



## COURSE DATA

### DATA SUBJECT

**Code:** 34247  
**Name:** Mathematical methods I  
**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies  
**ECTS Credits:** 6  
**Academic year:** 2025-26

### STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1105 - Degree in Physics	Facultat de Física	2	First quarter
1929 - Double Degree Program in Physics and Chemistry	Facultat de Física	2	First quarter

### SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1105 - Degree in Physics	Mathematical methods	COMPULSORY
1929 - Double Degree Program in Physics and Chemistry	Segundo Curso (Obligatorio)	COMPULSORY

### COORDINATION

VICENTE VACAS MANUEL JOSE

OLMO ALBA GONZALO

## SUMMARY

- Objectives: To acquire knowledge of mathematics concerning the resolution of differential equations necessary for studies in Physics.

- Relationship with other previous, concurrent and future subjects: As the subject is instrumental, all the subjects of the degree require concepts and techniques contained in the subject.

It is advisable to have passed the courses Algebra and Geometry I and II, and Calculus I and II.

- Descriptors: Ordinary Differential Equations. Linear and non linear differential equations. Systems of differential equations. Solution of differential equations with power series. Special Functions. Introduction to partial differential equations.



## PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

### RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

### OTHER REQUIREMENTS

It is recommended to have previous knowledge on the following topics (at the level of the Algebra and Geometry I and II, and Calculus I and II courses) :

1. Differential calculus in one and several variables.
2. Integration in one and several variables.
3. Numerical sequences and series.
4. Power Series.
5. Linear Systems.
6. Vector Spaces.
7. Matrices and determinants, linear operators, eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

## COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Be able to understand and master the use of the most commonly used mathematical and numerical methods.

Communication Skills (written and oral): Being able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions through argumentation and reasoning which are characteristic of the scientific activity, using basic concepts and tools of physics.

Foreign Language skills: Have improved command of English (or other foreign languages of interest) through: use of the basic literature, written and oral communication (scientific and technical English), participation in courses, study abroad via exchange programmes, and recognition of credits at foreign universities or research centres.

Learning ability: be able to enter new fields through independent study, in physics and science and technology in general.

Modelling & Problem solving skills: be able to identify the essentials of a process / situation and to set up a working model of the same; be able to perform the required approximations so as to reduce a problem to an approachable one. Critical thinking to construct physical models.

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.

Students must be able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both expert and lay audiences.



Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.

Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.

To know how to apply the knowledge acquired to professional activity, to know how to solve problems and develop and defend arguments, relying on this knowledge.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

### 1. Ordinary differential equations of first order

Definitions and notation. Family of curves. Ordinary differential equations of first order. Separable equations. Exact equations. Integrating factor. Reducible order.

### 2. Ordinary differential equations of higher order

Linear and nonlinear differential equations. Linearly independent solutions. Wronskian. Initial and boundary conditions. Solution of linear differential equations with constant coefficients: undetermined coefficients, variation of parameters, reduction of order. Case Study: Euler equation, ...

### 3. Systems of equations with constant coefficients

Concept and examples. Resolution by substitution or elimination. Matrix Methods: homogeneous and non-homogeneous systems. Qualitative resolution of nonlinear equation systems: equilibrium points and the phase diagram. Autonomous systems.



#### 4. Solutions of differential equations with powers series

Introduction and review of concepts. Classification of points: regular and singular points (Regular and irregular). Solution around an ordinary point. Solution around a regular singular point: Frobenius theorem. Examples.

#### 5. Special Functions

Hypergeometric function. Solutions Legendre differential equation. Generating function and recurrence and orthogonality relations. Rodrigues formula. Extension to associated Legendre, Hermite and Laguerre polynomials. Bessel functions and spherical harmonics.

#### 6. Partial Differential Equations

Definition and classification. Initial and boundary conditions. Diffusion equation. Resolution by separation of variables. Wave equation. Examples: spherical harmonics. Stationary problems.

### WORKLOAD

#### PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Tutorials	15,00
Theory	45,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>60,00</b>

#### NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	30,00
Independent study and work	60,00
Preparation of lessons	0,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>90,00</b>



## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The methodology of the course will be: 4 hours per week, of which 3 hours per week correspond to theoretical and practical classes and 1 hour weekly tutoring class in small groups.

In theoretical and practical classes, the teacher will develop the content of the subject, with emphasis on the resolution of issues, problems and applications. Part of the contents, demonstrations and / or applications may be left as work for tutoring classes.

Tutoring classes will be devoted to solve and / or to discuss the problems of the collection that previously the teacher shall make available to students either on paper or via the virtual classroom, corresponding to each chapter of the syllabus explained in theoretical and practical classes. Also to resolve theoretical issues assigned to students and assess the presentation and results obtained. The collection of problems, in general, contains generic problems, which will be resolved in theoretical and practical classes and others that need to be addressed by students. Doubts or resolution of the latter part of the classes will be held in tutoring classes.

## EVALUATION

The evaluation systems are the following:

1) Written exams: one part will assess the understanding of the theoretical-conceptual aspects and the formalism of the subject, both through theoretical questions and through conceptual and numerical questions or simple particular cases. Another part will assess the ability to apply formalism, through problem solving, as well as the critical ability regarding the results obtained. In both parts, a correct argumentation and an adequate justification will be valued.

2) Continuous evaluation: assessment of work and problems presented by students, questions proposed and discussed in class, oral presentation of solved problems or any other method that involves interaction between teachers and students.

The grades for the subject will be obtained from the corresponding exam grade and the grade of the tutorial work (weighted with 80% and 20% respectively), or only with the exam grade if the student has not participated in the course tutorials, according to the formula  $\max(0.8 \cdot E + 0.2 \cdot T, E)$  where E is the exam grade and T is the tutorial grade, both out of 10.

Let us emphasize that the exam grade (E) must always be equal to or greater than 4 (out of 10) in order to compensate with the tutorial grade and obtain a passing grade (5).

These evaluation criteria are common to the first and second calls.

As long as the compensation criteria established for this purpose are met, the mark for this subject may be averaged with that of others belonging to the same subject, in order to pass the course.



## REFERENCES

### Basic:

- R. Kent Nagle, E.B. Staff, "Fundamentos de ecuaciones Diferenciales", Addison Wesley Iberoamericana.
- K.F. Riley, M.P. Hobson, S.J. Bence, "Mathematical methods for physics and engineering: A comprehensive guide", Cambridge University Press.
- D.G. Zill, M.R. Cullen, "Ecuaciones diferenciales con problemas de valor en la frontera". Paraninfo Thomson Learning 2001.

### Complementary:

- Martin Braun. Ecuaciones diferenciales y sus aplicaciones. Grupo Editorial Iberoamérica.
- E.D. Rainville. Ecuaciones Diferenciales. Prentice Hall Hispanoamericana.
- E.D. Rainville, "Intermediate Differential Equations". Chelsea Publishing Co.
- C.H. Edwards Jr. and David E. Penney, "Ecuaciones Diferenciales Elementales". Prentice Hall.
- A. Jeffrey. Handbook of mathematical formulas and integrals. Academic Press.
- F. Ayres, "Ecuaciones Diferenciales". McGraw-Hill. Serie Schaum.
- R. Bronson, "Ecuaciones Diferenciales Modernas". McGraw-Hill. Serie Schaum.
- S. J. Farlow, Partial Differential Equations for Scientists and Engineers