

## Legendre polynomials of odd degree

We start from the equation

$$0 = a_0\alpha(\alpha - 1)x^{\alpha-2} + a_1\alpha(\alpha + 1)x^{\alpha-1} \\ + x^\alpha \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \{a_{j+2}(\alpha + j + 1)(\alpha + j + 2) - a_j[(\alpha + j)(\alpha + j + 1) - l(l + 1)]\} x^j.$$

Recall that we set  $a_0 \neq 0$ . Let  $\alpha = 1$ . Then  $a_1 = 0$ . Therefore, the power series solution of the Legendre differential equation is given by (with  $j \rightarrow 2k$ )

$$P(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_{2k} x^{2k+1},$$

where the coefficients satisfy the recursion relation

$$a_{2k+2} = \left[ \frac{(2k+1)(2k+2) - l(l+1)}{(2k+2)(2k+3)} \right] a_{2k}.$$

This will terminate when  $2k+1 = l$ . Clearly,  $l$  must be an odd integer. Let  $l = 1$ . Then  $P_1(x) = a_0^{(1)}x$ . (Note that this  $a_0$  is not the same as above.) Imposing the normalization condition  $P(1) = 1$ , we obtain

$$P_1(x) = x.$$

Let  $l = 3$ . Then  $P_3(x) = a_0^{(3)}x + a_2^{(3)}x^3$ . From the recursion relation,  $P_3(x) = a_0^{(3)} \left( x - \frac{5}{3}x^3 \right)$ .

Normalizing, we get

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

Let  $l = 5$ . Then  $P_5(x) = a_0^{(5)}x + a_2^{(5)}x^3 + a_4^{(5)}x^5$ . From the recursion relation, we have  $P_5(x) = a_0^{(5)} \left( x - \frac{14}{3}x^3 + \frac{21}{5}x^5 \right)$ . Normalizing, we obtain

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