

Legendre Equation and Legendre Polynomials

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- (1) $(1-x^2)y'' - 2xy' + n(n+1)y = 0$, where n is a real constant.
(In most application n is a positive Integer or whole number)
Equation (1) is called Legendre differential Equation.

Let $n=0$ in (1)

$$(1-x^2)y'' - 2xy' = 0 \rightarrow \text{We can observe that } y = \text{constant} \\ \hookrightarrow (2) \text{ is sol}^n \text{ of (2)}$$

So we can choose $y(x) = 1$.

Let $n=1$ in (1)

$$(1-x^2)y'' - 2xy' + 2y = 0 \hookrightarrow \text{We note that } y=x \text{ is sol}^n \text{ of (3)} \\ \text{---(3)} \quad \text{So we can choose } y(x) = x.$$

Let $n=2$ in (1)

$$(1-x^2)y'' - 2xy' + 6y = 0 \rightarrow \text{We note that } y=x^2 \text{ is one of} \\ \text{---(4)} \quad \text{the sol}^n \text{ of (4). So we select } y(x) = x^2. \\ \text{And so on.}$$

\Rightarrow The solⁿ of (1) corresponding to different values of n are polynomials.

\rightarrow To Find the solⁿ of (1) about $x=0$.

Let the solⁿ of (1) about $x=0$ is of the form

$$y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n x^{n-n}$$

$$y'(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n-n) C_n x^{n-n-1}$$

$$y''(x) = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n-n)(n-n+1) C_n x^{n-n-2}$$

Substitute $y(x)$, $y'(x)$ and $y''(x)$ in (1), we find the solution.

of the form $y(x) = C_1 y_1 + C_2 y_2$.

$$\text{where } y_1 = a_0 \left(x^n - \frac{n(n-1)}{2(2n-1)} x^{n-2} + \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3)}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot (2n-1)(2n-3)} x^{n-4} + \dots \right)$$

↳ Called Legendre polynomial of first kind, and denoted by $P_n(x)$.

$$y_2 = b \left(x^{-n-1} + \frac{n(n+1)}{2(2n+3)} x^{-n-3} + \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot (2n+3)(2n+5)} x^{-n-5} + \dots \right)$$

↳ Called Legendre solution of second kind, and denoted by $Q_n(x)$.

The value of a in y_1 is

$$a = \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \dots (2n-1)}{2^n n}$$

The general term of $P_n(x)$ will be

$$\frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \dots (2n-1)}{2^n} \left[\frac{(-1)^k n(n-1)(n-2) \dots (n-2k+1)}{(2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \dots 2k) (2n-1)(2n-3) \dots (2n-2k+1)} x^{n-2k} \right]$$

$$= \frac{(-1)^k (2n-2k)! x^{n-2k}}{2^n k! (n-k)! (n-2k)!}$$

$$\Rightarrow P_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \frac{(-1)^k (2n-2k)! x^{n-2k}}{2^n k! (n-k)! (n-2k)!} \rightarrow \text{Legendre Polynomial.}$$

$$n=0; P_0(x) = 1$$

$$n=1; P_1(x) = \frac{2! x^1}{2^1 0! 1! 1!} = x$$

$$n=2; P_2(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor 2/2 \rfloor} \frac{(-1)^k (4-2k)! x^{2-2k}}{2^2 k! (2-k)! (2-2k)!}$$

$$= \frac{4! x^2}{4 \cdot 2! \cdot 2!} + \frac{(-1) 2! x^0}{2^2 1! 1! 0!}$$

$$= \frac{3x^2}{2} - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} (3x^2 - 1)$$

$$P_3(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\lfloor \frac{3}{2} \rfloor} \frac{(-1)^n (2n-2n)! x^{n-2n}}{2^n n! (n-n)! (n-2n)!}$$

$$P_3(x) = \frac{1}{2} (5x^3 - 3x)$$

Similarly $P_4(x) = \frac{1}{8} (35x^4 - 30x^2 + 3)$

Ques Express $P(x) = 3P_3(x) + 2P_2(x) + 4P_1(x) + 5P_0(x)$ as a polynomial in x , where $P_n(x)$ is Legendre polynomial of order n .

Soln $P_0(x) = 1$; $P_1(x) = x$; $P_2(x) = \frac{1}{2}(3x^2 - 1)$; $P_3(x) = \frac{1}{2}(5x^3 - 3x)$

$$P(x) = 3 \left[\frac{1}{2}(5x^3 - 3x) \right] + 2 \left[\frac{1}{2}(3x^2 - 1) \right] + 4(x) + 5(1)$$

$$= \frac{15x^3}{2} - \frac{9x}{2} + 3x^2 - 1 + 4x + 5$$

$$= \frac{15x^3}{2} + 3x^2 - \frac{1}{2}x + 4$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} [15x^3 + 6x^2 - x + 8]$$

Ques Express $f(x) = x^4 + 2x^3 - 6x^2 + 5x - 3$ in terms of Legendre polynomials.

Soln $1 = P_0(x)$; $x = P_1(x)$
 $P_2(x) = \frac{1}{2}(3x^2 - 1)$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2P_2(x) + 1}{3} = x^2 \Rightarrow x^2 = \frac{1}{3} (2P_2 + P_0(x))$$

$$P_3(x) = \frac{1}{2}(5x^3 - 3x)$$

$$\Rightarrow 2P_3 = 5x^3 - 3P_1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2P_3 + 3P_1}{5} = x^3$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{x^3 = \frac{1}{5}(2P_3 + 3P_1)}$$

$$P_4(x) = \frac{1}{8}(35x^4 - 30x^2 + 3)$$

$$\Rightarrow 8P_4(x) = 35x^4 - 30\left(\frac{1}{3}(2P_2 + P_0)\right) + 3P_0$$

$$\Rightarrow 8P_4 = 35x^4 - 10(2P_2 + P_0) + 3P_0$$

$$\Rightarrow 8P_4 + 20P_2 + 7P_0 = 35x^4$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{x^4 = \frac{1}{35}(8P_4 + 20P_2 + 7P_0)}$$

$$f(x) = x^4 + 2x^3 - 6x^2 + 5x - 3$$

$$= \frac{1}{35}(8P_4 + 20P_2 + 7P_0) + 2\left(\frac{1}{5}(2P_3 + 3P_1)\right) - 6\left(\frac{1}{3}(2P_2 + P_0)\right)$$

$$+ 5P_1 - 3P_0$$

$$= \frac{8}{35}P_4 + \frac{20}{35}P_2 + \frac{7}{35}P_0 + \frac{4}{5}P_3 + \frac{6}{5}P_1 - 4P_2 - 2P_0 + 5P_1 - 3P_0$$

$$= \frac{1}{35}(8P_4 + 28P_3 - 12P_2 + 21P_1 - 16P_0)$$

Que
Sol

Express $x^3 + x + 1$ in Legendre polynomials.

$$1 = P_0; \quad x = P_1; \quad x^2 = \frac{1}{3}(2P_2 + P_0)$$

$$P_3(x) = \frac{1}{2}(5x^3 - 3x)$$

$$\Rightarrow 2P_3 = 5x^3 - 3P_1 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{5}(2P_3 + 3P_1) = x^3$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 x^3 + x + 1 &= \frac{1}{5} (2P_3 + 3P_1) + P_1 + P_0 \\
 &= \frac{2}{5}P_3 + \frac{3}{5}P_1 + P_1 + P_0 \\
 &= \frac{2}{5}P_3 + \frac{8}{5}P_1 + P_0 \\
 &= \frac{1}{5} (2P_3 + 8P_1 + 5P_0)
 \end{aligned}$$

H.W

Que (1) $3x^2 + 5x - 6$
 (2) $4x^3 + 3x^2 + 2x - 6$
 (3) $5x^4 + 3x^3 - 6x^2 - 2x + 3$ } \rightarrow Express in Legendre polynomials.

Que (1) $6P_3(x) - 2P_1(x) + P_0(x)$
 (2) $4P_3(x) + 6P_2(x) - 3P_1(x) - 2P_0(x)$
 (3) $8P_4(x) + 2P_2(x) + P_0(x)$
 (4) $5P_4(x) + 10P_3(x) + 2P_2(x) + P_1(x)$ } \rightarrow Express in terms of polynomials of x .

Que $\rightarrow (1-x^2)y'' - 2xy' + 6y = 0 \rightarrow (1)$
 If Solⁿ of (1) is $y(x)$ then find
 $\int_{-1}^1 y(x)(x+x^2)dx$

Solⁿ

(1) is Legendre polynomial with $n=2$

So Solⁿ will be $P_2(x) = \frac{1}{2}(3x^2 - 1) = y(x)$

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 (3x^2 - 1)(x + x^2) dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 (3x^3 + 3x^4 - x - x^2) dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 (3x^4 - x^2) dx$$

$$= \frac{2}{2} \int_0^1 (3x^4 - x^2) dx = \frac{3}{5} - \frac{1}{3} = \boxed{\frac{4}{15}}$$

Rodrigue's Formula

$$P_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^n n!} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x^2-1)^n$$

$$P_0(x) = 1$$

$$P_1(x) = \frac{1}{2^1} \frac{d}{dx} (x^2-1)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (2x) = x$$

$$P_2(x) = \frac{1}{2^2 2!} \frac{d^2}{dx^2} (x^2-1)^2 = \frac{1}{8} [2(x^2-1)](2x)'$$

$$= \frac{1}{8} (4x^3 - 4x)'$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (3x^2 - 1)$$

$$P_3(x) = \frac{1}{2^3 3!} \frac{d^3}{dx^3} (x^2-1)^3$$

$$= \frac{1}{8 \cdot 3} \left[\frac{d^2}{dx^2} (3(x^2-1)^2(2x)) \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{8} \left[\frac{d^2}{dx^2} (x^2-1)^2(x) \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{8} \left[\frac{d}{dx} \left[(x^2-1)^2 + x(2(x^2-1)(2x)) \right] \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{8} \left[\frac{d}{dx} \left[(x^2-1)^2 + 4x^2(x^2-1) \right] \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{8} \left[2(x^2-1)(2x) + 16x^3 - 8x \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{8} [4x^3 - 4x + 16x^3 - 8x] = \frac{20x^3 - 12x}{8}$$

$$= \frac{5x^3 - 3x}{2} = \frac{1}{2} (5x^3 - 3x)$$

Recurrence Relations for Legendre Polynomials

$$(n+1)P_{n+1}(x) = (2n+1)xP_n(x) - nP_{n-1}(x)$$

E.g. $P_0(x) = 1, P_1(x) = x$

Find $P_2(x), P_3(x), P_4(x)$.

$$\begin{aligned} n=1; \quad 2P_2(x) &= 3xP_1(x) - P_0(x) \\ &= 3x(x) - 1 = \frac{3x^2-1}{2} \\ \Rightarrow P_2(x) &= \frac{3x^2-1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} n=2; \quad 3P_3(x) &= 5xP_2(x) - 2P_1(x) \\ &= 5x\left(\frac{3x^2-1}{2}\right) - 2x \\ &= \frac{15x^3-5x}{2} - 2x = \frac{15x^3-9x}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow P_3(x) = \frac{1}{2}(5x^3-3x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} n=3; \quad 4P_4(x) &= 7xP_3(x) - 3P_2(x) \\ &= 7x\left(\frac{5x^3-3x}{2}\right) - 3\left(\frac{3x^2-1}{2}\right) \\ &= \frac{35x^4-21x^2}{2} - \left(\frac{9x^2-3}{2}\right) \\ &= \frac{35x^4-30x^2+3}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow P_4(x) = \frac{1}{8}(35x^4-30x^2+3)$$

Que Using the Recurrence Relations

$$(n+1)P_{n+1}(x) = (2n+1)xP_n(x) - nP_{n-1}(x)$$

Evaluate $P_2(1.5)$ and $P_3(2.1)$.

Soln →

$$n=1; \quad 2P_2(x) = 3xP_1(x) - P_0(x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2P_2(1.5) &= 3(1.5)P_1(1.5) - P_0(1.5) = 3(1.5)(1.5) - 1 \\ &= 5.75 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow P_2(1.5) = 2.875$$

Similarly $n=2$

$$3P_3(x) = 5xP_2(x) - 2P_1(x)$$

$$3P_3(2.1) = 5(2.1)P_2(2.1) - 2P_1(2.1)$$

$$P_1(2.1) = 2.1$$

$$P_2(2.1) = \frac{1}{2}(3(2.1)^2 - 1) = 6.115$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{P_3(2.1) = 20.0025}$$

Orthogonality property of Legendre polynomials \rightarrow

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_n(x) P_m(x) dx = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } m \neq n \\ \frac{2}{2n+1} & \text{if } m = n. \end{cases}$$

Que If $\int_{-1}^1 P_n^2(x) dx = \frac{2}{3}$ then n equals

Solⁿ $\int_{-1}^1 P_n^2(x) dx = \frac{2}{2n+1} = \frac{2}{3}$

~~$$2 = 3n + 15 \Rightarrow n = \frac{13}{30}$$~~

$$\Rightarrow 2n+1=3 \Rightarrow \boxed{n=1}$$

Que Let $(1-x^2)y'' - 2xy' + n(n+1)y = 0$; let $y_n(x)$ be its solution

If $\int_{-1}^1 (y_n^2 + y_{n+1}^2) dx = \frac{16}{15}$ then find n .

Solⁿ

We know that $\int_{-1}^1 y_n^2(x) dx = \frac{2}{2n+1}$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{-1}^1 y_{n+1}^2 dx = \frac{2}{2(n+1)+1} = \frac{2}{2n+3}$$

$$\therefore \int_{-1}^1 (y_n^2 + y_{n+1}^2) dx = \frac{2}{2n+1} + \frac{2}{2n+3} = \frac{16}{15}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2n+1 + 2n+3}{(2n+1)(2n+3)} = \frac{8}{15}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{4n+4}{(2n+1)(2n+3)} = \frac{8}{15}$$

$$\Rightarrow (n+1)15 = 2(2n+1)(2n+3)$$

$$\Rightarrow 15n+15 = 8n^2+16n+6$$

$$\Rightarrow 8n^2+n-9=0$$

$$\Rightarrow 8n^2+9n-8n-9=0$$

$$\Rightarrow 8n(n+1)+9(n-1)=0$$

$$\Rightarrow (n-1)(8n+9)=0$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{n=1}$$

$$(1) P_n(1) = 1;$$

$$(2) P_n(-1) = (-1)^n$$

$$(3) P_n(-x) = (-1)^n P_n(x)$$

$$(4) \int_{-1}^1 P_n(x) dx = 0 \quad \forall n \geq 1.$$