

Exactly Soluble System (II)

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LAGUERRE POLYNOMIAL

Laguerre Polynomials (1834-1886) which is second-order linear differential equation. This equation has non-singular solutions only if n is a non-negative integer. The Laguerre Polynomials arise in quantum mechanics, in the radial part of the solution of the Schrödinger equation for a one-electron atom. They also describe the static wave functions of oscillator system in quantum mechanics in phase space. In the quantum mechanics the Schrödinger equation for the hydrogen-like atom is exactly solvable by separation of variables in spherical co-ordinate. The radial part of the wave function is a Laguerre Polynomial.

A useful set of polynomials, the Laguerre functions, is given by the solution to the Laguerre equation

$$x \frac{d^2 L_d}{dx^2} + (1-x) \frac{dL_d}{dx} + d L_d = 0$$

and for $d = n$, the associated Laguerre Polynomials,

$$L_n^K(x) = (-1)^K \frac{d^K}{dx^K} L_{n+K}(x)$$

$$x \frac{d^2 L_n^K}{dx^2} + (K+1-x) \frac{dL_n^K}{dx} + d L_n^K = 0$$

Associated Laguerre equation by differentiating the Laguerre equation K times. For the Laguerre equation, we assume a solution of the form -

$$L_2 = \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} a_s x^s \quad (2)$$

then

$$\frac{dL_2}{dx} = \sum_{s=1}^{\infty} s a_s x^{s-1}$$

$$\frac{d^2 L_2}{dx^2} = \sum_{s=2}^{\infty} s(s-1) a_s x^{s-2}$$

So that $\sum_{s=2}^{\infty} s(s-1) a_s x^{s-2} + (1-x) \sum_{s=1}^{\infty} s a_s x^{s-1} + d \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} a_s x^s = 0$

$$\sum_{s=2}^{\infty} s(s-1) a_s x^{s-1} + \sum_{s=1}^{\infty} s a_s x^{s-1} - \sum_{s=1}^{\infty} s a_s x^s + d \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} a_s x^s = 0$$

$$\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} m(m+1) a_{m+1} x^m + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (m+1) a_{m+1} x^m - \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} m a_m x^m + d \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m x^m = 0$$

The $m=0$ term is

$$a_1 + d a_0 = 0$$

for all $m > 0$

$$(m(m+1) a_{m+1} + (m+1) a_{m+1} - m a_m + d a_m) x^m = 0$$

$$(m+1)^2 a_{m+1} + (d-m) a_m = 0$$

and therefore

$$a_{m+1} = -\frac{d-m}{(m+1)^2} a_m$$

For $m=0$ this formula also gives $a_1 = -d a_0$ so we may extend this formula to all m . Iterate this series.

$$a_m = -\frac{d-m+1}{m^2} a_{m-1}$$

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$$= (-1)^2 \frac{(d-m+1)(d-m+2)}{m^2(m-1)^2} a_{m-2}$$

$$= (-1)^k \frac{(d-m+1)(d-m+2) \cdots (d-m+k)}{m^2(m-1)^2 \cdots (m-k)^2} a_{m-k}$$

So that for $k=m$

$$a_m = (-1)^m \frac{(d-m+1)(d-m+2) \cdots d}{m^2 \cdots 1^2} a_0$$

$$= (-1)^m \frac{\Gamma(d+1)}{\Gamma(m) \Gamma(m) \Gamma(d-m+1)} a_0$$

where the Γ function satisfies

$$\Gamma(m) = (m-1) \Gamma(m-1)$$

$$\Gamma(d+1) = d \Gamma(d)$$

The solution is

$$L_2(x) = \sum_{m=0}^d \frac{\Gamma(d+1)}{\Gamma(m) \Gamma(m) \Gamma(d-m+1)} (-1)^m x^m$$