

Exactly Soluble System (II)

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THE ASSOCIATED LAGUERRE EQUATION

Solutions to the associated Laguerre differential equation with $\nu \neq 0$ and k an integer are called associated Laguerre Polynomials. Associated Laguerre Polynomials are implemented in the Wolfram Language as `LaguerreL[n, k, x]` in terms of the unassociated Laguerre Polynomials. The associated polynomials solve a related set of equations given by differentiating the Laguerre equation for L_{n+k} , k times.

$$0 = \frac{d^k}{dx^k} \left(x \frac{d^2 L_{n+k}}{dx^2} + (1-x) \frac{d L_{n+k}}{dx} + n+k L_{n+k} \right)$$

$$= \frac{d^k}{dx^k} \left(x \frac{d^2 L_{n+k}}{dx^2} \right) + \frac{d^k}{dx^k} \left((1-x) \frac{d L_{n+k}}{dx} + n+k L_{n+k} \right)$$

For the first term -

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(x \frac{d^2 L_{n+k}}{dx^2} \right) = x \frac{d^3 L_{n+k}}{dx^3} + \frac{d^2 L_{n+k}}{dx^2}$$

$$\frac{d^2}{dx^2} \left(x \frac{d^2 L_{n+k}}{dx^2} \right) = x \frac{d^4 L_{n+k}}{dx^4} + 2 \frac{d^3 L_{n+k}}{dx^3}$$

$$\frac{d^3}{dx^3} \left(x \frac{d^2 L_{n+k}}{dx^2} \right) = x \frac{d^5 L_{n+k}}{dx^5} + 3 \frac{d^4 L_{n+k}}{dx^4}$$

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The pattern is emerging

$$\frac{d^k}{dx^k} \left(x \cdot \frac{d^2 L_{n+k}}{dx^2} \right) = x \frac{d^{k+2} L_{n+k}}{dx^{k+2}} + k \frac{d^{k+1} L_{n+k}}{dx^{k+1}}$$

check one more derivative to complete the induction.

$$\frac{d^{k+1}}{dx^{k+1}} \left(x \frac{d^2 L_{n+k}}{dx^2} \right) = \frac{d}{dx} \left(x \frac{d^{(k+1)+2} L_{n+k}}{dx^{(k+1)+2}} + (k+1) \frac{d^{(k+1)+1} L_{n+k}}{dx^{(k+1)+1}} \right)$$

So the form is correct.

For the second term, we need

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^k}{dx^k} (1-x) \frac{dL_{n+k}}{dx} &= \frac{d^k}{dx^k} \left(\frac{dL_{n+k}}{dx} - x \frac{dL_{n+k}}{dx} \right) \\ &= \frac{d^{k+1} L_{n+k}}{dx^{k+1}} - \frac{d^k}{dx^k} \left(x \frac{dL_{n+k}}{dx} \right) \end{aligned}$$

the last part -

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(x \cdot \frac{dL_{n+k}}{dx} \right) = x \cdot \frac{d^2 L_{n+k}}{dx^2} + \frac{dL_{n+k}}{dx}$$

$$\frac{d^2}{dx^2} \left(x \cdot \frac{dL_{n+k}}{dx} \right) = x \cdot \frac{d^3 L_{n+k}}{dx^3} + 2 \cdot \frac{d^2 L_{n+k}}{dx^2}$$

So the generic term is

$$\frac{d^k}{dx^k} \left(x \frac{dL_{n+k}}{dx} \right) = x \frac{d^{k+1} L_{n+k}}{dx^{k+1}} + k \frac{d^k L_{n+k}}{dx^k}$$

and check one more

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^{k+1}}{dx^{k+1}} \left(x \frac{dL_{n+k}}{dx} \right) &= \frac{d^{k+1} L_{n+k}}{dx^{k+1}} + x \frac{d^{k+2} L_{n+k}}{dx^{k+2}} \\ &\quad + k \frac{d^{k+1} L_{n+k}}{dx^{k+1}} \\ &= x \frac{d^{(k+1)+1} L_{n+k}}{dx^{(k+1)+1}} + (k+1) \frac{d^{k+1} L_{n+k}}{dx^{k+1}} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, returning to the equation.

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 &= \frac{d^k}{dx^k} \left(x \frac{d^2 L_{n+k}}{dx^2} + \frac{d^k}{dx^k} \left[(1-x) \frac{d L_{n+k}}{dx} + (n+k) \frac{d^k L_{n+k}}{dx^k} \right] \right) \\
 &= x \frac{d^{k+2} L_{n+k}}{dx^{k+2}} + k \frac{d^{k+1} L_{n+k}}{dx^{k+1}} + \frac{d^{k+1} L_{n+k}}{dx^{k+1}} \\
 &\quad - x \frac{d^{k+1} L_{n+k}}{dx^{k+1}} - k \frac{d^k L_{n+k}}{dx^k} + (n+k) \frac{d^k L_{n+k}}{dx^k} \\
 &= x \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \left(\frac{d^k L_{n+k}}{dx^k} \right) + (k+1-x) \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{d^k L_{n+k}}{dx^k} \right) \\
 &\quad + n \left(\frac{d^k L_{n+k}}{dx^k} \right) .
 \end{aligned}$$

and, inserting a minus sign, the associated Laguerre equation is

$$x \cdot \frac{d^2 L_n^k}{dx^2} + (k+1-x) \frac{d L_n^k}{dx} + n L_n^k = 0$$

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