Module Descriptor

Title	Numerical Solution of Differential Equations		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Published
Code	MATH09011	**SCQF Level**	9
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	Dr Ryan Meeten		

Summary of Module

This module builds on the concept of an ordinary differential equation. It focuses on methods for approximating the solution of a differential equation using computer software.

The ethos of the approach taken is underpinned by the fact that most ordinary differential equations cannot be solved analytically in terms of standard functions, thereby leading to the need and study of numerical methods of solution.

The basic idea of numerical solution of first order equations is introduced using Euler's method, and extended to cover a range of other methods, including Modified and Improved Euler's methods, linear multistep methods and Runge-Kutta methods.

Finite difference methods for initial and boundary value problems will be discussed. The shooting method for boundary value problems will also be introduced.

Issues of consistency and convergence are investigated across the range of numerical methods discussed above. A treatment of error analysis in such problems will be given.

The implementation of these solution methods will be accomplished by suitable mathematical software.

The Graduate Attributes relevant to this module are given below:

- Academic: Critical thinker; Analytical; Inquiring; Knowledgeable; Problem-solver; Digitally literate; Autonomous.
- Personal: Motivated; Resilient
- Professional: Ambitious; Driven.

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus[1] ☒	Hybrid[2] ☐	Online[3] ☐	Work -Based Learning[4] ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☒	Term 2	☐	Term 3	☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Implement numerical solution methods for ordinary differential equations.
L2	Perform error analysis, stability, consistency and convergence of numerical methods.
L3	Apply finite difference methods to solve initial and boundary value problems.
L4	
L5	

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 9** Demonstrating a detailed knowledge and understanding of important techniques necessary in the analysis of numerical methods for solving ordinary differential equations. Demonstrating critical awareness of established techniques in solving ordinary differential equations numerically.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**Please select SCQF Level** Using a range of standard techniques to solve problems at an advanced level, sometimes in non-routine contexts. Carrying out defined investigative problems within a mathematically based subject.

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

Generic Cognitive skills	**Please select SCQF Level** Conceptualising and analysing problems informed by professional and research issues.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**Please select SCQF Level** Implementing and interpreting suitable mathematical software. Making formal written presentation(s) based on the output from an investigative problem.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**Please select SCQF Level** Exercising independence and initiative in carrying out a range of activities. Identifying learning needs through reflection based on self, tutor and peer evaluation of work.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	MATH08002	Differential Equations 1
	MATH08008	Multivariable Calculus
	Other PHYS08006 Mathematics for Physics 1	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.	
Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	36
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	12
Independent Study	152
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: K. Atkinson, W. Han, and D. E. Stewart, Numerical solution of ordinary differ- ential equations, John Wiley & Sons, 2011.

B. Bradie, A friendly introduction to numerical analysis, Pearson Education India, 2006.

T. A. Driscoll and R. J. Braun, Fundamentals of Numerical Computation, vol. 154, Siam, 2017.
Suitable mathematical software such as MATLAB or Python

(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:

The School of Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences considers attendance and engagement to mean a commitment to attending, and engaging in, timetabled sessions. You will scan your attendance via the scanners each time you are on-campus and you will login to the VLE several times per week. Where you are unable to attend a timetabled learning session due to illness or other circumstance, you should notify the Programme Leader that you cannot attend. Across the School an 80% attendance threshold is set. If you fall below this, you will be referred to the Student Success Team to see how we can best support your studies.

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.

Aligned with the University's commitment to equality and diversity, this module supports equality of opportunity for students from all backgrounds and learning needs. Using the VLE, material will be presented electronically in formats that allow flexible access and manipulation of content. This module complies with University regulations and guidance on inclusive learning and teaching practice. This module has lab-based teaching and as such you are advised to speak to the Module Co-ordinator to ensure that specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice can be put in place, in accordance with the University's policies and regulations.

(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Engineering Physical Sciences**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☒ **Yes** ☐ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	Physical Sciences
Moderator	A Walker
External Examiner	TBC

Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
A portfolio of written and computer work (40%)
Assessment 2
Class test: formal unseen assessment (60%)
Assessment 3
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Portfolio of written and computer work	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	40	

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Class test	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	60	2

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	2 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
Module summary	28/3/25	W R Mekwi
MC and MM Updated	March 2026	R Meeten
Module summary slight update	March 2026	R Meeten

Term Change	March 2026	R Meeten
Removed unnecessary corequisite	March 2026	R Meeten