

Bessel Functions

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Last lectures:

- Frobenius method
- Special functions
- Bessel functions

$$y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{n+\alpha}$$

$$x^2 y'' + xy' + (x^2 - n^2)y = 0 .$$

This lectures:

- Bessel functions

Reading: Chapter 8 of lecture notes

Recall: Bessel function



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Circular drum (the vibrations of this)

The wave equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} ,$$

Boundary conditions

$$u(a, \theta, t) = 0 ,$$

$$u(r, \theta, t) = u(r, \theta + 2\pi, t) ,$$

$$|u(r, \theta, t)| < \infty .$$



Circular drum, so use cylindrical co-ordinates

Seek product solutions $\varphi(r, \theta, t)$

$$\varphi(r, \theta, t) = R(r)Q(\theta)T(t) .$$

Cylindrical Drum Solution



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R equation $r^2 R'' + rR' + (\mu^2 r^2 - n^2)R = 0$.

Special case of SL

To solve R: e.g. let

$$x = \mu r ,$$

$$y(x) = R(r) = R\left(\frac{x}{\mu}\right) .$$

$$x^2 y'' + xy' + (x^2 - n^2)y = 0 .$$

Bessel's equation of "order" n

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Goal: find $y(x) \rightarrow R \rightarrow \varphi(r, \theta, t) = R(r)Q(\theta)T(t)$.

The Bessel functions J_n and Y_n



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Try series solution about $x=0$

Divide Bessel's eq by $x^2 \rightarrow$ **“standard form”**

$$y'' + \frac{1}{x}y' + \left(1 - \frac{n^2}{x^2}\right)y = 0 .$$

$P(x)$ and $Q(x)$ both have singularities at $x=0$

Compare to...

$$y'' + P(x)y' + Q(x)y = 0 ,$$

$P(x) = 1/x$ and $Q(x) = 1 - n^2/x^2$ both have **singularities** at $x = 0$

The Bessel functions J_n and Y_n



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$$\begin{aligned}xP(x) &= 1, \\x^2Q(x) &= x^2 - n^2\end{aligned}$$

are both well behaved and thus **analytic** at $x = 0$

therefore $x = 0$ is a **regular singular** point of the diff. equ.

So the **Frobenius method** will lead to at least one solution of the form

$$y(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^{k+\alpha}$$

6 Sub into the Bessel equation...

The Bessel functions J_n and Y_n



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$$y(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^{k+\alpha}$$



$$x^2 y'' + x y' + (x^2 - n^2) y = 0$$

Required ingredients



$$n^2 y = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} n^2 a_k x^{k+\alpha},$$

$$x^2 y = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^{k+\alpha+2} = \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} a_{k-2} x^{k+\alpha},$$

$k \rightarrow k-2$, then rename k : $k=0$ and 1 terms go

$$x y' = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k (k + \alpha) x^{k+\alpha},$$

$$x^2 y'' = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k (k + \alpha)(k + \alpha - 1) x^{k+\alpha}.$$

The Bessel functions J_n and Y_n



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Substitute ingredients into the equation....

$$\sum_{k=0}^1 \left[a_k(k+\alpha)(k+\alpha-1) + a_k(k+\alpha) - n^2 a_k \right] x^{k+\alpha} +$$
$$\sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \left[a_k(k+\alpha)(k+\alpha-1) + a_k(k+\alpha) + a_{k-2} - n^2 a_k \right] x^{k+\alpha} = 0.$$

Equating the coefficients $x^{k-\alpha}$ to 0 gives

$k=0$

$$a_0(\alpha^2 - n^2) = 0,$$

$k=1$

$$a_1 \left[(1+\alpha)^2 - n^2 \right] = 0,$$

$k \geq 2$

$$a_k \left[(k+\alpha)^2 - n^2 \right] + a_{k-2} = 0.$$

Gives indicial
equation: $\alpha = \pm n$

The Bessel functions J_n and Y_n



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$$a_0(\alpha^2 - n^2) = 0 ,$$

$$a_1 \left[(1 + \alpha)^2 - n^2 \right] = 0 ,$$

$$a_k \left[(k + \alpha)^2 - n^2 \right] + a_{k-2} = 0 .$$

If $\alpha = \pm n$, this can only be satisfied if $\alpha_1 = 0$

So the **recurrence** coefficient relation is:

$$a_k = \frac{1}{n^2 - (k + \alpha)^2} a_{k-2}$$

Connects coeffs separated by 2: $\alpha_1 = 0$, $\alpha_k = 0$ for all odd k

$\alpha_1 = n$ $\alpha_2 = -n$ differ by an integer

Frobenius only gives 1 solution, take as $|\alpha| = n$

The Bessel functions J_n and Y_n



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In the circular drum, however, the **periodicity requirement** on the angular solution Q means n has to be an integer,

and so the two solutions $\alpha = \pm n$ are **not linearly independent**.

May take one of the solutions to correspond to $\alpha = |n|$, which is called a **Bessel function** of the first kind, $J_n(x)$.

Using the recurrence relation for the coefficients finds that $J_n(x)$

$$J_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{k!(k+n)!} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2k+n}$$

(arbitrary) value of a_0 set to

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{2^n n!}$$

chosen so that for all $n > -1$

$$\int_0^{\infty} J_n(x) dx = 1 .$$

The Bessel functions J_n and Y_n



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The second linearly independent solution to the Bessel Equ:
use reduction of order.

These solutions are **Bessel functions** of the second kind:

$Y_\nu(x)$. (Neumann functions $N(x)$.)

The Bessel functions J_n and Y_n



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General solution

$$y(x) = AJ_n(x) + BY_n(x) .$$

Diverges for $x \rightarrow 0$

If BC require $y(0)$, then $B=0$.

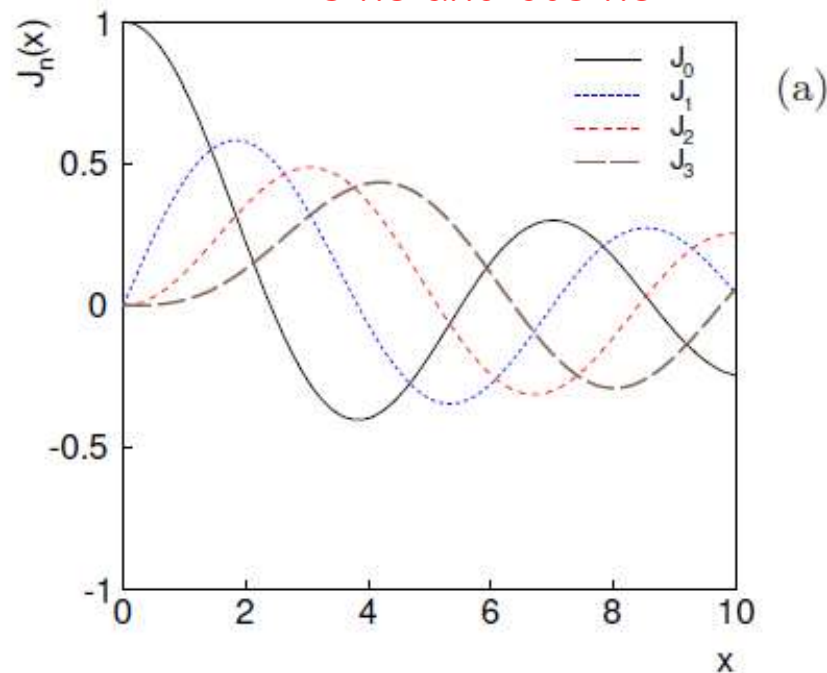
Often the case \rightarrow usually work with J_n not Y_n

The Bessel functions J_n and Y_n



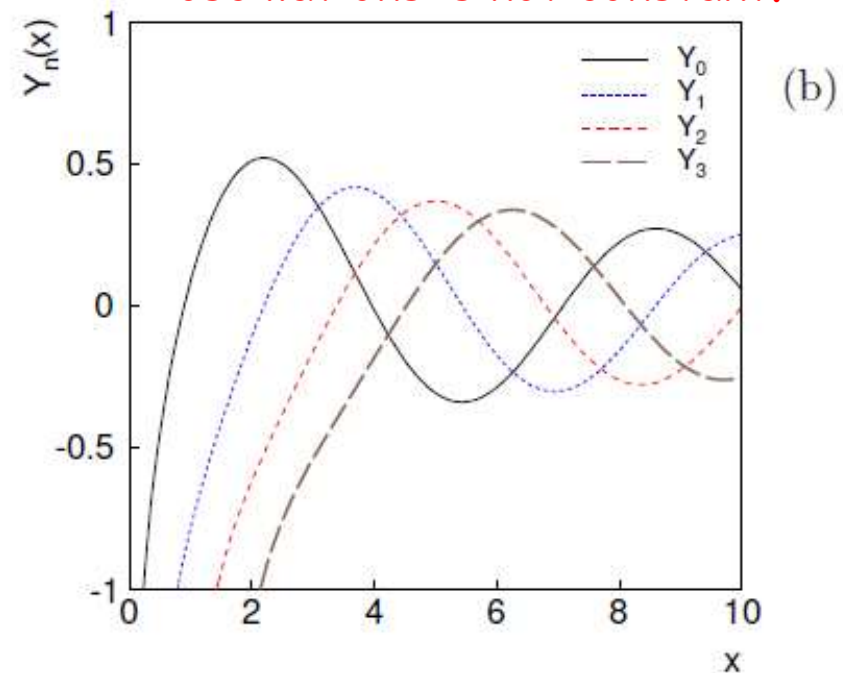
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Oscillations like
sine and cosine



first kind $J_n(x)$

But spacing between
oscillations is not constant.



second kind $Y_n(x)$

for integer order n .

It is not possible to solve explicitly for the values of x where the functions cross zero, but these can be determined numerically.

The Bessel functions J_n and Y_n



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Table 8.1: Values of z_{nm} , the m th zero of J_n , for $n = 0, 1, 2, 3$ (computed with the GSL routine `gsl_sf_bessel_zero_Jnu` [12]).

m	z_{0m}	z_{1m}	z_{2m}	z_{3m}
1	2.40483	3.83171	5.13562	6.38016
2	5.52008	7.01559	8.41724	9.76102
3	8.65373	10.1735	11.6198	13.0152
4	11.7915	13.3237	14.796	16.2235
5	14.9309	16.4706	17.9598	19.4094
6	18.0711	19.6159	21.117	22.5827
7	21.2116	22.7601	24.2701	25.7482
8	24.3525	25.9037	27.4206	28.9084
9	27.4935	29.0468	30.5692	32.0649
10	30.6346	32.1897	33.7165	35.2187

More on Bessel functions



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Bessel functions arise in many contexts and in a number of different forms.

E.g. cylindrical symmetry (like the circular drum).

Can express the **two linearly independent** solutions to **Bessel's equation** by **Hankel functions**

$$H_{\nu}^{(1)}(x) = J_{\nu}(x) + iY_{\nu}(x) ,$$

$$H_{\nu}^{(2)}(x) = J_{\nu}(x) - iY_{\nu}(x) .$$

Modified Bessel equation



$$x^2 y'' + xy' - (x^2 + \nu^2)y = 0 .$$

Modified Bessel functions



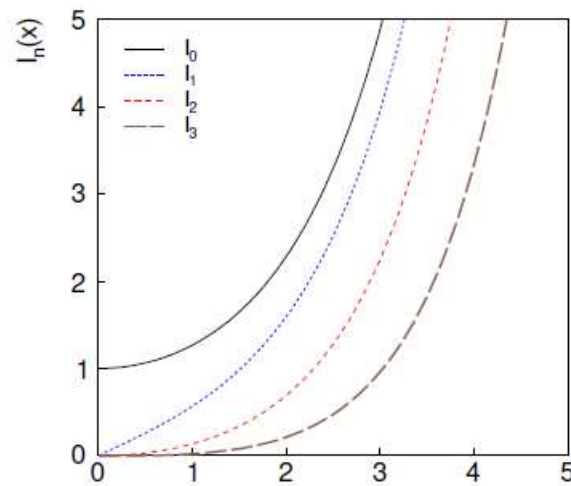
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$$x^2 y'' + xy' - (x^2 + \nu^2)y = 0 .$$

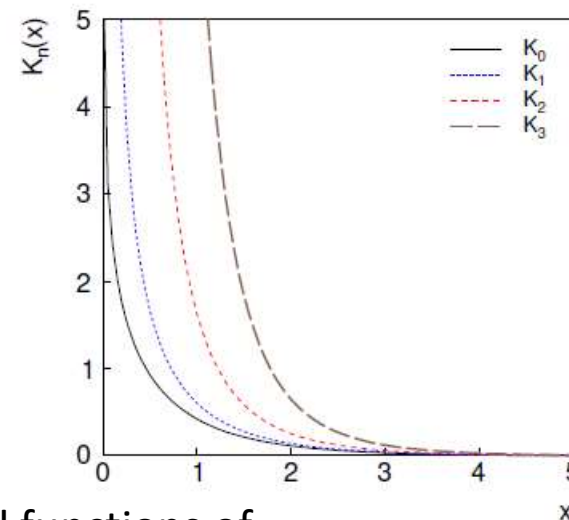
2 linearly independent solutions

are called the **modified Bessel functions**, $I(x)$ and $K(x)$.

These functions are exponentially growing and decaying, in contrast to the oscillating behaviour of $J(x)$ and $Y(x)$.



(a)



(b)

modified Bessel functions of

Bessel's equation



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$$x^2 y'' + xy' + (x^2 - n^2)y = 0 .$$

Bessel's equation of order n ,

“order” is not the same as that of ODE

In vibrating drum: n must be an **integer**

Bessel's equation appears in other contexts with **noninteger** values for this parameter.

Use convention: **n** for an **integer**, **ν** if it is **noninteger**.

Notice that μ no longer appears explicitly in the equation when it is written in terms of x , and therefore only appears in the solution $R(r)$ through the value of x , i.e., product μr .

Helmholtz equation



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If the Helmholtz equation

$$\nabla^2 \varphi + k^2 \varphi = 0 ,$$

is separated in spherical polar coordinates:
radial equation:

$$x^2 y'' + 2xy' + [x^2 - n(n+1)] y = 0 .$$

2 linearly independent solutions are called

spherical Bessel functions, $j_n(x)$ and $y_n(x)$:

related to the ordinary Bessel functions $J_n(x)$ and $Y_n(x)$ by

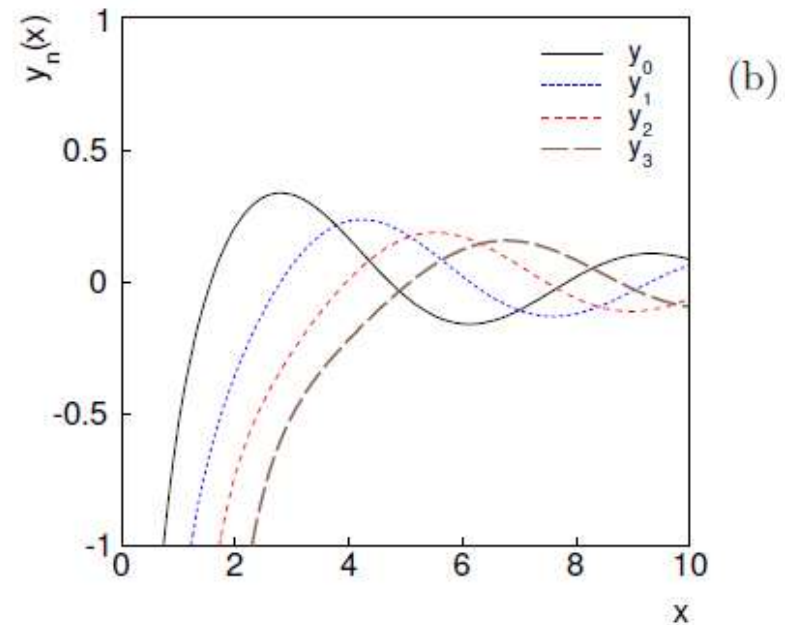
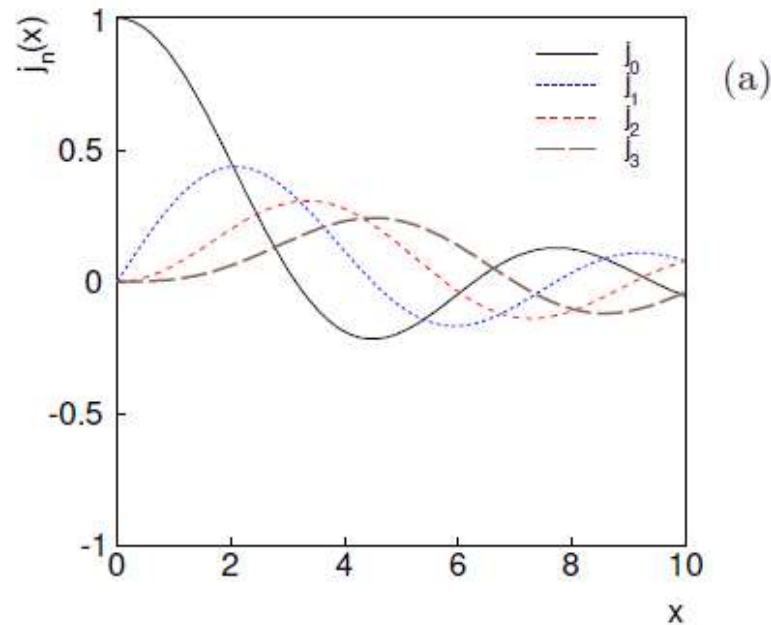
$$j_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2x}} J_{n+1/2}(x) ,$$

$$y_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2x}} Y_{n+1/2}(x) .$$

Spherical Bessel functions, $j_n(x)$ and $y_n(x)$



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Plots of spherical Bessel functions
(a) the first kind $j_n(x)$ (b) the second kind $y_n(x)$
for integer order n .

Summary

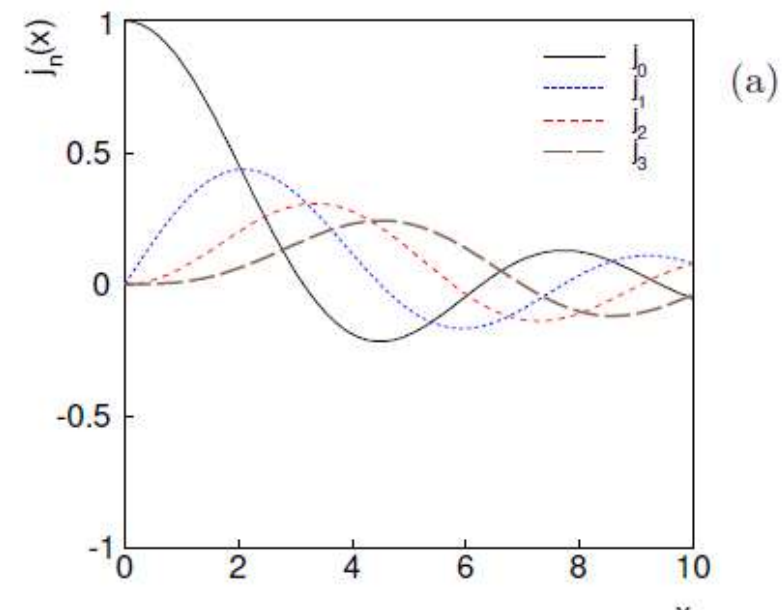


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This lecture:

- Special functions
- Bessel functions

$$x^2 y'' + xy' + (x^2 - n^2)y = 0 .$$



Reading: Chapter 8 of lecture notes