

Syllabus

Course name: Differential geometry and topology in physics

Instructor: Satoshi Nawata, Science Building 624, snawata@fudan.edu.cn

Hours: 9:55-11:35 on Friday

Place: HGX 403

Office hour: Tuesday/Thursday 15:00-16:00

Prerequisites: Linear algebra, Calculus, Classical mechanics

About the course:

In this course, I will explain basics of differential geometry and topology and their applications to physics. The theory of differential forms is indispensable for Maxwell's electro-magnetic theory. Einstein's general relativity has been established based on Riemannian geometry. Non-perturbative quantum effects like Aharonov-Bohm effect, Dirac monopoles, Berry phase, quantum Hall effects, instantons, and anomaly have deep connections to vector bundles and characteristic classes. Therefore, this course introduces to basic concepts of differential geometry and topology. In addition, I will explain many aspects of physics from the viewpoint of geometry and topology. The course will be taught in English.

Main content:

- differential manifolds, Riemannian manifold, complex manifolds
- theory of differential forms, harmonic forms
- vector bundles, connections, curvature, characteristic classes
- homology, cohomology, fundamental groups, homotopy groups
- relations to physics such as electromagnetism, general relativity, quantum physics, condensed matter physics

Main textbook: Mikio Nakahara, Geometry, Topology and Physics

Supplementary textbooks:

Theodore Frankel, The Geometry of Physics

Eguchi-Gilkey-Hannson, Gravitation, gauge theory and differential geometry

Shigeyuki Morita, Geometry of differential forms

侯伯元 侯伯宇 | 物理学家用微分几何 | 中国科大出版社

Grading: Grade will be determined based on exercises and final exam.