

3. Bessel functions. Consider *Bessel's differential equation* (of order n):

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

for integer $n > 0$.

- (a) Find the indicial exponents α_1, α_2 (with $\operatorname{Re} \alpha_1 > \operatorname{Re} \alpha_2$) for the local series expansion of (\dagger) about $x = 0$.
- (b) Determine the series $y(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^{k+\alpha_1}$ that solves (\dagger) , giving the coefficients a_k in closed form. Find a_0 such that the series is the expansion of the *Bessel functions of first kind*,

$$J_n(x) = \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^n \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-x^2/4)^k}{k!(k+n)!}. \quad (\#)$$

- (c) Using $(\#)$, show that the following recursion relation is true for all integers $n \geq 0$:

$$J_{n+1}(x) = \frac{2n}{x} J_n(x) - J_{n-1}(x).$$

- (d) For any integer $n \geq 0$, show that

$$\int_0^1 x [J_n(\alpha x)]^2 dx = \frac{1}{2} [J_n'(\alpha)]^2,$$

where α is a zero of J_n . [Hint: Substitute $z = \alpha x$, integrate by parts, and use the fact that J_n satisfies Bessel's equation.]

