





**Problem 1.**

Suppose  $y_1(x)$  and  $y_2(x)$  are two solutions of

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

Show that if the Wronskian

$$W(x) = \det \begin{pmatrix} y_1(x) & y_2(x) \\ y_1'(x) & y_2'(x) \end{pmatrix}$$

does not vanish for  $x = 0$ , then it does not vanish for any value of  $x$ . (Hint: Show that  $W'(x) + P(x)W(x) = 0$ ).

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**Solution:**

**Problem 2.**

For the wave equation

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} G(r, \theta, t) + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} G(r, \theta, t) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} G(r, \theta, t) - \frac{1}{v^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} G(r, \theta, t) = 0$$

in polar coordinates, look for a solution  $G(r, \theta, t) = R(r)\Theta(\theta)T(t)$  that is not necessarily radially symmetric. Find the solutions for  $T(t)$  and  $\Theta(\theta)$ , and express  $R(r)$  in terms of the solutions of the equation

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

which is known as “Bessel’s equation of order  $n$ .” Explain why  $n$  must be an integer.

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**Solution:**

**Problem 3.**

Find two linearly independent power-series solutions of

$$y''(x) + xy'(x) + y(x) = 0$$

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**Solution:**

**Problem 4.**

Find two linearly independent power-series solutions of

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

where  $p$  is a constant. Show that if  $p$  is a non-negative integer, there is a solution that is a polynomial of degree  $p$ .

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**Solution:**