

## MTH 303 ELEMENTARY DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS II (3 UNI)

- SERIES SOLUTION OF SECOND-ORDER LINEAR EQUATIONS
- BESSEL, LEGENDRE, AND HYPERGEOMETRIC EQUATIONS AND FUNCTIONS
- GAMMA AND BETA FUNCTIONS
- STURM-LIOUVILLE PROBLEMS
- ORTHOGONAL POLYNOMIALS AND FUNCTIONS
- FOURIER, FOURIER-BESSEL, AND FOURIER-LEGENDRE SERIES
- FOURIER TRANSFORMATION
- SOLUTIONS OF LAPLACE'S, WAVE, AND HEAT EQUATIONS BY FOURIER METHOD

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Definition: An infinite series of the form

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n = c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + \dots \quad (1)$$

is called a power series in  $x$ , where  $c_0, c_1, \dots$  are constants. A series of the form

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (x - x_0)^n = c_0 + c_1 (x - x_0) + c_2 (x - x_0)^2 + \dots \quad (2)$$

is a power series in  $(x - x_0)$ . By setting  $z = (x - x_0)$ , equation (2) becomes a power series in  $z$ . Hence, it suffices to study power series of the form (1).

If  $x$  is fixed in series (1), then it becomes a series of constants. If this series converges (i.e. equals a finite real number), then the power series is said to converge at  $x$ . If it does not converge, it is said to diverge at  $x$ . If a power series converges at every point of an interval  $I$ , it is said to converge over  $I$ . If the series of absolute values converges over  $I$ , the power series is said to converge absolutely over  $I$ .

Theorem: Given the power series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$ , then there exists a non-negative real number  $R$  such that

1.  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$  converges absolutely if  $|x| < R$ ;
2.  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$  diverges if  $|x| > R$ ;
3.  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$  converges for all  $x$ , if  $R = \infty$ ;
4.  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$  converges nowhere except at  $x = 0$ , if  $R = 0$ .

R is called the radius of convergence of the power series and is usually obtained from the limit:

$$R = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{c_n}{c_{n+1}} \right| \text{ or } R = \frac{1}{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|c_n|}}, \quad (3)$$

This limit exists.

The above theorem does not give the convergence or divergence of the power series when  $|x| = R$ .

For a given power series, we must test for convergence or divergence at the endpoints  $x = -R, R$ . The interval over which a power series converges is called its interval of convergence.)

Example

Find the interval of convergence of the power series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n}$ .

Solution: Here  $c_n = \frac{1}{n}$  and so  $c_{n+1} = \frac{1}{n+1}$ . We have

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{c_n}{c_{n+1}} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n+1}{n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right) = 1,$$

which implies that the series converges absolutely over the interval  $|x| < 1$  or  $-1 < x < 1$ .

When  $x = -1$ , the series is  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n}$ , which converges by alternating-series test.

When  $x = 1$ , the series is  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ , which is a divergent harmonic series.

Thus, the interval of convergence is  $-1 \leq x < 1$ .

Exercises

Find the radius of convergence of the series

which implies

$$y' = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} nc_n x^{n-1}, \quad y'' = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^{n-2}.$$

Employing these in the given differential equation yields

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^{n-2} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2nc_n x^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n = 0.$$

Replacing  $n$  with  $n+2$  in the first term, we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+2)(n+1)c_{n+2} x^n - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2nc_n x^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n = 0.$$

Extracting the value of  $n = 0$  and summing from  $n = 1$  yields

$$(2!c_2 + c_0) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} [(n+2)(n+1)c_{n+2} + (1-2n)c_n] x^n = 0.$$

This implies

$$2!c_2 + c_0 = 0. \quad (1)$$

$$(n+2)(n+1)c_{n+2} + (1-2n)c_n = 0, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (2)$$

Equation (2) is called a recurrence relation or a recursion formula. From equation (1), we get  $c_2 = -\frac{1}{2}c_0$ .

From equation (2), we see that

$$c_{n+2} = \frac{2n-1}{(n+2)(n+1)} c_n, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

$$\frac{2(n+1)-1}{(n+2)(n+1)} c_n \quad (3)$$

From equation (3), we have

$$c_3 = \frac{1}{3.2} c_1 = \frac{1}{3!} c_1; \quad c_4 = \frac{3}{4.3} c_2 = -\frac{3}{4.3.2} c_0 = -\frac{3}{4!} c_0; \quad c_5 = \frac{5}{5.4} c_3 = \frac{5}{5.4.3.2} c_1 = \frac{5}{5!} c_1;$$

$$c_6 = \frac{7}{6.5} c_4 = -\frac{21}{6.5.4.3.2} c_0 = -\frac{21}{6!} c_0; \quad c_7 = \frac{9}{7.6} c_5 = \frac{45}{7.6.5.4.3.2} c_1 = \frac{45}{7!} c_1; \dots$$

The general solution of the given equation is

$$y = (c_0 + c_2 x^2 + c_4 x^4 + c_6 x^6 + \dots) + (c_1 x + c_3 x^3 + c_5 x^5 + c_7 x^7 + \dots), \text{ or}$$

$$y = c_0 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2!} x^2 - \frac{3}{4!} x^4 - \frac{21}{6!} x^6 - \dots \right) + c_1 \left( x + \frac{1}{3!} x^3 + \frac{5}{5!} x^5 + \frac{45}{7!} x^7 + \dots \right),$$

where  $c_0$  and  $c_1$  are arbitrary constants.

## Example 2

Find the general solution of the differential equation  $(1-x^2)y'' - 6xy' - 4y = 0$ .

Solution: Since  $x = 0$  is an ordinary point of the equation, we assume a series solution in the form

$$y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n,$$

which implies

$$y' = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} nc_n x^{n-1}, \quad y'' = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^{n-2}.$$

Employing these in the given differential equation yields

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^{n-2} - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^n - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 6nc_n x^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 4c_n x^n = 0.$$

Replacing  $n$  with  $n+2$  in the first term, we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+2)(n+1)c_{n+2} x^n - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^n - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 6nc_n x^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 4c_n x^n = 0.$$

Extracting the values of  $n = 0$  and  $n = 1$  and summing from  $n = 2$  yields

$$(2c_2 - 4c_0) + (6c_3 - 10c_1)x + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} [(n+2)(n+1)c_{n+2} - [n(n-1) + 6n + 4]c_n] x^n = 0.$$

This implies

$$2c_2 - 4c_0 = 0. \Rightarrow c_2 = 2c_0.$$

$$6c_3 - 10c_1 = 0. \Rightarrow c_3 = \frac{5}{3}c_1.$$

The recursion formula is

$$(n+2)(n+1)c_{n+2} - [n(n-1) + 6n + 4]c_n = 0, \quad n = 2, 3, \dots, \quad \text{or}$$

$$(n+2)(n+1)c_{n+2} - (n+1)(n+4)c_n = 0, \quad n = 2, 3, \dots, \quad \text{or}$$

$$= \frac{n+4}{n+2} c_n, \quad n = 2, 3, \dots$$

From this recurrence relation, we have

$$= \frac{6}{4} c_2 = 3c_0; \quad c_5 = \frac{7}{5} c_3 = \frac{7}{3} c_1; \quad c_6 = \frac{8}{6} c_4 = 4c_0; \quad c_7 = \frac{9}{7} c_5 = \frac{9}{3} c_1; \dots$$

General solution of the given equation is

$$= (c_0 + c_2 x^2 + c_4 x^4 + c_6 x^6 + \dots) + (c_1 x + c_3 x^3 + c_5 x^5 + c_7 x^7 + \dots), \text{ or}$$

$$= c_0(1 + 2x^2 + 3x^4 + 4x^6 + \dots) + \frac{1}{3} c_1(3x + 5x^3 + 7x^5 + 9x^7 + \dots), \text{ or}$$

$$= c_0 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+1)x^{2k} + \frac{1}{3} c_1 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (2k+3)x^{2k+1},$$

where  $c_0$  and  $c_1$  are arbitrary constants.

### Exercises

Find the power series solution of the following differential equations:

1.  $y'' + xy' + y = 0$ .
2.  $(1+x)y'' - y = 0$ .
3.  $(x^2 - 1)y'' + 2xy' - 2y = 0$ .

### Regular and Irregular Singular Points of a Second-order Linear Homogeneous Differential Equation

**Definition:** A singular point  $x = x_0$  of the equation

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

is said to be a regular singular point if both terms  $(x - x_0)P(x)$  and  $(x - x_0)^2Q(x)$  are analytic at  $x_0$ . Otherwise,  $x = x_0$  is an irregular singular point.

**Note:** If the factor  $x - x_0$  appears at most to the 1<sup>st</sup> power in the denominator of  $P(x)$  and at most to the 2<sup>nd</sup> power in the denominator of  $Q(x)$ , then  $x = x_0$  is a regular singular point.

### Examples

Determine the singular points of each differential equation and classify each singular point as regular or irregular.

1.  $x^3 y'' + 4x^2 y' + 3y = 0$ .
2.  $(x^2 - 9)^2 y'' + (x + 3)y' + 2y = 0$ .
3.  $(x^3 + 4x)y'' - 2xy' + 6y = 0$ .

### Solutions:

1.  $x = 0$  is a singular point of the equation  $x^3 y'' + 4x^2 y' + 3y = 0$ .

Here  $P(x) = \frac{4x^2}{x^3} = \frac{4}{x}$  and  $Q(x) = \frac{3}{x^3}$ .

Since  $x$  in the denominator of  $Q(x)$  is to power 3, it follows that  $x = 0$  is an irregular singular point.

2.  $x = \pm 3$  are singular points of the equation  $(x^2 - 9)^2 y'' + (x + 3)y' + 2y = 0$ .

Here  $P(x) = \frac{x+3}{(x^2-9)^2} = \frac{1}{(x+3)(x-3)^2}$  and  $Q(x) = \frac{2}{(x^2-9)^2} = \frac{2}{(x+3)^2(x-3)^2}$ .

Since  $x + 3$  appears to power 1 in the denominator of  $P(x)$  and to power 2 in the denominator of  $Q(x)$ , it follows that  $x = -3$  is a regular singular point.

Since  $x - 3$  appears to power 2 in the denominator of  $P(x)$ , it follows that  $x = 3$  is an irregular singular point.

3.  $x = 0, x = \pm 2i$  are singular points of the equation  $(x^3 + 4x)y'' - 2xy' + 6y = 0$ .

Here  $P(x) = -\frac{2x}{x^3 + 4x} = -\frac{2}{x^2 + 4} = -\frac{2}{(x+2i)(x-2i)}$  and  $Q(x) = \frac{6}{x^3 + 4x} = \frac{6}{x(x^2 + 4)} = \frac{6}{x(x+2i)(x-2i)}$ .

Since  $x$  is to power 0 and 1, respectively, in the denominators of  $P(x)$  and  $Q(x)$ , it follows that  $x = 0$  is a regular singular point. Since  $x + 2i$  and  $x - 2i$  appear to power 1 each in the denominators of  $P(x)$  and  $Q(x)$ , we conclude that  $x = -2i$  and  $x = 2i$  are regular singular points.

### Exercises

Locate the regular and/or irregular singular points of the differential equations

1.  $(1-x)y'' - y' + xy = 0$ .
2.  $x^3(1-x^2)y'' + (2x-3)y' + xy = 0$ .
3.  $(x^2+x-6)y'' + (x+3)y' + (x-2)y = 0$ .
4.  $x^3(x^2-25)(x-2)^2y'' + 3x(x-2)y' + 7(x+5)y = 0$ .

### Series Solution of a Second-order Linear Homogeneous Differential Equation around a Regular Singular Point

To obtain the series solution of the differential equation

$$a_2(x)y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = 0 \quad (1)$$

about a regular singular point, we employ Frobenius method.

#### Theorem: (Frobenius Method)

Let  $x = x_0$  be a regular singular point of equation (1). Then there exists at least one series solution of the form

$$y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(x - x_0)^{n+r}, \quad (2)$$

where  $c_0 \neq 0$  and the number  $r$  is a constant to be determined. The series converges at least on some interval  $0 < x - x_0 < R$ .

**Indicial Equation:** If  $(x - x_0)P(x)$  and  $(x - x_0)^2 Q(x)$  have power series expansions

$$(x - x_0)P(x) = p_0 + p_1(x - x_0) + p_2(x - x_0)^2 + \dots,$$

$$(x - x_0)^2 Q(x) = q_0 + q_1(x - x_0) + q_2(x - x_0)^2 + \dots,$$

where  $P(x) = \frac{a_1(x)}{a_2(x)}$ ,  $Q(x) = \frac{a_0(x)}{a_2(x)}$ ,  $a_2(x)$ , then the quadratic equation

$$r^2 + (p_0 - 1)r + q_0 = 0$$

is called the indicial equation of (1). (3)

We shall consider 3 cases of the roots of the indicial equation (3):

Case I:  $r_1 - r_2$  is not an integer;

Case II:  $r_1 - r_2$  is a positive integer;

Case III:  $r_1 = r_2$ .

#### Case I: Roots of the Indicial Equation do not differ by an Integer

#### Examples

Use the method of Frobenius to obtain two linearly independent series solutions around the regular singular point

, and form the general solution.

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

$$\therefore 2xy'' - (3 + 2x)y' + y = 0.$$

tions:

- By the method of Frobenius, we assume a series solution, around the regular singular point  $x = 0$ , of the equation

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

to be

$$y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r}, \quad c_0 \neq 0.$$

This is differentiated twice with respect to  $x$  to obtain

$$y' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r-1}, \quad y'' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r-2}.$$

Employing these in the given equation yields

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 2(n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r+1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r} = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [(n+r)(2n+2r-1)-1]c_n x^{n+r} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r+1} = 0.$$

Extracting  $x^r$  and replacing  $n$  with  $n-1$  in the last summation, we get

$$x^r \{ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [(n+r)(2n+2r-1)-1]c_n - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n+r-1)c_{n-1} \} x^n = 0.$$

Since  $x^r \neq 0$ , extracting the value of  $n=0$  from the first summation, and summing from  $n=1$ , we obtain

$$[r(2r-1)-1]c_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \{ [(n+r)(2n+2r-1)-1]c_n - (n+r-1)c_{n-1} \} x^n = 0. \quad (1)$$

The indicial equation is  $r(2r-1)-1=0$ , or  $2r^2-r-1=0$ , since  $c_0 \neq 0$ , with roots  $r_1 = 1$ ,  $r_2 = -\frac{1}{2}$ .

It should be noted that  $r_1 - r_2 = \frac{3}{2} \neq \text{integer}$ .

We now obtain two linearly independent solutions corresponding to the two indicial roots.

$r = 1$ : From equation (1), the recurrence relation is

$$[(n+1)(2n+1)-1]c_n - nc_{n-1} = 0, \quad \text{or}$$

$$c_n = \frac{n}{2n(n+1)+(n+1)-1} c_{n-1}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \quad \text{or}$$

$$c_n = \frac{1}{2n+3} c_{n-1}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots,$$

which yields

$$c_1 = \frac{1}{5} c_0, \quad c_2 = \frac{1}{7} c_1 = \frac{1}{5.7} c_0, \quad c_3 = \frac{1}{9} c_2 = \frac{1}{5.7.9} c_0, \quad \dots$$

Generally,

$$c_n = \frac{1}{5.7.9. \dots (2n+3)} c_0, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Thus, one series solution of the given differential equation is

$$y_1 = c_0 \left[ x + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{n+1}}{5.7.9. \dots (2n+3)} \right] = c_0 x \left[ 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{5.7.9. \dots (2n+3)} \right]. \quad (2)$$

$r = -\frac{1}{2}$ : The recursion formula, from equation (1), is

$$\left[ \left( n - \frac{1}{2} \right) (2n-2) - 1 \right] c_n - \left( n - \frac{3}{2} \right) c_{n-1} = 0, \quad \text{or}$$

$$2[(2n-1)(n-1)-1]c_n - (2n-3)c_{n-1} = 0, \quad \text{or}$$

$$2n(2n-3)c_n - (2n-3)c_{n-1} = 0, \quad \text{or}$$

$$c_n = \frac{1}{2n} c_{n-1}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots,$$

$$A_1 x \left[ 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{5 \cdot 7 \cdot 9 \dots (2n+3)} \right] + A_2 x^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left[ 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \dots 2n} \right],$$

the second solution may be written as

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

which gives

$$c_1 = \frac{1}{2}c_0, \quad c_2 = \frac{1}{4}c_1 = \frac{1}{2.4}c_0, \quad c_3 = \frac{1}{6}c_2 = \frac{1}{2.4.6}c_0, \dots$$

Generally,

$$c_n = \frac{1}{2.4.6\dots 2n}c_0, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Hence, the second series solution of the differential equation is

$$y_2 = c_0 x^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left[ 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{2.4.6\dots 2n} \right], \quad (3)$$

and is linearly independent with solution (2).

The general solution of the given problem is

$$y = A_1 x \left[ 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{5.7.9\dots(2n+3)} \right] + A_2 x^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left[ 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{2.4.6\dots 2n} \right],$$

where  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are arbitrary constants, with  $c_0 \equiv 1$ .

2. Since  $x = 0$  is a regular singular point of the equation

$$2xy'' - (3 + 2x)y' + y = 0,$$

we assume a series solution in the form

$$y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r}, \quad c_0 \neq 0.$$

This is differentiated twice with respect to  $x$  to obtain

$$y' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r-1}, \quad y'' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r-2}.$$

Employing these in the given equation yields

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 2(n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r-1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 3(n+r)c_n x^{n+r-1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 2(n+r)c_n x^{n+r} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r} = 0. \\ & \Rightarrow \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [2(n+r)(n+r-1) - 3(n+r)]c_n x^{n+r-1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [2(n+r) - 1]c_n x^{n+r} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Extracting  $x^r$  and replacing  $n$  with  $n+1$  in the first summation, we get

$$x^r \{ \sum_{n=-1}^{\infty} (n+r+1)(2n+2r-3)c_{n+1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2n+2r-1)c_n \} x^n = 0.$$

Since  $x^r \neq 0$ , extracting the value of  $n = -1$  from the first summation, and summing from  $n = 0$ , we obtain

$$r(2r-5)c_0 x^{-1} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \{ (n+r+1)(2n+2r-3)c_{n+1} - (2n+2r-1)c_n \} x^n = 0. \quad (1)$$

The indicial equation is  $r(2r-5) = 0$ , since  $c_0 \neq 0$ , with roots  $r_1 = \frac{5}{2}$ ,  $r_2 = 0$ .

It should be noted that  $r_1 - r_2 = \frac{5}{2} \neq \text{integer}$ .

We now obtain two linearly independent solutions corresponding to the two indicial roots.

$r = 0$ : From equation (1), the recurrence relation is

$$(n+1)(2n-3)c_{n+1} - (2n-1)c_n = 0, \quad \text{or}$$

$$c_{n+1} = \frac{2n-1}{(n+1)(2n-3)}c_n, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

which yields

$$c_1 = \frac{1}{3}c_0, \quad c_2 = -\frac{1}{2}c_1 = -\frac{1}{6}c_0, \quad c_3 = c_2 = -\frac{1}{6}c_0, \dots$$

Thus, one series solution of the given differential equation is

$$y_1 = c_0 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{3}x - \frac{1}{6}x^2 - \frac{1}{6}x^3 - \dots \right). \quad (2)$$

$r = \frac{5}{2}$ : The recursion formula, from equation (1), is

$$(n+\frac{7}{2})(2n+2)c_{n+1} - (2n+4)c_n = 0, \quad \text{or}$$

$$(2n+7)(n+1)c_{n+1} - 2(n+2)c_n = 0, \quad \text{or}$$

$$\left(1 + \frac{2 \cdot 2}{7}x + \frac{2^2 \cdot 3}{7 \cdot 9}x^2 + \frac{2^3 \cdot 4}{7 \cdot 9 \cdot 11}x^3 + \dots\right)$$

$$x^{\frac{5}{2}} \left[ 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^n(n+1)}{7 \cdot 9 \cdot \dots \cdot (2n+5)} x^n \right].$$

$$) y = A_1 J_{\frac{1}{3}}(x) + A_2 Y_{\frac{1}{3}}(x).$$

$$) y = A_1 x^{\frac{7}{8}} \left( 1 - \frac{2}{15}x + \frac{2^2}{23 \cdot 15 \cdot 2}x^2 - \frac{2^3}{31 \cdot 23 \cdot 15 \cdot 31}x^3 + \dots \right)$$

$$+ A_2 \left( 1 - 2x + \frac{2^2}{9 \cdot 2}x^2 - \frac{2^3}{17 \cdot 9 \cdot 31}x^3 + \dots \right).$$

$$) y = A_1 x^{\frac{2}{3}} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{5}{28}x^2 - \frac{1}{21}x^3 + \dots \right)$$

$$+ A_2 x^{\frac{1}{3}} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{5}x^2 - \frac{7}{120}x^3 + \dots \right).$$

$$) y = A_1 x \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{15} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (2n+3)(2n+5)x^n \right]$$

$$+ A_2 x^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n+1)(n+2)x^n \right].$$

$$c_{n+1} = \frac{2(n+2)}{(n+1)(2n+7)} c_n, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

which gives

$$c_1 = \frac{2.2}{7} c_0, \quad c_2 = \frac{2.3}{2.9} c_1 = \frac{2^2 \cdot 3}{7.9} c_0, \quad c_3 = \frac{2.4}{3.11} c_2 = \frac{2^3 \cdot 4}{7.9 \cdot 11} c_0, \dots$$

Hence, the second series solution of the differential equation is

$$y_2 = c_0 x^{\frac{5}{2}} \left( 1 + \frac{2.2}{7} x + \frac{2^2 \cdot 3}{7.9} x^2 + \frac{2^3 \cdot 4}{7.9 \cdot 11} x^3 + \dots \right), \quad (3)$$

and is linearly independent with solution (2).

From equations (2) and (3), the general solution of the given problem is

$$y = A_1 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{3} x - \frac{1}{6} x^2 - \frac{1}{6} x^3 - \dots \right) + A_2 x^{\frac{5}{2}} \left( 1 + \frac{2.2}{7} x + \frac{2^2 \cdot 3}{7.9} x^2 + \frac{2^3 \cdot 4}{7.9 \cdot 11} x^3 + \dots \right),$$

where  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are arbitrary constants, with  $c_0 \equiv 1$ .

### Exercises

Find the two linearly independent series solutions about the point  $x_0 = 0$ , and form the general solution.

1.  $x^2 y'' + xy' + \left(x^2 - \frac{1}{9}\right)y = 0$ .
2.  $4xy'' + \frac{1}{2}y' + y = 0$ .
3.  $9x^2 y'' + 9x^2 y' + 2y = 0$ .
4.  $2x^2(1-x)y'' - x(1+7x)y' + y = 0$ .
5. Show that the differential equation

$$(1-x^2)y'' - 3xy' + (k^2 - 1)y = 0,$$

where  $k$  is a constant, has solutions of the form  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r}$ , provided  $r = 0$  or  $1$ . Hence, obtain two linearly independent solutions, one of which is of the form

$$y = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1-k^2)(3^2-k^2)\dots[(2n-1)^2-k^2]}{(2n)!} x^{2n},$$

and write down the general solution.

### Case II: Roots of the Indicial Equation differ by a Positive Integer

If  $r_1 - r_2 = N$ , where  $N$  is a positive integer, then there exist two linearly independent solutions of the differential equation

$$r_2(x)y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = 0$$

in the form

$$r_1 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r_1}, \quad c_0 \neq 0,$$

$$r_2 = Ay_1 \ln x + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^{n+r_2}, \quad b_0 \neq 0,$$

where  $A$  is a constant that could be zero.

**Note:** One method of finding  $y_2$  after obtaining  $y_1$  is the reduction of order method. By this method, if the equation  $y'' + P(x)y' + Q(x)y = 0$  is to be solved and  $y_1$  is known, we compute  $y_2$  from the formula

$$y_2 = y_1 \int \frac{e^{-\int P(x)dx}}{y_1^2} dx.$$

### Example

Compute two linearly independent solutions of the differential equation

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

$$I = A_1 x^{-1} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n)!} x^{2n} + A_2 x^{-1} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n+1)!} x^{2n+1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{x} (A_1 \cosh x + A_2 \sinh x)$$

$$y = A_1 \left( 1 + \frac{2}{3}x + \frac{1}{3}x^2 \right) + A_2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+1) x^{n+1}$$

$$y = A_1 y_1 + A_2 \left\{ y_1 \ln x + y_1 \left( 2x + \frac{5}{4}x^2 + \frac{23}{27}x^3 + \dots \right) \right\}$$

$$\text{where } y_1 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} x^n = e^x$$

$$y = A_1 x e^{-x} + A_2 x e^{-x} \left( \ln x + x + \frac{1}{4}x^2 + \frac{1}{3 \cdot 3!} x^3 + \dots \right)$$

nd the point  $x_0 = 0$ .

Solution: Since  $x_0 = 0$  is a regular singular point, we assume a solution in the form

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r}, \quad c_0 \neq 0,$$

which is differentiated twice with respect to  $x$  to get

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r-1}, \quad y'' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r-2}.$$

Employing these in the given equation yields

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r+1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 2c_n x^{n+r} = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [(n+r)(n+r-1) - 2]c_n x^{n+r} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r+1} = 0.$$

Extracting  $x^r$  and replacing  $n$  with  $n-1$  in the last summation, we get

$$\therefore \{ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [(n+r)(n+r-1) - 2]c_n - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_{n-1} \} x^n = 0.$$

Since  $x^r \neq 0$ , extracting the value of  $n=0$  from the first summation, and summing from  $n=1$ , we obtain

$$r^2 - r - 2)c_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \{[(n+r)(n+r-1) - 2]c_n - c_{n-1}\} x^n = 0. \quad (1)$$

The indicial equation is  $r^2 - r - 2 = 0$ , since  $c_0 \neq 0$ , with roots  $r_1 = 2, r_2 = -1$ .

It should be noted that  $r_1 - r_2 = 3$  which is a positive integer.

We now obtain one solution corresponding to the larger indicial root  $r = 2$ .

$r = 2$ : From equation (1), the recurrence relation is

$$(n+2)(n+1)-2)c_n - c_{n-1} = 0, \quad \text{or}$$

$$c_n = \frac{1}{n(n+3)} c_{n-1}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots,$$

which yields

$$c_1 = \frac{1}{4} c_0, \quad c_2 = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 5} c_1 = \frac{1}{40} c_0, \quad c_3 = \frac{1}{3 \cdot 6} c_2 = \frac{1}{720} c_0, \quad \dots$$

Thus, one series solution of the given differential equation, with  $c_0 = 1$ , is

$$y_1 = x^2 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{4}x + \frac{1}{40}x^2 + \frac{1}{720}x^3 + \dots \right). \quad (2)$$

We employ the reduction of order method to find the second solution  $y_2$  since  $y_1$  is known, for the differential equation  $y'' + P(x)y' + Q(x)y = 0$ . By this method,

$$y_2 = y_1 \int \frac{e^{-\int P(x)dx}}{y_1^2} dx.$$

In our problem,  $P(x) = 0$ . From equation (2), we obtain

$$y_2 = y_1 \int \frac{dx}{x^4 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{4}x + \frac{1}{40}x^2 + \frac{1}{720}x^3 + \dots \right)^2} = y_1 \int \frac{dx}{x^4 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{9}{80}x^2 + \frac{11}{720}x^3 + \dots \right)} = y_1 \int \frac{1}{x^4} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{11}{80}x^2 - \frac{1}{36}x^3 + \dots \right) dx =$$

$$y_1 \int \left( \frac{1}{x^4} - \frac{1}{2x^3} + \frac{11}{80x^2} - \frac{1}{36x} + \dots \right) dx = y_1 \left( -\frac{1}{3x^3} + \frac{1}{4x^2} - \frac{11}{80x} - \frac{1}{36} \ln x + \dots \right),$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned} y_2 &= -\frac{1}{36} y_1 \ln x + y_1 \left( -\frac{1}{3x^3} + \frac{1}{4x^2} - \frac{11}{80x} + \dots \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{36} y_1 \ln x + \left( x^2 + \frac{1}{4}x^3 + \frac{1}{40}x^4 + \frac{1}{720}x^5 + \dots \right) \left( -\frac{1}{3x^3} + \frac{1}{4x^2} - \frac{11}{80x} + \dots \right) \text{ or} \\ y_2 &= -\frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{1}{12} y_1 \ln x + \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4}x - \frac{23}{2880}x^2 + \dots \right). \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

We take the linear combination of solutions (2) and (3) to obtain the general solution of the given equation as

$$= B_1 x^2 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{4}x + \frac{1}{40}x^2 + \frac{1}{720}x^3 + \dots \right) + B_2 \left( \frac{1}{12} y_1 \ln x + \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4}x - \frac{23}{2880}x^2 + \dots \right),$$

where  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  are arbitrary constants.

Note I: The form of  $y_2$  is as expected, since

$$0 \mid y_2 \mid x^2$$

$Ay_1 \ln x + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^{n-1}$ ,  $b_0 \neq 0$ , with  $n - r_2 = n - 1$ , or

$$Ay_1 \ln x + \frac{b_0}{x} + b_1 + b_2 x + b_3 x^2 + \dots$$

$$\text{where } A = \frac{1}{12}, \quad b_0 = 1, \quad b_1 = -\frac{1}{2}, \quad b_2 = \frac{1}{4}, \quad b_3 = -\frac{23}{2880}, \dots$$

Case II: Use was made of the binomial expansions below.

$$(1 \mp A)^{-1} = 1 \pm A + A^2 \pm A^3 + \dots$$

$$(A + B + C)^2 = A^2 + B^2 + C^2 + 2(AB + AC + BC).$$

$$(A + B + C + D)^2 = A^2 + B^2 + C^2 + D^2 + 2(AB + AC + AD + BC + BD + CD).$$

$$(A + B + C)^3 = A^3 + B^3 + C^3 + 3(A^2B + A^2C + AB^2 + AC^2 + B^2C + BC^2) + 6ABC.$$

Case III: Roots of the Indicial Equation are Equal

If  $r_1 = r_2$ , then there exist two linearly independent solutions of the differential equation

$$r_2(x)y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = 0$$

in the form

$$y_1 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r_1}, \quad c_0 \neq 0,$$

$$y_2 = y_1 \ln x + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^{n+r_1}, \quad b_0 \neq 0.$$

Note: The procedure for this case is the same as that for Case II.

### Exercises

Find two linearly independent series solutions of the following differential equations.

1.  $xy'' + 2y' - xy = 0$ .
2.  $x(x-1)y'' + 3y' - 2y = 0$ .
3.  $xy'' + y' + y = 0$ .
4.  $x^2y'' + x(x-1)y' + y = 0$ .

### Gamma Function

The gamma function  $\Gamma(\alpha)$  is defined by the integral

$$\Gamma(\alpha) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t} t^{\alpha-1} dt. \tag{1}$$

Convergence of this integral requires that  $\alpha - 1 > -1$  or  $\alpha > 0$ . (If  $\alpha$  is complex, equation (1) is meaningful only for those  $\alpha$  whose real parts are positive.)

The gamma function is also called Euler's equation of the second kind. Integration of equation (1) by parts yields

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(\alpha) &= \left[ \frac{1}{\alpha} e^{-t} t^{\alpha} \right]_0^{\infty} + \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t} t^{\alpha-1} dt = \frac{1}{\alpha} \Gamma(\alpha+1), \quad \text{or} \\ \Gamma(\alpha+1) &= \alpha \Gamma(\alpha). \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

From equation (1),  $\Gamma(1) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t} dt = -[e^{-t}]_0^{\infty} = 1$ .

Using equation (2), we get

$$\Gamma(2) = 1\Gamma(1) = 1, \quad \Gamma(3) = 2\Gamma(2) = 2 \cdot 1 = 2!, \quad \Gamma(4) = 3\Gamma(3) = 3 \cdot 2! = 3!.$$

Hence, if  $\alpha$  is a non-negative integer, say  $n$ , then

$$\Gamma(n+1) = n!, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \tag{3}$$

This shows that the gamma function may be regarded as a generalized factorial function.

peated application of equation (2), we get

$$\Gamma(\alpha+n) = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}{\alpha} \cdot \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+2)}{\alpha+1} \cdot \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+3)}{\alpha+2} \cdots = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+n+1)}{\alpha(\alpha+1)(\alpha+2)\cdots(\alpha+n)}, \quad \text{where } n \text{ is an integer.}$$

So,

$$\Gamma(\alpha) = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+n+1)}{\alpha(\alpha+1)(\alpha+2)\cdots(\alpha+n)}, \quad \alpha \neq 0, -1, -2, \dots \quad (4)$$

may be used for defining the gamma function for non-positive  $\alpha$  ( $\neq 0, -1, -2, \dots$ ), where  $n$  is chosen to be the smallest integer such that  $\alpha + n + 1 > 0$ . Equations (1) and (4) then give a definition of  $\Gamma(\alpha)$  for all  $(\neq 0, -1, -2, \dots)$ .

We frequently encounter  $\Gamma(\frac{1}{2})$  in problems involving the gamma function. We, therefore, compute it. Using equation (1), we obtain

$$\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^{-\frac{1}{2}} dt.$$

Let  $t = u^2$ .  $\Rightarrow dt = 2u du$ .  $t = 0 \Rightarrow u = 0$ ,  $t = \infty \Rightarrow u \Rightarrow \infty$ .

$$\Rightarrow \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 2 \int_0^\infty e^{-u^2} du.$$

Since  $\int_0^\infty e^{-u^2} du = \int_0^\infty e^{-v^2} dv$ , we get

$$\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 = \left(2 \int_0^\infty e^{-u^2} du\right) \left(2 \int_0^\infty e^{-v^2} dv\right) = 4 \int_0^\infty e^{-u^2} \int_0^\infty e^{-v^2} du dv.$$

We introduce polar coordinates  $(r, \theta)$  so that  $u = r \cos \theta$ ,  $v = r \sin \theta$ . To transform  $du dv$  to  $dr d\theta$ , we have that

$$\text{where } J = \frac{\partial(u, v)}{\partial(r, \theta)} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} & \frac{\partial u}{\partial \theta} \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial r} & \frac{\partial v}{\partial \theta} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} \cos \theta & -r \sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & r \cos \theta \end{vmatrix} = r$$

is the Jacobian of the transformation. Since  $u^2 + v^2 = r^2$ , we get

$$\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 = 4 \int_0^\infty r e^{-r^2} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} d\theta dr = 2 \int_0^\infty e^{-z} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} d\theta dz = 2 \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} d\theta = 2\theta \Big|_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} = \pi,$$

where  $z = r^2$ . Therefore,

$$\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \sqrt{\pi}. \quad (5)$$

This is obtained considering that  $0 < u < \infty, 0 < v < \infty \Rightarrow 0 < r < \infty, 0 < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

Note: We state, without proof, that  $\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(1-\alpha) = \frac{\pi}{\sin \alpha\pi}$ .

### Example

Evaluate the following.

1.  $\Gamma(7)$ .
2.  $\Gamma\left(-\frac{5}{2}\right)$ .

### Solution:

1.  $\Gamma(\alpha) = 6! = 720$ , using equation (3).

2. Since  $\alpha = -\frac{5}{2}$ , then  $n = 2$  is the smallest integer such that  $\alpha + n + 1 (= \frac{1}{2}) > 0$ . Using equation (4), we get

$$\Gamma\left(-\frac{5}{2}\right) = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)}{\left(-\frac{5}{2}\right)\left(-\frac{3}{2}\right)\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)} = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{-\frac{15}{8}} = -\frac{8}{15}\sqrt{\pi}.$$

### Examples

Evaluate the following using the definition of the gamma function

3.  $\int_0^\infty e^{-h^2 x^2} dx.$

4.  $\int_0^1 x^2 \left(\ln \frac{1}{x}\right)^3 dx.$

Solution:

3. Let  $t = h^2 x^2 \Rightarrow dt = 2h^2 x dx \Rightarrow x = \frac{\sqrt{t}}{h}, dx = \frac{1}{2h} t^{-\frac{1}{2}} dt.$

$x = 0 \Rightarrow t = 0, x = \infty \Rightarrow t = \infty.$

Hence

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-h^2 x^2} dx = \frac{1}{2h} \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^{-\frac{1}{2}} dt.$$

Here  $\alpha - 1 = -\frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \alpha = \frac{1}{2}$ . Thus

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-h^2 x^2} dx = \frac{1}{2h} \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2h}.$$

4. Let  $y = \ln \frac{1}{x} = \ln x^{-1} = -\ln x \Rightarrow \ln x = -y \text{ or } x = e^{-y} \Rightarrow dx = -e^{-y} dy.$

$x = 0 \Rightarrow y = \infty; x = 1 \Rightarrow y = 0.$

Hence

$$\int_0^1 x^2 \left(\ln \frac{1}{x}\right)^3 dx = \int_{\infty}^0 e^{-2y} y^3 \cdot -e^{-y} dy = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-2y} y^3 dy.$$

Let  $t = 3y \Rightarrow dt = 3dy$ .

$y = 0 \Rightarrow t = 0, y = \infty \Rightarrow t = \infty.$

Thus

$$\int_0^1 x^2 \left(\ln \frac{1}{x}\right)^3 dx = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t} \left(\frac{t}{3}\right)^3 \frac{dt}{3} = \frac{1}{3^4} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t} t^3 dt.$$

Here  $\alpha - 1 = 3 \Rightarrow \alpha = 4$ . Therefore

$$\int_0^1 x^2 \left(\ln \frac{1}{x}\right)^3 dx = \frac{1}{3^4} \Gamma(4) = \frac{3!}{3^4} = \frac{3 \cdot 2}{3^4} = \frac{2}{3^3} = \frac{2}{27}.$$

### Exercises

Evaluate

1.  $\Gamma(5).$

2.  $\Gamma\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right).$

3.  $\Gamma\left(-\frac{3}{2}\right).$

4.  $\Gamma\left(\frac{13}{2}\right).$

Evaluate each integral using the gamma function.

5.  $\int_0^1 (\ln x)^{\frac{1}{3}} dx.$

6.  $\int_0^\infty x^{\frac{3}{4}} e^{-x} dx.$

7.  $\int_0^\infty \frac{x^a}{a^x} dx, a > 1.$  [Hint: Recall that  $a^x = e^{x \ln a}.$ ]

## Beta Function

beta function is defined by the integral

$$B(p, q) = \int_0^1 t^{p-1} (1-t)^{q-1} dt, \quad (1)$$

where  $p > 0, q > 0$ . Beta function is also called Euler's integral of the first kind. By the transformation  $t = 1 - z$ , it can be shown that

$$(p, q) = B(q, p), \quad (2)$$

which shows that the beta function is symmetric.

$\beta(p, q)$  may be expressed by the gamma function as

$$B(p, q) = \frac{\Gamma(p)\Gamma(q)}{\Gamma(p+q)}. \quad (3)$$

To prove this, we consider the product

$$\Gamma(p)\Gamma(q) = \left( \int_0^\infty e^{-u} u^{p-1} du \right) \left( \int_0^\infty e^{-v} v^{q-1} dv \right).$$

Putting  $u = x^2, v = y^2$  leads to

$$\Gamma(p)\Gamma(q) = 4 \int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} x^{2p-1} dx \int_0^\infty e^{-y^2} y^{2q-1} dy = \iint_0^\infty e^{-(x^2+y^2)} x^{2p-1} y^{2q-1} dx dy,$$

since  $du = 2x dx, dv = 2y dy$ .

$$u = v = 0 \Rightarrow x = y = 0, u = v = \infty \Rightarrow x = y = \infty.$$

Employing the polar coordinates  $(r, \theta)$ , represented by  $x = r \cos \theta, y = r \sin \theta$ , we obtain

$$\Gamma(p)\Gamma(q) = 4 \int_0^\infty e^{-r^2} r^{2(p+q-\frac{1}{2})} dr \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (\cos \theta)^{2p-1} (\sin \theta)^{2q-1} d\theta. \quad (4)$$

$$\text{Let } r^2 = t. \Rightarrow 2rdr = dt. \Rightarrow dr = \frac{1}{2}t^{-\frac{1}{2}}dt.$$

$$r = 0 \Rightarrow t = 0, r = \infty \Rightarrow t = \infty.$$

These are substituted into the first integral in equation (4) to get

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-r^2} r^{2p+2q-1} dr = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^{p+q-1} dt = \frac{1}{2} \Gamma(p+q). \quad (5)$$

In the second integral in equation (4), we let  $\cos \theta = z. \Rightarrow -\sin \theta d\theta = dz. \Rightarrow d\theta = -(1-z^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}}dz$ .

$$\theta = 0 \Rightarrow z = 1, \theta = \frac{\pi}{2} \Rightarrow z = 0.$$

Also  $\sin \theta = (1-z^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . Hence

$$\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (\cos \theta)^{2p-1} (\sin \theta)^{2q-1} d\theta = - \int_1^0 z^{2p-1} (1-z^2)^{q-\frac{1}{2}} (1-z^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} dz = \int_0^1 z^{2p-1} (1-z^2)^{q-1} dz.$$

$$\text{Let } z^2 = t. \Rightarrow 2zdz = dt. \Rightarrow dz = \frac{1}{2}t^{-\frac{1}{2}}dt.$$

$$z = 0 \Rightarrow t = 0, z = 1 \Rightarrow t = 1.$$

Hence

$$\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (\cos \theta)^{2p-1} (\sin \theta)^{2q-1} d\theta = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 t^{p-\frac{1}{2}} (1-t)^{q-1} t^{-\frac{1}{2}} dt = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 t^{p-1} (1-t)^{q-1} dt = \frac{1}{2} B(p, q). \quad (6)$$

Employing equations (5) and (6) in equation (4) yields

$$\Gamma(p)\Gamma(q) = 4 \left[ \frac{1}{2} \Gamma(p+q) \right] \left[ \frac{1}{2} B(p, q) \right] = \Gamma(p+q) B(p, q) \quad \text{or}$$

$$B(p, q) = \frac{\Gamma(p)\Gamma(q)}{\Gamma(p+q)}.$$

Note:

- $B(\alpha, 1-\alpha) = \Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(1-\alpha) = \frac{\pi}{\sin \alpha \pi}$ .

- Beta function can also be defined by the integral

$$\frac{1}{5}$$

$$\frac{3\pi}{256}$$

$$\frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\frac{5\pi}{8}, \text{ obtained from } 16B\left(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{7}{2}\right)$$

$$5. B(4,1) = \frac{1}{4}.$$

$$(p,q) = \int_0^1 t^{p-1} (1-t)^{q-1} dt,$$

$$\text{let } t = \frac{x}{1+x}.$$

$$\Rightarrow dt = \frac{dx}{(1+x)^2}.$$

$$\text{so } x = \frac{t}{1-t}. \quad t=0 \Rightarrow x=0; \quad t=1 \Rightarrow x=\infty.$$

$$1-t = \frac{1}{1+x}.$$

$$\Rightarrow (p,q) = \int_0^\infty \frac{x^{p-1}}{(1+x)^{p+q}} \cdot \frac{1}{(1+x)^{q-1}} \cdot \frac{dx}{(1+x)^2} = \int_0^\infty \frac{x^{p-1}}{(1+x)^{p+q}} dx.$$

$$B(p, q) = \int_0^\infty \frac{x^{p-1}}{(1+x)^{p+q}} dx.$$

Examples

Evaluate

1.  $B\left(\frac{1}{2}, 2\right)$ .
2.  $B\left(3, \frac{1}{4}\right)$ .
3.  $B\left(\frac{3}{4}, \frac{1}{4}\right)$ .

Solutions:

1.  $B\left(\frac{1}{2}, 2\right) = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\Gamma(2)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}+2\right)} = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\Gamma(2)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{5}{2}\right)} = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\Gamma(2)}{\frac{3}{2}\frac{1}{2}\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)} = \frac{4}{3}\Gamma(2) = \frac{4}{3}$ .
  2.  $B\left(3, \frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{\Gamma(3)\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)}{\Gamma\left(3+\frac{1}{4}\right)} = \frac{\Gamma(3)\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{13}{4}\right)} = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)\Gamma(3)}{\frac{9}{4}\frac{5}{4}\frac{1}{4}\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)} = \frac{64}{45}\Gamma(3) = \frac{64}{45} \cdot 2! = \frac{128}{45}$ .
  3. Since  $B(\alpha, 1 - \alpha) = \Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(1 - \alpha) = \frac{\pi}{\sin \alpha\pi}$ , we obtain, using  $\alpha = \frac{3}{4}$ ,
- $$B\left(\frac{3}{4}, \frac{1}{4}\right) = \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{\pi}{\sin^3 \frac{\pi}{4}} = \frac{\pi}{\sin \frac{\pi}{4}} = \frac{\pi}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}} = \sqrt{2}\pi.$$

Exercises

Evaluate

1.  $B(1, 5)$ .
2.  $B\left(\frac{7}{2}, \frac{5}{2}\right)$ .
3.  $B\left(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right)$ .
4.  $\int_0^2 x^{\frac{1}{2}}(2-x)^{\frac{5}{2}} dx$ .
5.  $\int_0^\infty \frac{t^3}{(1+t)^5} dt$ .

### Bessel's Equation and Bessel Functions

The differential equation

$$x^2y'' + xy' + (x^2 - \nu^2)y = 0, \quad (1)$$

where  $\nu$  is a constant, is called Bessel's equation of order  $\nu$ . In solving equation (1), we assume that  $\nu \geq 0$ . The solutions of Bessel's equation, called Bessel functions, are important in mathematical physics.

Since  $x = 0$  is a regular singular point of equation (1), we assume a series solution of (1) in the form

$$y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r}, \quad c_0 \neq 0.$$

This is differentiated twice with respect to  $x$  to obtain

$$y' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r-1}, \quad y'' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r-2}.$$

Employing these in the given equation yields

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r+2} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \nu^2 c_n x^{n+r} = 0, \\ & \Rightarrow \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [(n+r)^2 - \nu^2]c_n x^{n+r} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r+2} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Extracting  $x^r$  and replacing  $n$  with  $n-2$  in the last summation, we get

$$x^r \{ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [(n+r)^2 - \nu^2]c_n - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} c_{n-2} \} x^n = 0.$$

$x^r \neq 0$ , extracting the values of  $n = 0$  and  $n = 1$  from the first summation, and summing from  $n = 2$ , we get

$$[-\nu^2]c_0 + [(1+r)^2 - \nu^2]c_1x + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} [(n+r)^2 - \nu^2]c_n + c_{n-2}x^n = 0. \quad (2)$$

The indicial equation is  $r^2 - \nu^2 = 0$ , since  $c_0 \neq 0$ , with roots  $r_1 = \nu$ ,  $r_2 = -\nu$ .

We now obtain one solution corresponding to the indicial root  $r_1 = \nu$ .

$\nu = \nu$ : We have  $[(1+\nu)^2 - \nu^2]c_1 = 0$ , or  $(1+2\nu)c_1 = 0$ . Since  $\nu \geq 0$ , it follows that  $1+2\nu \neq 0$ , which implies that  $c_1 = 0$ . From equation (2), the recursion formula is

$$(n+\nu)^2 - \nu^2]c_n + c_{n-2} = 0, \quad \text{or} \quad n(n+2\nu)c_n + c_{n-2} = 0, \quad n = 2, 3, \dots \quad \text{or} \\ n = -\frac{1}{n(n+2\nu)}c_{n-2}, \quad n = 2, 3, \dots \quad (3)$$

which yields

$c_3 = c_5 = c_7 = \dots = 0$ , since  $c_1 = 0$ .

Since  $n$  in equation (3) is an even number for non-trivial results, we have

$$c_{2n} = -\frac{1}{2^{2n}(n+\nu)}c_{2n-2}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (4)$$

which gives

$$c_2 = -\frac{1}{2^2(1+\nu)}c_0, \quad c_4 = -\frac{1}{2^2 \cdot 2(2+\nu)}c_2 = \frac{(-1)^2}{2^4 \cdot 2(1+\nu)(2+\nu)}c_0, \quad c_6 = -\frac{1}{2^2 \cdot 3(3+\nu)}c_4 = \frac{(-1)^3}{2^6 \cdot 2 \cdot 3(1+\nu)(2+\nu)(3+\nu)}c_0, \dots \\ c_{2n} = \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n}n!(1+\nu)(2+\nu)\dots(n+\nu)}c_0, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (5)$$

In the theory of Bessel functions, it is customary to denote the constant  $c_0$  by

$$c_0 = \frac{1}{2^\nu \Gamma(1+\nu)}, \quad (6)$$

where  $\Gamma$  is gamma function. Thus, equation (5) becomes

$$c_{2n} = \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n+\nu}n!(1+\nu)(2+\nu)\dots(n+\nu)\Gamma(1+\nu)}c_0, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

But

$$(1+\nu+n) = (n+\nu)\Gamma(n+\nu) = \dots = (n+\nu)(n+\nu-1)\dots(1+\nu)\Gamma(1+\nu),$$

and so

$$c_{2n} = \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n+\nu}n!\Gamma(1+\nu+n)}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Hence, one solution of equation (1) is

$$J_\nu(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_{2n}x^{2n+\nu} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!\Gamma(1+\nu+n)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2n+\nu}.$$

We have that one solution of the Bessel's equation of order  $\nu$  is Bessel function of the first kind of order  $\nu$ , and is denoted by

$$J_\nu(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!\Gamma(1+\nu+n)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2n+\nu}. \quad (7)$$

In the case of the indicial root  $r = -\nu$ , we have the second solution  $y_2$  to be Bessel function of the first kind of order  $-\nu$ , denoted by

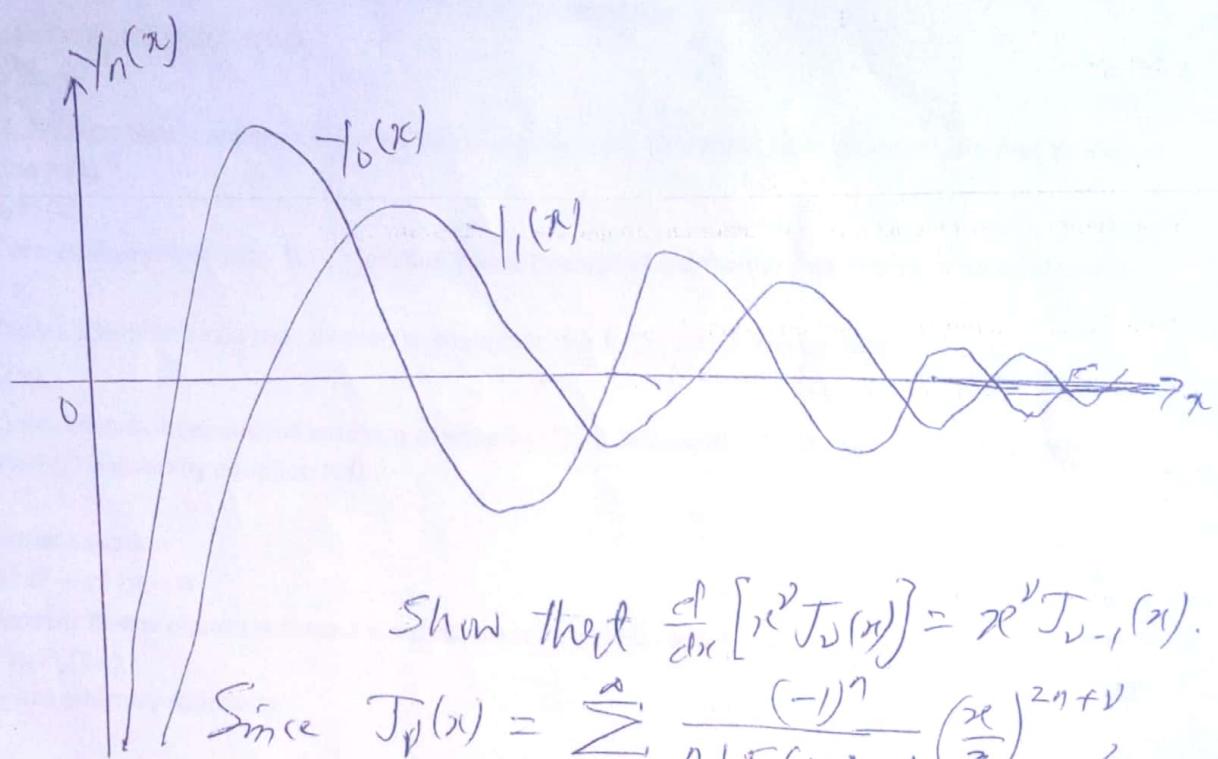
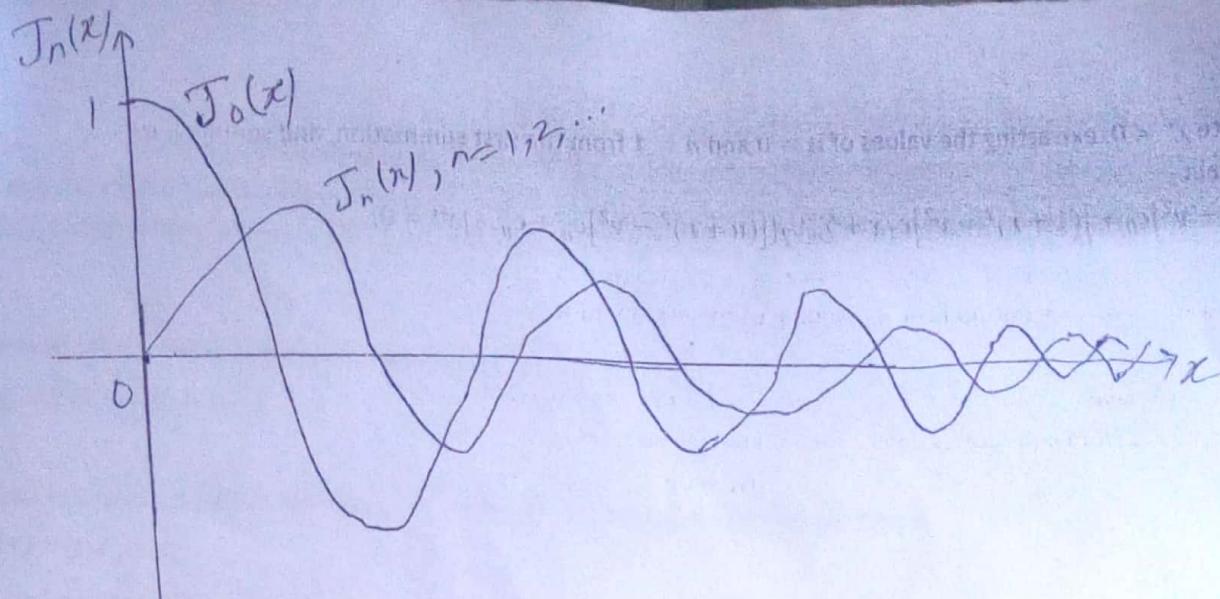
$$J_{-\nu}(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!\Gamma(1-\nu+n)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2n-\nu}, \quad (8)$$

where  $r_1 - r_2 = 2\nu$  is assumed not to be an integer.

Therefore, if  $r_1 - r_2 = 2\nu$  is not an integer, the general solution of Bessel's equation of order  $\nu$  is

$$y = a_1 J_\nu(x) + a_2 J_{-\nu}(x), \quad (9)$$

since  $J_\nu(x)$  and  $J_{-\nu}(x)$  are linearly independent solutions of equation (1), where  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  are arbitrary constants.



Show that  $\frac{d}{dx} [x^\nu J_\nu(x)] = x^\nu J_{\nu-1}(x)$ .

$$\text{Since } J_\nu(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n! \Gamma(1+\nu+n)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2n+\nu},$$

it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} [x^\nu J_\nu(x)] &= \frac{d}{dx} \left[ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n! \Gamma(1+\nu+n)} 2^{2n+\nu} x^{2(n+\nu)} \right] \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{2(n+\nu) (-1)^n}{n! \Gamma(1+\nu+n)} 2^{2n+\nu-1} x^{2(n+\nu)-1} \\ &= x^\nu \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n! \Gamma(\nu+n)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2n+\nu-1}, \quad \text{or} \end{aligned}$$

$$[x^\nu J_\nu(x)] = x^\nu J_{\nu-1}(x),$$

where  $\Gamma(1+\nu+n) = (\nu+n)\Gamma(\nu+n)$  has been used.

ever, if  $r_1 - r_2 = 2\nu$  is a positive integer,  $J_\nu(x)$  and  $J_{-\nu}(x)$  are linearly dependent, and there may exist a second solution of equation (1). It can be shown that if  $r_1 - r_2 = 2\nu$  is a positive integer, and  $\nu$  is half of an odd number,  $J_\nu(x)$  and  $J_{-\nu}(x)$  are linearly independent. Thus, equation (9) holds true for all  $\nu \neq$  integer.

### Example

Find the general solution of the differential equation

$$x^2 y'' + xy' + \left(x^2 - \frac{1}{9}\right)y = 0.$$

Solution: This is Bessel's equation of order  $\nu = \frac{1}{3}$ , since  $\nu^2 = \frac{1}{9}$ . Hence, its general solution is

$$y = a_1 J_{\frac{1}{3}}(x) + a_2 J_{-\frac{1}{3}}(x),$$

where  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  are arbitrary constants.

### Bessel Function of the Second Kind

If  $\nu$  is not an integer, the function defined by

$$J'_\nu(x) = \frac{\cos \nu\pi J_\nu(x) - J_{-\nu}(x)}{\sin \nu\pi} \quad (10)$$

and the function  $J_\nu(x)$  are linearly independent solutions of equation (1). Therefore, for  $\nu \neq$  integer, another general solution of equation (1) is

$$y = a_1 J_\nu(x) + a_2 Y_\nu(x),$$

where  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  are arbitrary constants.  $Y_\nu(x)$  is called Bessel function of the second kind of order  $\nu$ , or Neumann's function of order  $\nu$ .

If  $\nu \rightarrow m$  (an integer), L'Hôpital's rule may be used to show that  $\lim_{\nu \rightarrow m} Y_\nu(x)$  exists, and we have

$$Y_m(x) = \lim_{\nu \rightarrow m} Y_\nu(x).$$

$J_m(x)$  and  $Y_m(x)$  are linearly independent solutions of equation (1). It follows that for any value of  $\nu$ , the general solution of equation (1) is given by equation (11).

Note: The differential equation

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

is called the parametric Bessel equation, since  $\lambda$  is a parameter. Its general solution is

$$y = a_1 J_\nu(\lambda x) + a_2 Y_\nu(\lambda x),$$

where  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  are arbitrary constants.

(12)

### Example

Find the general solution of the parametric Bessel equation

$$x^2 y'' + xy' + 9x^2 y = 0.$$

Solution: Here  $\nu = 0$ ,  $\lambda = 3$ , since  $\lambda^2 = 9$ . Thus, the general solution is

$$y = a_1 J_0(3x) + a_2 Y_0(3x),$$

where  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  are arbitrary constants.

$$[x^\nu J_\nu(x)] = x^\nu J'_\nu(x) + \nu x^{\nu-1} J_\nu(x) = x^\nu J_{\nu-1}(x). \quad (\text{a})$$

$$[x^{-\nu} J_\nu(x)] = x^{-\nu} J'_\nu(x) - \nu x^{\nu-1} J_\nu(x) = -x^{-\nu} J_{\nu+1}(x). \quad (\text{b})$$

Multiply (a) by  $x^{-\nu}$  and multiply (b) by  $x^\nu$  to obtain

$$J'_\nu(x) + \nu x^{-1} J_\nu(x) = J_{\nu-1}(x). \quad (\text{c})$$

$$J'_\nu(x) - \nu x^{-1} J_\nu(x) = -J_{\nu+1}(x). \quad (\text{d})$$

(c) plus (d) gives

$$2J'_\nu(x) = J_{\nu-1}(x) - J_{\nu+1}(x). \quad (\text{e})$$

$\Rightarrow$  minus (d) gives

$$\frac{\nu}{x} J_\nu(x) = J_{\nu-1}(x) + J_{\nu+1}(x). \quad (\text{f})$$

ii) and (f) are the recurrence relations listed as  
ii. and iv.

$$\text{Now that } \frac{d}{dx}[x^{-\nu} J_\nu(x)] = -x^{-\nu} J_{\nu+1}(x).$$

Replacing  $\nu$  by  $-\nu$  in  $\frac{d}{dx}[x^\nu J_\nu(x)] = x^\nu J_{\nu-1}(x)$ , we get

$$x[x^{-\nu} J_\nu(x)] = x^{-\nu} J_{-\nu-1}(x).$$

Since  $J_{-\nu}(x) = (-1)^\nu J_\nu(x)$ , we have

$$x[x^{-\nu}(-1)^\nu J_\nu(x)] = x^{-\nu} J_{-(\nu+1)}(x) = (-1)^{\nu+1} x^{-\nu} J_{\nu+1}(x).$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx}[x^{-\nu} J_\nu(x)] = (-1)^{\nu+1} x^{-\nu} J_{\nu+1}(x).$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx}[x^{-\nu} J_\nu(x)] = -x^{-\nu} J_{\nu+1}(x).$$

## Properties of Bessel Functions

Some of the properties of Bessel functions are:

- i.  $\frac{d}{dx} [x^\nu J_\nu(x)] = x^\nu J_{\nu-1}(x).$
- ii.  $\frac{d}{dx} [x^{-\nu} J_\nu(x)] = -x^{-\nu} J_{\nu+1}(x).$
- iii.  $J_{\nu-1}(x) + J_{\nu+1}(x) = \frac{2\nu}{x} J_\nu(x).$
- iv.  $J_{\nu-1}(x) - J_{\nu+1}(x) = 2J'_\nu(x).$
- v.  $J_{-m}(x) = (-1)^m J_m(x).$
- vi.  $J_m(-x) = (-1)^m J_m(x).$
- vii.  $J_m(0) = 0, m = 1, 2, \dots$
- viii.  $J_0(0) = 1.$
- ix.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} Y_m(x) = -\infty.$

### Note:

- a.  $m$  is an integer.
- b. Properties iii. and iv. are recurrence relations.
- c. Property vi. shows that  $J_m(x)$  is an even function if  $m$  is an even integer, and an odd function if  $m$  is an odd integer.

### Exercises

Find the general solution of each of the given differential equations.

1.  $4x^2 y'' + 4xy' + (4x^2 - 25)y = 0.$
2.  $16x^2 y'' + 16xy' + (16x^2 - 1)y = 0.$
3.  $x^2 y'' + xy' + (9x^2 - 4)y = 0.$
4.  $\frac{d}{dx}(xy') + \left(x - \frac{16}{x}\right)y = 0.$

## Legendre's Equation and Legendre Polynomials

The differential equation

$$(1 - x^2)y'' - 2xy' + n(n + 1)y = 0, \quad (1)$$

where  $n$  is a non-negative integer, is called Legendre's equation. It arises in numerous physical problems, particularly in boundary-value problems for spheres.

Since  $x = 0$  is an ordinary point of equation (1), we assume a solution of (1) in the form

$$y = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k x^k,$$

which implies

$$y' = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} kc_k x^{k-1}, \quad y'' = \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} k(k-1)c_k x^{k-2}.$$

Employing these in the given differential equation yields

$$\sum_{k=2}^{\infty} k(k-1)c_k x^{k-2} - \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} k(k-1)c_k x^k - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2kc_k x^k + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} n(n+1)c_k x^k = 0.$$

Replacing  $k$  with  $k+2$  in the first term, we obtain

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} x^k - \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} k(k-1)c_k x^k - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2kc_k x^k + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} n(n+1)c_k x^k = 0.$$

tracting the value of  $k = 0$  from the first and last series, extracting  $k = 1$  from the first, third, and last terms, and summing from  $k = 2$  yields

$$2!c_2 + n(n+1)c_0 + \{3!c_3 + [n(n+1) - 2]c_1\}x + \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} [(k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} + [n(n+1) - k(k+1)]c_k]x^k = 0.$$

This implies

$$2!c_2 + n(n+1)c_0 = 0.$$

$$3!c_3 + [n(n+1) - 2]c_1 = 0, \text{ or } 3!c_3 + (n-1)(n+2)c_1 = 0,$$

and the recurrence relation is

$$(k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} + [n(n+1) - k(k+1)]c_k = 0, \quad k = 2, 3, \dots \quad \text{or}$$

$$(k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} + (n-k)(n+k+1)c_k = 0, \quad k = 2, 3, \dots$$

We, therefore, get

$$\begin{aligned} c_2 &= -\frac{n(n+1)}{2!}c_0; \\ c_3 &= -\frac{(n-1)(n+2)}{3!}c_1; \\ c_{k+2} &= -\frac{(n-k)(n+k+1)}{(k+2)(k+1)}c_k, \quad k = 2, 3, \dots \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

From equation (2), we have

$$c_4 = -\frac{(n-2)(n+3)}{4 \cdot 3}c_2 = \frac{(n-2)n(n+1)(n+3)}{4!}c_0;$$

$$c_5 = -\frac{(n-3)(n+4)}{5 \cdot 4}c_3 = \frac{(n-3)(n-1)(n+2)(n+4)}{5!}c_1;$$

$$c_6 = -\frac{(n-4)(n+5)}{6 \cdot 5}c_4 = -\frac{(n-4)(n-2)n(n+1)(n+3)(n+5)}{6!}c_0;$$

$$c_7 = -\frac{(n-5)(n+6)}{7 \cdot 6}c_5 = -\frac{(n-5)(n-3)(n-1)(n+2)(n+4)(n+6)}{7!}c_1; \dots$$

We, therefore, have two linearly independent series solutions

$$v_1 = c_0 \left[ 1 - \frac{n(n+1)}{2!}x^2 + \frac{(n-2)n(n+1)(n+3)}{4!}x^4 - \frac{(n-4)(n-2)n(n+1)(n+3)(n+5)}{6!}x^6 + \dots \right]; \tag{3}$$

$$v_2 = c_1 \left[ x - \frac{(n-1)(n+2)}{3!}x^3 + \frac{(n-3)(n-1)(n+2)(n+4)}{5!}x^5 - \frac{(n-5)(n-3)(n-1)(n+2)(n+4)(n+6)}{7!}x^7 + \dots \right]. \tag{4}$$

Series (3) and (4) converge for  $|x| < 1$ .

When  $n$  is an even integer, series (3) terminates at  $x^n$ , and series (4) is an infinite series. If  $n$  is an odd integer, series (3) is an infinite series, whereas series (4) terminates at  $x^n$ . It follows that, since  $n$  is a non-negative integer, a solution of Legendre's equation is an  $n$ th degree polynomial. A constant multiple of this polynomial solution that takes the value 1 at  $x = 1$  is called a Legendre polynomial, denoted by  $P_n(x)$ .

Since a constant multiple of a solution of Legendre's equation is also a solution, it is customary to choose specific values for  $c_0$  and  $c_1$  according as  $n$  is an even and an odd positive integer, respectively. We select

$$c_0 = \begin{cases} 1 & , \quad n = 0 \\ (-1)^{\frac{n}{2}} \frac{1 \cdot 3 \dots (n-1)}{2 \cdot 4 \dots n}, & n = 2, 4, 6, \dots \end{cases}$$

and

$$c_1 = \begin{cases} 1 & , \quad n = 1 \\ (-1)^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \frac{1 \cdot 3 \dots n}{2 \cdot 4 \dots (n-1)}, & n = 3, 5, 7, \dots \end{cases}$$

Employing the above values of  $c_0$  and  $c_1$  in series (3) and (4), respectively, we get the Legendre polynomials

$$P_0(x) = 1; \quad P_2(x) = -\frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{2 \cdot 3}{2!}x^2 \right); \quad P_4(x) = \frac{1 \cdot 3}{2 \cdot 4} \left( 1 - \frac{4 \cdot 5}{2!}x^2 + \frac{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \cdot 7}{4!}x^4 \right); \dots \text{ from series (3)}$$

$$P_1(x) = x; \quad P_3(x) = -\frac{1 \cdot 3}{2} \left( x - \frac{2 \cdot 5}{3!}x^3 \right); \quad P_5(x) = \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5}{2 \cdot 4} \left( x - \frac{4 \cdot 7}{3!}x^3 + \frac{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 7 \cdot 9}{5!}x^5 \right); \dots \text{ from series (4).}$$

$$P_0(x) = 1;$$

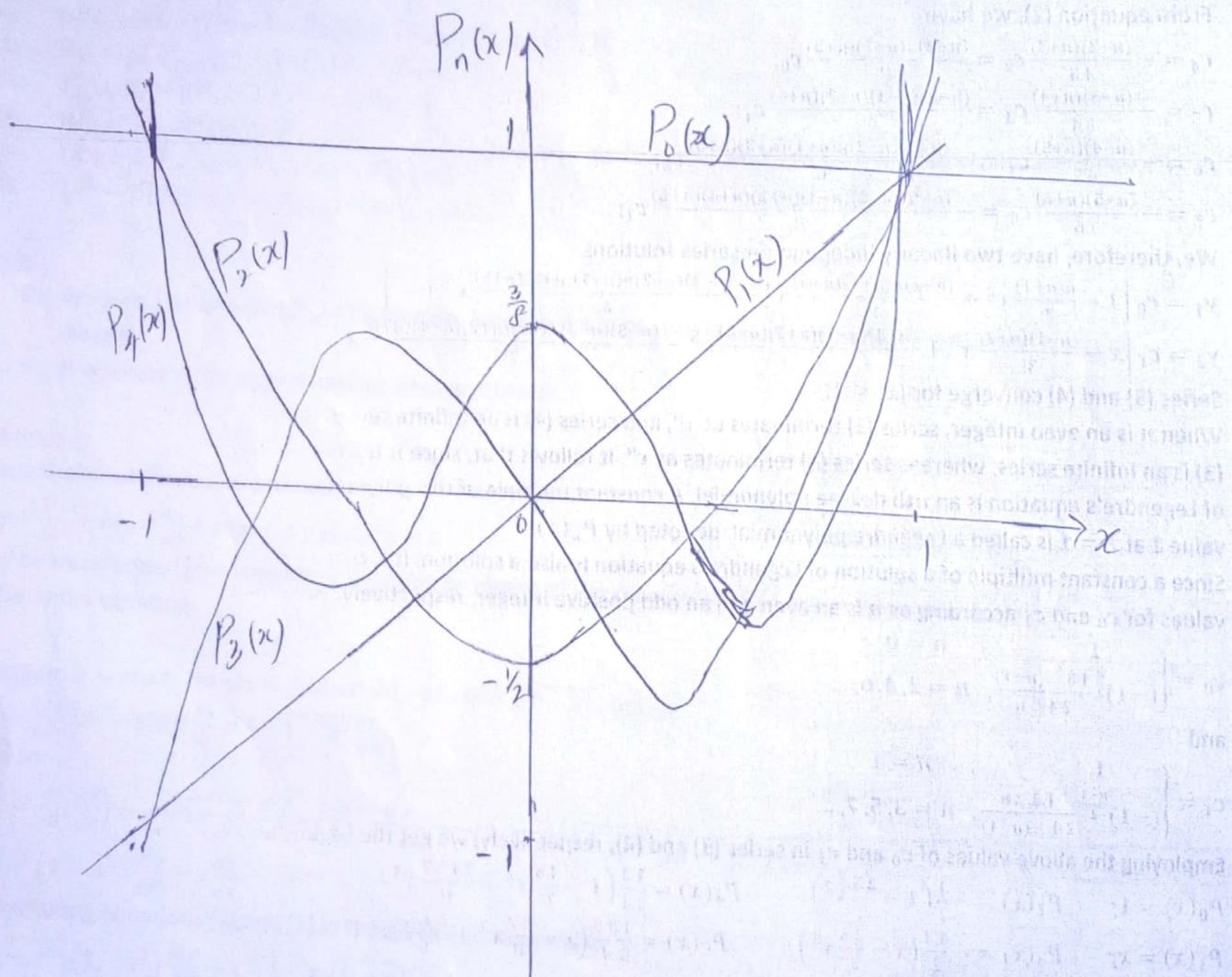
$$P_1(x) = x;$$

$$)=\frac{1}{16}(231x^6 - 315x^4 + 105x^2 - 5)$$

$$i) = \frac{1}{16}(429x^7 - 693x^5 + 315x^3 - 35x)$$

$$(x) = \frac{1}{128}(6435x^8 - 12012x^6 + 6930x^4 - 1260x^2 + 35).$$

$$(x) = \frac{1}{128}(12155x^9 - 25740x^7 + 18018x^5 - 4820x^3 + 315x).$$



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

$$P_1(x) = \frac{1}{8}(35x^4 - 30x^2 + 3);$$

are Legendre polynomials.

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

$$P_5(x) = \frac{1}{8}(63x^5 - 70x^3 + 15x);$$

The Legendre polynomials can also be generated by Rodrigues' formula

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

### Properties of Legendre Polynomials

Some properties of Legendre polynomials are

- i.  $P_n(-x) = (-1)^n P_n(x)$ .
- ii.  $P_n(1) = 1$ .
- iii.  $P_n(-1) = (-1)^n$ .
- iv.  $P_n(0) = 0, n = 1, 3, 5, \dots$
- v.  $P'_n(0) = 0, n = 0, 2, 4, \dots$
- vi.  $nP_{n-1}(x) - (2n+1)xP_n(x) + (n+1)P_{n+1}(x) = 0$ .
- vii.  $P_n(x) = P'_{n+1}(x) - 2xP'_n(x) + P'_{n-1}(x)$ .
- viii.  $P'_{n+1}(x) = xP'_n(x) + (n+1)P_n(x)$ .
- ix.  $nP_n(x) = xP'_n(x) - P'_{n-1}(x)$ .
- x.  $(2n+1)P_n(x) = P'_{n+1}(x) - P'_{n-1}(x)$ .
- xi.  $(x^2 - 1)P'_n(x) = nxP_n(x) - nP_{n-1}(x)$ .

Note:

- a. Property i. shows that  $P_n(x)$  is an even function if  $n$  is an even integer, and an odd function if  $n$  is an odd integer.
- b. Properties vi. through xi. are recurrence relations.

### Example 1

Show that the differential equation

$$\sin \theta \frac{d^2y}{d\theta^2} + \cos \theta \frac{dy}{d\theta} + n(n+1)(\sin \theta)y = 0$$

can be transformed into Legendre's equation by means of the substitution  $x = \cos \theta$ . Write down a solution of this differential equation.

Solution:  $x = \cos \theta \Rightarrow dx = -\sin \theta d\theta; \sin \theta = \sqrt{1-x^2}$ , and so

$$\frac{y}{\theta} = \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{dx}{d\theta} = -\sin \theta \frac{dy}{dx} = -\sqrt{1-x^2} \frac{dy}{dx}$$

and so

(1)

$$\frac{y}{\theta^2} = \frac{d}{d\theta} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) = -\sqrt{1-x^2} \frac{d}{dx} \left( -\sqrt{1-x^2} \frac{dy}{dx} \right) = \sqrt{1-x^2} \left( \sqrt{1-x^2} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \frac{dy}{dx} \right), \quad \text{or}$$

$$\frac{2y}{\theta^2} = (1-x^2) \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - x \frac{dy}{dx}.$$

Substituting equations (1) and (2) in the given equation yields

(2)

$$1-x^2 \left[ (1-x^2) \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - x \frac{dy}{dx} \right] - x\sqrt{1-x^2} \frac{dy}{dx} + n(n+1)\sqrt{1-x^2}y = 0.$$

Since  $\sqrt{1-x^2} \neq 0$ , we get

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$$x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 2x \frac{dy}{dx} + n(n+1)y = 0,$$

which is Legendre's equation.

solution of this equation is  $y = P_n(x) = P_n(\cos \theta)$ , where  $n$  is a non-negative integer.

### Example 2

Compute the Legendre polynomial corresponding to the Legendre's equation

$$(1-x^2)y'' - 2xy' + 12y = 0.$$

3. 1

Solution: Here  $n(n+1) = 12$ , or  $n^2 + n - 12 = 0$ , or  $(n-3)(n+4) = 0$ , or  $n = 3, n = -4$ .

Since  $n$  is a non-negative integer, we have that  $n = 3$ . Thus, the corresponding Legendre polynomial is

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

### Exercises

Compute the Legendre polynomial corresponding to each Legendre's equation.

1.  $(1-x^2)y'' - 2xy' + 2y = 0$ .
2.  $(1-x^2)y'' - 2xy' + 6y = 0$ .
3.  $(1-x^2)y'' - 2xy' + 30y = 0$ .
4. The Legendre polynomials are also be generated by Rodrigues' formula

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

Verify the results for  $n = 0, 1, 2, 3$ .

5. Using the text, compute the Legendre polynomials  $P_6(x), P_7(x), P_8(x)$ , and  $P_9(x)$ .

### Hypergeometric Equation and Function

A differential equation of the form

$$x(1-x)y'' + [c - (a+b+1)x]y' - aby = 0, \quad (1)$$

where  $a, b, c$  are constants, is called Gauss' hypergeometric equation. Hypergeometric equation (1) is important because many second-order linear differential equations are reducible to it, and also because many important special functions are closely related to its solutions. We assume that  $c$  is not an integer.

Since  $x = 0$  is a regular singular point of equation (1), we assume a series solution of (1) in the form

$$y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} d_n x^{n+r}, \quad d_0 \neq 0.$$

This is differentiated twice with respect to  $x$  to obtain

$$y' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)d_n x^{n+r-1}, \quad y'' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)d_n x^{n+r-2}.$$

Employing these in the given equation yields

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)d_n x^{n+r-1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)d_n x^{n+r} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c(n+r)d_n x^{n+r-1} - \\ & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (a+b+1)(n+r)d_n x^{n+r} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} abd_n x^{n+r} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(c+n+r-1)d_n x^{n+r-1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [(n+r)(a+b+n+r) + ab]d_n x^{n+r} = 0.$$

Extracting  $x^r$  and replacing  $n$  with  $n+1$  in the first summation, we get

$$x^r \left\{ \sum_{n=-1}^{\infty} (n+r+1)(c+n+r)d_{n+1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r+a)(n+r+b)d_n \right\} x^n = 0.$$

Since  $x^r \neq 0$ , extracting the values of  $n = -1$  from the first summation, and summing from  $n = 0$ , we obtain

$$(r+c-1)d_0 x^{-1} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \{(n+r+1)(c+n+r)d_{n+1} - (n+r+a)(n+r+b)d_n\} x^n = 0. \quad (2)$$

The indicial equation is  $r(r+c-1) = 0$ , since  $d_0 \neq 0$ , with roots  $r_1 = 0, r_2 = 1 - c$ .

$$F\left(\frac{k}{2}, \frac{k+1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; x^2\right) = (1+x)^{-k} + (1-x)^{-k}$$

$${}_k F\left(\frac{k}{2}, \frac{k+1}{2}, k+1; x\right) = (1+\sqrt{1-x})^{-k}.$$

$a, b, c \neq$  integer, it follows that the indicial roots do not differ by an integer. We now obtain one solution corresponding to the indicial root  $r = 0$ .

**0:** From equation (2), the recurrence relation is

$$n+1)(c+n)d_{n+1} - (n+a)(n+b)d_n = 0, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \quad \text{or}$$

$$l_{n+1} = \frac{(a+n)(b+n)}{(n+1)(c+n)} d_n, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$$

which gives

$$l_1 = \frac{ab}{c} d_0;$$

$$l_2 = \frac{(a+1)(b+1)}{2(c+1)} d_1 = \frac{a(a+1)b(b+1)}{2!c(c+1)} d_0;$$

$$l_3 = \frac{(a+2)(b+2)}{3(c+2)} d_2 = \frac{a(a+1)(a+2)b(b+1)(b+2)}{3!c(c+1)(c+2)} d_0, \dots$$

Generally, we get

$$l_n = \frac{a(a+1)(a+2)\dots(a+n-1)b(b+1)(b+2)\dots(b+n-1)}{n!c(c+1)(c+2)\dots(c+n-1)} d_0, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (3)$$

Letting  $d_0 = 1$ , we have one series solution of equation (1) to be

$$y_1 = 1 + \frac{ab}{c} x + \frac{a(a+1)b(b+1)}{2!c(c+1)} x^2 + \frac{a(a+1)(a+2)b(b+1)(b+2)}{3!c(c+1)(c+2)} x^3 + \dots, \quad (4)$$

which converges for  $|x| < 1$ . Equation (4) is called the hypergeometric series, and is denoted by  $F(a, b, c; x)$ . From equation (3), we obtain

$$F(a, b, c; x) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{a(a+1)(a+2)\dots(a+n-1)b(b+1)(b+2)\dots(b+n-1)}{n!c(c+1)(c+2)\dots(c+n-1)} x^n. \quad (5)$$

$F(a, b, c; x)$  is called the hypergeometric function.  $F(a, b, c; x) = F(b, a, c; x)$ , which shows that  $F(a, b, c; x)$  is symmetric with respect to  $a$  and  $b$ . Many functions can be obtained from the hypergeometric function for different values of the constants  $a, b, c$ . For example,

- $F(a, b, c; 0) = 1.$
- $\lim_{a \rightarrow \infty} F\left(a, b, b; \frac{x}{a}\right) = e^x.$
- $F(-a, b, b; -x) = (1+x)^a.$
- $F(k+1, -k, 1; x)$  is a polynomial of degree  $k$ , where  $k$  is a non-negative integer.
- $xF(1, 1, 2; -x) = \ln(1+x).$
- $xF\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; -x^2\right) = \tan^{-1} x.$
- $xF\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; x^2\right) = \sin^{-1} x.$
- $2xF\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; x^2\right) = \ln\left(\frac{1+x}{1-x}\right).$

A special case of equation iii. is

$$F(1, b, b; x) = (1-x)^{-1} = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots.$$

Two properties of the hypergeometric function are

- $\frac{d}{dx}[F(a, b, c; x)] = \frac{ab}{c} F(a+1, b+1, c+1; x).$
- $\frac{d^2}{dx^2}[F(a, b, c; x)] = \frac{a(a+1)b(b+1)}{c(c+1)} F(a+2, b+2, c+2; x).$

Note: The second series solution of the hypergeometric equation (1) corresponding to the indicial root  $r = 1 - c$  may be found to be

$$y_2 = x^{1-c} \left[ 1 + \frac{(a-c+1)(b-c+1)}{1!(-c+2)} x + \frac{(a-c+1)(a-c+2)(b-c+1)(b-c+2)}{2!(-c+2)(-c+3)} x^2 + \dots \right], \quad (6)$$

coefficients of the Fourier-Legendre series

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n P_n(x)$$

If  $f(x)$ , defined on the interval  $-1 < x < 1$ , are given by

$$c_n = \frac{2n+1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 f(x) P_n(x) dx, \quad n=0, 1, 2, \dots$$

If  $f(x) = P_n(x)$ , then  $c_n = 1 \ \forall n$ , and so

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

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_n^2(x) dx = \frac{2}{2n+1}, \quad n=0, 1, 2, \dots$$

where  $c \neq 2, 3, 4, \dots$ , or

$$= x^{1-c} F(a - c + 1, b - c + 1, -c + 2; x). \quad (7)$$

thus, the general solution of the hypergeometric equation is

$$= A_1 F(a, b, c; x) + A_2 x^{1-c} F(a - c + 1, b - c + 1, -c + 2; x),$$

provided  $c \neq$  integer, where  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are arbitrary constants and

$$F(a - c + 1, b - c + 1, -c + 2; x) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(a-c+1)(a-c+2)\dots(a-c+n)(b-c+1)(b-c+2)\dots(b-c+n)}{n!(-c+2)(-c+3)\dots(-c+n+1)} x^n.$$

### Example 1

Compute the hypergeometric series corresponding to the hypergeometric equation

$$(1-x)y'' + \left(\frac{3}{4} - 4x\right)y' - 2y = 0.$$

Write down the general solution.

Solution: Here  $c = \frac{3}{4}$ ,  $a + b + 1 = 4$ ,  $ab = 2$ . Solving  $a + b = 3$ ,  $ab = 2$ , we get  $a = 1$ ,  $b = 2$ , or  $a = 2$ ,  $b = 1$ .

Using  $a = 1$ ,  $b = 2$ ,  $c = \frac{3}{4}$ , we get the solution

$$F\left(1, 2, \frac{3}{4}; x\right) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\frac{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \dots n \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \dots (n+1)}{n! \frac{3}{4} \frac{7}{4} \frac{11}{4} \dots \left(n-\frac{1}{4}\right)}}{x^n} = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n!(n+1)!4^n}{n!3 \cdot 7 \cdot 11 \dots (4n-1)} x^n = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(n+1)!4^n}{3 \cdot 7 \cdot 11 \dots (4n-1)} x^n.$$

The general solution of the hypergeometric equation is given by

$$= A_1 F(a, b, c; x) + A_2 x^{1-c} F(a - c + 1, b - c + 1, -c + 2; x),$$

with  $a = 1$ ,  $b = 2$ ,  $c = \frac{3}{4}$ , or

$$= A_1 F\left(1, 2, \frac{3}{4}; x\right) + A_2 x^{\frac{1}{4}} F\left(\frac{5}{4}, \frac{9}{4}, \frac{5}{4}; x\right),$$

where  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are arbitrary constants.

### Example 2

Show that any differential equation of the form

$$(x - A)(x - B)y'' + (Cx + D)y' + Ey = 0,$$

where  $A, B, C, D$ , and  $E$  are constants and  $A \neq B$  can be transformed into Gauss' hypergeometric equation

$$(1-t)\ddot{y} + [c - (a + b + 1)t]\dot{y} - aby = 0$$

by means of the transformation  $x = A + (B - A)t$ , where  $\dot{y} = \frac{dy}{dt}$ .

Solution:  $x = A + (B - A)t \Rightarrow dx = (B - A)dt$ , and so

$$\dot{y} = \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dt}{dx} \frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{1}{B-A} \frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{1}{B-A} \ddot{y};$$

$$\ddot{y} = \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) = \frac{1}{B-A} \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{B-A} \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = \frac{1}{(B-A)^2} \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} = \frac{1}{(B-A)^2} \ddot{y}.$$

$\therefore A = (B - A)t$ ,  $x - B = (A - B)(1 - t) = -(B - A)(1 - t)$ , and so

$$(x - A)(x - B) = -(B - A)^2 t(1 - t). \text{ Also}$$

$$x + D = AC + D + C(B - A)t.$$

Substituting these into the given equation yields

$$-(B - A)^2 t(1 - t) \cdot \frac{1}{(B - A)^2} \ddot{y} + [AC + D + C(B - A)t] \cdot \frac{1}{B - A} \dot{y} + Ey = 0, \text{ or}$$

$$(1 - t)\ddot{y} + \left[ \frac{AC + D}{A - B} - Ct \right] \dot{y} - Ey = 0,$$

which is the hypergeometric equation, provided

$$= A_1 F(1, 1, \frac{1}{2}; x) + A_2 x^{\frac{1}{2}} F(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; x)$$

$$y = A_1 F(1, \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}; x) + A_2 x^{\frac{3}{2}} F(\frac{5}{2}, \frac{2}{2}, \frac{5}{2}; x)$$

$$y = A_1 F(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; x) + A_2 \sqrt{x} F(1, 1, \frac{3}{2}; x)$$

$$y = A_1 F(1, -\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}; x) + A_2 x^{\frac{2}{3}} F(\frac{5}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{5}{3}; x)$$

$$+ (1-t)\ddot{y} + (\frac{1}{2}-t)\dot{y} - 2y = 0, \text{ where } \dot{y} = \frac{dy}{dt}$$

$$t(1-t)\ddot{y} + 2\dot{y} + 6y = 0$$

$$\therefore x(1-x)y'' + \left[ \frac{Ct_1 + D}{t_1 - t_2} - Cx \right] y' - E y, \text{ where } y' = \frac{dy}{dx}$$

$$\frac{c+d}{a-b}, \quad a+b+1=c, \quad ab=e.$$

### Exercises

For the following hypergeometric equations, compute the corresponding hypergeometric series, and find the general solution of each equation.

1.  $x(1-x)y'' + \left(\frac{1}{2} - 3x\right)y' - y = 0,$
2.  $2x(1-x)y'' - (1+5x)y' - y = 0,$
3.  $4x(x-1)y'' + 2(4x-1)y' + y = 0,$
4.  $3x(1-x)y'' + (1-5x)y' + y = 0.$

Reduce each given differential equation to hypergeometric equation by means of the transformation given in Example 2. above and obtain the corresponding hypergeometric series and its general solution in the new variable.

5.  $(x-1)(x+2)y'' + \left(x + \frac{1}{2}\right)y' + 2y = 0,$
6.  $\left(x^2 - \frac{1}{4}\right)y'' + 2y' - 6y = 0.$

7. Consider the differential equation

$$(t^2 + At + B)\ddot{y} + (Ct + D)\dot{y} + Ey = 0,$$

where  $A, B, C, D, E$  are constants,  $\dot{y} = \frac{dy}{dt}$ , and  $t^2 + At + B$  has distinct zeros  $t_1$  and  $t_2$ . Show that by introducing the new independent variable

$$x = \frac{t-t_1}{t_2-t_1},$$

the given equation becomes the hypergeometric equation, where the parameters are related by  $Ct_1 + D = -c(t_2 - t_1)$ ,  $C = a + b + 1$ ,  $E = ab$ .

### Sturm-Liouville Problems

Here is an important class of boundary-value problems (BVPs) in mathematical physics in which the differential equation is of the form

$$p(x)y'' + [q(x) + \lambda r(x)]y = 0,$$

where  $p(x) > 0$ ,  $q(x)$ , and  $r(x) > 0$  are real and continuous functions on some interval  $a \leq x \leq b$ , and  $\lambda$  is a real parameter, satisfying boundary conditions of the form

$$\alpha_1 y(a) + \alpha_2 y'(a) = 0, \quad \beta_1 y(b) + \beta_2 y'(b) = 0.$$

Here  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  are given real constants not both zero; so are  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$ .

Equation (1) is called a Sturm-Liouville equation, and BVP (1)-(2) is called a Sturm-Liouville problem.

These problems occur in various engineering applications, for instance, in connection with vibrations of strings and membranes, and in heat conduction. Bessel's and Legendre's equations are examples of Sturm-Liouville equation, as follows:

#### i. Bessel's equation

$$x^2 y'' + xy' + (x^2 - \nu^2)y = 0 \Rightarrow xy'' + y' + \left(x - \frac{\nu^2}{x}\right)y = 0 \Rightarrow (xy')' + \left(x - \frac{\nu^2}{x}\right)y = 0.$$

Here  $p(x) = x$ ,  $q(x) = x$ ,  $r(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ ,  $\lambda = -\nu^2$ .

#### ii. Legendre's equation

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

Here  $p(x) = 1 - x^2$ ,  $q(x) = 0$ ,  $r(x) = 1$ ,  $\lambda = n(n + 1)$ , with  $-1 < x < 1$ .

BVP (1)-(2) is always satisfied by the trivial solution  $y(x) = 0$  for all  $x$  in the given interval. However, the desirable issue is to determine the values of  $\lambda$  for which the BVP (1)-(2) has a non-trivial solution. These values of  $\lambda$  are called the eigenvalues of the problem, and the corresponding non-trivial solutions  $y(x)$  are called the eigenfunctions of the problem.

### examples

Find the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of the Sturm-Liouville problems.

1.  $y'' + \lambda y = 0$ , for  $0 \leq x \leq L$ ,  $y(0) = y'(L) = 0$ .
2.  $y'' + (-4 + \lambda)y = 0$ , for  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ ,  $y'(0) = y'(1) = 0$ .
3.  $(x^{-1}y')' + (\lambda + 1)x^{-3}y = 0$ , for  $1 \leq x \leq e$ ,  $y(1) = y(e) = 0$ .

### solutions:

1. The auxiliary equation of the differential equation  $y'' + \lambda y = 0$  is  $m^2 + \lambda = 0$ , or  $m = \pm\sqrt{-\lambda}$ . We consider the cases  $\lambda < 0$ ,  $\lambda = 0$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ .

#### Case I: $\lambda < 0$

Let  $\lambda = -k^2$ , where  $k > 0$ . The differential equation becomes  $y'' - k^2y = 0$ , with the general solution

$$y(x) = c_1 e^{kx} + c_2 e^{-kx}, \text{ and so}$$

$$y'(x) = c_1 k e^{kx} - c_2 k e^{-kx},$$

where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are arbitrary constants.

$$\Rightarrow y(0) = c_1 + c_2 = 0 \Rightarrow c_2 = -c_1;$$

$$y'(L) = k(c_1 e^{kL} - c_2 e^{-kL}) = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 k(e^{kL} + e^{-kL}) = 0.$$

Since  $k(e^{kL} + e^{-kL}) \neq 0$ , it follows that  $c_1 = 0$ , and so  $c_2 = 0$ .

Hence, we obtain the trivial solution  $y(x) = 0$ .

#### Case II: $\lambda = 0$

The differential equation becomes  $y'' = 0$ , whose general solution is

$$y(x) = c_3 x + c_4, \text{ and so}$$

$$y'(x) = c_3,$$

where  $c_3$  and  $c_4$  are arbitrary constants.

$$\Rightarrow y(0) = c_4 = 0;$$

$$y'(L) = c_3 = 0.$$

We, therefore, get the trivial solution  $y(x) = 0$ .

#### Case III: $\lambda > 0$

Let  $\lambda = k^2$ , where  $k > 0$ . The differential equation becomes  $y'' + k^2y = 0$ , with the general solution

$$y(x) = c_5 \cos kx + c_6 \sin kx, \text{ and so}$$

$$y'(x) = -c_5 k \sin kx + c_6 k \cos kx,$$

where  $c_5$  and  $c_6$  are arbitrary constants.

$$\Rightarrow y(0) = c_5 = 0;$$

$$y'(L) = c_6 k \cos kL = 0.$$

For non-trivial solution, it follows that  $c_6 \neq 0$ . Since  $k > 0$ , we have that  $\cos kL = 0$ , and so  $kL = (2n+1)\frac{\pi}{2}$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ . Therefore, the eigenvalues of the problem are

$$\lambda_n = \left[ \frac{(2n+1)\pi}{2L} \right]^2, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

and the corresponding eigenfunctions are

$$\tilde{y}_n(x) = \sin \frac{(2n+1)\pi}{2L} x, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$$

with  $c_5 = 0, c_6 = 1$ .

2. The auxiliary equation of the differential equation  $y'' + (-4 + \lambda)y = 0$  is  $m^2 - 4 + \lambda = 0$ , or  $m = \pm\sqrt{4 - \lambda}$ . We consider the cases  $4 - \lambda < 0, 4 - \lambda = 0, 4 - \lambda > 0$ .

Case I:  $4 - \lambda < 0$

Let  $4 - \lambda = -k^2$ , where  $k > 0$ . The differential equation becomes  $y'' + k^2 y = 0$ , with the general solution

$$y(x) = c_1 \cos kx + c_2 \sin kx. \quad (1)$$

$$\Rightarrow y'(x) = -c_1 k \sin kx + c_2 k \cos kx,$$

where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are arbitrary constants.

$$\Rightarrow y'(0) = c_2 k = 0. \Rightarrow c_2 = 0 \text{ since } k > 0;$$

$$y'(1) = -c_1 k \sin k = 0.$$

Since  $c_1 \neq 0$  and  $k > 0$ , we have that  $\sin k = 0. \Rightarrow k = n\pi, n = 1, 2, \dots$

Hence,  $\lambda = 4 + k^2$  gives the eigenvalues

$$\lambda_n = 4 + n^2\pi^2, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (2)$$

and the corresponding eigenfunctions, from equation (1), are

$$y_n(x) = \cos n\pi x, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (3)$$

with  $c_1 = 1, c_2 = 0$ .

Case II:  $4 - \lambda = 0$

The differential equation becomes  $y'' = 0$ , whose general solution is

$$y(x) = c_3 x + c_4. \quad (4)$$

$$\Rightarrow y'(x) = c_3,$$

where  $c_3$  and  $c_4$  are arbitrary constants.

$$\Rightarrow y'(0) = y'(1) = c_3 = 0.$$

Thus, the eigenvalue is

$$\lambda = 4,$$

and the corresponding eigenfunction is obtained from equation (4) with  $c_3 = 0, c_4 = 1$  as

$$y(x) = 1. \quad (5)$$

Case III:  $4 - \lambda > 0$

Let  $4 - \lambda = k^2$ , where  $k > 0$ . The differential equation becomes  $y'' - k^2 y = 0$ , with the general solution

$$y(x) = c_5 e^{kx} + c_6 e^{-kx}, \text{ and so}$$

$$y'(x) = c_5 k e^{kx} - c_6 k e^{-kx},$$

where  $c_5$  and  $c_6$  are arbitrary constants.

$$\Rightarrow y'(0) = k(c_5 - c_6) = 0. \Rightarrow c_5 = c_6, \text{ since } k > 0;$$

$$y'(1) = c_5 k(e^k - e^{-k}) = 0.$$

Since  $e^k \neq e^{-k}$ , we get  $c_5 = 0$  and so  $c_6 = 0$ . Therefore, we obtain a trivial solution  $y(x) = 0$ . It will be observed that if we set  $n = 0$  in equations (2) and (3), we obtain equations (5) and (6), respectively.

Hence, the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions, respectively, for the given Sturm-Liouville problem are

$$\lambda_n = 4 + n^2\pi^2, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

and the corresponding eigenfunctions are

$$y_n(x) = \cos n\pi x, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$



The equation  $(x^{-1}y')' + (\lambda + 1)x^{-3}y = 0$  may be written as

$x^{-1}y'' - x^{-2}y' + (\lambda + 1)x^{-3}y = 0$ , or by multiplying through by  $x^3$ , we get  
 $x^2y'' - xy' + (\lambda + 1)y = 0$ ,

(1)

which is a Cauchy-Euler equation. The form of the solution of equation (1) is  $y = x^m$ , and so the auxiliary equation of equation (1) is  $m(m - 1) - m + \lambda + 1 = 0$ , or  $m^2 - 2m + \lambda + 1 = 0$ , with roots  $m = 1 \pm \sqrt{-\lambda}$ . We consider the cases  $\lambda < 0$ ,  $\lambda = 0$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ .

#### Case I: $\lambda < 0$

Let  $\lambda = -k^2$ , where  $k > 0$ . The differential equation becomes  $x^2y'' - xy' + (1 - k^2)y = 0$ , with the general solution

$$y(x) = c_1x^{1+k} + c_2x^{1-k},$$

where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are arbitrary constants.

$$\Rightarrow y(1) = c_1 + c_2 = 0 \Rightarrow c_2 = -c_1;$$

$$y(e) = c_1e^{1+k} + c_2e^{1-k} = 0 \Rightarrow c_1k(e^{1+k} - e^{1-k}) = 0.$$

Since  $e^{1+k} - e^{1-k} \neq 0$ , it follows that  $c_1 = 0$ , and so  $c_2 = 0$ .

Hence, we obtain the trivial solution  $y(x) = 0$ .

#### Case II: $\lambda = 0$

The differential equation becomes  $x^2y'' - xy' + y = 0$ , whose general solution is

$$y(x) = c_3x + c_4x \ln x,$$

where  $c_3$  and  $c_4$  are arbitrary constants.

$$\Rightarrow y(1) = c_3 = 0;$$

$$y(e) = c_4e \ln e = c_4e = 0 \Rightarrow c_4 = 0, \text{ since } e \neq 0.$$

We, therefore, get the trivial solution  $y(x) = 0$ .

#### Case III: $\lambda > 0$

Let  $\lambda = k^2$ , where  $k > 0$ . The differential equation becomes  $x^2y'' - xy' + (k^2 + 1)y = 0$ , with the general solution

$$y(x) = x[c_5 \cos(k \ln x) + c_6 \sin(k \ln x)],$$

where  $c_5$  and  $c_6$  are arbitrary constants.

$$\Rightarrow y(1) = c_5 = 0;$$

$$y(e) = c_6e \sin k = 0.$$

For non-trivial solution, it follows that  $c_6 \neq 0$ . Since  $e \neq 0$ , we have that  $\sin k = 0$ , and so  $k = n\pi$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , and so the eigenvalues of the problem are

$$\lambda_n = n^2\pi^2, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots,$$

and the corresponding eigenfunctions are

$$y_n(x) = x \sin(n\pi \ln x), \quad n = 1, 2, \dots,$$

with  $c_5 = 0$ ,  $c_6 = 1$ ,  $k = n\pi$ .

#### Note 1: The form of the solution of the Cauchy-Euler equation

$$a_4x^4y^{(4)} + a_3x^3y''' + a_2x^2y'' + a_1xy' + a_0y = 0,$$

where  $a_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ , are constants, is  $y = x^m$ , and so the auxiliary equation of equation (1) is

$$a_4m(m-1)(m-2)(m-3) + a_3m(m-1)(m-2) + a_2m(m-1) + a_1m + a_0 = 0.$$

If this quartic equation has real and distinct roots,  $m_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ , then the general solution of equation (1) is

$$y = c_1x^{m_1} + c_2x^{m_2} + c_3x^{m_3} + c_4x^{m_4}.$$

$$f(x) = \frac{3}{2}P_1(x) - \frac{7}{8}P_3(x) + \frac{11}{16}P_5(x) + \dots$$

$$\therefore f(x) = \frac{1}{4}P_0(x) + \frac{1}{2}P_1(x) + \frac{5}{16}P_2(x) + \dots$$

$$\therefore f(x) = \frac{2}{5}P_1(x) - \frac{2}{5}P_3(x)$$

$$\therefore f(x) = P_1(x) + 2P_2(x)$$

$$\therefore f(x) = \frac{8}{35}P_4(x) + \frac{4}{7}P_2(x) + \frac{1}{5}P_0(x)$$

5. Show that the sketch is given by ~~f(x)~~.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1+x, & -1 \leq x < 0 \\ 1-x, & 0 \leq x < 1 \end{cases}$$

and compute its Fourier-Legendre series.

Show that the sketch is given by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 6(x+1), & -1 \leq x < \frac{1}{2} \\ -6x, & -\frac{1}{2} \leq x < \frac{1}{2} \\ -3, & \frac{1}{2} \leq x < 1 \end{cases}$$

thereafter, obtain its Fourier-Legendre series.

If the roots of the quartic equation are real and repeated, i.e.  $m_1$  (4 times), then the general solution of equation

$$c_1 x^{m_1} + c_2 x^{m_1} \ln x + c_3 x^{m_1} (\ln x)^2 + c_4 x^{m_1} (\ln x)^3.$$

If the roots of the quartic equation are repeated complex conjugates, i.e.  $m_1 = \alpha + i\beta$  (twice) and  $m_2 = \alpha - i\beta$  (2 times), then the general solution of equation (1) is

$$= x^\alpha [c_1 \cos(\beta \ln x) + c_2 \sin(\beta \ln x) + c_3 (\ln x) \cos(\beta \ln x) + c_4 (\ln x) \sin(\beta \ln x)],$$

where  $c_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ , are arbitrary constants.

**Note 2:** Another method of solving the Cauchy-Euler equation is to let  $x = e^t$ , or  $t = \ln x$ , and so

$$y' = \frac{dt}{dx} \frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{1}{e^t} \frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{1}{x} \frac{dy}{dt}, \Rightarrow x \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dt}, \text{ or } xy' = \dot{y}.$$

$$y'' = \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{dt}{dx} \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = \frac{1}{e^t} \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{1}{e^t} \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = \frac{1}{x} \left( \frac{1}{e^t} \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} - \frac{1}{e^t} \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = \frac{1}{x^2} \left( \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - \frac{dy}{dx} \right). \Rightarrow x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} - \frac{dy}{dt}, \text{ or } x^2 y'' = \ddot{y} - \dot{y}.$$

Continuing in this manner, we will obtain  $x^3 y''' = \ddot{\ddot{y}} - 3\ddot{y} + 2\dot{y}$ .

From the foregoing, we see that employing the substitution  $x = e^t$  is tedious and impracticable when we have higher order differential equation.

### Exercises

Find the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions of the Sturm-Liouville problems.

1.  $y'' + \lambda y = 0$ , for  $0 \leq x \leq \pi$ ,  $y(0) = y(\pi) = 0$ .
2.  $y'' + \lambda y = 0$ , for  $-\frac{1}{2} \leq x \leq \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $y\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = y\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 0$ .
3.  $y'' + \lambda y = 0$ , for  $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$ ,  $y(0) = y(2\pi)$ ,  $y'(0) = y'(2\pi)$ .
4.  $x^2 y'' + 2xy' + \lambda y = 0$ , for  $1 \leq x \leq e^2$ ,  $y(1) = y(e^2) = 0$ .
5.  $y'' + (2 + \lambda)y = 0$ , for  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ ,  $y(0) = y(1) = 0$ .
6.  $(xy')' + \lambda x^{-1}y = 0$ , for  $1 \leq x \leq e$ ,  $y(1) = y'(e) = 0$ .
7.  $(xy')' + \lambda x^{-1}y = 0$ , for  $e^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq x \leq e^{\frac{3}{2}}$ ,  $y\left(e^{\frac{1}{2}}\right) = y\left(e^{\frac{3}{2}}\right) = 0$ .
8.  $(e^{2x}y')' + (\lambda + 1)e^{2x}y = 0$ , for  $0 \leq x \leq \pi$ ,  $y(0) = y(\pi) = 0$ .
9. Show that the eigenvalues of the Sturm-Liouville problem  $y'' + \lambda y = 0$ ,  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y(1) + y'(1) = 0$  are obtained as solutions of the equation  $\tan k = -k$ , where  $k = \sqrt{\lambda}$ . Show graphically that this equation has infinitely many solutions  $k = k_n$  and the eigenfunctions are  $y_n = \sin k_n x$  ( $k_n \neq 0$ ).

### Orthogonal Functions

**Definition 1:** Let  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  be two real-valued functions defined on an interval  $a \leq x \leq b$ . The inner product of the functions  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$ , denoted by  $(f, g)$ , is defined by

$$(f, g) = \int_a^b f(x)g(x) dx, \quad (1)$$

provided the integral exists.

The functions  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are said to be orthogonal on the interval  $a \leq x \leq b$  if  $(f, g) = 0$ . That is

$$(f, g) = \int_a^b f(x)g(x) dx = 0. \quad (2)$$

**Definition 2:** A set of real-valued functions  $\{\phi_n(x)\}$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , is said to be orthogonal on an interval  $a \leq x \leq b$

(3)

$$\phi_n) = \int_a^b \phi_m(x) \phi_n(x) dx = 0, m \neq n.$$

non-negative square root of  $(\phi_n, \phi_n)$  is called the norm of  $\phi_n(x)$ , and is denoted by  $\|\phi_n(x)\|$ . Hence

(4)

$$\|\phi_n(x)\| = \sqrt{\int_a^b \phi_n^2(x) dx}.$$

In orthogonal set  $\{\phi_n(x)\}$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , on an interval  $a \leq x \leq b$  whose functions have norm 1 (i.e.  $\|\phi_n(x)\| = 1$ ) satisfies the relation

(5)

$$(\phi_m, \phi_n) = \int_a^b \phi_m(x) \phi_n(x) dx = \begin{cases} 0, & m \neq n \\ 1, & m = n \end{cases}$$

where  $m, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  Such a set is called an orthonormal set of functions on the interval  $a \leq x \leq b$ .

Equation (5) may be written as  $(\phi_m, \phi_n) = \delta_{mn}$ , where

(6)

$$\delta_{mn} = \begin{cases} 0, & m \neq n \\ 1, & m = n \end{cases}$$

is called Kronecker delta, with  $m, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

In light of the foregoing, it is obvious that an orthonormal set can be obtained from an orthogonal set by dividing each function by its norm.

(7)

Definition 3: A set of functions  $\{\phi_n(x)\}$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , is said to be an orthogonal set with respect to a weight function  $w(x)$  on an interval  $a \leq x \leq b$  if

$$\int_a^b w(x) \phi_m(x) \phi_n(x) dx = 0, m \neq n.$$

In this case, the norm of  $\phi_n(x)$  is defined as

(8)

$$\|\phi_n(x)\| = \sqrt{\int_a^b w(x) \phi_n^2(x) dx},$$

and if the norm  $\|\phi_n(x)\| = 1$ , the set is said to be orthonormal on that interval with respect to the weight function  $w(x)$ .

### Series of Orthogonal Functions (Generalized Fourier Series)

Let  $\{\phi_n(x)\}$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , be an orthogonal set of functions on an interval  $a \leq x \leq b$ , and let  $f(x)$  be a given function that can be represented in terms of the functions  $\phi_n(x)$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  by a convergent series

(9)

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n \phi_n(x).$$

This series is called a generalized Fourier series of  $f(x)$ , and the coefficients  $c_n$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  are called the Fourier constants of  $f(x)$  with respect to that orthogonal set of functions.

Owing to orthogonality, the Fourier constants can be determined by multiplying equation (9) by  $\phi_m(x)$  and integrating over the interval  $a \leq x \leq b$  to obtain

$$\int_a^b f(x) \phi_m(x) dx = c_0 \int_a^b \phi_0(x) \phi_m(x) dx + c_1 \int_a^b \phi_1(x) \phi_m(x) dx + \dots + c_n \int_a^b \phi_n(x) \phi_m(x) dx + \dots = c_n \int_a^b \phi_n^2(x) dx = c_n \|\phi_n(x)\|^2, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$$

which is obtained when  $m = n$ .

Thus, the Fourier constants are given by

(10)

$$c_n = \frac{1}{\|\phi_n(x)\|^2} \int_a^b f(x) \phi_n(x) dx = \frac{(f, \phi_n)}{\|\phi_n(x)\|^2}, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Using equation (10) in equation (9) gives

(11)

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(f, \phi_n)}{\|\phi_n(x)\|^2} \phi_n(x),$$

is a generalized Fourier series of the function  $f(x)$ .



er, if the set  $\{\phi_n(x)\}$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , is orthogonal with respect to a weight function  $w(x)$  on an interval  $a \leq x \leq b$ , then multiplying equation (9) by  $w(x)\phi_m(x)$  and integrating over the interval  $a \leq x \leq b$  yields

(12)

$$\frac{1}{\|\phi_n(x)\|^2} \int_a^b w(x)f(x)\phi_n(x) dx,$$

$$\text{where } \|\phi_n(x)\|^2 = \int_a^b w(x)\phi_n^2(x) dx.$$

In this case, the generalized Fourier series of  $f(x)$  is still given by equation (9), but the Fourier constants are given by equation (12).

### Examples

how that the given functions are orthogonal on the indicated interval.

$$1. f(x) = e^x, g(x) = xe^{-x} - e^{-x}, 0 \leq x \leq 2.$$

$$2. f(x) = x, g(x) = \cos 2x, -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq x \leq \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

### Solutions:

$$1. \int_0^2 f(x)g(x) dx = \int_0^2 e^x(xe^{-x} - e^{-x}) dx = \int_0^2 (x-1) dx = \left[ \frac{1}{2}x^2 - x \right]_0^2 = 0.$$

Thus, the given functions are orthogonal on the interval  $0 \leq x \leq 2$ .

$$2. \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} f(x)g(x) dx = \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} x \cos 2x dx = \left[ \frac{1}{2}x \sin 2x + \frac{1}{4} \cos 2x \right]_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} = 0.$$

Hence, the given functions are orthogonal on the interval  $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq x \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

### Examples

how that the given set of functions is orthogonal on the given interval and determine the corresponding orthonormal set.

$$3. \sin x, \sin 2x, \sin 3x, \dots, 0 \leq x \leq 2\pi.$$

$$4. \left\{ 1, \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right\}, n = 1, 2, \dots, 0 \leq x \leq L.$$

$$5. \{1, \cos mx, \sin nx\}, m, n = 1, 2, \dots, -\pi \leq x \leq \pi.$$

### Solutions:

3. For  $\sin x, \sin 2x, \sin 3x, \dots, 0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$ , we let  $\phi_n(x) = \sin nx$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , and so

$$(\phi_m, \phi_n) = \int_0^{2\pi} \sin mx \sin nx dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} [\cos(m-n)x - \cos(m+n)x] dx = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{m-n} \sin(m-n)x - \frac{1}{m+n} \sin(m+n)x \right]_0^{2\pi} = 0, m \neq n \quad \text{for } m, n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Thus, the given set of functions is orthogonal on the given interval. The norm of the function  $\phi_n(x)$  is

$$\|\phi_n(x)\| = \sqrt{\int_0^{2\pi} \sin^2 nx dx} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} (1 - \cos 2nx) dx} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \left[ x - \frac{1}{2n} \sin 2nx \right]_0^{2\pi}} = \sqrt{\pi}, n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Hence, the corresponding orthonormal set on the interval  $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$  is

$$\frac{\sin x}{\sqrt{\pi}}, \frac{\sin 2x}{\sqrt{\pi}}, \frac{\sin 3x}{\sqrt{\pi}}, \dots$$

4. For  $\left\{ 1, \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right\}$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ,  $0 \leq x \leq L$ , we let  $\phi_0(x) = 1$ ,  $\phi_n(x) = \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L}$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , and so

$$(\phi_0, \phi_n) = \int_0^L \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = \frac{L}{n\pi} \left[ \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right]_0^L = 0, n \neq 0.$$

The square norm of  $\phi_0(x)$  is

$$\|\phi_0(x)\|^2 = \int_0^L dx = L \Rightarrow \|\phi_0(x)\| = \sqrt{L}.$$

$$(\phi_m, \phi_n) = \int_0^L \cos \frac{m\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \left[ \cos \frac{(m+n)\pi x}{L} + \cos \frac{(m-n)\pi x}{L} \right] dx = \frac{L}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{(m+n)\pi} \sin \frac{(m+n)\pi x}{L} + \frac{1}{(m-n)\pi} \sin \frac{(m-n)\pi x}{L} \right]_0^L = 0, m \neq n$$

for  $m, n = 1, 2, \dots$

Thus, the given set of functions is orthogonal on the given interval. The square norm of the function  $\phi_n(x)$  is

$$\|\phi_n(x)\|^2 = \int_0^L \cos^2 \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \left( 1 + \cos \frac{2n\pi x}{L} \right) dx = \frac{1}{2} \left[ x + \frac{L}{2n\pi} \sin \frac{2n\pi x}{L} \right]_0^L = \frac{L}{2}. \Rightarrow \|\phi_n(x)\| = \sqrt{\frac{L}{2}}, n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Hence, the corresponding orthonormal set on the interval  $0 \leq x \leq L$  is

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}}, \sqrt{\frac{2}{L}} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right\}, n = 1, 2, \dots$$

5. For  $\{1, \cos mx, \sin nx\}$ ,  $m, n = 1, 2, \dots$ ,  $-\pi \leq x \leq \pi$ , we let  $\phi_0(x) = 1$ ,  $\phi_m(x) = \cos mx$ ,  $\psi_n(x) = \sin nx$ ,  $m, n = 1, 2, \dots$ , and so

$$(\phi_0, \phi_m) = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos mx dx = \frac{1}{m} \sin mx \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} = 0, m \neq 0.$$

$$(\phi_0, \psi_n) = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin nx dx = -\frac{1}{n} \cos nx \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} = 0, n \neq 0.$$

The square norm of  $\phi_0(x)$  is

$$\|\phi_0(x)\|^2 = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} dx = 2\pi. \Rightarrow \|\phi_0(x)\| = \sqrt{2\pi}.$$

$$(\phi_m, \psi_n) = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos mx \sin nx dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} [\sin(m+n)x - \sin(m-n)x] dx = \frac{1}{2} \left[ -\frac{1}{(m+n)} \cos(m+n)x + \frac{1}{(m-n)} \cos(m-n)x \right]_{-\pi}^{\pi} = 0, m \neq n \quad \text{for } m, n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Thus, the given set of functions is orthogonal on the given interval. The square norm of the function  $\phi_m(x)$  is

$$\|\phi_m(x)\|^2 = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos^2 mx dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (1 + \cos 2mx) dx = \frac{1}{2} \left[ x + \frac{1}{2m} \sin 2mx \right]_{-\pi}^{\pi} = \pi. \Rightarrow \|\phi_m(x)\| = \sqrt{\pi}, m = 1, 2, \dots$$

$$\|\psi_n(x)\|^2 = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \sin^2 nx dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} (1 - \cos 2nx) dx = \frac{1}{2} \left[ x - \frac{1}{2n} \sin 2nx \right]_{-\pi}^{\pi} = \pi. \Rightarrow \|\psi_n(x)\| = \sqrt{\pi}, n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Hence, the corresponding orthonormal set on the interval  $-\pi \leq x \leq \pi$  is

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \cos mx, \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \sin nx \right\}, m, n = 1, 2, \dots$$

### Example 6

Verify that the given functions are orthogonal on the given interval with respect to the weight function  $w(x)$ . Find the norm of each function.

$$T_0(x) = 1, T_1(x) = x, T_2(x) = 2x^2 - 1, -1 \leq x \leq 1; w(x) = (1 - x^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Solution:

$$\int_{-1}^1 w(x) T_0(x) T_1(x) dx = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx.$$

Let  $x = \sin \theta \Rightarrow dx = \cos \theta d\theta$ .

$$x = -1 \Rightarrow \sin \theta = -1 \Rightarrow \theta = -\frac{\pi}{2}; x = 1 \Rightarrow \theta = \frac{\pi}{2}, \text{ and so}$$

$$\int_{-1}^1 \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\sin \theta \cos \theta}{\cos \theta} d\theta = \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin \theta d\theta = -[\cos \theta]_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} = 0.$$

$$\int_{-1}^1 w(x) T_0(x) T_1(x) dx = 0.$$

$$\int_{-1}^1 w(x) T_0(x) T_2(x) dx = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{2x^2-1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (2 \sin^2 \theta - 1) d\theta = - \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos 2\theta d\theta = -\frac{1}{2} [\sin 2\theta]_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{-1}^1 w(x) T_0(x) T_2(x) dx = 0.$$

$$\int_{-1}^1 w(x) T_1(x) T_2(x) dx = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{x(2x^2-1)}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (2 \sin^3 \theta - \sin \theta) d\theta = - \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin \theta \cos 2\theta d\theta =$$

$$\int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (\sin \theta - \sin 3\theta) d\theta = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{3} \cos 3\theta - \cos \theta \right]_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_{-1}^1 w(x) T_1(x) T_2(x) dx = 0.$$

thus, the functions  $T_0(x), T_1(x), T_2(x)$  are orthogonal on the given interval with respect to the given weight function  $w(x).$

The norms of these functions are obtained as follows:

$$|T_0(x)|^2 = \int_{-1}^1 w(x) T_0^2(x) dx = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\cos \theta}{\cos \theta} d\theta = \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} d\theta = [\theta]_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} = \pi, \text{ and so}$$

$$|T_0(x)| = \sqrt{\pi}.$$

$$|T_1(x)|^2 = \int_{-1}^1 w(x) T_1^2(x) dx = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\sin^2 \theta \cos \theta}{\cos \theta} d\theta = \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^2 \theta d\theta = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (1 - \cos 2\theta) d\theta =$$

$$\left[ \theta - \frac{1}{2} \sin 2\theta \right]_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} = \frac{\pi}{2}, \text{ and so}$$

$$|T_1(x)| = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}}.$$

$$|T_2(x)|^2 = \int_{-1}^1 w(x) T_2^2(x) dx = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{(2x^2-1)^2}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{(2 \sin^2 \theta - 1)^2 \cos \theta}{\cos \theta} d\theta = \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (2 \sin^2 \theta - 1)^2 d\theta =$$

$$\int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos^2 2\theta d\theta = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (1 + \cos 4\theta) d\theta = \left[ \theta + \frac{1}{4} \sin 4\theta \right]_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} = \frac{\pi}{2}, \text{ and so}$$

$$|T_2(x)| = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}}.$$

### Exercises

Show that the given functions are orthogonal on the indicated interval. Find the norm of each function.

1.  $f(x) = x^3, g(x) = x^2 + 1, -1 \leq x \leq 1.$
2.  $f(x) = \cos x, g(x) = \sin^2 x, 0 \leq x \leq \pi.$
3.  $f(x) = e^x, g(x) = \sin x, \frac{\pi}{4} \leq x \leq \frac{5\pi}{4}.$

Show that the given set of functions is orthogonal on the indicated interval and determine the corresponding orthonormal set.

4.  $\sin x, \sin 3x, \sin 5x, \dots, 0 \leq x \leq \frac{\pi}{2}.$
5.  $1, \cos \pi x, \cos 2\pi x, \cos 3\pi x, \dots, -1 \leq x \leq 1.$
6.  $\cos x, \cos 2x, \cos 3x, \dots, 0 \leq x \leq \frac{\pi}{2}.$
7.  $P_0(x), P_1(x), P_2(x), -1 \leq x \leq 1,$

$$b_0 = \sqrt{2}, b_1 = 0, b_2 = \sqrt{\frac{5}{2}}, c_0 = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2}$$

$$c_1 = 0, c_2 = -\frac{3}{2}\sqrt{\frac{5}{2}}$$

$$\|H_0(x)\| = \pi^{\frac{1}{4}}, \|H_1(x)\| = \sqrt{2}\pi^{\frac{1}{4}}, \|H_2(x)\| = 4\pi^{\frac{1}{4}}.$$

$$\|L_n(x)\| = 1, n=0,1,2$$

$$\|U_n(x)\| = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}}, n=0,1,2$$

where  $P_0(x) = 1$ ,  $P_1(x) = x$ ,  $P_2(x) = \frac{1}{2}(3x^2 - 1)$  are Legendre polynomials.

8. Determine the constants  $a_0, b_0, b_1, c_0, c_1, c_2$  so that the functions  $g_0(x) = a_0$ ,  $g_1(x) = b_0 + b_1x$ ,  $g_2(x) = c_0 + c_1x + c_2x^2$  form an orthonormal set on the interval  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ . Compare the result with that of Problem 7.

Verify that the given functions are orthogonal with respect to the given weight function  $w(x)$  on the given interval. Evaluate the norm of each function.

9.  $H_0(x) = 1$ ,  $H_1(x) = 2x$ ,  $H_2(x) = 4x^2 - 2$ ,  $-\infty < x < \infty$ ;  $w(x) = e^{-x^2}$ .

10.  $L_0(x) = 1$ ,  $L_1(x) = 1 - x$ ,  $L_2(x) = 1 - 2x + \frac{1}{2}x^2$ ,  $0 \leq x < \infty$ ;  $w(x) = e^{-x}$ .

11.  $U_0(x) = 1$ ,  $U_1(x) = 2x$ ,  $U_2(x) = 4x^2 - 1$ ,  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ ;  $w(x) = (1 - x^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ .

12. Let  $\{\phi_n(x)\}$  be an orthogonal set of functions on the interval  $a \leq x \leq b$  such that  $\phi_0(x) = 1$  and  $\phi_1(x) = x$ .

Show that  $\int_a^b (\alpha x + \beta) \phi_n(x) dx = 0$  for  $n = 2, 3, \dots$  and any constants  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .

13. Let  $\{\phi_n(x)\}$  be an orthogonal set of functions on the interval  $a \leq x \leq b$ . Show that  $\|\phi_m(x) + \phi_n(x)\|^2 = \|\phi_m(x)\|^2 + \|\phi_n(x)\|^2$ ,  $m \neq n$ .

### Orthogonality of Bessel Functions

The orthogonality of the Bessel functions  $J_n(x)$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , is very important in engineering applications, for example, in connection with vibrations of circular membranes.

The Bessel function  $y = J_\nu(ax)$  was obtained by solving the parametric Bessel equation

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

which may be put in the form

$$(xy')' + (a^2 x^2 - \nu^2)y = 0, \text{ or}$$

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

Similarly,  $y = J_\nu(bx)$  is a solution of

$$xy' + \left(b^2 x - \frac{\nu^2}{x}\right)y = 0. \quad (2)$$

From equations (1) and (2), we get

$$[xJ'_\nu(ax)]' + \left(a^2 x - \frac{\nu^2}{x}\right)J_\nu(ax) = 0. \quad (3)$$

$$[xJ'_\nu(bx)]' + \left(b^2 x - \frac{\nu^2}{x}\right)J_\nu(bx) = 0. \quad (4)$$

Since the product  $J_\nu(ax)J_\nu(bx)$  is of interest, we multiply equation (3) by  $J_\nu(bx)$  and equation (4) by  $J_\nu(ax)$ , and subtract to get

$$(bx)[xJ'_\nu(ax)]' - J_\nu(ax)[xJ'_\nu(bx)]' + (a^2 - b^2)xJ_\nu(ax)J_\nu(bx) = 0,$$

which may be rewritten as

$$[xJ_\nu(bx)J'_\nu(ax) - xJ_\nu(ax)J'_\nu(bx)] + (a^2 - b^2)xJ_\nu(ax)J_\nu(bx) = 0. \quad (5)$$

Integrating equation (5) over a given interval  $0 \leq x \leq R$ , we get

$$J_\nu(bx)J'_\nu(ax) - xJ_\nu(ax)J'_\nu(bx)]_0^R + (a^2 - b^2) \int_0^R xJ_\nu(ax)J_\nu(bx) dx = 0,$$

which gives

$$J_\nu(bR)J'_\nu(aR) - J_\nu(aR)J'_\nu(bR) + (a^2 - b^2) \int_0^R xJ_\nu(ax)J_\nu(bx) dx = 0. \quad (6)$$

Since  $aR$  and  $bR$  are zeros of  $J_\nu(x)$ , it follows that at  $x = R$ ,  $J_\nu(aR) = J_\nu(bR) = 0$ . Hence, equation (6) becomes

$$-b^2) \int_0^R x J_\nu(ax) J_\nu(bx) dx = 0. \quad (7)$$

If  $a \neq b$ , the integral in equation (7) is zero, and so

$$\int_0^R x J_\nu(ax) J_\nu(bx) dx = 0, \quad a \neq b, \quad (8)$$

which proves that the set of functions  $J_\nu(a_n x)$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , is orthogonal on the interval  $0 \leq x \leq R$  with respect to the weight function  $x$ , where  $a_n R$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , are zeros of  $J_\nu(x)$ .

If  $a = b$ , the integral in equation (7) is not zero, and can be shown to be

$$\|J_\nu(ax)\|^2 = \int_0^R x J_\nu^2(ax) dx = \frac{1}{2} R^2 J_{\nu+1}^2(aR). \quad (9)$$

Note:  $aR$  is a zero of  $J_\nu(x)$  and not of  $J_{\nu+1}(x)$ .

### Simple Set of Polynomials

A set of polynomials  $\{f_n(x)\}$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , is called a simple set if  $f_n(x)$  is of degree  $n$ . The set contains polynomials of degrees  $0, 1, 2, \dots, n, \dots$ . An example of a simple set of polynomials is  $1, x, x^2, x^3, \dots$

An important property of simple sets is that if  $g_m(x)$  is any polynomial of degree  $m$  and  $\{f_n(x)\}$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , is a simple set of polynomials, then there exist constants  $c_k$  such that

$$g_m(x) = \sum_{k=0}^m c_k f_k(x),$$

which is assumed to be a convergent series.

### Orthogonal Polynomials

Theorem: If  $\{f_n(x)\}$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , is a simple set of polynomials, a necessary and sufficient condition that  $\{f_n(x)\}$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , be orthogonal with respect to the weight function  $w(x)$  over an interval  $a \leq x \leq b$  is that

$$\int_a^b w(x) x^k f_n(x) dx \begin{cases} = 0, & k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1 \\ \neq 0, & k = n \end{cases}$$

### Zeros of Orthogonal Polynomials

Theorem: If  $\{f_n(x)\}$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , is a simple set of real polynomials orthogonal with respect to the weight function  $w(x)$  over an interval  $a \leq x \leq b$ , and if  $w(x) > 0$  over the interval  $a < x < b$ , then the zeros of  $f_n(x)$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , are distinct and all lie in the open interval  $a < x < b$ .

### Orthogonality of Legendre Polynomials

The orthogonality of Legendre polynomials is useful in mathematical physics, especially in sphere problems.

The Legendre polynomials  $y = P_n(x)$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , were obtained by solving the Legendre's differential equation

$$(1 - x^2)y'' - 2xy' + n(n+1)y = 0,$$

which may be written as

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

$P_n(x)$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , form a simple set of polynomials for which we now obtain an orthogonality property.

Since  $y = P_n(x)$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , are solutions of equation (1), we have

$$(1 - x^2)P_n'[x] + n(n+1)P_n(x) = 0. \quad (2)$$

$f(x)$  is a function defined on the interval  $x < R$  and is given by the convergent series

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n J_{\nu}(a_n x),$$

in the coefficients

$$c_n = \frac{2}{R^2 J_{\nu+1}^2(a_n R)} \int_0^R x f(x) J_{\nu}(a_n x) dx, \quad n=1, 2, \dots$$

If  $f(x) = J_{\nu}(a_n x)$ , it follows that  $c_n = 1$ . Hence

$$\frac{2}{R^2 J_{\nu+1}^2(a_n R)} \int_0^R x J_{\nu}^2(a_n x) dx = 1,$$

$$\int_0^R x J_{\nu}^2(a_n x) dx = \frac{1}{2} R^2 J_{\nu+1}^2(a_n R).$$

Clearly,  $y = P_m(x)$ ,  $m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , are solutions of

$$-(1-x^2)P'_m(x)' + m(m+1)P_m(x) = 0. \quad (3)$$

Since the product  $P_m(x)P_n(x)$  is of interest, we multiply equation (2) by  $P_m(x)$  and equation (3) by  $P_n(x)$ , and subtract to get

$$P_m(x)[(1-x^2)P'_n(x)]' - P_n(x)[(1-x^2)P'_m(x)]' + [n(n+1) - m(m+1)]P_m(x)P_n(x) = 0,$$

which may be rewritten as

$$\frac{d}{dx}[(1-x^2)P_n(x)P'_m(x) - (1-x^2)P_m(x)P'_n(x)] + (n-m)(n+m+1)P_m(x)P_n(x) = 0. \quad (4)$$

Integrating equation (4) over the interval  $a \leq x \leq b$ , we get

$$(1-x^2)P_n(x)P'_m(x) - (1-x^2)P_m(x)P'_n(x) \Big|_a^b + (n-m)(n+m+1) \int_a^b P_m(x)P_n(x) dx = 0. \quad (5)$$

Any  $a$  and  $b$  may be chosen. Since  $1-x^2 = 0$  gives  $x = \pm 1$ , we select  $a = -1, b = 1$ , and so equation (5) becomes

$$(n-m)(n+m+1) \int_{-1}^1 P_m(x)P_n(x) dx = 0. \quad (6)$$

If  $m \neq n$  and since  $m$  and  $n$  are non-negative integers, we get  $n-m \neq 0$  and  $n+m+1 \neq 0$ . Hence, the integral in equation (6) is zero, and so

$$\int_{-1}^1 P_m(x)P_n(x) dx = 0, \quad m \neq n, \quad (7)$$

which proves the orthogonality of the Legendre polynomials over the interval  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ .

If  $m = n$ , the integral in equation (6) is not zero, and can be shown to be

$$\|P_n(x)\|^2 = \int_{-1}^1 P_n^2(x) dx = \frac{2}{2n+1}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (8)$$

### Fourier Series

We assume that a function  $f(x)$ , defined on an interval  $-L < x < L$ , can be expanded in the trigonometric series

$$f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} + b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right), \quad (1)$$

which is assumed to be convergent. We aim at determining the coefficients  $a_0, a_n, b_n$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$

To determine  $a_0$ , we integrate both sides of equation (1) with respect to  $x$  from  $-L$  to  $L$  to get

$$\int_{-L}^L f(x) dx = \frac{a_0}{2} \int_{-L}^L dx + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( a_n \int_{-L}^L \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + b_n \int_{-L}^L \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \right) = a_0 L, \quad (2)$$

Since  $\int_{-L}^L \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = \int_{-L}^L \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = 0$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  Equation (2) gives

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) dx. \quad (3)$$

$a_n$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  are determined by multiplying both sides of equation (1) by  $\cos \frac{m\pi x}{L}$ , and integrating over the interval

$-L < x < L$ :

$$\int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos \frac{m\pi x}{L} dx = \frac{a_0}{2} \int_{-L}^L \cos \frac{m\pi x}{L} dx + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( a_n \int_{-L}^L \cos \frac{m\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + b_n \int_{-L}^L \cos \frac{m\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \right). \quad (4)$$

But  $\int_{-L}^L \cos \frac{m\pi x}{L} dx = 0$ ,  $m = 1, 2, \dots$ ;

$$\int_{-L}^L \cos \frac{m\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = \begin{cases} 0, & m \neq n \\ L, & m = n \end{cases};$$

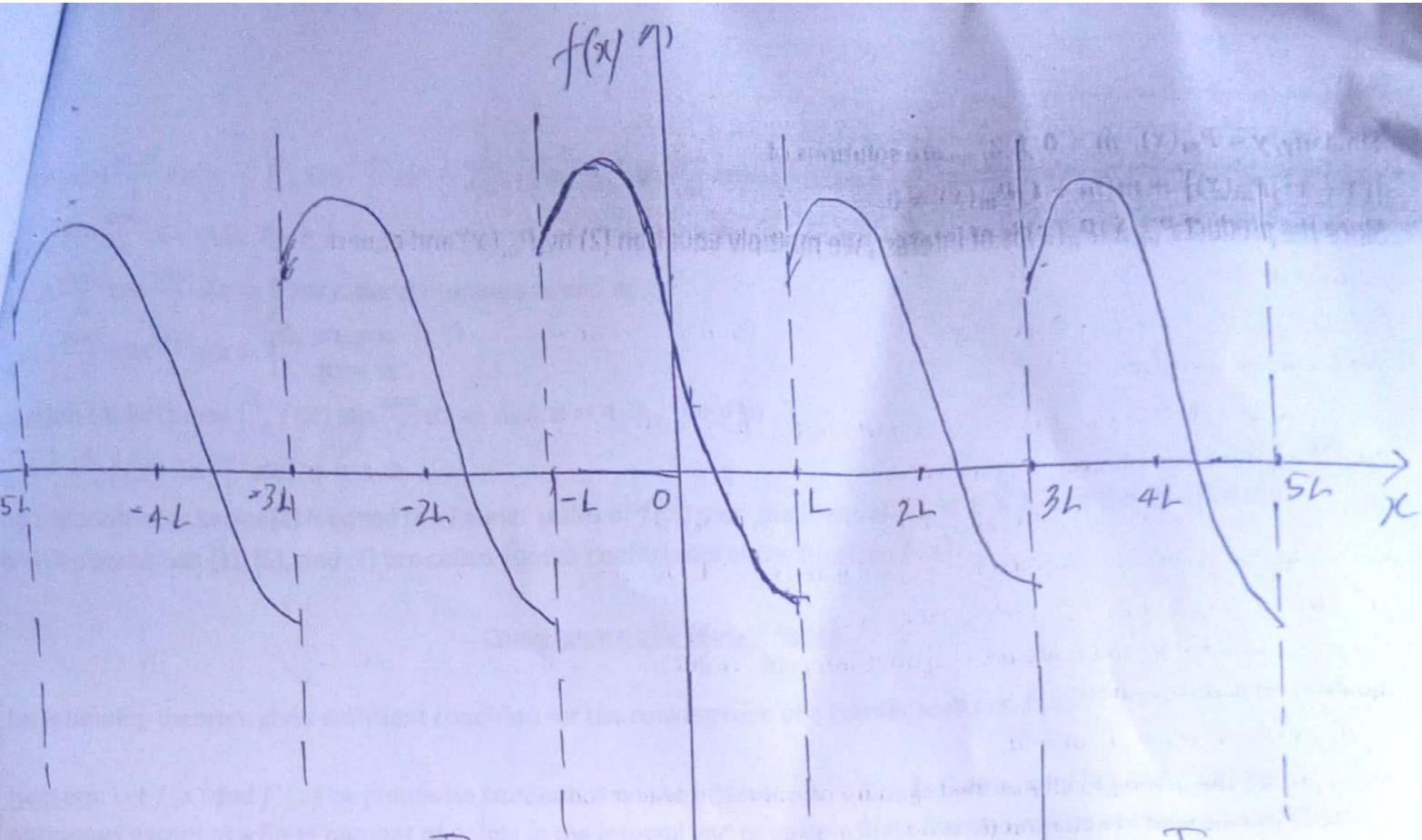
$\int_{-L}^L \cos \frac{m\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = 0$  for natural numbers  $m$  and  $n$ .

Equation (4) becomes  $\int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = a_n L$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , and so

$$a_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (5)$$

$a_n$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  are determined by multiplying both sides of equation (1) by  $\sin \frac{m\pi x}{L}$ , and integrating over the interval

$-L < x < L$ :



$$\begin{array}{c|c}
 D & I \\
 \hline
 \Rightarrow x(L+x) & \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\
 \Rightarrow L+2x & -\frac{L}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\
 \Rightarrow 2 & -\frac{L^2}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\
 \Rightarrow 0 & \frac{L^3}{n^3\pi^3} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
 D & I \\
 \hline
 \textcircled{+} (L-x)^2 & \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\
 \textcircled{-} -2(L-x) & -\frac{L}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\
 \textcircled{+} 2 & -\frac{L^2}{n^2\pi^2} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\
 \textcircled{+} 0 & \frac{L^3}{n^3\pi^3} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L}
 \end{array}$$

$$(x) \sin \frac{m\pi x}{L} dx = \frac{a_0}{2} \int_{-L}^L \sin \frac{m\pi x}{L} dx + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( a_n \int_{-L}^L \sin \frac{m\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + b_n \int_{-L}^L \sin \frac{m\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \right). \quad (6)$$

$$\int_{-L}^L \sin \frac{m\pi x}{L} dx = 0, \quad m = 1, 2, \dots;$$

$$\int_{-L}^L \sin \frac{m\pi x}{L} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = 0 \text{ for natural numbers } m \text{ and } n;$$

$$\int_{-L}^L \sin \frac{m\pi x}{L} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = \begin{cases} 0, & m \neq n \\ L, & m = n \end{cases}$$

equation (4) becomes  $\int_{-L}^L f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = a_n L, n = 1, 2, \dots$ , and so

$$a_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

The trigonometric series (1) is called the Fourier series of  $f(x)$  over the interval  $-L < x < L$ , and the coefficients given by equations (3), (5), and (7) are called Fourier coefficients of the function  $f(x)$ .

### Convergence of a Fourier Series

The following theorem gives sufficient condition for the convergence of a Fourier series of  $f(x)$ .

**Theorem:** Let  $f(x)$  and  $f'(x)$  be piecewise continuous on the interval  $-L < x < L$ ; that is, let  $f(x)$  and  $f'(x)$  be continuous except at a finite number of points in the interval and have only finite discontinuities at these points. Then the Fourier series of  $f(x)$  on the interval converges to  $f(x)$  at a point of continuity. At a point of discontinuity, the Fourier series will converge to the average

$$\frac{f(x_+) + f(x_-)}{2},$$

where  $f(x_+)$  and  $f(x_-)$  denote the limit of  $f(x)$  at  $x$  from the right and the left, respectively.

**Note:** For a point  $x$  on the interval  $-L < x < L$  and  $h > 0$ , we have that

$$(x_+) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} f(x+h), \quad f(x_-) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} f(x-h).$$

### Periodic Extension

Since the Fourier series (1) of  $f(x)$  over the interval  $-L < x < L$  is periodic with period  $2L$ , it follows that it not only represents  $f(x)$  on the interval  $-L < x < L$ , but also gives the periodic extension of  $f(x)$  outside this interval. The periodicity of  $f(x)$  with period  $2L$  means  $f(x+2L) = f(x)$ .

When  $f(x)$  is piecewise continuous, and the limit of  $f(x)$  at  $x = L$  from the left and at  $x = -L$  from the right exist, then the series (1) will converge to the average

$$\frac{f(-L_+) + f(L_-)}{2}$$

at the endpoints  $x = \pm L$ , and to this value extended periodically to  $x = \pm 3L, \pm 5L, \pm 7L, \dots$

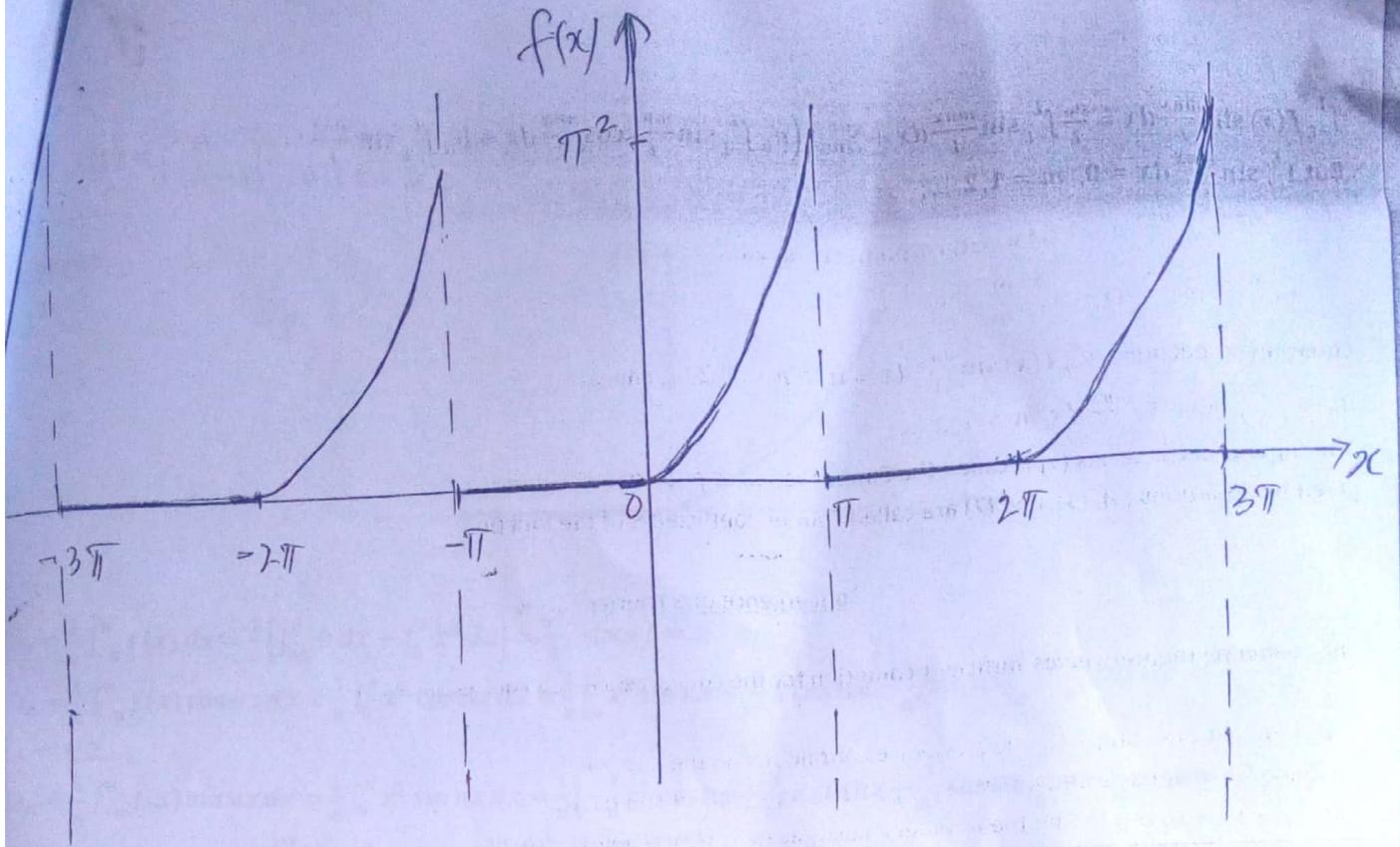
### Example

Find the Fourier series of  $f(x)$  over the indicated interval. Sketch the function that is the sum of the series obtained.

$$1. \quad f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & -\pi < x < 0 \\ x^2, & 0 \leq x < \pi \end{cases}$$

Use the result to show that

$$\frac{\pi^2}{6} = 1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots \text{ and } \frac{\pi^2}{12} = 1 - \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} - \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots$$



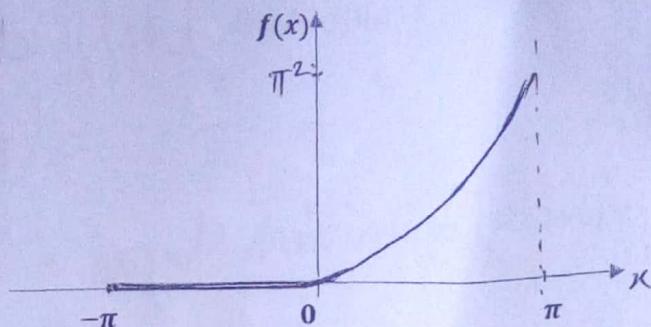
$$\begin{aligned}
 & D \quad I \\
 & 1) x(L+x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\
 & 2) L+2x \frac{L}{n\pi} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\
 & 3) -\frac{L^2}{n^2\pi^2} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\
 & 0 \quad -\frac{L^3}{n^3\pi^3} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & D \quad I \\
 & \textcircled{+} (-x)^2 \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\
 & \textcircled{-} +2(L-x) \frac{L}{n\pi} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\
 & 2 \quad -\frac{L^2}{n^2\pi^2} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \\
 & 0 \quad -\frac{L^3}{n^3\pi^3} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}
 \end{aligned}$$

2.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x(L+x), & -L < x < 0 \\ (L-x)^2, & 0 \leq x < L \end{cases}$

Solutions:

1.



$$I_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[ \int_{-\pi}^0 0 dx + \int_0^{\pi} x^2 dx \right] = \frac{\pi^2}{3}, \text{ since } L = \pi.$$

$$I_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \cos nx dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x^2 \cos nx dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[ \frac{1}{n} x^2 \sin nx + \frac{2}{n^2} x \cos nx - \frac{2}{n^3} \sin nx \right]_0^{\pi} = \frac{2}{n^2} \cos n\pi = \frac{2(-1)^n}{n^2},$$

$n = 1, 2, \dots$

$$I_n = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x) \sin nx dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} x^2 \sin nx dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[ -\frac{1}{n} x^2 \cos nx + \frac{2}{n^2} x \sin nx - \frac{2}{n^3} \cos nx \right]_0^{\pi} = -\frac{\pi}{n} \cos n\pi +$$

$$\frac{2}{n^3} (\cos n\pi - 1) = \frac{2[(-1)^n - 1]}{\pi n^3} - \frac{\pi}{n} (-1)^n = \frac{2[(-1)^n - 1]}{\pi n^3} + \frac{\pi(-1)^{n+1}}{n}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

thus, the Fourier series of  $f(x)$  on the interval  $-\pi < x < \pi$  is

$$(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} + b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right), \quad \text{or}$$

$$(x) = \frac{\pi^2}{6} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \frac{2(-1)^n}{n^2} \cos nx + \left( \frac{2[(-1)^n - 1]}{\pi n^3} + \frac{\pi(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \right) \sin nx \right\}. \quad (1)$$

At the endpoint  $x = \pi$ , the series converges to the average

$$\frac{f(-\pi) + f(\pi)}{2} = \frac{\pi^2}{2}, \quad (2)$$

Since  $f(-\pi) = 0$  and  $f(\pi) = \pi^2$ . Substituting  $x = \pi$  into series (1) yields

$$(x) = \frac{\pi^2}{2} = \frac{\pi^2}{6} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \frac{2(-1)^n}{n^2} \cos n\pi + \left( \frac{2[(-1)^n - 1]}{\pi n^3} + \frac{\pi(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \right) \sin n\pi \right\} = \frac{\pi^2}{6} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2(-1)^n}{n^2} \cos n\pi.$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\pi^2}{2} = \frac{\pi^2}{6} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2(-1)^{2n}}{n^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{6} + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{6} + 2 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots \right), \quad \text{or}$$

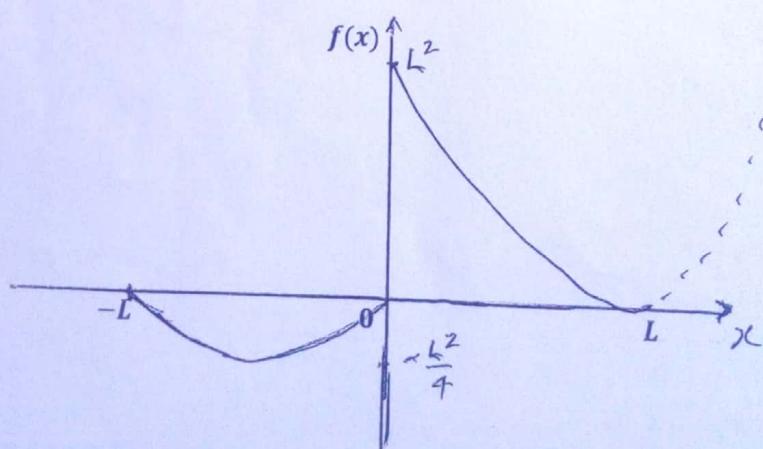
$$\frac{\pi^2}{2} = 1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots$$

At  $x = 0$ , the series converges to, from (1),

$$(0) = 0 = \frac{\pi^2}{6} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2(-1)^n}{n^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{6} + 2 \left( -1 + \frac{1}{2^2} - \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} - \dots \right), \quad \text{or}$$

$$\frac{\pi^2}{2} = 1 - \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} - \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots$$

2.



$$f(x) = x(L+x), -L < x < 0.$$

$$f'(x) = L+2x = 0 \text{ for turning points} \Rightarrow x = -\frac{L}{2}.$$

$$f''(x) = 2 > 0 \text{ (local minimum)}.$$

$$f\left(-\frac{L}{2}\right) = -\frac{L}{2}\left(\frac{L}{2}\right) = -\frac{L^2}{4}.$$

$\Rightarrow \left(-\frac{L}{2}, -\frac{L^2}{4}\right)$  is a local minimum point.

$$\text{Also, } f(-L) = f(0) = 0.$$

$$f(x) = (L-x)^2, 0 \leq x < L.$$

$$f'(x) = 2(x-L) = 0 \text{ for turning points} \Rightarrow x = L.$$

$$f''(x) = 2 > 0 \text{ (local minimum)}.$$

$$f(L) = 0.$$

$\Rightarrow (L, 0)$  is a local minimum point.

$$\text{Also, } f(0) = L^2.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) dx = \frac{1}{L} \left[ \int_{-L}^0 x(L+x) dx + \int_0^L (L-x)^2 dx \right] = \frac{1}{L} \left[ \frac{1}{2} x^2(L+x) - \frac{1}{6} x^3 \right]_{-L}^L - \frac{1}{3L} [(L-x)^3]_0^L = \frac{L^2}{6}. \\
&= \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = \frac{1}{L} \left[ \int_{-L}^0 x(L+x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + \int_0^L (L-x)^2 \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \right] = \frac{1}{L} \left[ \frac{L}{n\pi} x(L+x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} + \right. \\
&\quad \left. \frac{L^2}{2\pi^2} (L+2x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} - \frac{2L^3}{n^3\pi^3} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right]_{-L}^L + \frac{1}{L} \left[ \frac{L}{n\pi} (L-x)^2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} - \frac{2L^2}{n^2\pi^2} (L-x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} - \frac{2L^3}{n^3\pi^3} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right]_0^L = \frac{L^2}{n^2\pi^2} (3 + \\
&\quad \text{os } n\pi) = \frac{L^2 [3 + (-1)^n]}{n^2\pi^2}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \\
&= \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = \frac{1}{L} \left[ \int_{-L}^0 x(L+x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx + \int_0^L (L-x)^2 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx \right] = \frac{1}{L} \left[ -\frac{L}{n\pi} x(L+x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} + \right. \\
&\quad \left. \frac{L^2}{2\pi^2} (L+2x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} - \frac{2L^3}{n^3\pi^3} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right]_{-L}^L + \frac{1}{L} \left[ -\frac{L}{n\pi} (L-x)^2 \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} - \frac{2L^2}{n^2\pi^2} (L-x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} + \frac{2L^3}{n^3\pi^3} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right]_0^L = \frac{L^2}{n\pi}, \quad n = \\
&, 2, \dots
\end{aligned}$$

thus, the Fourier series of  $f(x)$  on the interval  $-\pi < x < \pi$  is

$$\begin{aligned}
f(x) &= \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} + b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right), \quad \text{or} \\
f(x) &= \frac{L^2}{12} + \frac{L^2}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \left\{ [3 + (-1)^n] \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} + n\pi \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right\}.
\end{aligned}$$

### Exercises

Sketch the function  $f(x)$ , and obtain its Fourier series over the indicated interval.

- $f(x) = x + \pi, \quad -\pi < x < \pi.$

Use the result to show that

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \dots.$$

- $f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & -\pi < x < 0 \\ \sin x, & 0 \leq x < \pi \end{cases}$

Use the result to show that

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{1.3} - \frac{1}{3.5} + \frac{1}{5.7} - \frac{1}{7.9} + \dots.$$

- $f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & -2 < x < -1 \\ -2, & -1 \leq x < 0 \\ 1, & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ 0, & 1 \leq x < 2 \end{cases}$

- $f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & -2 < x < 0 \\ x, & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ 1, & 1 \leq x < 2 \end{cases}$

- $f(x) = \pi - 2|x|, \quad -\pi < x < \pi.$

- $f(x) = x^2, \quad -L < x < L.$

Use the result to show that  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{12}$ .

- $f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & -L < x < 0 \\ (L-x)^2, & 0 \leq x < L \end{cases}$

- $f(x) = x^3, \quad -L < x < L.$

- $f(x) = e^x, \quad -\pi < x < \pi.$

- $f(x) = x^4, \quad -L < x < L.$

$$f(x) = \pi + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \sin nx$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} + \frac{1}{2} \sin x + \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{[(-1)^n + 1]}{1 - n^2} \cos nx$$

$$f(x) = -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ -\frac{1}{n} \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{2} + \frac{3}{n} \left( 1 - \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} \right) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{2} \right]$$

$$f(x) = \frac{3}{8} + \frac{1}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ 2 \left[ \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} - 1 \right] \cos \frac{n\pi x}{2} + \left[ 2 \sin \frac{n\pi}{2} + n\pi (-1)^{n+1} \right] \sin \frac{n\pi x}{2} \right]$$

$$\therefore f(x) = \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{[1 - (-1)^n]}{n^2} \cos nx$$

$$f(x) = \frac{L^2}{3} + \frac{4L^2}{3} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n^2} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{L^2}{6} + \frac{L^2}{\pi^3} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^3} \left\{ 2n\pi \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} + \left[ n^2\pi^2 - 2 + 2(-1)^n \right] \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right\}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{2L^3}{\pi^3} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1} (n^2\pi^2 - 6)}{n^3} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{2 \sin h\pi}{\pi} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{1+n^2} (\cos nx - n \sin nx) \right]$$

$$f(x) = \frac{L^4}{5} + \frac{8L^4}{\pi^4} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (n^2\pi^2 - 6)}{n^4} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L}$$

## Fourier Cosine and Sine Series

function  $y = f(x)$  is said to be even if  $f(-x) = f(x)$ , and its graph is symmetric with respect to the  $y$ -axis. A function  $y = f(x)$  is said to be odd if  $f(-x) = -f(x)$ , and its graph is symmetric with respect to the origin. The following are the properties of even and odd functions:

- The product of two even functions is even.
- The product of two odd functions is even.
- The product of an even function and an odd function is odd.
- If  $f(x)$  is an even function, then  $\int_{-L}^L f(x) dx = 2 \int_0^L f(x) dx$ .
- If  $f(x)$  is an odd function, then  $\int_{-L}^L f(x) dx = 0$ .

Let  $f(x)$  be an even function defined on an interval  $-L < x < L$ . From the foregoing section, we get

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) dx = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) dx.$$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \quad \text{since } f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \text{ is an even function.}$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = 0, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \quad \text{since } f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \text{ is an odd function.}$$

Also, if  $f(x)$  is an odd function defined on an interval  $-L < x < L$ , we have that

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) dx = 0.$$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = 0, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \quad \text{since the function } f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} \text{ is odd.}$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L}^L f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \quad \text{since the function } f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \text{ is even.}$$

Hence, the Fourier series of an even function  $f(x)$  on an interval  $-L < x < L$  is the Fourier cosine series

$$(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L}, \quad (1)$$

where

$$a_0 = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) dx, \quad (2)$$

$$a_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \quad (3)$$

The Fourier series of an odd function  $f(x)$  on an interval  $-L < x < L$  is the Fourier sine series

$$(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}, \quad (4)$$

where

$$b_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \quad (5)$$

### Examples

Prove that:

- The product of an even function and an odd function is odd.
- If  $f(x)$  is an even function, then  $\int_{-L}^L f(x) dx = 2 \int_0^L f(x) dx$ .

### Solutions:

- Let  $f(x)$  be an even function and let  $g(x)$  be an odd function. Then  $h(x)$ , the product of  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$ , is  $h(x) = f(x)g(x)$ . But  $f(-x) = f(x)$  and  $g(-x) = -g(x)$ , and so  $h(-x) = f(-x)g(-x) = -f(x)g(x) = -h(x)$ , which shows that  $h(x)$  is an odd function.

2. since  $f(x)$  is an even function, then  $f(-x) = f(x)$ , and so

$$\int_{-L}^L f(x) dx = \int_{-L}^0 f(x) dx + \int_0^L f(x) dx = \int_{-L}^0 f(-x) dx + \int_0^L f(x) dx.$$

Let  $u = -x$  in the first integral.  $\Rightarrow du = -dx$ .  $x = 0 \Rightarrow u = 0$ ;  $x = -L \Rightarrow u = L$ , and so

$$\int_{-L}^L f(x) dx = - \int_L^0 f(u) du + \int_0^L f(x) dx = \int_0^L f(u) du + \int_0^L f(x) dx = 2 \int_0^L f(x) dx,$$

since  $u$  is a dummy variable.

### examples

determine whether the function is even, odd, or neither.

1.  $f(x) = x \cos x$ .

2.  $f(x) = x^2 + x$ .

3.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x+5, & -2 < x < 0 \\ -x+5, & 0 \leq x < 2 \end{cases}$

### solutions:

3.  $f(x) = x \cos x \Rightarrow f(-x) = -x \cos(-x) = -x \cos x \Rightarrow f(-x) = -f(x)$ , and so  $f(x)$  is odd.

4.  $f(x) = x^2 + x \Rightarrow f(-x) = (-x)^2 - x = x^2 - x \Rightarrow f(-x) \neq f(x)$  and  $f(-x) \neq -f(x)$ , and so  $f(x)$  is neither even nor odd.

5.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x+5, & -2 < x < 0 \\ -x+5, & 0 \leq x < 2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow f(-x) = \begin{cases} -x+5, & -2 < -x < 0 \text{ or } 0 < x < 2 \\ x+5, & 0 \leq -x < 2 \text{ or } -2 < x \leq 0 \end{cases} = \begin{cases} x+5, & -2 < x < 0 \\ -x+5, & 0 \leq x < 2 \end{cases}$

$\Rightarrow f(-x) = f(x)$ , and so  $f(x)$  is an even function.

### examples

expand the given function in an appropriate Fourier cosine or sine series.

6.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} -1, & -\pi < x < 0 \\ 1, & 0 \leq x < \pi \end{cases}$

7.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & -2 < x < -1 \\ -x, & -1 \leq x < 0 \\ x, & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ 1, & 1 \leq x < 2 \end{cases}$

### solutions:

4.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} -1, & -\pi < x < 0 \\ 1, & 0 \leq x < \pi \end{cases} \Rightarrow f(-x) = \begin{cases} -1, & -\pi < -x < 0 \text{ or } 0 < x < \pi \\ 1, & 0 \leq -x < \pi \text{ or } -\pi < x \leq 0 \end{cases} = \begin{cases} 1, & -\pi < x < 0 \\ -1, & 0 \leq x < \pi \end{cases}$   
 $\Rightarrow f(-x) = -f(x)$ , and so  $f(x)$  is an odd function on the interval  $-\pi < x < \pi$ .

We, therefore, expect a Fourier sine series. Here  $L = \pi$ , and so

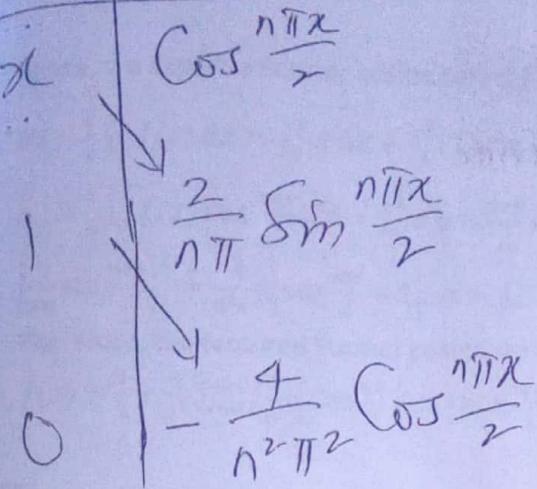
$$b_n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\pi f(x) \sin nx dx = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\pi (1) \sin nx dx = \frac{2}{\pi} \left[ -\frac{1}{n} \cos nx \right]_0^\pi = \frac{2}{\pi} \left[ \frac{1 - \cos n\pi}{n} \right] = \frac{2}{n\pi} [1 - (-1)^n], \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Thus, the required Fourier sine series is  $f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}$ , or

$$f(x) = \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} [1 - (-1)^n] \sin nx.$$

5.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & -2 < x < -1 \\ -x, & -1 \leq x < 0 \\ x, & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ 1, & 1 \leq x < 2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow f(-x) = \begin{cases} 1, & -2 < -x < -1 \text{ or } 1 < x < 2 \\ -x, & -1 \leq -x < 0 \text{ or } 0 < x \leq 1 \\ x, & 0 \leq -x < 1 \text{ or } -1 < x \leq 0 \\ 1, & 1 \leq -x < 2 \text{ or } -2 < x \leq -1 \end{cases} = \begin{cases} 1, & -2 < x < -1 \\ -x, & -1 \leq x < 0 \\ x, & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ 1, & 1 \leq x < 2 \end{cases} = f(x)$ ,

which implies that  $f(x)$  is an even function on the interval  $-2 < x < 2$ .



7. Odd.

8. Even.

9. Neither.

10. Odd.

$$1. f(x) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{2} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{2}.$$

$$2. f(x) = \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{[(-1)^n - 1]}{n^2} \cos nx.$$

$$3. f(x) = 12 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n^3} \sin nx.$$

$$4. f(x) = \frac{2}{\pi} + \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{[1 + (-1)^n]}{1 - n^2} \cos nx.$$

$$5. f(x) = -\frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \sin n\pi x.$$

$$6. f(x) = \frac{\sinh KL}{KL} + 2KL \sinh KL \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n^2 \pi^2 + KL^2 L^2} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L}.$$

Hence, we expect a Fourier cosine series  $f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L}$ , where

$$a_0 = \frac{2}{2} \int_0^2 f(x) dx = \int_0^1 x dx + \int_1^2 (1) dx = \left[ \frac{1}{2} x^2 \right]_0^1 + [x]_1^2 = \frac{3}{2}, \text{ since } L = 2,$$

$$a_n = \frac{2}{2} \int_0^2 f(x) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{2} dx = \int_0^1 x \cos \frac{n\pi x}{2} dx + \int_1^2 \cos \frac{n\pi x}{2} dx = \left[ \frac{2}{n\pi} x \sin \frac{n\pi x}{2} + \frac{4}{n^2 \pi^2} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{2} \right]_0^1 + \left[ \frac{2}{n\pi} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{2} \right]_1^2 = \frac{4}{n^2 \pi^2} \left[ \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} - 1 \right], n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Therefore, the required Fourier cosine series is

$$f(x) = \frac{3}{4} + \frac{4}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \left( \cos \frac{n\pi}{2} - 1 \right) \cos \frac{n\pi x}{2}.$$

### Exercises

Prove that:

1. The product of two even functions is even.
2. The product of two odd functions is even.
3. If  $f(x)$  is an even function, then  $|f(x)|$ ,  $f^2(x)$ , and  $f^3(x)$  are even functions.
4. If  $f(x)$  is an odd function, then  $|f(x)|$  and  $f^2(x)$  are even functions.
5. If  $g(x)$  is any function, defined for all  $x$ , then  $p(x) = \frac{1}{2}[g(x) + g(-x)]$  is even and  $q(x) = \frac{1}{2}[g(x) - g(-x)]$  is odd, and  $g(x) = p(x) + q(x)$ .
6. If  $f(x)$  is an odd function, then  $\int_{-L}^L f(x) dx = 0$ .

Determine whether the function is even, odd or neither.

7.  $f(x) = x|x|$ .
8.  $f(x) = |x^5|$ .
9.  $f(x) = x^3$ ,  $0 \leq x \leq 2$ .
10.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2, & -1 < x \leq 0 \\ -x^2, & 0 < x < 1 \end{cases}$

Expand the given function in an appropriate Fourier cosine or sine series.

11.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & -2 < x < -1 \\ 0, & -1 \leq x < 1 \\ 1, & 1 \leq x < 2 \end{cases}$
12.  $f(x) = |x|$ ,  $-\pi < x < \pi$ .
13.  $f(x) = x(\pi^2 - x^2)$ ,  $-\pi < x < \pi$ .
14.  $f(x) = |\sin x|$ ,  $-\pi < x < \pi$ .
15.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x+1, & -1 < x < 0 \\ x-1, & 0 \leq x < 1 \end{cases}$
16.  $f(x) = \cosh kx$ ,  $-L < x < L$ , where  $k$  is a constant.

### Fourier-Bessel Series

A set of orthogonal functions is defined as complete on a given interval if there is no other function orthogonal to all of them in that interval. Bessel functions, therefore, form a complete orthogonal set on the interval  $0 < x < R$ . Hence, we can expand functions in a Fourier-Bessel series, just as we did with Fourier series.

Let  $f(x)$  be a given function defined on the interval  $0 < x < R$  that can be represented in terms of Bessel functions.

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n J_n(a_n x),$$

(1)

$a_n$  is assumed to be convergent. Equation (1) is called a Fourier-Bessel series of  $f(x)$ , and the coefficients  $c_n$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  are to be determined, using the orthogonality property of Bessel functions.

Multiplying equation (1) by  $xJ_v(a_m x)$  and integrate over the interval  $0 \leq x \leq R$  gives

$$\int_0^R xf(x)J_v(a_m x) dx = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \int_0^R xJ_v(a_m x)J_v(a_n x) dx. \quad (2)$$

Only the integral corresponding to  $m = n$  is non-zero, since

$$\int_0^R xJ_v(a_m x)J_v(a_n x) dx = 0, \quad m \neq n.$$

Equation (2) becomes

$$\int_0^R xf(x)J_v(a_n x) dx = c_n \int_0^R xJ_v^2(a_n x) dx = \frac{c_n}{2} R^2 J_{v+1}^2(a_n R).$$

Hence, the coefficients of the Fourier-Bessel series (1) are given by

$$c_n = \frac{2}{R^2 J_{v+1}^2(a_n R)} \int_0^R xf(x)J_v(a_n x) dx, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (3)$$

#### Notes:

1.  $a_n R$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  are roots of  $J_v(x)$  and not of  $J_{v+1}(x)$ .
2. Use will be made of the properties
  - i.  $\frac{d}{dt}[t^v J_v(t)] = t^v J_{v-1}(t) \Rightarrow \int t^v J_{v-1}(t) dt = t^v J_v(t),$
  - ii.  $\frac{d}{dt}[t^{-v} J_v(t)] = -t^{-v} J_{v+1}(t) \Rightarrow \int t^{-v} J_{v+1}(t) dt = -t^{-v} J_v(t),$
 in the evaluation of  $\int t^k J_v(t) dt$ . We use i. if  $|k| > v$ , and use ii. if  $|k| \leq v$ .
3. We restrict ourselves to integral values of  $v$ , since this is a case of significant practical importance.

#### Examples

1. Develop the function  $f(x) = 1$ , defined on the interval  $0 < x < R$  in a Fourier-Bessel series

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n J_0(a_n x).$$

2. Expand the following function in a Fourier-Bessel series of order 1:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} k, & 0 < x < b \\ 0, & b < x < 3 \end{cases}$$

3. Represent  $f(x) = x$ , defined on the interval  $0 < x < 2$ , by a Fourier-Bessel series of order 3.

#### Solutions:

1. The coefficients of the given Fourier-Bessel series are given by

$$c_n = \frac{2}{R^2 J_1^2(a_n R)} \int_0^R xJ_0(a_n x) dx, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \text{since } f(x) = 1, v = 0.$$

Let  $t = a_n x \Rightarrow dt = a_n dx$ .

$x = 0 \Rightarrow t = 0$ ,  $x = R \Rightarrow t = a_n R$ , and so

$$c_n = \frac{2}{a_n^2 R^2 J_1^2(a_n R)} \int_0^{a_n R} t J_0(t) dt, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

$\int t^v J_{v-1}(t) dt = t^v J_v(t) \Rightarrow \int t J_0(t) dt = t J_1(t)$ , since  $v = 1$ , and so

$$c_n = \frac{2[t J_1(t)]_0^{a_n R}}{a_n^2 R^2 J_1^2(a_n R)} = \frac{2}{a_n R J_1(a_n R)}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Thus, the Fourier-Bessel series of  $f(x)$  is

$$f(x) = \frac{2}{R} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{J_0(a_n x)}{a_n R J_1(a_n R)},$$

where  $a_n R$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  are the zeros of  $J_0(x)$ .

2. The required Fourier-Bessel series of order 1 of  $f(x)$  over the interval  $0 < x < 3$  is given by

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n J_1(a_n x), \quad (1)$$

where

$$c_n = \frac{2}{3^2 J_2^2(3a_n)} \int_0^3 x f(x) J_1(a_n x) dx = \frac{2}{9 J_2^2(3a_n)} \int_0^3 kx J_1(a_n x) dx, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \text{since } v = 1, R = 3.$$

Let  $t = a_n x \Rightarrow dt = a_n dx$ .  $x = 0 \Rightarrow t = 0$ ,  $x = b \Rightarrow t = a_n b$ .

$$\Rightarrow c_n = \frac{2k}{9a_n^2 J_2^2(3a_n)} \int_0^{a_n b} t J_1(t) dt, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (2)$$

But  $\int t^{-v} J_{v+1}(t) dt = -t^{-v} J_v(t)$ .  $\Rightarrow \int J_1(t) dt = -J_0(t)$ , where  $v = 0$  in equation (3), and so

$$\int_0^{a_n b} t J_1(t) dt = -[t J_0(t)]_0^{a_n b} + \int_0^{a_n b} J_0(t) dt = -a_n b J_0(a_n b) + \int_0^{a_n b} J_0(t) dt,$$

which is employed in equation (2) to obtain

$$c_n = \frac{2k}{9a_n^2 J_2^2(3a_n)} \left[ -a_n b J_0(a_n b) + \int_0^{a_n b} J_0(t) dt \right], \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Hence, the required Fourier-Bessel series is

$$f(x) = \frac{2k}{9} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{a_n^2 J_2^2(3a_n)} \left[ -a_n b J_0(a_n b) + \int_0^{a_n b} J_0(t) dt \right] J_1(a_n x),$$

where  $3a_n$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  are zeros of  $J_1(x)$ .

3. The required Fourier-Bessel series of order 1 of  $f(x)$  over the interval  $0 < x < 3$  is

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n J_3(a_n x), \quad (1)$$

where

$$c_n = \frac{2}{2^2 J_4^2(2a_n)} \int_0^2 x f(x) J_3(a_n x) dx = \frac{2}{4 J_4^2(2a_n)} \int_0^2 x^2 J_3(a_n x) dx, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \text{since } f(x) = x, v = 1, R = 2.$$

Let  $t = a_n x \Rightarrow dt = a_n dx$ .

$$x = 0 \Rightarrow t = 0, \quad x = b \Rightarrow t = a_n b.$$

$$\Rightarrow c_n = \frac{1}{2a_n^3 J_4^2(2a_n)} \int_0^{2a_n} t^2 J_3(t) dt, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (2)$$

But  $\int t^{-v} J_{v+1}(t) dt = -t^{-v} J_v(t)$ .  $\Rightarrow \int t^{-2} J_3(t) dt = -t^{-2} J_2(t)$ , where  $v = 2$  in equation (3), and so

$$\int t^2 J_3(t) dt = \int t^4 [t^{-2} J_3(t)] dt = -t^2 J_2(t) + 4 \int t J_2(t) dt, \text{ using integration by parts.}$$

But  $\int t^{-1} J_2(t) dt = -t^{-1} J_1(t)$ , from equation (3), where  $v = 1$ , and so

$$\int t J_2(t) dt = \int t^2 [t^{-1} J_2(t)] dt = -t J_1(t) + 2 \int J_1(t) dt.$$

$$\Rightarrow \int t^2 J_3(t) dt = -t^2 J_2(t) + 4[-t J_1(t) + 2 \int J_1(t) dt] = -t^2 J_2(t) - 4t J_1(t) + 8 \int J_1(t) dt.$$

But  $\int J_1(t) dt = -J_0(t)$ , from equation (3), where  $v = 0$ .

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^{a_n b} t J_3(t) dt = -[8J_0(t) + 4t J_1(t) + t^2 J_2(t)]_0^{a_n b} = -[8J_0(2a_n) + 4(2a_n)J_1(2a_n) + (2a_n)^2 J_2(2a_n) - 8J_0(0)] = -[8J_0(2a_n) + 8a_n J_1(2a_n) + 4a_n^2 J_2(2a_n) - 8], \text{ since } J_0(0) = 1,$$

which is employed in equation (2) to obtain

$$c_n = \frac{2[2-2J_0(2a_n)-2a_n J_1(2a_n)-a_n^2 J_2(2a_n)]}{a_n^3 J_4^2(2a_n)}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Therefore, the required Fourier-Bessel series is

$$f(x) = 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{[2-2J_0(2a_n)-2a_n J_1(2a_n)-a_n^2 J_2(2a_n)]}{a_n^3 J_4^2(2a_n)} J_3(a_n x),$$

where  $2a_n$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  are zeros of  $J_3(x)$ .

ises

the Fourier-Bessel series of  $f(x)$  over the indicated interval in terms of Bessel functions of order 0.

1.  $f(x) = x^2, 0 < x < 1.$
2.  $f(x) = 1 - x^2, 0 < x < 1.$
3.  $f(x) = R^2 - x^2, 0 < x < R.$
4.  $f(x) = x^4, 0 < x < R.$

expand  $f(x)$  on the indicated interval in a Fourier-Bessel series of order 1.

5.  $f(x) = 1, 0 < x < 3.$
6.  $f(x) = x, 0 < x < 1.$
7.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & 0 < x < \frac{1}{2}R \\ 0, & \frac{1}{2}R < x < R \end{cases}$

represent  $f(x)$ , defined on the indicated interval, in a Fourier-Bessel series of order 2.

8.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 < x < a \\ k, & a < x < R \end{cases}$ , where  $k$  is a constant.
9.  $f(x) = x^5, 0 < x < 4.$

Find the Fourier-Bessel series of  $f(x)$  over the indicated interval in terms of the Bessel function  $J_3$ .

10.  $f(x) = x, 0 < x < R.$
11.  $f(x) = x^5, 0 < x < 2.$

### Fourier-Legendre Series

Since the Legendre polynomials  $P_n(x)$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  form a complete orthogonal set on the interval  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ , we can expand functions in Fourier-Legendre series.

Let  $f(x)$  be a given function, defined on the interval  $-1 < x < 1$ , that can be represented in terms of Legendre polynomials by the series

$$(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n P_n(x), \quad (1)$$

which is assumed to be convergent. Equation (1) is called a Fourier-Legendre series of the function  $f(x)$ . We desire to find the coefficients  $c_n$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ . Use will be made of the orthogonality property of Legendre polynomials to find  $c_n$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ .

We multiply equation (1) by  $P_m(x)$  and integrate with respect to  $x$  from -1 to 1 to get

$$\int_{-1}^1 f(x) P_m(x) dx = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n \int_{-1}^1 P_m(x) P_n(x) dx = c_n \int_{-1}^1 P_m^2(x) dx = \frac{2c_n}{2n+1}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$$

which is obtained when  $m = n$ , since all other integrals corresponding to  $m \neq n$  vanish, owing to orthogonality.

ence, the coefficients  $c_n$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , of the Fourier-Legendre series (1) are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-1}^1 f(x) P_n(x) dx &= \frac{2c_n}{2n+1}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \text{ or} \\ &= \frac{2n+1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 f(x) P_n(x) dx, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

ote:

- i. It is not necessary for the function  $f(x)$  to be continuous on the interval  $-1 < x < 1$  for it to be expandable in a Fourier-Legendre series.

The Fourier-Legendre series converges to  $f(x)$  anywhere on the interval  $-1 < x < 1$  that  $f(x)$  is continuous and converges to the mid-point of the jump at discontinuities.  
When  $f(x)$  is a polynomial of degree  $m$ , its Fourier-Legendre series must terminate at  $c_m P_m(x)$ .

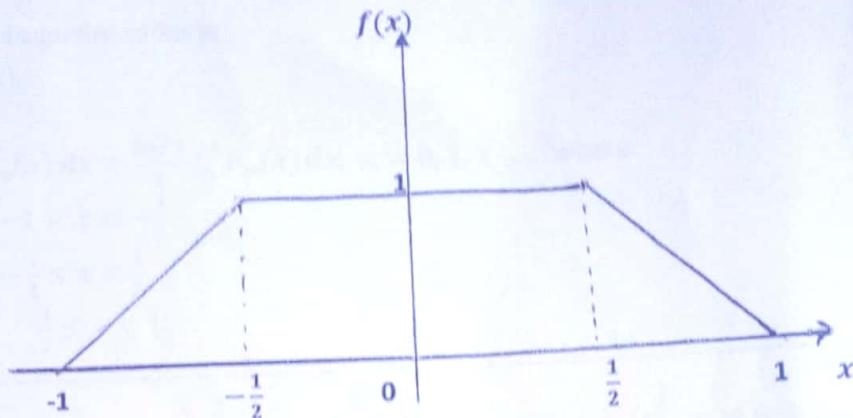
### Examples

Expand in a Fourier-Legendre series, the functions given by

$$1. \quad f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & -1 < x < 0 \\ 1, & 0 < x < 1 \end{cases}$$

$$2. \quad f(x) = 5 - 2x, \quad -1 < x < 1.$$

3.



### Solutions:

1. The required Fourier-Legendre series is

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n P_n(x),$$

where

$$c_n = \frac{2^{n+1}}{2} \int_{-1}^1 f(x) P_n(x) dx = \frac{2^{n+1}}{2} \int_0^1 P_n(x) dx, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \text{ and so}$$

$$c_0 = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 P_0(x) dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 dx = \left[ \frac{1}{2} x \right]_0^1 = \frac{1}{2};$$

$$c_1 = \frac{3}{2} \int_0^1 P_1(x) dx = \frac{3}{2} \int_0^1 x dx = \frac{3}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{2} x^2 \right]_0^1 = \frac{3}{4};$$

$$c_2 = \frac{5}{2} \int_0^1 P_2(x) dx = \frac{5}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{2} (3x^2 - 1) dx = \left[ \frac{5}{4} (x^3 - x) \right]_0^1 = 0;$$

$$c_3 = \frac{7}{2} \int_0^1 P_3(x) dx = \frac{7}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{8} (5x^3 - 3x) dx = \left[ \frac{7}{4} \left( \frac{5}{4} x^4 - \frac{3}{2} x^2 \right) \right]_0^1 = -\frac{7}{16};$$

$$c_4 = \frac{9}{2} \int_0^1 P_4(x) dx = \frac{9}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{8} (35x^4 - 30x^2 + 3) dx = \left[ \frac{9}{16} (7x^5 - 10x^3 + 3x) \right]_0^1 = 0;$$

$$c_5 = \frac{11}{2} \int_0^1 P_5(x) dx = \frac{11}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{8} (63x^5 - 70x^3 + 15x) dx = \left[ \frac{11}{16} \left( \frac{63}{6} x^6 - \frac{35}{2} x^4 + \frac{15}{2} x^2 \right) \right]_0^1 = \frac{11}{32}, \dots$$

Thus, the required Fourier-Legendre series is

$$f(x) = c_0 P_0(x) + c_1 P_1(x) + c_2 P_2(x) + c_3 P_3(x) + c_4 P_4(x) + c_5 P_5(x) + \dots, \text{ or}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} P_0(x) + \frac{3}{4} P_1(x) - \frac{7}{16} P_3(x) + \frac{11}{32} P_5(x) + \dots.$$

2. The required Fourier-Legendre series is

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n P_n(x),$$

where

$$c_n = \frac{2n+1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 f(x) P_n(x) dx = \frac{2n+1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 (5 - 2x) P_n(x) dx, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \text{ and so}$$

$$c_0 = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 (5 - 2x) P_0(x) dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 (5 - 2x) dx = \left[ \frac{1}{2}(5x - x^2) \right]_0^1 = 5;$$

$$c_1 = \frac{3}{2} \int_{-1}^1 (5 - 2x) P_1(x) dx = \frac{3}{2} \int_{-1}^1 (5 - 2x) x dx = \frac{3}{2} \left[ \frac{5}{2}x^2 - \frac{2}{3}x^3 \right]_0^1 = -2.$$

Since  $f(x) = 5 - 2x$  is a polynomial of degree 1, it follows that  $c_n = 0$ ,  $n = 2, 3, 4, \dots$

Hence, the required Fourier-Legendre series is

$$f(x) = c_0 P_0(x) + c_1 P_1(x), \text{ or}$$

$$f(x) = 5P_0(x) - 2P_1(x),$$

### 3. The required Fourier-Legendre series is

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n P_n(x),$$

where

$$c_n = \frac{2n+1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 f(x) P_n(x) dx = \frac{2n+1}{2} \int_0^1 P_n(x) dx, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \text{ where}$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2(1+x), & -1 < x < -\frac{1}{2} \\ 1, & -\frac{1}{2} \leq x < \frac{1}{2} \\ 2(1-x), & \frac{1}{2} \leq x < 1 \end{cases}$$

Therefore,

$$c_n = \frac{2n+1}{2} \left[ \int_{-1}^{-\frac{1}{2}} 2(1+x) P_n(x) dx + \int_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} P_n(x) dx + \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^1 2(1-x) P_n(x) dx \right], \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \text{ and so}$$

$$c_0 = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \int_{-1}^{-\frac{1}{2}} 2(1+x) P_0(x) dx + \int_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} P_0(x) dx + \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^1 2(1-x) P_0(x) dx \right] = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \int_{-1}^{-\frac{1}{2}} 2(1+x) dx + \int_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} dx + \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^1 2(1-x) dx \right] = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ [(1+x)^2]_{-1}^{-\frac{1}{2}} + [x]_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} - [(1-x)^2]_{\frac{1}{2}}^1 \right\} = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{4} + 1 + \frac{1}{4} \right] = \frac{3}{4};$$

$$c_1 = \frac{3}{2} \left[ \int_{-1}^{-\frac{1}{2}} 2(1+x) P_1(x) dx + \int_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} P_1(x) dx + \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^1 2(1-x) P_1(x) dx \right] = \frac{3}{2} \left[ \int_{-1}^{-\frac{1}{2}} 2(1+x)x dx + \int_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} x dx + \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^1 2(1-x)x dx \right] = \frac{3}{2} \left\{ \left[ \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{3}x^3 \right]_{-1}^{-\frac{1}{2}} + \left[ \frac{1}{2}x^2 \right]_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} + 2 \left[ \frac{1}{2}x^2 - \frac{1}{3}x^3 \right]_{\frac{1}{2}}^1 \right\} = \frac{3}{2} \left[ -\frac{1}{6} + 0 + \frac{1}{6} \right] = 0;$$

$$c_2 = \frac{5}{2} \left[ \int_{-1}^{-\frac{1}{2}} 2(1+x) P_2(x) dx + \int_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} P_2(x) dx + \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^1 2(1-x) P_2(x) dx \right] = \frac{5}{2} \left[ \int_{-1}^{-\frac{1}{2}} (1+x)(3x^2 - 1) dx + \int_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} (3x^2 - 1) dx + \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^1 (1-x)(3x^2 - 1) dx \right] = \frac{5}{2} \left[ \int_{-1}^{-\frac{1}{2}} (3x^3 + 3x^2 - x - 1) dx + \int_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} (3x^2 - 1) dx + \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^1 (-3x^3 + 3x^2 + x - 1) dx \right] = \frac{5}{2} \left\{ \left[ \frac{3}{4}x^4 + x^3 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 - x \right]_{-1}^{-\frac{1}{2}} + \left[ \frac{1}{2}(x^3 - x) \right]_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} - \left[ -\frac{3}{4}x^4 + x^3 + \frac{1}{2}x^2 - x \right]_{\frac{1}{2}}^1 \right\} =$$

$$\frac{5}{2} \left[ \frac{3}{64} - \frac{3}{8} + \frac{3}{64} \right] = -\frac{45}{64}; \dots$$

Thus, the required Fourier-Legendre series is

$$f(x) = c_0 P_0(x) + c_1 P_1(x) + c_2 P_2(x) + \dots, \text{ or}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{3}{4} P_0(x) - \frac{45}{64} P_2(x) + \dots$$

### Exercises

Expand the following functions in Fourier-Legendre series.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} (2n+1)\pi \\ 2L \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\lambda_n = n^2; Y_n(x) = \sin nx, n=1, 2, \dots$$

$$\lambda_n = n^2\pi^2; Y_n(x) = \begin{cases} \sin n\pi x, & n \text{ even}, \\ \cos n\pi x, & n \text{ odd} \end{cases}, n=1, 2, \dots$$

$$\lambda_n = n^2; Y_0(x) = 1, Y_n(x) = \cos nx, \sin nx, n=1, 2, \dots$$

$$\lambda_n = \frac{1}{4}(1+n^2\pi^2); Y_n(x) = x^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sin\left(\frac{1}{2}n\pi \ln x\right), n=1, 2, \dots$$

$$\lambda_n = n^2\pi^2 - 2; Y_n(x) = \sin n\pi x, n=1, 2, \dots$$

$$\lambda_n = \left[ \frac{(2n+1)\pi}{2} \right]^2; Y_n(x) = \sin \left[ \frac{(2n+1)\pi}{2} \ln x \right], n=0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$$\lambda_n = n^2\pi^2; Y_n(x) = \frac{\sin \frac{n\pi(1-2\ln x)}{2}}{\sin \frac{n\pi}{2}}, n=1, 2, \dots$$

$$\lambda_n = n^2; Y_n(x) = e^{-x} \sin nx, n=1, 2, \dots$$

$$1. \quad f(x) = \begin{cases} -1, & -1 < x < 0 \\ 1, & 0 \leq x < 1 \end{cases}$$

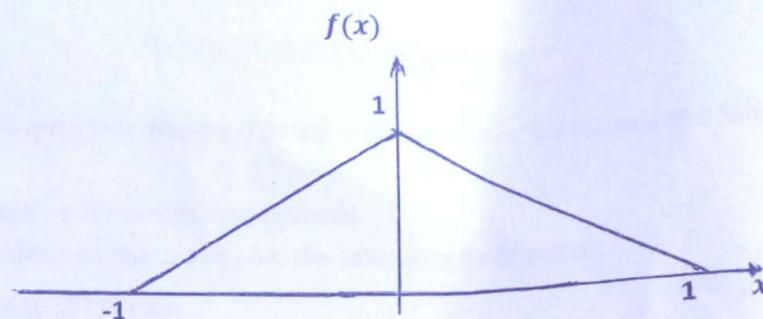
$$2. \quad f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & -1 < x < 0 \\ x, & 0 \leq x < 1 \end{cases}$$

$$3. \quad f(x) = x - x^3$$

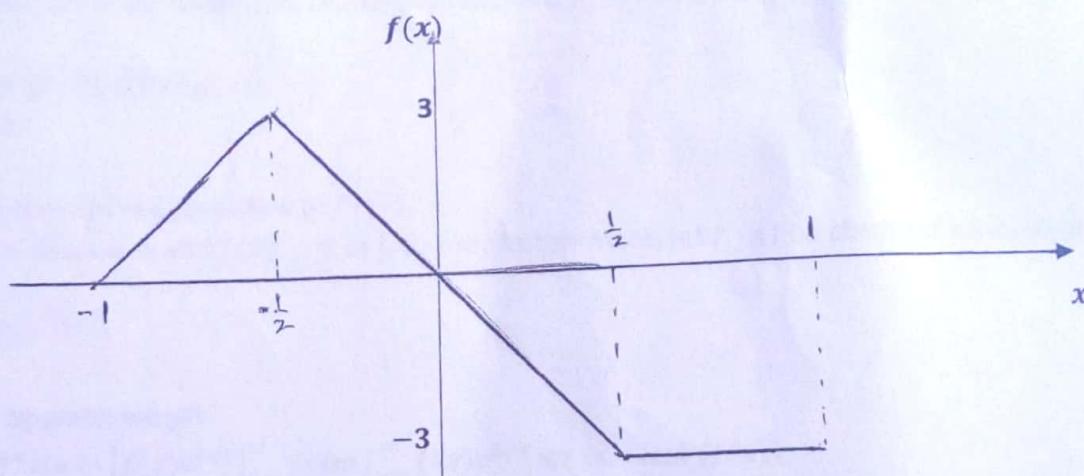
$$4. \quad f(x) = 3x^2 + x - 1$$

$$5. \quad f(x) = x^4$$

6.



7.



### Fourier Transformation

The Fourier series representation of a function is useful for applications involving periodic functions or functions defined on a finite interval. Frequently, however, the functions of interest are non-periodic and defined for all values of the independent variable. In these situations, the Fourier transform is often employed.

The Fourier transform of a function  $f(x)$  defined on the interval  $-\infty < x < \infty$  is given by the integral

$$\mathcal{F}\{f(x)\} = F(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{i\omega x} dx, \tag{1}$$

and

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}\{F(\omega)\} = f(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(\omega) e^{-ix\omega} d\omega \tag{2}$$

is called the inverse Fourier transform of  $F(\omega)$ .

Note: The Fourier transform of  $f(x)$  can also be defined as

$$F(\omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{i\omega x} dx,$$

and the inverse Fourier transform of  $F(\omega)$  will then become

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(\omega) e^{-ix\omega} d\omega.$$

The process of obtaining the Fourier transform of a given function is called Fourier transformation. Similarly, for the inverse.

### Existence of Fourier Transforms

The following two conditions are sufficient for the existence of the Fourier transform of a function  $f(x)$  defined on the  $x$ -axis.

- I.  $f(x)$  is piecewise continuous on every finite interval.
- II.  $f(x)$  is absolutely integrable on the  $x$ -axis, i.e. the following limit exists:

$$\lim_{a \rightarrow -\infty} \int_a^0 |f(x)| dx + \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^b |f(x)| dx.$$

When this limit exists, it is equal to  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x)| dx$ .

### Theorem 1: (Linearity of the Fourier transformation)

The Fourier transformation is a linear operation, i.e. for any functions  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  whose Fourier transforms exist, we have

$$\mathcal{F}\{af(x) + bg(x)\} = a\mathcal{F}\{f(x)\} + b\mathcal{F}\{g(x)\},$$

for any constants  $a$  and  $b$ .

### Theorem 2: (Fourier transform of the derivative of $f(x)$ )

Let  $f(x)$  be continuous on the  $x$ -axis and  $f(x) \rightarrow 0$  as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ . Furthermore, let  $f'(x)$  be absolutely integrable on the  $x$ -axis. Then

$$\mathcal{F}\{f'(x)\} = -i\omega \mathcal{F}\{f(x)\}.$$

Proof: Using integration by parts, we get

$$\mathcal{F}\{f'(x)\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f'(x) e^{i\omega x} dx = [f(x) e^{i\omega x}]_{-\infty}^{\infty} - i\omega \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{i\omega x} dx = -i\omega \mathcal{F}\{f(x)\},$$

since  $f(x) \rightarrow 0$  as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ .

Note: By successive applications of integration by parts, we find that the Fourier transforms of higher derivatives of  $f(x)$  are

$$\mathcal{F}\{f''(x)\} = (-i\omega)^2 \mathcal{F}\{f(x)\},$$

$$\mathcal{F}\{f'''(x)\} = (-i\omega)^3 \mathcal{F}\{f(x)\}, \dots$$

$$\mathcal{F}\{f^{(n)}(x)\} = (-i\omega)^n \mathcal{F}\{f(x)\},$$

provided  $f'(x), f''(x), \dots, f^{(n)}(x)$  each tends to zero as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ , respectively.

### Convolution

The convolution  $f * g$  of functions  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  is defined by

$$(x) = (f * g)(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(\tau)g(x - \tau) d\tau = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x - \tau)g(\tau) d\tau. \quad (1)$$

The convolution is employed in obtaining the inverse of the product of two transform functions. If  $F(\omega)$  and  $G(\omega)$  are the respective Fourier transforms of  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$ , we have

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}\{F(\omega)G(\omega)\} = f * g = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(\tau)g(x - \tau) d\tau.$$

### Theorem 3: (Convolution theorem)

Let  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  be piecewise continuous, bounded, and absolutely integrable on the  $x$ -axis. Then  $\mathcal{F}\{f * g\} = \mathcal{F}\{f(x)\}\mathcal{F}\{g(x)\}$ .

### Examples

Find the Fourier transform of the function  $f(x)$ .

$$1. \quad f(x) = \begin{cases} k, & 0 < x < a \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$2. \quad f(x) = \begin{cases} e^{ax}, & b < x < c \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$3. \quad f(x) = e^{-ax^2}, \text{ where } a > 0.$$

$$4. \quad f(x) = xe^{-x^2}.$$

### Solutions:

1. The Fourier transform of  $f(x)$  is

$$F(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)e^{i\omega x} dx = \int_0^a ke^{i\omega x} dx = \frac{k}{i\omega} [e^{i\omega x}]_0^a = \frac{k}{i\omega} (e^{i\omega a} - 1).$$

$$2. \quad F(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)e^{i\omega x} dx = \int_b^c e^{ax} e^{i\omega x} dx = \int_b^c e^{(a+i\omega)x} dx = \frac{1}{a+i\omega} [e^{(a+i\omega)x}]_b^c = \frac{1}{a+i\omega} [e^{(a+i\omega)c} - e^{(a+i\omega)b}].$$

$$3. \quad F(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)e^{i\omega x} dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-ax^2} e^{i\omega x} dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{(-ax^2 + i\omega x)} dx.$$

We complete the squares to obtain

$$-ax^2 + i\omega x = -a\left(x^2 - \frac{i\omega}{a}x\right) = -a\left[\left(x - \frac{i\omega}{2a}\right)^2 + \frac{\omega^2}{4a^2}\right] = -a\left(x - \frac{i\omega}{2a}\right)^2 - \frac{\omega^2}{4a}, \text{ and so}$$

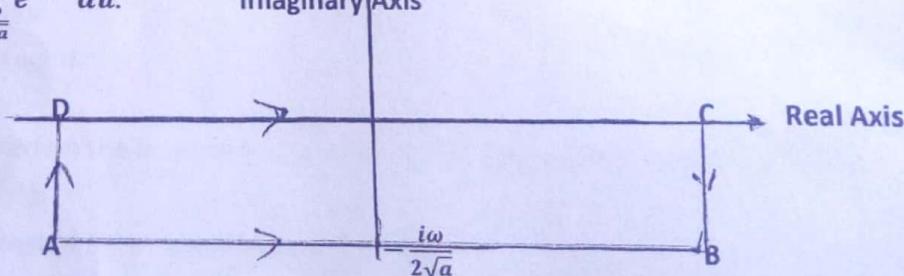
$$\mathcal{F}\{e^{-ax^2}\} = e^{-\frac{\omega^2}{4a}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-a\left(x - \frac{i\omega}{2a}\right)^2} dx.$$

$$\text{Let } u = \sqrt{a}\left(x - \frac{i\omega}{2a}\right) = \sqrt{a}x - \frac{i\omega}{2\sqrt{a}}. \Rightarrow du = \sqrt{a}dx.$$

$$x = \pm\infty \Rightarrow u = \pm\infty - \frac{i\omega}{2\sqrt{a}}. \text{ Hence}$$

$$\mathcal{F}\{e^{-ax^2}\} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} e^{-\frac{\omega^2}{4a}} \int_{-\infty - \frac{i\omega}{2\sqrt{a}}}^{\infty} e^{-u^2} du.$$

Imaginary Axis



The path of integration is A to B. This may be replaced by integration path D to C, since integration from A to D and that from C to B both tend to zero. This stems from the fact along these paths (A to D and C to B),  $dx = du = 0$ . Therefore,

$$\mathcal{F}\{e^{-ax^2}\} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} e^{-\frac{\omega^2}{4a}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-u^2} du.$$

When we studied Gamma functions, we proved that  $\int_0^{\infty} e^{-u^2} du = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}$ , and so  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-u^2} du = 2 \int_0^{\infty} e^{-u^2} du = \sqrt{\pi}$ .

Thus,

$$\mathcal{F}\{e^{-ax^2}\} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} e^{-\frac{\omega^2}{4a}} \cdot \sqrt{\pi} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}} e^{-\frac{\omega^2}{4a}}.$$

4.  $\mathcal{F}\{xe^{-x^2}\} = \mathcal{F}\left\{-\frac{1}{2}(e^{-x^2})'\right\} = -\frac{1}{2}\mathcal{F}\{(e^{-x^2})'\} = -\frac{1}{2}(-i\omega)\mathcal{F}\{e^{-x^2}\} = \frac{i\omega}{2}\sqrt{\pi}e^{-\frac{\omega^2}{4}}$ ,

since  $\mathcal{F}\{e^{-ax^2}\} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}} e^{-\frac{\omega^2}{4a}}$ , where  $a = 1$ .

### Exercises

Find the Fourier transforms of the following functions.

1.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} e^{ixa}, & -b < x < b \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

2.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} e^{-x}, & x > 0 \\ 0, & x < 0 \end{cases}$

3.  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x, & 0 < x < b \\ 2x - a, & b \leq x < 2b \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

4. Show that if the function  $f(x)$  has a Fourier transform, so does  $f(x - a)$ , and  $\mathcal{F}\{f(x - a)\} = e^{i\omega a}\mathcal{F}\{f(x)\}$ .

5. Show that if  $F(\omega)$  is the Fourier transform of the function  $f(x)$ , then  $F(\omega - a)$  is the Fourier transform of the function  $e^{-ixa}f(x)$ .

### Fourier Cosine and Sine Transforms

If  $f(x)$  is an even function, so that  $f(-x) = f(x)$ , then by symmetry,

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \sin \omega x dx = 0. \quad (1)$$

This is because  $f(x) \sin \omega x$  is an odd function. Hence, the Fourier transform of  $f(x)$  is

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) e^{i\omega x} dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) (\cos \omega x + i \sin \omega x) dx,$$

which, on using equation (1), reduces to

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \cos \omega x dx = 2 \int_0^{\infty} f(x) \cos \omega x dx,$$

since  $f(x) \cos \omega x$  is an even function.

Thus, if  $f(x)$  is an even function defined on the interval  $0 < x < \infty$ , its Fourier cosine transform is defined as

$$\mathcal{F}_c\{f(x)\} = F(\omega) = \int_0^{\infty} f(x) \cos \omega x dx,$$

and the inverse Fourier cosine transform of  $F(\omega)$  is defined as

$$\mathcal{F}_c^{-1}\{F(\omega)\} = f(x) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} F(\omega) \cos x\omega d\omega. \quad (2)$$

Similarly, if  $f(x)$  is an odd function defined on the interval  $0 < x < \infty$ , its Fourier sine transform is defined as