

Schaums Outline Of Partial Differential Equations

Schaums Outline Of Partial Differential Equations Schaums Outline of Partial Differential Equations is an invaluable resource for students, educators, and professionals seeking a comprehensive yet concise guide to understanding the fundamentals and advanced topics related to partial differential equations (PDEs). This outline is part of the renowned Schaum's Outline series, which is celebrated for its clarity, systematic approach, and practical problem-solving strategies. Whether you are preparing for exams, working on research projects, or enhancing your mathematical toolkit, this guide offers a structured pathway to mastering PDEs.

--- Introduction to Partial Differential Equations Partial differential equations are fundamental in modeling various phenomena across physics, engineering, finance, and other scientific disciplines. Unlike ordinary differential equations (ODEs), which involve derivatives with respect to a single variable, PDEs involve functions of multiple variables and their partial derivatives.

What Are Partial Differential Equations? - Equations involving unknown functions of several variables and their partial derivatives. - Typically expressed in the form $(F(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, u, u_{x_1}, u_{x_2}, \dots, u_{x_n}, u_{x_1x_1}, \dots)=0)$. - Examples include the heat equation, wave equation, and Laplace's equation.

Significance of PDEs - Describe physical processes like heat conduction, wave propagation, and fluid flow. - Model financial derivatives, population dynamics, and electromagnetic fields. - Essential in engineering design, scientific simulations, and technological innovations.

--- Classification of Partial Differential Equations Understanding the classification of PDEs is crucial because it guides the choice of solution methods.

Order of a PDE - The highest order derivative present in the equation.

2 Linearity - Linear PDEs: the unknown function and its derivatives appear linearly. - Nonlinear PDEs: involve nonlinear terms of the unknown function or its derivatives.

Types Based on the Number of

Independent Variables - Two-variable PDEs: involve functions of two variables, e.g., $u(x,y)$. - Multiple-variable PDEs: involve functions of more than two variables.

Classification by the Type of the PDE - Elliptic PDEs: No real characteristic directions; associated with steady-state phenomena. - Example: Laplace's equation $\nabla^2 u = 0$.

- Parabolic PDEs: Exhibit diffusion-like behavior, with one time-like variable. - Example: Heat equation $u_t = k \nabla^2 u$. - Hyperbolic PDEs: Describe wave propagation and oscillations. - Example: Wave equation $u_{tt} = c^2 \nabla^2 u$.

--- Methods of Solving PDEs The Schaum's Outline provides systematic approaches for solving different types of PDEs, emphasizing methods that are both practical and theoretically sound.

1. Separation of Variables - Assumes solutions can be written as a product of functions, each depending on a single variable. - Commonly used for linear, homogeneous PDEs with boundary conditions. - Typical form: $u(x,y) = X(x)Y(y)$.

2. Fourier Series and Transforms - Used to handle boundary value problems and initial conditions. - Fourier series decompose functions into sums of sines and cosines. - Fourier transforms extend this to non-periodic functions and infinite domains.

3. Method of Characteristics - Applicable for first-order PDEs. - Converts PDEs into ordinary differential equations along characteristic curves. - Essential for solving hyperbolic equations.

4. Green's Functions - Construct solutions using integral kernels. - Useful for nonhomogeneous boundary value problems.

5. Numerical Methods - Finite difference, finite element, and finite volume methods. - Employed when analytical solutions are difficult or impossible.

--- Key Topics Covered in Schaum's Outline of Partial Differential Equations The outline delves into various pivotal topics, each explained with clarity and supplemented with example problems and solutions.

1. First-Order PDEs - General form: $a(x,y)u_x + b(x,y)u_y = c(x,y)$. - Solutions via method of characteristics. - Applications in wave fronts and traffic flow.

2. Second-Order PDEs and Canonical Forms - Standard forms for elliptic, parabolic, and hyperbolic equations. - Transformation techniques to classify PDEs. - Simplification into canonical forms for easier solution.

3. Boundary and Initial Value Problems - Dirichlet, Neumann, and mixed boundary

conditions. - Well-posedness and stability considerations. - Examples of physically meaningful problems. 4. Special Techniques and Transform Methods - Fourier and Laplace transforms. - Eigenfunction expansions. - Use in solving heat and wave equations. 5. Approximate and Numerical Solutions - Discretization methods. - Stability and convergence. - Practical implementation tips. --- Applications of Partial Differential Equations PDEs are ubiquitous in modeling real-world phenomena. The Schaum's Outline provides context-rich examples demonstrating their applications. Heat conduction: The heat equation models temperature distribution over time. Wave propagation: The wave equation describes vibrations and sound waves. Electrostatics: Laplace's equation governs potential fields in electrostatics. Financial mathematics: Black-Scholes equation models options pricing. Fluid dynamics: Navier-Stokes equations govern fluid flow behavior. 4 --- Study Tips for Mastering PDEs with Schaum's Outline To maximize the benefits of this resource, consider the following study strategies: Review fundamental calculus and differential equations before tackling PDE topics. 1. Work through the example problems provided to understand solution techniques. 2. Practice solving boundary and initial value problems regularly. 3. Use the outline as a quick reference guide during coursework or research. 4. Complement the outline with additional resources such as textbooks, online 5. tutorials, and software tools. --- Conclusion The Schaums Outline of Partial Differential Equations serves as a comprehensive guide for understanding, analyzing, and solving PDEs across various contexts. Its structured approach, combined with practical problem sets and clear explanations, makes it an essential resource for students aiming to excel in mathematics, engineering, physics, and related fields. Mastery of PDEs opens doors to modeling complex systems and contributes significantly to scientific and technological advancements. Whether you're just beginning your journey into the world of differential equations or seeking to deepen your understanding, this outline provides the tools, techniques, and insights needed to succeed. Embrace its content, practice diligently, and harness the power of PDEs to solve real-world challenges effectively. Question Answer What are the

main topics covered in Schaums Outline of Partial Differential Equations? The book covers topics such as first-order PDEs, second-order PDEs, methods of solution (including separation of variables), Fourier series and transforms, boundary value problems, and applications in physics and engineering. How does Schaums Outline help in understanding the method of separation of variables? It provides step-by-step explanations, numerous solved examples, and practice problems to help students grasp how to apply separation of variables to solve various PDEs like heat, wave, and Laplace equations. Can Schaums Outline assist with solving real-world PDE problems? Yes, it includes applications of PDEs in physics, engineering, and other fields, illustrating how to model and solve real-world problems using PDE techniques. Is Schaums Outline suitable for beginners in partial differential equations? Yes, it is designed for students with basic calculus knowledge, providing clear explanations and fundamental concepts to build a solid understanding of PDEs. 5 Does the book cover numerical methods for PDEs? While primarily focused on analytical methods, Schaums Outline also introduces basic numerical approaches such as finite difference methods for approximating solutions. How does Schaums Outline compare to other PDE textbooks? It is known for its concise, easy-to-understand explanations, numerous practice problems, and practical approach, making it a popular choice for self-study and exam preparation. Are there any online resources or supplementary materials associated with Schaums Outline of PDEs? Yes, Schaums offers online practice problems, solution manuals, and online tutorials that complement the book's content for enhanced learning. What prior knowledge is recommended before studying Schaums Outline of PDEs? A solid understanding of calculus, ordinary differential equations, and basic linear algebra is recommended to fully grasp the concepts presented. Does Schaums Outline include practice problems with solutions? Yes, the book contains numerous practice problems accompanied by detailed solutions to help reinforce learning and prepare for exams. Comprehensive Review of Schaums Outline of Partial Differential Equations --- Introduction to Schaums Outline of Partial Differential Equations The Schaums Outline of

Partial Differential Equations (PDEs) is a highly regarded resource for students and practitioners seeking a clear, structured, and comprehensive overview of the fundamental concepts, techniques, and applications of partial differential equations. As part of the well-known Schaums series, this outline emphasizes clarity, practical problem-solving strategies, and concise explanations, making it an invaluable supplementary resource alongside textbooks and classroom instruction. This review will explore the key features of the Schaums Outline, its pedagogical strengths, content coverage, and how it can serve as an effective learning tool for mastering PDEs. --- Overview of Content and Structure

1. Organization and Layout The book is organized systematically, typically starting with foundational concepts before progressing to more advanced topics:

- Introduction to PDEs: Definitions, classifications, and basic terminology.
- First-Order PDEs: Methods of solution including characteristics.
- Second-Order PDEs: Canonical forms, classification, and solution techniques.
- Special Methods and Topics: Separation of variables, Fourier series, Fourier transforms, Green's functions, and numerical methods.
- Applications: Physical and engineering problems modeled by PDEs.

The outline's structure allows readers to navigate from fundamental principles to complex problem-solving techniques efficiently.

2. Conciseness and Clarity The hallmark of Schaums outlines is their brevity combined with clarity. Each topic is presented with:

- Clear definitions
- Step-by-step solution procedures
- Worked-out examples
- Practice exercises with solutions or hints

This makes the book especially useful for quick review and reinforcement of concepts. --- In-Depth Content Analysis

1. Fundamentals of Partial Differential Equations

a. Definitions and Basic Concepts

Schaums Outline Of Partial Differential Equations 6

- Partial Differential Equation: An equation involving functions of several variables and their partial derivatives.
- Order of PDE: The highest order derivative present.
- Linear vs. Nonlinear PDEs: A PDE is linear if it can be expressed as a linear combination of the unknown function and its derivatives; nonlinear otherwise.

b. Classification of PDEs

- Order Classification: First-order, second-order, etc.
- Type Classification:

 - Elliptic: e.g., Laplace's equation.

Parabolic: e.g., Heat equation. - Hyperbolic: e.g., Wave equation. The outline emphasizes understanding these classifications' physical interpretations and solution implications. --- 2. First-Order PDEs a. General Form and Solutions - Form: $(a(x,y)u_x + b(x,y)u_y = c(x,y,u))$. b. Method of Characteristics - The primary technique for solving linear and nonlinear first-order PDEs. - Consists of converting PDEs into a system of ODEs along characteristic curves. - The outline provides detailed steps: 1. Identify the characteristic equations. 2. Solve these ODEs. 3. Construct the general solution from solutions along characteristics. c. Examples and Practice Problems - Typical problems include solving linear PDEs with constant coefficients. - Special attention is given to problems with initial conditions, characteristic lines, and the formation of shocks or discontinuities. --- 3. Second-Order PDEs a. Canonical Forms and Classification - Standard forms such as: $[a u_{xx} + 2b u_{xy} + c u_{yy} = 0]$ - Discriminant $(D = b^2 - ac)$: - $(D > 0)$: Hyperbolic. - $(D = 0)$: Parabolic. - $(D < 0)$: Elliptic. b. Solution Techniques Based on Classification - Elliptic Equations: - Techniques: Separation of variables, Green's functions. - Example: Laplace's equation $(\nabla^2 u = 0)$. - Parabolic Equations: - Techniques: Similar to heat conduction problems. - Example: Heat equation $(u_t = k u_{xx})$. - Hyperbolic Equations: - Techniques: Characteristics, d'Alembert's solution. - Example: Wave equation $(u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx})$. c. Canonical Forms and Transformations - The outline discusses how to reduce general second-order PDEs to canonical forms via linear change of variables, facilitating solution strategies. --- 4. Solution Techniques and Methods a. Separation of Variables - Assumes solutions can be written as a product of functions, each depending on a single coordinate. - Procedure: 1. Assume $(u(x,y) = X(x)Y(y))$. 2. Substitute into PDE. 3. Separate variables to get ODEs. 4. Solve these ODEs with boundary conditions. 5. Construct the general solution as a sum (Fourier series expansion). - The outline provides detailed examples for common equations like Laplace, heat, and wave equations. b. Fourier Series and Transforms - Fourier Series: - Used to expand functions satisfying boundary conditions. - Essential for solving PDEs with boundary value problems. - Fourier

Transforms: - Extends the Fourier series method to unbounded domains. - Transforms the PDE into an algebraic equation in the frequency domain. c. Green's Functions - Used to solve inhomogeneous PDEs with boundary conditions. - The outline explains how to construct Green's functions for common PDEs and boundary conditions. d. Numerical Methods (Brief Overview) - Finite difference, finite element, and other approximation methods are briefly discussed. - Emphasizes their importance for PDEs that lack closed-form solutions. --- 5. Applications and Real-World Problems The outline underscores the importance of PDEs in modeling real-world phenomena: - Heat conduction and diffusion processes. - Wave propagation in strings, membranes, and sound waves. - Electromagnetic fields. - Quantum mechanics via Schrödinger's equation. - Fluid flow and aerodynamics. Each application section includes representative problems and solution strategies, linking mathematical techniques to physical interpretations. --- Pedagogical Strengths and Practical Usefulness 1. Step-by-Step Problem Solving The Schaums outline excels at demonstrating problem-solving techniques in a stepwise manner, often including: - Clear problem statements. - Systematic solution procedures. - Worked solutions with detailed explanations. - Tips for avoiding common pitfalls. 2. Concise yet Comprehensive While covering a broad spectrum of topics, the book manages to stay concise, making it ideal for quick review before exams or as a supplementary guide. 3. Practice Exercises An extensive collection of practice problems, often with provided solutions or hints, allows students to test their understanding and build confidence. 4. Supplementary Material The outline includes: - Summary tables. - Key formulas. - Diagrams illustrating characteristic curves and solution domains. - Summary of boundary conditions and their implications. --- Limitations and Considerations - The Schaums Outline is primarily a review and problem-solving guide; it does not replace comprehensive textbooks that delve into rigorous proofs, derivations, or more advanced topics. - For those seeking in-depth theoretical understanding or research-level material, additional resources will be necessary. - The outline assumes a basic familiarity with

differential equations and mathematical methods. --- Conclusion: Is the Schaums Outline of Partial Differential Equations Worth Using? Yes, especially for: - Students needing a quick review or refresher. - Those preparing for exams who want clear, step-by-step solution techniques. - Practitioners solving applied problems requiring practical methods. - Anyone seeking a structured, concise overview of the essential topics in PDEs. Its structured approach, emphasis on worked examples, and problem-solving focus make it a practical complement to more detailed textbooks or lecture notes. While it isn't a substitute for in-depth study, it is an excellent tool for consolidating understanding and sharpening problem-solving skills in the field of partial differential equations. --- In summary, the Schaums Outline of Partial Differential Equations stands out as a highly effective, student- friendly resource that distills complex topics into manageable, comprehensible segments. Its emphasis on practical techniques and clarity ensures it remains a valuable asset for mastering PDEs in academic and applied contexts. partial differential equations, Schaums outline, PDE solutions, differential equations textbook, mathematical methods, PDE techniques, boundary value problems, PDE examples, introductory PDE, advanced calculus

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substantially revised this authoritative study covers the standard finite difference methods of parabolic hyperbolic and elliptic equations and includes the concomitant theoretical work on consistency stability and convergence the new edition includes revised and greatly expanded sections on stability based on the lax richtmeyer definition the application of pade approximants to systems of ordinary differential equations for parabolic and hyperbolic equations and a considerably improved presentation of iterative methods a fast paced introduction to numerical methods this will be a useful volume for students of

mathematics and engineering and for postgraduates and professionals who need a clear concise grounding in this discipline

this book is about the theory and applications of partial differential equations of first order pde. many interesting topics in physics such as constant motion of dynamical systems renormalization theory lagrange transformation ray trajectories and hamilton jacobi theory are or can be formulated in terms of partial differential equations of first order in this book the author illustrates the utility of the powerful method of pde in physics and also shows how pde are useful for solving practical problems in different branches of science the book focuses mainly on the applications of pde and the mathematical formalism is treated carefully but without diverging from the main objective of the book

this text explores the essentials of partial differential equations as applied to engineering and the physical sciences discusses ordinary differential equations integral curves and surfaces of vector fields the cauchy kovalevsky theory more problems and answers

this book provides a basic introductory course in partial differential equations in which theory and applications are interrelated and developed side by side emphasis is on proofs which are not only mathematically rigorous but also constructive where the structure and properties of the solution are investigated in detail the authors feel that it is no longer necessary to follow the tradition of introducing the subject by deriving various partial differential equations of continuum mechanics and theoretical physics therefore the subject has been introduced by mathematical analysis of the simplest yet one of the most useful from the point of view of applications class of partial differential equations namely the equations of first order for which existence uniqueness and stability of the solution of the relevant problem cauchy problem is easy to discuss throughout the book attempt has been made to introduce the important ideas from relatively simple cases some times by referring to physical processes and then extending them to more general systems

uniquely provides fully solved problems for linear partial differential equations and boundary value problems partial differential equations theory and completely solved problems utilizes real world physical models alongside essential theoretical concepts with extensive examples the book guides readers through the use of partial differential equations pdes for successfully solving and modeling phenomena in engineering biology and the applied sciences the book focuses exclusively on linear pdes and how they can be solved using the separation of variables technique the authors begin by describing functions and their partial derivatives while also defining the concepts of elliptic parabolic and hyperbolic pdes following an introduction to basic theory subsequent chapters explore key topics including classification of second order linear pdes derivation of heat wave and laplace s equations fourier series separation of variables sturm liouville theory fourier transforms each chapter concludes with summaries that outline key concepts readers are provided the opportunity to test their comprehension of the presented material through numerous problems ranked by their level of complexity and a related website features supplemental data and resources extensively class tested to ensure an accessible presentation partial differential equations is an excellent book for engineering mathematics and applied science courses on the topic at the upper undergraduate and graduate levels

this book is a product of the experience of the authors in teaching partial differential equations to students of mathematics physics and engineering over a period of 20 years our goal in writing it has been to introduce the subject with precise and rigorous analysis on the one hand and interesting and significant applications on the other the starting level of the book is at the first year graduate level in a u s university previous experience with partial differential equations is not required but the use of classical analysis to find solutions of specific problems is not emphasized from that perspective our treatment is decidedly theoretical we have avoided abstraction and full generality in many situations however our plan has been to introduce fundamental ideas in relatively simple situations

and to show their impact on relevant applications the student is then we feel well prepared to fight through more specialized treatises there are parts of the exposition that require lebesgue integration distributions and fourier transforms and sobolev spaces we have included a long appendix chapter 8 giving precise statements of all results used this may be thought of as an introduction to these topics the reader who is not familiar with these subjects may refer to parts of chapter 8 as needed or become somewhat familiar with them as prerequisite and treat chapter 8 as chapter 0

an accessible yet rigorous introduction to partial differential equations this textbook provides beginning graduate students and advanced undergraduates with an accessible introduction to the rich subject of partial differential equations pdes it presents a rigorous and clear explanation of the more elementary theoretical aspects of pdes while also drawing connections to deeper analysis and applications the book serves as a needed bridge between basic undergraduate texts and more advanced books that require a significant background in functional analysis topics include first order equations and the method of characteristics second order linear equations wave and heat equations laplace and poisson equations and separation of variables the book also covers fundamental solutions green s functions and distributions beginning functional analysis applied to elliptic pdes traveling wave solutions of selected parabolic pdes and scalar conservation laws and systems of hyperbolic pdes provides an accessible yet rigorous introduction to partial differential equations draws connections to advanced topics in analysis covers applications to continuum mechanics an electronic solutions manual is available only to professors an online illustration package is available to professors

this volume is an introductory level textbook for partial differential equations pde s and suitable for a one semester undergraduate level or two semester graduate level course in pde s or applied mathematics chapters one to five are organized according to the equations and the basic pde s are introduced in an easy to understand manner they

include the first order equations and the three fundamental second order equations i e the heat wave and laplace equations through these equations we learn the types of problems how we pose the problems and the methods of solutions such as the separation of variables and the method of characteristics the modeling aspects are explained as well the methods introduced in earlier chapters are developed further in chapters six to twelve they include the fourier series the fourier and the laplace transforms and the green s functions the equations in higher dimensions are also discussed in detail this volume is application oriented and rich in examples going through these examples the reader is able to easily grasp the basics of pde s

this concise book covers the classical tools of partial differential equations theory in today s science and engineering the rigorous theoretical presentation includes many hints and the book contains many illustrative applications from physics

this book offers engineering students an introduction to the theory of partial differential equations and then guiding them through the modern problems in this subject divided into two parts in the first part readers already well acquainted with problems from the theory of differential and integral equations gain insights into the classical notions and problems including differential operators characteristic surfaces levi functions green s function and green s formulas readers are also instructed in the extended potential theory in its three forms the volume potential the surface single layer potential and the surface double layer potential furthermore the book presents the main initial boundary value problems associated with elliptic parabolic and hyperbolic equations the second part of the book which is addressed first and foremost to those who are already acquainted with the notions and the results from the first part introduces readers to modern aspects of the theory of partial differential equations

a systematic examination of classical and non classical problems for linear partial

differential equations and systems of elliptic hyperbolic and mixed types among a number of difficult problems addressed are the dirichlet and oblique derivative problems for non uniformly elliptic equations and non strongly elliptic systems and the cauchy and darloux problems for non strongly hyperbolic systems and hyperbolic equations with parabolic degeneracy on the boundary written at a level suitable for undergraduate and graduate students and researchers individual price 89 annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

por he who knows not mathematics cannot know any other sciences what is more he cannot discover his own ignorance or find its proper remedies opus majus roger bacon 1214 1294 the material presented in these monographs is the outcome of the author s long standing interest in the analytical modelling of problems in mechanics by appeal to the theory of partial differential equations the impetus for writing these volumes was the opportunity to teach the subject matter to both undergraduate and graduate students in engineering at several universi ties the approach is distinctly different to that wh ich would adopted should such a course be given to students in pure mathematics in this sense the teaching of partial differential equations within an engineering curriculum should be viewed in the broader perspective of the modelling 0 problems in engineering an engineering student should be given the opportunity to appreciate how the various combination of balance laws conservation equations kinematic constraints constitutive responses thermodynamic re strictions etc culminates in the development of a partial differential equation or sets of partial differential equations with potential for applications to engineering problems this ability to distill all the diverse information about a physical or mechanical process into partial differential equations is a particular attraction of the subject area

this text features numerous worked examples in its presentation of elements from the theory of partial differential equations emphasizing forms suitable for solving equations solutions to odd numbered problems appear at the end 1957 edition

fourier series and fourier transforms distributions elliptic equations fundamental theory initial value problems cauchy problems evolution equations hyperbolic equations semi linear hyperbolic equations green s functions and spectra

the classical theory of partial differential equations is rooted in physics where equations are assumed to describe the laws of nature law abiding functions which satisfy such an equation are very rare in the space of all admissible functions regardless of a particular topology in a function space moreover some additional like initial or boundary conditions often insure the uniqueness of solutions the existence of these is usually established with some apriori estimates which locate a possible solution in a given function space we deal in this book with a completely different class of partial differential equations and more general relations which arise in differential geometry rather than in physics our equations are for the most part undetermined or at least behave like those and their solutions are rather dense in spaces of functions we solve and classify solutions of these equations by means of direct and not so direct geometric constructions our exposition is elementary and the proofs of the basic results are selfcontained however there is a number of examples and exercises of variable difficulty where the treatment of a particular equation requires a certain knowledge of pertinent facts in the surrounding field the techniques we employ though quite general do not cover all geometrically interesting equations the border of the unexplored territory is marked by a number of open questions throughout the book

theory of partial differential equations

this textbook in partial differential equations has been adopted as course material by the moscow state university the theoretical foundations of pde are explained rigorously and clearly in such a way that their importance on applications is also taken into account the presentation of materials has been arranged to be conducive to promoting students interest in mathematical experiments

partial differential equations are the chief means of providing mathematical models in science engineering and other fields generally these models must be solved numerically this book provides a concise introduction to standard numerical techniques ones chosen on the basis of their general utility for practical problems the authors emphasise finite difference methods for simple examples of parabolic hyperbolic and elliptic equations finite element finite volume and spectral methods are discussed briefly to see how they relate to the main theme stability is treated clearly and rigorously using maximum principles energy methods and discrete fourier analysis methods are described in detail for simple problems accompanied by typical graphical results a key feature is the thorough analysis of the properties of these methods plenty of examples and exercises of varying difficulty are supplied the book is based on the extensive teaching experience of the authors who are also well known for their work on practical and theoretical aspects of numerical analysis it will be an excellent choice for students and teachers in mathematics engineering and computer science departments seeking a concise introduction to the subject

our understanding of the fundamental processes of the natural world is based to a large extent on partial differential equations pdes the second edition of partial differential equations provides an introduction to the basic properties of pdes and the ideas and techniques that have proven useful in analyzing them it provides the student a broad perspective on the subject illustrates the incredibly rich variety of phenomena encompassed by it and imparts a working knowledge of the most important techniques of analysis of the solutions of the equations in this book mathematical jargon is minimized our focus is on the three most classical pdes the wave heat and laplace equations advanced concepts are introduced frequently but with the least possible technicalities the book is flexibly designed for juniors seniors or beginning graduate students in science engineering or mathematics

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Introduction

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