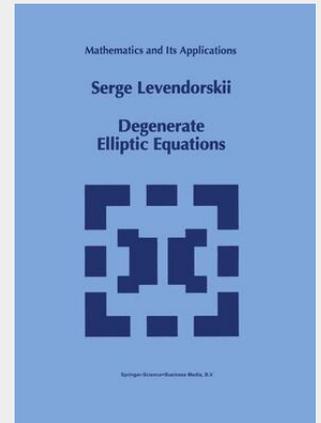


Degenerate Elliptic Equations

0.1 The partial differential equation $(Au)(x) = L a a(x)(Dau)(x) = f(x)$ is called elliptic on a set G , provided that the principal symbol $a_{2m}(X, \xi) = L a a(x) \in \mathbb{R}$ is invertible on $G \times (\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\})$; A is called elliptic on G , too. This definition works for systems of equations, for classical pseudo differential operators ("pdo"), and for operators on a manifold n . Let us recall some facts concerning elliptic operators. 1 If n is closed, then for any $s \in \mathbb{R}$, is Fredholm and the following a priori estimate holds (2) 1 2 Introduction If $m > 0$ and $A: C^\infty(\bar{G}; C^s) \rightarrow L^2(\bar{G}; C^s)$ is formally self-adjoint with respect to a smooth positive density, then the closure A_0 of A is a self-adjoint operator with discrete spectrum and for the distribution functions of the positive and negative eigenvalues (counted with multiplicity) of A_0 one has the following Weyl formula: as $t \rightarrow +\infty$, (3) $n/2m = t / \int_G N_{\pm}(t, a_{2m}(x, \xi)) dx$ (on the right hand side, $N_{\pm}(t, a_{2m}(x, \xi))$ are the distribution functions of the matrix $a_{2m}(X, \xi): C^s \rightarrow C^s$).

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