

Differential Geometry (C004420)

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

Credits 6.0

Study time 165 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

seminar
lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Van Bockstal, Karel

WE16

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Bachelor of Science in Mathematics](#)

crdts

6

offering

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Classical differential geometry, curves and surfaces, differentiable manifolds

Position of the course

In the first two chapters we treat the classical differential geometry of curves and surfaces in $\mathbb{R}^3$. In the third chapter we give an introduction to modern differential geometry, and to the theory of differentiable manifolds.

Contents

1. Curves

Curves in 3-dimensional Euclidean space. Arclength, curvature and torsion, the canonical representation of a curve. The fundamental theorem.

2. Surfaces

Surfaces in 3-dimensional Euclidean space. Tangent plane. The first fundamental form. Isometries. Normal and geodesic curvature. Weingarten map, Gaussian curvature, mean curvature, principal curvatures. Christoffel symbols, geodesic lines, Riemann curvature tensor. Theorema Egregium.

3. Differentiable manifolds

Generalities about differentiable manifolds. Examples: matrix groups and surfaces in $\mathbb{R}^3$. Tangent spaces of a manifold.

Initial competences

Final competences of the courses Analysis I, Analysis II and Linear Algebra and Geometry I. Some preknowledge of classical mechanics is advisable.

Final competences

- 1 To have insight in all structures and concepts that were introduced in this course.
- 2 To recognize these structures in other branches of mathematics and mathematical physics.

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

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Theory: ex cathedra. Guided exercise classes.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Differentiaalmeetkunde

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Number of Pages : 148

Oldest Usable Edition : 2022-2023

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Additional information: Course notes written by Tom Mestdag. A pdf version is made available on Ufora which the students can download and print.

Type: Slides

Name: Differentiaalmeetkunde

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

References

Lecture notes and slides will be provided.

Other reference works are

M.P. Do Carmo, Differential Geometry of Curves and Surfaces, Prentice Hall (1976)

T.J. Willmore: Riemannian Geometry, Clarendon Press (Oxford) (1993).

S. Sternberg, Curvature in Mathematics and Physics, Dover Publications (2012)

A. Pressley, Elementary Differential Geometry (2010)

Course content-related study coaching

Consultations with the teachers are always possible.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Theory: written exam. Exercises: open book exam.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% periodic evaluation. 10 points for theory, 10 points for exercises.