GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2015-2016

Mathematics in Photonics (E900470)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 4.0	Study time 120 h	Contact hrs	30.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2017-2018

A (semester 1)	English	lecture	15.0 h
		seminar: coached exercises	15.0 h
B (semester 1)	Dutch	seminar: coached exercises	15.0 h
		guided self-study	15.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2017-2018

Virte, Martin	VUB	lecturer-in-charge
Bienstman, Peter	VUB	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2017-2018	crdts	offering
European Master of Science in Photonics	4	A
Master of Science in Photonics Engineering	4	B

Teaching languages

Dutch, English

Keywords

applied mathematics, photonics

Position of the course

Exposing the student to various mathematical concepts often used in photonics. The aim is to make the student acquainted with the basic principles and references, in order to allow him to independently further research these concepts.

Contents

- 1: Complex analysis: wave problems as problems from complex analysis, complex functions, analytic functions, derivatives, line integrals, poles, zeros, branch cuts, residue calculus, limit theorems, Cauchy principal value, Kramers-Kronig dispersion relation, conformal transformations, bend losses in optical waveguides
- 2: Special functions: modes of an optical fibre, Bessel and Neuman functions, generating functions, recursion relations, integrals, orthogonality, series expansion, higher order solutions of the paraxial wave euqation, Hermite polynomials, generating function, recurrence relation, differential equation, orthogonality, series expansion
- 3: Numerical techniques: finite elements, finite differences, variational methods, eigenmode expansion, method of weighted residuals
- 4: Periodicity and symmetry in photonic systems: using symmetries to classify modes, Bloch theorem, band diagrams, photonic crystals
- 5: Dynamical systems: origins of non-linearity in optical systems, stability, fixed points, the logistic map, sadlle points, bifurcations, chaos, period doubling, Lyaponuc exponent, stable and unstable manifold, phase portrait

Initial competences

mathematics from the bachelor program

Final competences

1 Being able to apply complex analysis to photonic problems
2 Being able to apply special functions and orthogonal polynomials to photonic problems
3 Getting a basic insight in the effects of symmetry on photonic systems

4 Getting a basic insight into numerical techniques for photonics
5 Being able to study the dynamics of a photonic system
6 Being able to study a new mathematical topic in an independent and critical manner and apply it in a creative way.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Guided self-study, lecture, seminar: coached exercises

Learning materials and price

full lecture notes

References

Course content-related study coaching

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Open book examination, oral examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Open book examination, oral examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

During examination period: written open-book exam - problems; oral open-book exam, written preparation

Calculation of the examination mark