev-Shwartz and S. Ben-David *Understanding Machine Learning: From Theory to Algorithms*. CUP, 2014
P. Rigollet *18.657 Mathematics of Machine Learning. Fall 2015*. Massachusetts Institute of Technology: MIT OpenCourseWare, <https://ocw.mit.edu>. License: Creative Commons BY-NC-SA

ASYMPTOTIC METHODS (D) 16 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Either Complex Methods or Complex Analysis is essential, Part II Further Complex Methods is useful.

Asymptotic expansions

Definitions of an asymptotic sequence and an asymptotic expansion; examples; elementary properties; uniqueness; optimal truncation; Stokes’ phenomenon. [3]

Asymptotic behaviour of functions defined by integrals

Integration by parts. Watson’s lemma and Laplace’s method. Riemann–Lebesgue lemma and method of stationary phase. The method of steepest descent (including derivation of higher order terms). The Airy function. [8]

Asymptotic behaviour of solutions of differential equations

Asymptotic solutions of second-order linear differential equations, including Liouville–Green functions (proof that they are asymptotic not required) and the WKBJ method, with the quantum harmonic oscillator as an example. [4]

Additional topics

Further discussion of Stokes’ phenomenon. *Asymptotics ‘beyond all orders’*. [1]

Appropriate books

M.J. Ablowitz and A.S. Fokas *Complex Variables: Introduction and Applications*. CUP 2003
† C.M. Bender and S.A. Orszag *Advanced Mathematical Methods for Scientists and Engineers: Asymptotic Methods and Perturbation Theory* (Chapters 3, 6, and 10). Springer 1999
† A. Erdelyi *Asymptotic Expansions*. Dover 1956
E.J. Hinch *Perturbation Methods*. CUP 1991
† P.D. Miller *Applied Asymptotic Analysis*. American Math. Soc. 2006
J.D. Murray *Asymptotic Analysis*. Springer 1984
F.W.J. Olver *Asymptotics and Special Functions*. A K Peters 1997

DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS (D) 24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

General introduction

The notion of a dynamical system and examples of simple phase portraits. Relationship between continuous and discrete systems. Reduction to autonomous systems. Initial value problems, uniqueness, finite-time blowup, examples. Flows, orbits, invariant sets, limit sets and topological equivalence. [3]

Fixed points of flows

Linearization. Classification of fixed points in \mathbb{R}^2 , Hamiltonian case. Effects of nonlinearity; hyperbolic and non-hyperbolic cases; Stable-manifold theorem (statement only), stable and unstable manifolds in \mathbb{R}^2 . Phase-plane sketching. [3]

Stability

Lyapunov, quasi-asymptotic and asymptotic stability of invariant sets. Lyapunov and bounding functions. Lyapunov’s 1st theorem; La Salle’s invariance principle. Local and global stability. [2]

Periodic orbits in \mathbb{R}^2

The Poincaré index; Dulac’s criterion; the Poincaré–Bendixson theorem (*and proof*). Nearly Hamiltonian flows.

Stability of periodic orbits; Floquet multipliers. Examples; van der Pol oscillator. [5]

Bifurcations in flows and maps

Non-hyperbolicity and structural stability. Local bifurcations of fixed points: saddle-node, transcritical, pitchfork and Andronov-Hopf bifurcations. Construction of centre manifold and normal forms. Examples. Effects of symmetry and symmetry breaking. *Bifurcations of periodic orbits.* Fixed points and periodic points for maps. Bifurcations in 1-dimensional maps: saddle-node, period-doubling, transcritical and pitchfork bifurcations. The logistic map. [5]

Chaos

Sensitive dependence on initial conditions, topological transitivity. Maps of the interval, the sawtooth map, horseshoes, symbolic dynamics. Period three implies chaos, the occurrence of N -cycles, Sharkovsky’s theorem (statement only). The tent map. Unimodal maps and Feigenbaum’s constant. [6]

Appropriate books

D.K. Arrowsmith and C.M. Place *Introduction to Dynamical Systems*. CUP 1990
P.G. Drazin *Nonlinear Systems*. CUP1992
† P.A. Glendinning *Stability, Instability and Chaos*. CUP1994
D.W. Jordan and P. Smith *Nonlinear Ordinary Differential Equations*. OUP 1999
J. Guckenheimer and P. Holmes *Nonlinear Oscillations, Dynamical Systems, and Bifurcations of Vector Fields*. Springer, second edition 1986

INTEGRABLE SYSTEMS (D) 16 lectures, Lent Term

Part IB Methods and Complex Methods or Complex Analysis are essential, and Quantum Mechanics is desirable. Part II Classical Dynamics is helpful.

Integrability of ordinary differential equations: Hamiltonian systems and the Arnol’d–Liouville Theorem (sketch of proof). Examples. [3]

Integrability of partial differential equations: The rich mathematical structure and the universality of the integrable nonlinear partial differential equations (Korteweg-de Vries, sine-Gordon). Bäcklund transformations and soliton solutions. [2]

The inverse scattering method: Lax pairs. The inverse scattering method for the KdV equation, and other integrable PDEs. Multi-soliton solutions. Zero curvature representation. [6]

Hamiltonian formulation of soliton equations. [2]

Painleve equations and Lie symmetries: Symmetries of differential equations, the ODE reductions of certain integrable nonlinear PDEs, Painlevé equations. [3]

Appropriate books

[†] Dunajski, M *Solitons, Instantons and Twistors*. (Ch 1–4) Oxford Graduate Texts in Mathematics, ISBN 9780198872535, OUP, Oxford second edition 2024

S. Novikov, S.V. Manakov, L.P. Pitaevskii, V. Zaharov *Theory of Solitons*. for KdF and Inverse Scattering

P.G. Drazin and R.S. Johnson *Solitons: an introduction*. (Ch 3, 4 and 5) Cambridge University Press 1989

V.I. Arnol’d *Mathematical Methods of Classical Mechanics*. (Ch 10) Springer, 1997

P.R. Hydon *Symmetry Methods for Differential Equations: A Beginner’s Guide*. Cambridge University Press 2000

P.J. Olver *Applications of Lie groups to differential equations*. Springeri 2000

MJ Ablowitz and P Clarkson *Solitons, Nonlinear Evolution Equations and Inverse Scattering*. CUP 1991

MJ Ablowitz and AS Fokas *Complex Variables*. CUP, Second Edition 2003

PRINCIPLES OF QUANTUM MECHANICS (D) 24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

IB Quantum Mechanics is essential.

Dirac formalism

Bra and ket notation, operators and observables, probability amplitudes, expectation values, complete commuting sets of operators, unitary operators. Schrödinger equation, wave functions in position and momentum space. [3]

Time evolution operator, Schrödinger and Heisenberg pictures, Heisenberg equations of motion. [2]

Harmonic oscillator

Analysis using annihilation, creation and number operators. Significance for normal modes in physical examples. [2]

Multiparticle systems

Composite systems and tensor products, wave functions for multiparticle systems. Symmetry or antisymmetry of states for identical particles, Bose and Fermi statistics, Pauli exclusion principle. [3]

Perturbation theory

Time-independent theory; second order without degeneracy, first order with degeneracy. [2]

Angular momentum

Analysis of states $|jm\rangle$ from commutation relations. Addition of angular momenta, calculation of Clebsch–Gordan coefficients. Spin, Pauli matrices, singlet and triplet combinations for two spin half states. [4]

Translations and rotations

Unitary operators corresponding to spatial translations, momenta as generators, conservation of momentum and translational invariance. Corresponding discussion for rotations. Reflections, parity, intrinsic parity. [3]

Time-dependent perturbation theory

Interaction picture. First-order transition probability, the golden rule for transition rates. Application to atomic transitions, selection rules based on angular momentum and parity, *absorption, stimulated and spontaneous emission of photons*. [3]

Quantum basics

Quantum data, qubits, no cloning theorem. Entanglement, pure and mixed states, density matrix. Classical determinism versus quantum probability, Bell inequality for singlet two-electron state, GHZ state. [2]

Appropriate books

[†] E. Merzbacher *Quantum Mechanics, 3rd edition*. Wiley 1998

[†] B.H. Bransden and C.J. Joachain *Quantum Mechanics, 2nd edition*. Pearson

J. Binney and D. Skinner *The Physics of Quantum Mechanics*. Cappella Archive, 3rd edition

P.A.M. Dirac *The Principles of Quantum Mechanics*. Oxford University Press 1967, reprinted 2003

S. Weinberg *Lectures on Quantum Mechanics*. CUP, 2nd ed., 2015

J.J. Sakurai and J.J. Napolitano *Modern Quantum Mechanics*. CUP 2017

APPLICATIONS OF QUANTUM MECHANICS (D) 24 lectures, Lent Term

Principles of Quantum Mechanics is essential.

Variational Principle

Variational principle, examples. [2]

Bound states and scattering states in one dimension

Bound states, reflection and transmission amplitudes. Examples. Relation between bound states and transmission amplitude by analytic continuation. [3]

Scattering theory in three dimensions

Classical scattering, definition of differential cross section. Asymptotic wavefunction for quantum scattering, scattering amplitude, cross section. Green’s function, Born approximation to scattering on a potential. Spherically symmetric potential, partial waves and phase shifts, optical theorem. Low energy scattering, scattering length. Bound states and resonances as zeros and poles of S-matrix. [5]

Electrons in a magnetic field

Vector potential and Hamiltonian. Quantum Hamiltonian, inclusion of electron spin, gauge invariance, Zeeman splitting. Landau levels, effect of spin, degeneracy and filling effects, use of complex variable for lowest Landau level. Aharonov-Bohm effect. [4]

Particle in a one-dimensional periodic potential

Discrete translation group, lattice and reciprocal lattice, periodic functions. Bloch’s theorem, Brillouin zone, energy bands and gaps. Floquet matrix, eigenvalues. Band gap in nearly-free electron model, tight-binding approximation. [3]

Crystalline solids

Introduction to crystal symmetry groups in three dimensions, Voronoi/Wigner-Seitz cell. Primitive, body-centred and face-centred cubic lattices. Reciprocal lattice, periodic functions, lattice planes, Brillouin zone. Bloch states, electron bands, Fermi surface. Basics of electrical conductivity: insulators, semiconductors, conductors. Extended zone scheme. [4]

Bragg scattering. Vibrations of crystal lattice, quantization, phonons. [3]

Appropriate books

D.J. Griffiths *Introduction to Quantum Mechanics*. 2nd edition, Pearson Education 2005
R. Shankar *Principles of Quantum Mechanics*. Springer 2008
N.W. Ashcroft and N.D. Mermin *Solid State Physics*. Holt–Saunders 1976
S.H. Simon *The Oxford Solid State Basics*. OUP 2019

STATISTICAL PHYSICS (D) 24 lectures, Lent Term

Part IB Quantum Mechanics and “Multiparticle Systems” from Part II Principles of Quantum Mechanics are essential.

Fundamentals of statistical mechanics

Microcanonical ensemble. Entropy, temperature and pressure. Laws of thermodynamics. Example of paramagnetism. Boltzmann distribution and canonical ensemble. Partition function. Free energy. Specific heats. Chemical potential. Grand Canonical Ensemble. [5]

Classical gases

Density of states and the classical limit. Ideal gas. Maxwell distribution. Equipartition of energy. Diatomic gas. Interacting gases. Virial expansion. Van der Waals equation of state. Basic kinetic theory. [3]

Quantum gases

Density of states. Planck distribution and black body radiation. Debye model of phonons in solids. Bose–Einstein distribution. Ideal Bose gas and Bose–Einstein condensation. Fermi–Dirac distribution. Ideal Fermi gas. Pauli paramagnetism. [8]

Thermodynamics

Thermodynamic temperature scale. Heat and work. Carnot cycle. Applications of laws of thermodynamics. Thermodynamic potentials. Maxwell relations. [4]

Phase transitions

Liquid–gas transitions. Critical point and critical exponents. Ising model. Mean field theory. First and second order phase transitions. Symmetries and order parameters. [4]

Appropriate books

F. Mandl *Statistical Physics*. Wiley 1988
R.K. Pathria *Statistical Mechanics, 2nd ed.*. Butterworth–Heinemann 1996
L.D. Landau and E.M. Lifshitz *Statistical Physics, Part 1 (Course of Theoretical Physics volume 5)*. Butterworth–Heinemann 1996
M. Kardar *Statistical Physics of Particles*. CUP 2007. (See also course 8.333, MIT OpenCourseWare <https://ocw.mit.edu>)
F. Reif *Fundamentals of Thermal and Statistical Physics*. McGraw–Hill 1965
A.B. Pippard *Elements of Classical Thermodynamics*. Cambridge University Press, 1957
K. Huang *Introduction to Statistical Physics*. Taylor and Francis 2001

ELECTRODYNAMICS (D) **16 lectures, Michaelmas Term**

IB Electromagnetism and IA Dynamics and Relativity are essential. IB Methods is desirable.

Classical Field Theory

Revision of Maxwell’s equations in relativistic form. Action principle for Maxwell’s equations with prescribed current. Action principle for charged particles. Motion of relativistic charged particles in constant electric and magnetic fields. Electromagnetic field energy, momentum and stress tensor. Poynting’s theorem. Energy and momentum density of a plane electromagnetic wave. Radiation pressure. [6]

Electromagnetic Radiation

Revision of multipole expansions in electrostatics and magnetostatics. Retarded potential of a time-dependent charge distribution. The radiation field. Dipole radiation. Energy radiated. Liénard–Wiechert potentials for an arbitrarily moving point charge. Larmor formula. Scattering. [5]

Electromagnetism in Media

Electric fields in matter and polarisation. Magnetic fields in matter and bound currents. Macroscopic Maxwell equations. Reflection and refraction. Dispersion. Causality and Kramers–Kronig relation. Electromagnetic waves in conductors; the Drude model, plasma oscillations. [5]

Appropriate books

A. Zangwill *Modern Electrodynamics*. CUP 2012
J.D. Jackson *Electrodynamics*. Wiley 1999
L.D. Landau and E.M. Lifshitz *The Classical Theory of Fields (Course of Theoretical Physics volume 2)*. Butterworth-Heinemann 1996
R. Feynman, R. Leighton and M. Sands *The Feynman Lectures in Physics, Vol 2.* . Basic Books 2011

GENERAL RELATIVITY (D) **24 lectures, Lent Term**

Part IB Methods and Variational Principles are very useful.

Brief review of Special Relativity

Notion of proper time. Equation of motion for free point particle derivable from a variational principle. Noether’s theorem. [1]

Introduction and motivation for General Relativity

Curved and Riemannian spaces. The Pound–Rebka experiment. Introduction to general relativity: interpretation of the metric, clock hypothesis, geodesics, equivalence principles. Static spacetimes. Newtonian limit. [4]

Tensor calculus

Covariant and contravariant tensors, tensor manipulation, partial derivatives of tensors. Metric tensor, magnitudes, angles, duration of curve, geodesics. Connection, Christoffel symbols, covariant derivatives, parallel transport, autoparallels as geodesics. Curvature. Riemann and Ricci tensors, geodesic deviation. [5]

Vacuum field equations

Spherically symmetric spacetimes, the Schwarzschild solution. Birkhoff’s theorem *with proof*. Rays and orbits, gravitational red-shift, light deflection, perihelion advance. Shapiro time delay. [4]

Einstein Equations coupled to matter

Concept of an energy momentum tensor. Maxwell stress tensor and perfect fluid as examples. Importance of Bianchi identities. The emergence of the cosmological term. Simple exact solutions: Friedmann-Lemaitre metrics, the Einstein Static Universe. Hubble expansion and redshift. De-Sitter spacetime, mention of Dark Energy and the problem of Dark matter. Notion of geodesic completeness and definition of a spacetime singularity. Schwarzschild and Friedmann-Lemaitre spacetimes as examples of spacetimes with singularities. [4]

Linearized theory

Linearized form of the vacuum equations. De-Donder gauge and reduction to wave equation. Comparison of linearized point mass solution with exact Schwarzschild solution and identification of the mass parameter. Gravitational waves in linearized theory. *The quadrupole formula for energy radiated.* Comparison of linearized gravitational waves with the exact pp-wave metric. [4]

Gravitational collapse and black holes

Non-singular nature of the surface $r = 2M$ in the Schwarzschild solution using Finkelstein and Kruskal coordinates. The idea of an event horizon and the one-way passage of timelike geodesics through it. Qualitative account of idealized spherically symmetric collapse. The final state: statement of Israel’s Theorem. *Qualitative description of Hawking radiation.* [2]

Appropriate books

S.M. Carroll *Spacetime and Geometry*. Addison-Wesley 2004
J.B. Hartle *Gravity: An introduction to Einstein’s General Relativity*. Addison–Wesley 2002
L.P. Hughston and K.P. Tod *An Introduction to General Relativity*. Cambridge University Press 1990
R. d’Inverno *Introducing Einstein’s Relativity*. Clarendon 1992
† W. Rindler *Relativity: Special, General and Cosmological*. Oxford University Press 2001
H. Stephani *Relativity: An introduction to Special and General Relativity*. Cambridge University Press, 2004
R. M. Wald *General Relativity*. University of Chicago Press, 1984

FLUID DYNAMICS II (D) 24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Methods and Fluid Dynamics are essential.
It is recommended that students attend the associated Laboratory Demonstrations in Fluid Dynamics, which take place in the Michaelmas term.

Governing equations for an incompressible Newtonian fluid
Stress and rate-of-strain tensors and hypothesis of linear relation between them for an isotropic fluid; equation of motion; conditions at a material boundary; dissipation; flux of mass, momentum and energy; the Navier-Stokes equations. Dynamical similarity; steady and unsteady Reynolds numbers. [4]

Unidirectional flows
Unidirectional flow, planar and cylindrical geometries, Poiseuille flow in a tube and generalisations, dissipation. Taylor-Couette flow. [2]

Stokes flows
Flow at low Reynolds number; linearity and reversibility; uniqueness and minimum dissipation theorems. Flow in a corner; force and torque relations for a rigid particle in arbitrary motion; case of a rigid sphere and a spherical bubble. [4]

Flow in a thin layer
Lubrication theory; simple examples; the Hele-Shaw cell; gravitational spreading on a horizontal surface. [3]

Generation and confinement of vorticity
Vorticity equation and physical interpretation; flow along a plane wall with suction; flow toward a stagnation point on a wall; flow in a stretched line vortex. [3]

Boundary layers at high Reynolds number
The Euler limit and the Prandtl limit; the boundary layer equation for two-dimensional flow. Similarity solutions including those for flow past a flat plate and a wedge. *Discussion of the effect of acceleration of the external stream, separation.* Boundary layer at a free surface; rise velocity of a spherical bubble. [6]

Stability of unidirectional inviscid flow
Instability of a vortex sheet and of simple jets (e.g. vortex sheet jets). [2]

Appropriate books

D.J. Acheson *Elementary Fluid Dynamics*. Oxford University Press 1990
G.K. Batchelor *An Introduction to Fluid Dynamics*. Cambridge University Press 2000
E. Guyon, J-P Hulin, L. Petit and C.D. Mitescu *Physical Hydrodynamics*. Oxford University Press 2000

WAVES (D) 24 lectures, Lent Term

Part IB Methods is essential and Part IB Fluid Dynamics is very helpful.

Sound waves
Equations of motion of an inviscid compressible fluid (without discussion of thermodynamics). Mach number. Linear acoustic waves; wave equation; wave-energy equation; plane waves; spherically symmetric waves. [4]

Elastic waves
Momentum balance; stress and infinitesimal strain tensors and hypothesis of a linear relation between them for an isotropic solid. Wave equations for dilatation and rotation. Compressional and shear plane waves; simple problems of reflection and transmission; Rayleigh waves. [5]

Dispersive waves
Rectangular acoustic wave guide; Love waves; cut-off frequency. Representation of a localised initial disturbance by a Fourier integral (one-dimensional case only); modulated wave trains; stationary phase. Group velocity as energy propagation velocity; dispersing wave trains. Water waves; internal gravity waves. [6]

Ray theory
Group velocity from wave-crest kinematics; ray tracing equations. Doppler effect; ship wave pattern. Cases where Fermat’s principle and Snell’s law apply. [4]

Non-linear waves
One-dimensional unsteady flow of a perfect gas. Water waves. Riemann invariants; development of shocks; rarefaction waves; ‘piston’ problems. Rankine–Hugoniot relations for a steady shock. Shallow-water equations *and hydraulic jumps*. [5]

Appropriate books

J.D. Achenbach *Wave Propagation in Elastic Solids*. North Holland 1973
† J. Billingham and A.C. King *Wave Motion: Theory and application*. Cambridge University Press 2000
D.R. Bland *Wave Theory and Applications*. Clarendon Press 1988
M.J. Lighthill *Waves in Fluids*. Cambridge University Press 1978
H. Ockendon and J.R. Ockendon *Waves and Compressible Flow*. Springer 2016
G.B. Whitham *Linear and Nonlinear Waves*. Wiley 1999

NUMERICAL ANALYSIS (D) 24 lectures, Michaelmas Term

Part IB Numerical Analysis is essential and Analysis II, Linear Algebra and Complex Methods or Complex Analysis are all desirable.

Finite difference methods for the Poisson’s equation

Approximation of ∇^2 by finite differences. The accuracy of the five-point method in a square. Higher order methods. Solution of the difference equations by iterative methods, including multigrid. Fast Fourier transform (FFT) techniques. [5]

Finite difference methods for initial value partial differential equations

Difference schemes for the diffusion equation and the advection equation. Proof of convergence in simple cases. The concepts of well posedness and stability. Stability analysis by eigenvalue and Fourier techniques. Splitting methods. [6]

Spectral methods

Brief review of Fourier expansions. Calculation of Fourier coefficients with FFT. Spectral methods for the Poisson equation in a square with periodic boundary conditions. Chebyshev polynomials and Chebyshev methods. Spectral methods for initial-value PDEs. [5]

Iterative methods for linear algebraic systems

Iterative methods, regular splittings and their convergence. Jacobi and Gauss-Seidel methods. Krylov spaces. Conjugate gradients and preconditioning. [5]

Computation of eigenvalues and eigenvectors

The power method and inverse iteration. Transformations to tridiagonal and upper Hessenberg forms. The QR algorithm for symmetric and general matrices, including shifts. [3]

Appropriate books

G.H. Golub and C.F. van Loan *Matrix Computations*. Johns Hopkins Press 1996
A. Iserles *A First Course in the Numerical Analysis of Differential Equations*. Cambridge University Press 1996
K.W. Morton and D.F. Mayers *Numerical Solution of Partial Differential Equations: an Introduction*. Cambridge University Press 2005

COMPUTATIONAL PROJECTS

The projects that need to be completed for credit are published by the Faculty in a manual usually by the end of July or the beginning of August preceding the Part II year. The manual contains details of the projects and information about course administration. The manual is available on the Faculty website at <https://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/catam/>. Each project is allocated a number of units of credit. Full credit may obtained from the submission of projects with credit totalling 30 units. Credit for submissions totalling less than 30 units is awarded proportionately. There is no restriction on the choice of projects. Once the manual is available, the projects may be done at any time up to the submission deadline, which is near the beginning of the Easter Full Term.

A list of suitable books can be found in the manual