

Syllabus for Oral Qualifying Exam

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I. Partial Differential Equations

(a) Laplace/Poisson Equation

- (1) Fundamental Solution
- (2) Mean Value Formulas and Converse to Mean-Value Property
- (3) Properties of Harmonic Functions: Maximum principle, Smoothness, Local estimates, Liouville's theorem, Analyticity, Harnack's inequality, Removable Singularity, Schwarz Reflection Principle
- (4) Green's functions for a Ball and for a Half-Space
- (5) The Classical Dirichlet Problem by Perron's method
- (6) The Energy Estimates

(b) Heat Equation

- (1) Fundamental Solutions
- (2) Maximum Principle on Bounded $\overline{U}_T$ and $\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, T]$, the Uniqueness by Maximum Principle
- (3) Uniqueness and Backward Uniqueness by Energy Method

(c) Wave Equation

- (1) Solutions by Spherical Means for Dimension $n = 1, 2$ and 3 : d'Alembert's Formula for $n = 1$, Kirchhoff's Formula for $n = 3$, and Poisson's Formula for $n = 2$.
- (2) Uniqueness and Domain of Dependence by Energy Methods

(d) Sobolev Space

- (1) Definition of Sobolev Space
- (2) Approximation by Smooth Functions
- (3) Extensions and Traces
- (4) Sobolev Inequalities: Gagliardo-Nirenberg-Sobolev inequality, Morrey's Inequality
- (5) Compact Embedding Theorem: Rellich-Kondrachov Theorem
- (6) Poincaré's Inequality, Difference Quotients
- (7) The Space H^{-1}
- (8) Fourier Transform Method for $H^k(\mathbb{R}^n)$

(e) Second Order Elliptic Equations

- (1) Definition of Weak Solutions
- (2) Existence by Lax-Milgram Theorem and Energy Estimates by Fredholm Alternative
- (3) Interior Regularity and Boundary Regularity
- (4) Weak and Strong Maximum Principles
- (5) Harnack's Inequality

2. Functional Analysis

(a) Banach Spaces

- (1) Metric Spaces, Normed Linear Vector Spaces, Banach Spaces and Hahn-Banach Theorem
- (2) The Baire Category Theorem, the Uniform Boundedness Principle, the Open Mapping Principle and the Closed Graph Theorem, Banach-Alaoglu Theorem
- (3) Duality, Reflexivity, Weak Topology and Weak* Topology

(b) Hilbert Spaces

- (1) Definition of Hilbert Space and the Dual Space of Hilbert Space
- (2) Projection Lemma, Riesz Representation Theorem and Lax-Milgram Theorem
- (3) Orthogonal Sets, Basis, the Bessel's Inequality and the Parseval's Theorem

(c) Compact Operators

- (1) Definition, Elementary Properties and Adjoint
- (2) The Riesz-Fredholm Theory
- (3) The Spectrum of a Compact Operator

References

- [1] Lawrence C. Evans, *Partial Differential Equations*, AMS, 2010.
- [2] Haim Brezis, *Functional Analysis, Sobolev Spaces and Partial Differential Equations*, Springer, 2010.