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# 11

## Bessel Functions

### 11.1. Bessel's equation and its solution.

[Garhwal 2004; Kanpur 2009]

The differential equation of the form

$$x^2 y'' + xy' + (x^2 - n^2)y = 0 \quad \dots(1)$$

or

$$y'' + (1/x) \times y' + (1 - n^2/x^2)y = 0 \quad \dots(1)'$$

is called *Bessel's equation of order n*,  $n$  being a non-negative constant. We now solve (1) in series by using the well known method of Frobenius.

Let the series solution (1) be 
$$y = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_m x^{k+m}, \quad c_0 \neq 0. \quad \dots(2)$$

$$\therefore y' = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_m (k+m) x^{k+m-1} \quad \text{and} \quad y'' = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_m (k+m)(k+m-1) x^{k+m-2}.$$

Substitution for  $y, y', y''$  in (1) now gives

$$x^2 \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_m (k+m)(k+m-1) x^{k+m-2} + x \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_m (k+m) x^{k+m-1} + (x^2 - n^2) \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_m x^{k+m} = 0$$

or 
$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_m \{ (k+m)(k+m-1) + (k+m) - n^2 \} x^{k+m} + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_m x^{k+m+2} = 0.$$

But the bracketed expression in the above identity

$$= (k+m)^2 - (k+m) + (k+m) - n^2 = (k+m)^2 - n^2 = (k+m+n)(k+m-n).$$

So the above identity becomes

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_m (k+m+n)(k+m-n) x^{k+m} + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_m x^{k+m+2} = 0. \quad \dots(3)$$

Equating to zero the smallest power of  $x$ , namely  $x^k$ , (3) gives the indicial equation

$$c_0(k+n)(k-n) = 0 \quad \text{i.e.,} \quad (k+n)(k-n) = 0 \quad \text{as} \quad c_0 \neq 0. \quad \text{Its roots are} \quad k = n, -n.$$

Next equating to zero the coefficient of  $x^{k+1}$  in (3) gives

$$c_1(k+1+n)(k+1-n) = 0, \quad \text{so that} \quad c_1 = 0 \quad \text{for} \quad k = n \quad \text{and} \quad k = -n.$$

Finally equating to zero the coefficient of  $x^{k+m}$  in (3) gives

$$c_m(k+m+n)(k+m-n) + c_{m-2} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad c_m = \frac{1}{(k+m+n)(n-k-m)} c_{m-2}. \quad \dots(4)$$

Putting  $m = 3, 5, 7, \dots$  in (4) and using  $c_1 = 0$ , we find

$$c_1 = c_3 = c_5 = c_7 = \dots = 0. \quad \dots(5)$$

Putting  $m = 2, 4, 6, \dots$  in (4) gives

$$c_2 = \frac{1}{(k+2+n)(n-k-2)} c_0,$$

$$c_4 = \frac{1}{(k+4+n)(n-k-4)} c_2 = \frac{1}{(k+4+n)(n-k-4)(k+2+n)(n-k-2)} c_0$$

and so on. Putting these values in (2), we get

$$y = c_0 x^k \left[ 1 + \frac{x^2}{(n+k+2)(n-k-2)} + \frac{x^4}{(n+k+2)(n-k-2)(n+k+4)(n-k-4)} + \dots \right]$$

Replacing  $k$  by  $n$  and  $-n$  and also replacing  $c_0$  by  $a$  and  $b$  in the above equation gives

$$y = ax^n \left\{ 1 - \frac{x^2}{4(1+n)} + \frac{x^4}{4 \cdot 8(1+n)(2+n)} - \dots \right\} \quad \dots(6)$$

and  $y = bx^{-n} \left\{ 1 - \frac{x^2}{4(1+n)} + \frac{x^4}{4 \cdot 8(1-n)(2-n)} - \dots \right\} \quad \dots(7)$

The particular solution of (1) obtained from (6) above by taking the arbitrary constant  $a \equiv 1/\{2^n \Gamma(n+1)\}$ , is called the *Bessel function of the first kind of order  $n$* . It will be denoted by  $J_n(x)$ . Thus, we have

$$J_n(x) = \frac{x^n}{2^n \Gamma(n+1)} \left[ 1 - \frac{x^2}{4(n+1)} + \frac{x^4}{4 \cdot 8(n+1)(n+2)} - \dots \right] \quad \dots(8)$$

or  $J_n(x) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} (-1)^r \frac{1}{r! \Gamma(n+r+1)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2r+n} \quad \dots(9)$

Replacing  $b$  by  $1/\{2^n \Gamma(n+1)\}$  in (7) and proceeding as above gives

$$J_{-n}(x) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} (-1)^r \frac{1}{r! \Gamma(-n+r+1)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2r-n} \quad \dots(10)$$

Let  $n$  be non-integral. We know that  $\Gamma(m) = \infty$  if  $m$  is zero or a negative integer and  $\Gamma(m)$  is finite otherwise. Since  $n$  is not an integer and  $r$  is always integral, the factor  $\Gamma(-n+r+1)$  in (10) is always finite and non-zero. For  $2r < n$ , (10) shows that  $J_{-n}(x)$  contains negative powers of  $x$ . On the other hand, (9) shows that  $J_n(x)$  is not containing negative powers of  $x$  at all. Therefore, we find that at  $x = 0$ ,  $J_n(x)$  is finite while  $J_{-n}(x)$  is infinite, and so one cannot be expressed as a constant multiple of the other. From these arguments we conclude that  $J_n(x)$  and  $J_{-n}(x)$  are two independent solutions of (1) when  $n$  is not an integer (this condition being stronger than  $2n$  non-integral which was assumed earlier). Thus, the general solution of Bessel equation (1) when  $n$  is not an integer is

$$y = AJ_n(x) + BJ_{-n}(x), \text{ where } A \text{ and } B \text{ are arbitrary constant.} \quad \dots (11)$$

**11.2. Bessel's functions of the first kind of order  $n$ . Definition [Nagpur 2003]**

Bessel's function of the first kind and of order  $n$  is denoted by  $J_n(x)$  and is defined as

$$J_n(x) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} (-1)^r \frac{1}{r! \Gamma(n+r+1)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2r+n}, \text{ where } n \text{ is any non-negative constant.} \quad \dots(1)$$

**Remark 1.** When  $n$  is an integer,  $\Gamma(n+r+1) = (n+r)!$  and so (1) may be rewritten as

$$J_n(x) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} (-1)^r \frac{1}{r!(n+r)!} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2r+n} \quad \dots(2)$$

Replacing  $n$  by 0 and 1 in turn in (2), Bessel's functions of orders 0 and 1 are given by

$$J_0(x) = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2^2} + \frac{x^4}{2^2 \cdot 4^2} - \frac{x^6}{2^2 \cdot 4^2 \cdot 6^2} + \dots \quad \text{Kanpur 2005]$$

and 
$$J_1(x) = \frac{x}{2} - \frac{x^3}{2^2 \cdot 3} + \frac{x^5}{2^2 \cdot 4^2 \cdot 6} - \dots$$

**Remark 2.** When there is no confusion regarding the variable, we shall write  $J_n$  for  $J_n(x)$  and  $J'_n$  for  $d J_n(x)/dx$  etc.

**11.3 List of important results of Gamma function  $\Gamma(n)$  and Beta function  $B(m, n)$ .**

For more details, refer Chapter 6.

- (i)  $\Gamma(n) = \int_0^\infty e^{-x} x^{n-1} dx, n > 0$
- (ii)  $\Gamma(n) = 2 \int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} x^{2n-1} dx$
- (iii)  $\Gamma(1) = 1$
- (iv)  $\Gamma(1/2) = \sqrt{\pi}$
- (v)  $\Gamma(n + 1) = n \Gamma(n), n > 0$
- (vi)  $\Gamma(n + 1) = n!$ , if  $n$  is +ve integer
- (vii)  $B(m, n) = B(n, m)$
- (viii)  $\Gamma(n) \Gamma(1 - n) = \pi/\sin n\pi$ .
- (ix)  $\Gamma(m) = \infty$ , so that  $1/\Gamma(m) = 0$  if  $m = 0$  or -ve integer
- (x)  $B(m, n) = \int_0^1 x^{m-1}(1-x)^{n-1} dx = \int_0^1 x^{n-1}(1-x)^{m-1} dx$ , where  $m > 0, n > 0$
- (xi)  $B(m, n) = \frac{\Gamma(m) \Gamma(n)}{\Gamma(m+n)}$
- (xii)  $\Gamma(2n) = \frac{2^{2n-1}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \Gamma(n) \Gamma(n + \frac{1}{2})$

**11.4. Relation between  $J_n(x)$  and  $J_{-n}(x)$ ,  $n$  being an integer**

**Theorem. I** Show that when  $n$  is

- (i) positive integer,  $J_{-n}(x) = (-1)^n J_n(x)$ . [Agra 2006; Kanpur 2006, 07, 08 MDU Rohtak 2004; Purvanchal 2006; Meerut 2006; Nagpur 1995;]
- (ii) any integer,  $J_{-n}(x) = (-1)^n J_n(x)$  [Kanpur 2004, 08; Ranchi 2010; Meerut 1993]

**Proof. Part (i).** Let  $n$  be a +ve integer. We know that

$$J_{-n}(x) = \sum_{r=0}^\infty (-1)^r \frac{1}{r! \Gamma(-n+r+1)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2r-n} \quad \dots(1)$$

Since  $n > 0$ , so  $\Gamma(-n+r+1)$  is infinite (and so  $1/\Gamma(-n+r+1)$  is zero) for  $r = 0, 1, 2, \dots, (n-1)$ . Keeping this in mind we see that the sum over  $r$  in (1) must be taken from  $n$  to infinity. Thus,

$$J_{-n}(x) = \sum_{r=n}^\infty (-1)^r \frac{1}{r! \Gamma(-n+r+1)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2r-n} \quad \dots(2)$$

From (2),  $J_{-n}(x) = \sum_{m=0}^\infty (-1)^{m+n} \frac{1}{(m+n)! \Gamma(m+1)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2(m+n)-n}$ , (on changing the variable

of summation to  $m = r - n$  so that  $r = m + n$  and so  $m = 0$  when  $r = n$  and  $m = \infty$  when  $r = \infty$ )

$$\therefore J_{-n}(x) = \sum_{m=0}^\infty (-1)^m (-1)^n \frac{1}{\Gamma(m+n+1)m!} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2m+n} = (-1)^n \sum_{r=0}^\infty (-1)^r \frac{1}{\Gamma(r+n+1)r!} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2m+n}$$

(on changing the variable of summation from  $m$  to  $r$  while keeping the limits of summation unchanged.)

Thus, for  $n > 0$  
$$J_{-n}(x) = (-1)^n J_n(x), \text{ by the definition of } J_n(x). \quad \dots (3)$$

**Part (ii).** Let  $n < 0$ . Let  $p$  be a positive integer such that  $n = -p$ . Since  $p > 0$ , from part (i) above, we have  $J_{-p}(x) = (-1)^p J_p(x)$  so that  $J_p(x) = (-1)^{-p} J_{-p}(x)$ .

But  $p = -n$  hence the above result becomes 
$$J_{-n}(x) = (-1)^n J_n(x), \quad \dots(4)$$

which is of the same form as (3). Hence the required result holds for any integer.

**Remark.** When  $n$  is an integer  $J_{-n}(x)$  is not independent of  $J_n(x)$ , because  $J_{-n}(x)$  is a constant multiple of  $J_n(x)$  as shown above. Hence  $y = AJ_n(x) + BJ_{-n}(x)$  is not the general solution of Bessel equation when  $n$  is an integer. Of course, when  $n$  is not an integer, the most general solution of Bessel equation is given by  $y = AJ_n(x) + BJ_{-n}(x)$ . When  $n$  is an integer, the nature of general solution is indicated by the following theorem.

**Theorem II.** The two independent solutions of Bessel's equation may be taken to be  $J_n(x)$  and

$$Y_n(x) = \frac{\cos n\pi J_n(x) - J_{-n}(x)}{\sin n\pi}, \text{ for all values of } n. \quad \dots(5)$$

**Proof. Case I. Let  $n$  be not an integer.** Since  $n$  is not an integer,  $\sin n\pi \neq 0$ . Hence (5) shows that  $Y_n(x)$  is a linear combination of  $J_n(x)$  and  $J_{-n}(x)$ . But we know that  $J_n(x)$  and  $J_{-n}(x)$  are independent solutions if  $n$  is not an integer. Hence  $J_n(x)$  and a linear combination of  $J_n(x)$  and  $J_{-n}(x)$  will also be independent solutions. Thus we find that  $J_n(x)$  and  $Y_n(x)$  are two independent solutions of Bessel's equation.

**Case II. Let  $n$  be an integer.** Then we have  $\cos n\pi = (-1)^n$ ,  $\sin n\pi = 0$  and  $J_{-n}(x) = (-1)^n J_n(x)$ .

Using these values in (5), we find that  $Y_n(x)$  has the form  $0/0$  and so  $Y_n(x)$  is undefined. To make  $Y_n(x)$  meaningful, we define it as

$$Y_n(x) = \lim_{v \rightarrow n} Y_v(x) = \lim_{v \rightarrow n} \frac{\cos v\pi J_v(x) - J_{-v}(x)}{\sin v\pi} \quad \dots(6)$$

$$= \frac{[(\partial / \partial v) \{(\cos v\pi J_v(x) - J_{-v}(x))\}]_{v=n}}{[(\partial / \partial v) \cos v\pi]_{v=n}}, \text{ by L' Hospital's rule}$$

$$= \frac{\left[ -\pi \sin v\pi J_v(x) + \cos v\pi \frac{\partial}{\partial v} J_v(x) - \frac{\partial}{\partial v} J_{-v}(x) \right]_{v=n}}{[\pi \cos v\pi]_{v=n}} = \frac{\cos n\pi \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial v} J_v(x) \right]_{v=n} - \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial v} J_{-v}(x) \right]_{v=n}}{\pi \cos n\pi}$$

$$= \frac{(-1)^n \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial v} J_v(x) \right]_{v=n} - (-1)^{2n} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial v} J_{-v}(x) \right]_{v=n}}{\pi (-1)^n} = \frac{1}{\pi} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial v} J_v(x) - (-1)^n \frac{\partial}{\partial v} J_{-v}(x) \right]_{v=n} \quad \dots(7)$$

We now establish the following two results about  $Y_n(x)$  as given by (6).

(i)  $Y_n(x)$  is a solution of Bessel's equation. (ii)  $Y_n(x)$  is a solution independent of  $J_n(x)$ .

**Proof of (i).** Since  $J_v(x)$  and  $J_{-v}(x)$  are solutions of Bessel's equation of order  $v$ , we must have

$$x^2 \frac{d^2 J_v}{dx^2} + x \frac{dJ_v}{dx} + (x^2 - v^2) J_v = 0 \quad \dots(8)$$

and

$$x^2 \frac{d^2 J_{-v}}{dx^2} + x \frac{dJ_{-v}}{dx} + (x^2 - v^2) J_{-v} = 0. \quad \dots(9)$$

Differentiating (8) and (9) w.r.t. ' $v$ ', we obtain

$$x^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \left( \frac{\partial J_v}{\partial v} \right) + x \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{\partial J_v}{\partial v} \right) + (x^2 - v^2) \frac{\partial J_v}{\partial v} - 2vJ_v = 0 \quad \dots(10)$$

$$x^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \left( \frac{\partial J_{-v}}{\partial v} \right) + x \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{\partial J_{-v}}{\partial v} \right) + (x^2 - v^2) \frac{\partial J_{-v}}{\partial v} - 2vJ_{-v} = 0. \quad \dots(11)$$

Multiplying (11) by  $(-1)^v$  and subtracting from (10) gives

$$x^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \left\{ \frac{\partial J_v}{\partial v} - (-1)^v \frac{\partial J_{-v}}{\partial v} \right\} + x \frac{d}{dx} \left\{ \frac{\partial J_v}{\partial v} - (-1)^v \frac{\partial J_{-v}}{\partial v} \right\} + (x^2 - v^2) \left\{ \frac{\partial J_v}{\partial v} - (-1)^v \frac{\partial J_{-v}}{\partial v} \right\} - 2v \{ J_v - (-1)^v J_{-v} \} = 0 \quad \dots(12)$$

$$x \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (k+m)(k+m-1) c_m x^{k+m-2} + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (k+m) c_m x^{k+m-1} + x \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_m x^{k+m} = 0$$

or 
$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (k+m)(k+m-1) c_m x^{k+m-1} + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (k+m) c_m x^{k+m-1} + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_m x^{k+m+1} = 0$$

or 
$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \{(k+m)(k+m-1) + (k+m)\} c_m x^{k+m-1} + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_m x^{k+m+1} = 0$$

or 
$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (k+m)^2 c_m x^{k+m-1} + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_m x^{k+m+1} = 0, \quad \dots(4)$$

which is an identity. Equating to zero the coefficient of the lowest power of  $x$ , namely  $x^{k-1}$ , we have

$$k^2 c_0 = 0 \quad \text{so that} \quad k = 0, 0 \quad (\text{as } c_0 \neq 0)$$

Now equating to zero the coefficient of next higher power of  $x$ , namely  $x^k$ , in (4), we have

$$c_1(k+1)^2 = 0 \quad \text{so that} \quad c_1 = 0 \quad \text{as } (k+1)^2 \neq 0 \quad \text{for } k = 0.$$

Finally, equating to zero the coefficient of  $x^{k+m-1}$  in (4), we get

$$(k+m)^2 c_m + c_{m-2} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad c_m = -\frac{c_{m-2}}{(k+m)^2}, \text{ for all } m \geq 2.$$

When  $k = 0$ , we have 
$$c_m = -(1/m^2) c_{m-2} \text{ for all } m \geq 2 \quad \dots(5)$$

Putting  $m = 3, 5, 7, \dots$  in (5) and noting that  $c_1 = 0$ , we obtain

$$c_1 = c_3 = c_5 = c_7 = \dots = 0. \quad \dots(6)$$

Next, putting  $m = 2, 4, 6, \dots$  in (5), we have

$$c_2 = -\frac{c_0}{2^2}, \quad c_4 = -\frac{c_2}{4^2} = \frac{c_0}{2^2 \cdot 4^2}, \quad c_6 = -\frac{c_4}{6^2} = -\frac{c_0}{2^2 \cdot 4^2 \cdot 6^2}, \dots \text{ and so on}$$

Putting the above values in (2) for  $k = 0$ , 
$$y = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_m x^m = c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + c_3 x^3 + \dots$$

or 
$$y = c_0 \left( 1 - \frac{x^2}{2^2} + \frac{x^4}{2^2 \cdot 4^2} - \frac{x^6}{2^2 \cdot 4^2 \cdot 6^2} + \dots \text{ad. inf} \right)$$

If  $c_0 = 1$ , the above solution is denoted by  $J_0(x)$  so that

$$J_0(x) = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2^2} + \frac{x^4}{2^2 \cdot 4^2} - \frac{x^6}{2^2 \cdot 4^2 \cdot 6^2} + \dots \text{ad. inf}, \quad \dots(7)$$

where  $J_0(x)$  is known as *Bessel's function of zeroth order*.

**Note 1.** Replacing  $n$  by 0 in Art. 11.2, we can deduce (7).

**Note 2.** From (7), we have  $J_0(0) = 1.$  **[Nagpur 1995]**

**11.6.A. Solved examples based on Art. 11.1 to 11.6**

**Ex. 1.** Prove that

(i)  $J_{-1/2}(x) = \sqrt{(2/\pi x)} \cos x.$  **[Garhwal 2005; Nagpur 2005; Kanpur 2009, 10;**

**Agara 2010; Bhopal 2010; Ranchi 2010]**

(ii)  $J_{1/2}(x) = \sqrt{(2/\pi x)} \sin x.$  **[Nagpur 2003, 05; Garhwal 2004; Kanpur 2004; 07]**

(iii)  $[J_{1/2}(x)]^2 + [J_{-1/2}(x)]^2 = 2/(\pi x).$  **[Lucknow 2010; Meerut 1992, 93]**

**Sol.** By the definition of  $J_n(x)$ , we have

$$J_n(x) = \frac{x^n}{2^n \Gamma(n+1)} \left[ 1 - \frac{x^2}{2 \cdot 2(n+1)} + \frac{x^4}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 2^2(n+1)(n+2)} - \dots \right] \quad \dots(1)$$

**Part (i).** Replacing  $n$  by  $-(1/2)$  in (1) and simplifying, we get

$$J_{-1/2}(x) = \frac{x^{-1/2}}{2^{-1/2}\Gamma(\frac{1}{2})} \left[ 1 - \frac{x^2}{1 \cdot 2} + \frac{x^4}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4} - \dots \right] = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi x}} \cos x, \text{ as } \Gamma(\frac{1}{2}) = \sqrt{\pi}$$

**Part (ii).** Replacing  $n$  by  $1/2$  in (1) and simplifying, we get

$$J_{1/2}(x) = \frac{x^{1/2}}{2^{1/2}\Gamma(3/2)} \cdot \left[ 1 - \frac{x^2}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3} + \frac{x^4}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5} - \dots \right] = \sqrt{\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}\Gamma(\frac{1}{2})}} \cdot \frac{1}{x} \left[ x - \frac{x^3}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3} + \frac{x^5}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5} - \dots \right]$$

[ $\because \Gamma(p+1) = p\Gamma(p)$ ]

$$= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi x}} \left[ x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \dots \right] = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi x}} \sin x$$

**Part (iii).** Squaring and adding the results of (i) and (ii), we get

$$[J_{1/2}(x)]^2 + [J_{-1/2}(x)]^2 = (2/\pi x) (\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x) = 2/\pi x.$$

**Ex. 2.** Prove that  $\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{J_n(z)}{z^n} = \frac{1}{2^n \Gamma(n+1)}$ , where  $n > -1$ . **(Kanpur 2005, 07)**

**Sol.** By definition,  $J_n(z) = \frac{z^n}{2^n \Gamma(n+1)} \left[ 1 - \frac{z^2}{4(n+1)} + \frac{z^4}{4 \cdot 8 \cdot (n+1) \cdot (n+2)} - \dots \right]$

$$\therefore \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{J_n(z)}{z^n} = \frac{1}{2^n \Gamma(n+1)} \left[ 1 - \frac{z^2}{4(n+1)} + \frac{z^4}{4 \cdot 8 \cdot (n+1) \cdot (n+2)} - \dots \right] = \frac{1}{2^n \Gamma(n+1)}$$

**Ex. 3.** Write the general solution of the following equations:

- (i)  $x^2(d^2y/dx^2) + x(dy/dx) + (x^2 - 25)y = 0$  **(MDU Rohtak 2005)**
- (ii)  $x^2(d^2y/dx^2) + x(dy/dx) + (x^2 - 9/16)y = 0$
- (iii)  $d^2y/dx^2 + (1/x) \times (dy/dx) + (1 - 1/6.25x^2) y = 0$
- (iv)  $x^2(d^2z/dx^2) + x(dz/dx) + (x^2 - 64) z = 0$
- (v)  $z(d^2y/dz^2) + (dy/dz) + zy = 0$

**Sol.** In what follows, we shall use the following solutions of Bessel's equation

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

**Result I:**  $y = A J_n(x) + B J_{-n}(x)$ , where  $n$  is not an integer,  $A, B$  being arbitrary constants.

**Result II:**  $y = A J_n(x) + B Y_n(x)$ , where  $n$  is an integer,  $A, B$  being arbitrary constants.

(i) Given  $x^2 y'' + xy' + (x^2 - 5^2)y = 0$ , which is Bessel's equation of order 5, which is an integer. Its general solution is  $y = A J_5(x) + B Y_5(x)$ , where  $A$  and  $B$  are arbitrary constants.

(ii) Given  $x^2 y'' + xy' + \{x^2 - (3/4)^2\}y = 0$ , which is Bessel's equation of order  $3/4$ , which is not an integer. Its solution is  $y = A J_{3/4}(x) + B J_{-3/4}(x)$ , where  $A$  and  $B$  are arbitrary constants

(iii) Re-writing, given equation becomes  $x^2 y'' + xy' + \{x^2 - (2/5)^2\}y = 0$

As in part (ii), solution is  $y = A J_{2/5}(x) + B J_{-2/5}(x)$ ,  $A, B$  being arbitrary constants

(iv) Given  $x^2(d^2z/dx^2) + x(dz/dx) + (x^2 - 8^2) z = 0$

As in part (i), solution is  $z = A J_8(x) + B Y_8(x)$ ,  $A, B$  being arbitrary constants

(v) Re-writing the given equation,  $z^2(d^2y/dz^2) + z(dy/dz) + z^2y = 0$

which is a Bessel equation of order 0, which is an integer. Its solution is  $y = A J_0(z) + B Y_0(z)$ .

Using value of  $J_n(x)$  and the above expression, (13) gives

$$\frac{x^n}{2^n \Gamma(n+1)} \left[ 1 - \frac{x^2}{2 \cdot 2(n+1)} + \dots \right] = kx^n \left[ \frac{(-1)^n n!}{(2^n n!)^2} + \text{terms containing } x^2 \right]$$

Equating the coefficients of  $x^n$  from both sides, we get

$$\frac{1}{2^n \Gamma(n+1)} = k \frac{(-1)^n n!}{(2^n n!)^2} \quad \text{or} \quad k = (-1)^n 2^n = (-2)^n \quad \dots (15)$$

[ $\because \Gamma(n+1) = n!$ ,  $n$  being +ve integer]

With this value of  $k$ , (13) gives  $J_n(x) = (-2)^n x^n \frac{d^n J_0(x)}{d(x^2)^n}$ .

(b) Proceed as in part (a). From (15), we have  $k = (-2)^n$

### EXERCISE 11 (A)

1. Show that  $y = x^{-n/2} J_n(2\sqrt{x})$  satisfies the equation  $xy'' + (n+1)y' + y = 0$ .

2. Show that  $\int_0^{\pi/2} \sqrt{\pi x} J_{1/2}(2x) dx = 1$ .

3. (a) Prove :  $\int_0^\infty J_n(bx)x^n e^{-ax} dx = \frac{2^n \Gamma(n + \frac{1}{2})}{\sqrt{\pi}} \cdot \frac{b^n}{(a^2 + b^2)^{n+1/2}}$

(b) Prove that  $\int_0^\infty J_n(bx)x^{n+1} e^{-ax} dx = \frac{2^{n+1} \Gamma(n + \frac{1}{2})}{\pi} \cdot \frac{ab^n}{(a^2 + b^2)^{n+3/2}}$ ,  $a > 0$ .

4. Prove :  $\int_0^\infty J_n(bx)x^{n+1} e^{-ax^2} dx = \frac{b^n}{(2a)^{n+1}} \exp(-b^2/4a)$ , where  $\exp(p) = e^p$

5. Prove that  $\int_0^\infty J_n(bx)x^{n+1} e^{-ax^2} dx = \frac{b^n}{2^{n+1} a^{n+2}} \left( n+1 - \frac{b^2}{4a} \right) \exp\left(-\frac{b^2}{4a}\right)$ ,  $a > 0$ .

6. For what value of  $n$  the general solution of Bessel's differential equation will be of the form  $y = AJ_n(x) + BJ_{-n}(x)$ .

7. Write the differential equation satisfied by Bessel's function of order  $n$ . Express the following Bessel's functions in terms of trigonometric functions :

- (i)  $J_{1/2}(x)$ , (ii)  $J_{-1/2}(x)$ , (iii)  $J_{3/2}(x)$ , (iv)  $J_{-3/2}(x)$ .

### 11.7 Recurrence Relations (Formulae) for $J_n(x)$ . Prove that

I.  $\frac{d}{dx} \{x^n J_n(x)\} = x^n J_{n-1}(x)$ . [Agra 2005; Guwahati 2007; Kanpur 2004, 09; Nagpur 1996]

II.  $\frac{d}{dx} \{x^{-n} J_n(x)\} = -x^{-n} J_{n+1}(x)$ . [Agra 2008; Gulbarga 2005; Kanpur 2009]

III.  $J'_n(x) = J_{n-1}(x) - (n/x) J_n$  or  $xJ'_n = -nJ_n + xJ_{n-1}$ . [Agra 2010; Bilaspur 2004; KU Kurukshetra 2005; Agra 1997; Kanpur 2005, 09, 11; Meerut 2010; Nagpur 2010]

IV.  $J'_n(x) = (n/x) J_n(x) - J_{n+1}(x)$  or  $xJ'_n = nJ_n - xJ_{n+1}$ . [Nagpur 2005; Bangalore 93, 94; Meerut 2005, 07, 11; Kanpur 1999; Bilaspur 1998]

V.  $J'_n(x) = \frac{1}{2} \{J_{n-1}(x) - J_{n+1}(x)\}$  or  $J_{n-1} - J_{n+1} = 2J'_n$ . [Agra 2009; Jiwaji 2004, 07; Ravishankar 2004; Nagpur 1995; Kanpur 2007]

VI.  $J_{n-1}(x) + J_{n+1}(x) = (2n/x)J_n(x)$  or  $xJ_{n+1}(x) + xJ_{n-1}(x) = 2nJ_n(x)$   
 or  $2J_n = x(J_{n-1} + J_{n+1})$ . [Agra 2008; Bangalore 2005; Meerut 2006; Kanpur 2006, 11; Nagpur 2010]



**Proof 1.** Using the definition of  $J_n(x)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \{x^n J_n(x)\} &= \frac{d}{dx} \left\{ x^n \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} (-1)^r \frac{1}{r! \Gamma(n+r+1)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2r+n} \right\} \\ &= \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r}{r! \Gamma(n+r+1)} \cdot \frac{1}{2^{2r+n}} \cdot \frac{d}{dx} (x^{2r+2n}) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r (2r+2n) x^{2r+2n-1}}{r! \Gamma(n+r+1) 2^{2r+n}} \\ &= \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r \cdot 2 \cdot (r+n)}{r! (n+r) \Gamma(n+r)} \cdot \frac{x^n \cdot x^{2r+n-1}}{2^{2r+n}} \quad [\because \Gamma(n+1) = n\Gamma(n)] \\ &= x^n \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r}{r! \Gamma(n-1+r+1)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2r+n-1} = x^n J_{n-1}(x). \text{ by the definition of } J_{n-1}(x). \end{aligned}$$

**II.** Using the definition of  $J_n(x)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \{x^{-n} J_n(x)\} &= \frac{d}{dx} \left\{ x^{-n} \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} (-1)^r \frac{1}{r! \Gamma(n+r+1)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2r+n} \right\} \\ &= \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r}{r! \Gamma(n+r+1)} \cdot \frac{1}{2^{2r+n}} \cdot \frac{d}{dx} (x^{2r}) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r 2rx^{2r-1}}{r(r-1)! \Gamma(n+r+1) 2^{2r+n}} \\ &= \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r x^{2r-1}}{(r-1)! \Gamma(n+r+1)} \cdot \frac{1}{2^{2r+n-1}} = \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r x^{2r-1}}{(r-1)! \Gamma(n+r+1)} \cdot \frac{1}{2^{2r+n-1}} \\ &\quad (\text{since } (r-1)! = \infty \text{ when } r=0 \text{ so the term corresponding to } r=0 \text{ vanishes}) \\ &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{m+1} x^{2m+2-1}}{m! \Gamma(n+m+2)} \cdot \frac{x^n \cdot x^{-n}}{2^{2m+2+n-1}}, \text{ (on changing the variable of summation to } m=r-1 \\ &\quad \text{so that } r=m+1. \text{ Then } m=0 \text{ when } r=1 \text{ and } m=\infty \text{ when } r=\infty) \\ &= -x^{-n} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^m}{m! \Gamma(n+m+2)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{n+1+2m} = -x^{-n} \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r}{r! \Gamma(n+1+r+1)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{n+1+2r} \\ &\quad (\text{on changing the variable of summation from } m \text{ to } r) \\ &= -x^{-n} J_{n+1}(x), \text{ by the definition of } J_{n+1}(x). \end{aligned}$$

**III.** Recurrence relation I is

$$\frac{d}{dx} \{x^n J_n(x)\} = x^n J_{n-1}(x) \quad \text{or} \quad n x^{n-1} J_n(x) + x^n J'_n(x) = x^n J_{n-1}(x).$$

Dividing both sides by  $x^{n-1}$ ,

$$\text{or} \quad (n/x) J_n(x) + J'_n(x) = J_{n-1}(x) \quad \text{or} \quad n J_n(x) + x J'_n(x) = x J_{n-1}(x)$$

**IV.** Recurrence relation II is

$$\frac{d}{dx} \{x^{-n} J_n(x)\} = -x^{-n} J_{n+1}(x) \quad \text{or} \quad -n x^{-n-1} J_n(x) + x^{-n} J'_n(x) = -x^{-n} J_{n+1}(x)$$

Dividing both sides by  $x^{-n}$ ,

$$\text{or} \quad (-n/x) J_n + J'_n = -J_{n+1} \quad \text{or} \quad n x^{-1} J_n(x) + J'_n(x) = -J_{n+1}(x)$$

V. From recurrence relations III and IV, we have  $J'_n(x) = J_{n-1}(x) - (n/x)J_n(x)$  ... (1)

and  $J'_n(x) = (n/x)J_n(x) - J_{n+1}(x)$ . ... (2)

Adding (1) and (2),  $2J'_n(x) = J_{n-1}(x) - J_{n+1}(x)$  or  $J'_n(x) = \frac{1}{2}\{J_{n-1}(x) - J_{n+1}(x)\}$ .

VI. From recurrence relations III and IV, we have  $J'_n(x) = J_{n-1}(x) - (n/x)J_n(x)$  ... (1)

and  $J'_n(x) = (n/x)J_n(x) - J_{n+1}(x)$ . ... (2)

Subtracting (2) from (1), we get

$$0 = J_{n-1} + J_{n+1} - 2(n/x)J_n \quad \text{or} \quad J_{n-1} + J_{n+1} = (2n/x)J_n.$$

**11.7. A. Solved examples based on recurrence relations**

Ex. 1(a). Show that  $x^n J_n(x)$  is a solution of  $x(d^2y/dx^2) + (1 - 2n) \times (dy/dx) + xy = 0$ .

[CDLU 2004]

(b) Show that  $x^{-n} J_n(x)$  is a solution of  $x(d^2y/dx^2) + (1 + 2n) \times (dy/dx) + xy = 0$ .

[MDU Rohtak 2005]

Sol. (a) Given  $x(d^2y/dx^2) + (1 - 2n) \times (dy/dx) + xy = 0$  ... (1)

Let  $y = x^n J_n(x)$  ... (2)

From recurrence relation I,  $\frac{d}{dx}[x^n J_n(x)] = x^n J_{n-1}(x)$

or  $dy/dx = x^n J_{n-1}$ , using (2) ... (3)

From (3),  $d^2y/dx^2 = x^n J'_{n-1} + n x^{n-1} J_{n-1}$

Substituting the above values of  $y$ ,  $dy/dx$  and  $d^2y/dx^2$  in (1), we get

$$x(x^n J'_{n-1} + n x^{n-1} J_{n-1}) + (1 - 2n)x^n J_{n-1} + x^{n+1} J_n = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad x^{n+1} J'_{n-1} - (n-1)x^n J_{n-1} + x^{n+1} J_n = 0$$

$$\text{or} \quad x^{n+1} [J'_{n-1} - \{(n-1)/x\} J_{n-1}] + x^{n+1} J_n = 0 \quad \dots (4)$$

From recurrence relation VI, we have

$$J'_n(x) = \frac{n}{x} J_n - J_{n+1}(x) \quad \text{so that} \quad J'_{n-1} - \frac{n-1}{x} J_{n-1} = -J_n(x) \quad \dots (5)$$

Using (5), (4) reduces to  $-x^{n+1} J_n + x^{n+1} J_n = 0$ , i.e.,  $0 = 0$ , which is true.

Hence  $x^n J_n$  is a solution of (1).

(b) Given  $x(d^2y/dx^2) + (1 + 2n) \times (dy/dx) + xy = 0$  ... (1)

Let  $y = x^{-n} J_n(x)$  ... (2)

From recurrence relation II,  $\frac{d}{dx}\{x^{-n} J_n(x)\} = -x^{-n} J_{n+1}(x)$

or  $dy/dx = -x^{-n} J_{n+1}$ , using (2)

From (3),  $d^2y/dx^2 = -x^{-n} J'_{n+1} + n x^{-n-1} J_{n+1}$  ... (3)

Substituting the above values of  $y$ ,  $dy/dx$  and  $d^2y/dx^2$  in (1), we get

$$x(-x^{-n} J'_{n+1} + n x^{-n-1} J_{n+1}) + (1 + 2n) \times (-x^{-n} J_{n+1}) + x^{-n+1} J_n = 0$$

$$\text{or} \quad -x^{-n+1} J'_{n+1} - (n+1)x^{-n} J_{n+1} + x^{-n+1} J_n = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad -x^{-n+1} [J'_{n+1} + \{(n+1)/x\} J_{n+1}] + x^{-n+1} J_n = 0 \quad \dots (4)$$

From recurrence relation III, we have

$$J'_n(x) = J_{n-1}(x) - \frac{n}{x} J_n \quad \text{so that} \quad J'_{n+1} + \frac{n+1}{x} J_{n+1} = J_n(x) \quad \dots (5)$$