



SYLLABUS

Course Code	Course Num.	Course Name	Credit Hours	Lec.	Lab.	Tut.	Private study	Pre-requisites	Course Level	Language
PHY	436	Computational Physics	3	2	0	2	4	PHY 334, CS 140	7	English

A. Course Description

Computers and computation are extremely important components of physics and should be integral parts of a physicist's education. Furthermore, computational physics is reshaping the way calculations are made in all areas of physics. This course covers the different types of computational problems using a programming language with exercises developed around problems of physical interest.

B. Course Outcomes

At the end of this course the student will be able to:

1. Formulate a physical problem in a manner suitable for computational solution.
2. Construct a working, structured program in programming language that includes standard numerical procedures to solve a physical problem.
3. Employ appropriate numerical method to interpolate and extrapolate data collected from physics experiments.
4. Develop critical thinking and analytical problem-solving skills.

C. References

- Riley K.F., Hobson M.P., and Bence S.J., **Mathematical Methods for Physics and Engineering**, 3rd Edition, Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Arfken George B., and Weber Hans J., **Mathematical Methods for Physicists**, Academic Press, 6th Edition, (2005).
- Kreyszig E., **Advanced Engineering Mathematics**, John Wiley & Sons, INC 8th Edition (1998).
- Nicholas J. Giordano and H. Nakaanishi, **Computational Physics**, Addison-Wesley, (2006).
- Koonin Steven E., **Computational Physics**, Addison-Wesley, New York, (1989).
- Pang, T., **An Introduction to Computational Physics**, Cambridge University Press, (2006).
- Fitzpatrick R., **Computational Physics**, Texas University Press, (2006).

Course Website: <http://www.imamm.org/>

D. Topics Outline

1. **Introduction:** Overview - A programming language: computer algorithms and languages, Using different software's, applications: Newton and Kepler laws (Contact hours: 4).
2. **Finding Roots of Equations:** Bisection method- Newton's method- fixed point method, Algebraic and transcendental equations, rearrangement of the equation (Contact hours: 8).
3. **Interpolation:** Polynomial interpolation, linear interpolation, quadratic interpolation, Lagrange interpolation, Newton difference method (Contact hours: 6).
4. **The Method of Least Squares (Data Fitting):** Linear least squares; non-linear least squares (Contact hours: 6).
5. **Numerical Integration:** One dimensional integral: Rectangle rule; Trapezium rule; Simpson's rule; Gaussian integration (Contact hours: 6).



6. **Numerical Solution of Linear System (Matrix Algebra):** Simultaneous linear equations; Gaussian elimination; Pivoting, LU and cholesky (Contact hours: 6).
7. **Iterative Method:** Jacobi, Gauss–Seidel iteration; convergence and matrix norm, tridiagonal matrices (Contact hours: 6).
8. **Numerical Solution of Differential Equations:** Difference equations; Euler and Picard methods; Taylor series solutions; System of equations, Runge–Kutta methods, Higher-order equations (Contact hours: 8).
9. **Finite Differences Method for Ordinary Differential Equations** (Contact hours: 6).
10. **Introduction to PDEs:** First order linear PDEs -second order linear PDEs (Contact hours: 4).

E. Office Hours

Office hours give students the opportunity to ask in-depth questions and to explore points of confusion or interest that cannot be fully addressed in class.

F. Exams & Grading System

The semi-official dates of the exams for this course are:

- **Midterm 1:** 6th or 7th week.
- **Midterm 2:** 11th or 12th week.
- **Quizzes & Homeworks:** During the semester.
- **Final Exam:** 16th week.

Your course grade will be based on your semester work as follows:

Midterm 1: 20 %	Midterm 2: 20 %	Final Exam: 40 %
Quizzes, Homework, Attendance & Participation: 20 %		

The grading distribution:

A⁺	A	B⁺	B	C⁺	C	D⁺	D	F
[95, 100]	[90, 95]	[85, 90]	[80, 85]	[75, 80]	[70, 75]	[65, 70]	[60, 65]	[0, 60]



G. Student Workload

#	Teaching/Learning activities	Contact hours	Frequency	Total contact hours	Self-study hours	Total self-study hours	Student learning time
1	Lecture	2	15	30	1	15	45
2	Tutorial	2	15	30	1	15	45
3	Lab\practical	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Homework	0	4	0	2	8	8
5	Quiz	0.5	2	1	1	2	3
6	Midterm	1.5	2	3	5	10	13
7	Final Exam	2	1	2	12	12	14
Total				66		62	128

The independent self-study is approximately 4 hours per week

H. Student Attendance/Absence

Only three situations will be considered as possible excused absences:

- Occurrence of a birth or death in the immediate family will be excused. ("Immediate family" is defined by the University as spouse, grandparents, parents, brother, or sister).
- Severe illness in which a student is under the care of a doctor and physically unable to attend class will be excused. Students are not excused for a doctor's appointment. Do not make appointments that conflict with rehearsals. Notes from the University Health Center will be accepted.

[Executive Rules for Study Regulations and Exams](http://goo.gl/ykm7t3)
goo.gl/ykm7t3

