

**1:** The ODE  $(1 - x^2)y'' - 2xy' + k(k + 1)y = 0$  is called **Legendre's Equation**. For each integer  $k \geq 0$ , Legendre's equation has a unique polynomial solution  $y = P_k(x)$  with  $P_k(1) = 1$ . These are called the **Legendre polynomials**. Use power series, centred at 0, to solve the ODE, and find  $P_k(x)$  for  $k = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ .

**2:** The ODE  $x^2y'' + kxy' + \ell y = 0$  is called the **Cauchy-Euler Equation**. We can solve the Cauchy-Euler equation by letting  $y = x^r$  so that  $y' = rx^{r-1}$  and  $y'' = r(r-1)x^{r-2}$ . Putting these in the DE gives  $0 = r(r-1)x^r + krx^r + \ell x^r = (r(r-1) + kr + \ell)x^r$ , so we see that  $y = x^r$  is a solution when  $r$  is a root of the polynomial  $g(r) = r(r-1) + kr + \ell$ .

(a) When  $g(r)$  has two real roots  $r_1$  and  $r_2$ , we obtain two independent solutions  $y_1(x) = x^{r_1}$  and  $y_2(x) = x^{r_2}$ . Use this to solve the ODE  $x^2y'' - 2xy + 2y = 0$ .

(b) When  $g(r)$  has complex roots  $r \pm is$ , we obtain the complex solutions  $z_1(x) = x^{r+is} = e^{(r+is)\ln x} = e^{r\ln x}e^{is\ln x} = x^r(\cos(s\ln x) + i\sin(s\ln x))$  and  $z_2(x) = x^{r-is} = x^r(\cos(s\ln x) - i\sin(s\ln x))$ , and hence we obtain the two independent real solutions given by  $y_1(x) = \frac{z_1(x) + z_2(x)}{2} = \text{Re}(z_1(x)) = x^r \cos(s\ln x)$  and  $y_2(x) = \frac{z_1(x) - z_2(x)}{2i} = \text{Im}(z_1(x)) = x^r \sin(s\ln x)$ . Use this to solve the ODE  $x^2y'' + 3xy' + 5y = 0$ .

(c) When  $g(r)$  has a repeated real root  $r$  we only obtain one solution  $y_1(x) = x^r$ . Use reduction of order to find a formula for a second independent solution  $y = y_2(x)$  of the form  $y_2(x) = y_1(x)u(x)$ .

(d) Use the formula found in Part (c) to solve the ODE  $x^2y'' + 5xy + 4y = 0$ .

**3:** The ODE  $x^2y'' + xy' + (x^2 - k^2)y = 0$  is called **Bessel's Equation**. Use Frobenius' method to show that for all  $k \geq 0$  there is a nonzero solution of the form  $y = J_k(x) = x^k \sum_{n \geq 0} c_{2n}x^{2n}$  and, if  $k$  is not an integer, there is a second independent solution of the form  $y = J_{-k}(x) = x^{-k} \sum_{n \geq 0} c_{2n}x^{2n}$ . These solutions (multiplied by various constants) are called the **Bessel functions of the first kind**.