

**Mathematical Methods 2**  
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**Bessel Functions**  
**Lecture - 57**  
**Recurrence relations**

We can continue our discussion of Bessel Functions. In this lecture, we will look at some Recurrence relations which follow directly from the series representation of Bessel functions, and how a Bessel function of a certain order is related to the derivative of a you know of the Bessel function of an adjacent order ok.

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**Recurrence relations.**

There are a number of recurrence relations satisfied by Bessel functions. There are two of these which relate  $J_\nu(x)$  of order  $\nu$  to the derivative of the Bessel functions of  $\nu \pm 1$  which follow directly from the series definition:

$$J_\nu(x) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r}{r!(\nu+r)!} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{\nu+2r}.$$

Therefore:

$$x^\nu J_\nu(x) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r}{r!(\nu+r)!} \frac{x^{2\nu+2r}}{2^{\nu+2r}}.$$

Since  $J_\nu(x)$  is uniformly convergent for all  $x$ , we can carry out a term-by-term differentiation of the above series. So :

$$\frac{d}{dx} [x^\nu J_\nu(x)] = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r}{r!(\nu+r)!} (2\nu+2r) x^{2\nu+2r-1} \frac{1}{2^{\nu+2r}}$$

So, it turns out that you can relate  $J_\nu$  of  $x$  to the derivative of  $J_{\nu+1}$  of  $x$  and the derivative of  $J_{\nu-1}$  of  $x$ . So, and this can be derived directly from the series definition. And using this, we can also get some other useful recurrence relation. Basically it is the same two recurrence relations which when used in terms of certain convenient linear combinations give us other forms which have applications in a different context ok.

So, the starting point is of course this series definition of a Bessel function. And now if you take this function and multiply with  $x$  to the  $\nu$  alright, so then we have you know the denominator here is  $2^{\nu+2r}$ , but the numerator has become  $2^{\nu+2r}$  everything else is basically the same.

And now we have said we did not show it explicitly, but it is true that this series is not only convergent, but it is actually uniformly convergent. So, if you want to take that derivative of this function, you can do it term by term. So, let us take the derivative of this function, and carry out term by term differentiation.

So, if I want to take the derivative of  $x$  to the  $\nu$  times  $J_\nu$  of  $x$ , so it is going to be summation  $r$  going from 0 to infinity this stuff constant remains as it is. And so  $x$  to the  $2\nu + 2r$  will give us  $2\nu + 2r$  times  $x$  to the  $2\nu + 2r - 1$ , then we have this factor  $1$  over  $2$  to the  $\nu + 2r$  as it is  $\nu + 2r$ .

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The slide content is as follows:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r}{r!(\nu+r)!} x^{2\nu+2r}$$

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

$$= x^\nu J_{\nu-1}(x)$$

Thus we have the recurrence relation:

$$\frac{d}{dx} [x^\nu J_\nu(x)] = x^\nu J_{\nu-1}(x).$$

Again starting from the series expansion for Bessel functions, we have:

$$x^{-\nu} J_\nu(x) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r}{r!(\nu+r)!} \frac{x^{2r}}{2^{\nu+2r}}.$$

Invoking uniform convergence, we once again carry out a term-by-term differentiation of the above series to obtain:

$$\frac{d}{dx} [x^{-\nu} J_\nu(x)] = \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r}{r!(\nu+r)!} (2r) x^{2r-1} \frac{1}{2^{\nu+2r}}$$

Now, we can pull out a factor  $x$  to the  $\nu$  outside right. So,  $\nu$  is independent of  $r$ . So, I can pull out  $x$  to the  $\nu$ . And then when I look at this series, I have minus 1 to the  $r$  divided by  $r$  factorial, the denominator I have  $\nu + r$  the whole factorial which is  $\nu + r$  times  $\nu + r - 1$  the factorial whole factorial.

So, this  $\nu + r$  will cancel with this  $\nu + r$ , you know there is a 2 here which will cancel with this. And that 2 to the  $\nu + r$ ,  $r$  will become 2 to the  $\nu + r - 1$  in the denominator. And I can combine these two and write it as  $x$  by 2 to the  $\nu + 2r - 1$  which is more conveniently written here as  $\nu - r + 1 + 2r$ . And once again the denominator here has become  $\nu + r - 1$  factorial which I am rewriting it as  $\nu - r + 1 + r$  the whole factorial.

The reason I do this is because now this whole series is in suggestive form. All that has changed in comparison with this is that  $\nu$  has become  $\nu - 1$ . So, immediately, we can read off from here that the derivative of this object  $x$  to the  $\nu$  times  $J_\nu$  of  $x$  is the same as  $x$  to the  $\nu$  times  $J_{\nu - 1}$  of  $x$  right.

So, we have the recurrence relation, it is useful to highlight this and write this as  $\frac{d}{dx} x^2 J_\nu$  of  $x$  is equal  $x$  to the  $\nu$  times  $J_{\nu - 1}$  of  $x$ . So, we have managed to connect  $J_{\nu - 1}$  of  $x$  with the derivative of the higher order Bessel function. So, it works in the other direction as well.

So, let us look at this again starting from the series expansion for Bessel functions. Suppose, we take  $J_\nu$  of  $x$  you know which we already have and multiply with  $x$  to the minus  $\nu$ . So, now, in place of you know  $x^{2r}$  the  $\nu + r$  times  $x^{2r - \nu}$ . So, this  $\nu$  is gone.

So, we will be just left with  $x^{2r}$ , and the denominator of course, we have to write it. So, we have this expansion for  $x^{-\nu} J_\nu$  of  $x$  is summation over  $r$  minus 1 to the  $r$  divided by  $r!$   $\nu + r!$  times  $x^{2r}$  divided by  $2^{\nu + 2r}$ .

Now, this once again we will take a derivative of this whole thing. And then again because of the uniform convergence, we can take a derivative, you know, perform the differentiation operation of the right hand side by just doing it term by term. So, all the stuff remains as it is. And then we get  $2r$  times  $x^{2r - 1}$  and then you have to multiply with  $1$  divided by  $2^{\nu + 2r}$ .

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Invoking uniform convergence, we once again carry out a term-by-term differentiation of the above series to obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} [x^{-\nu} J_{\nu}(x)] &= \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r}{r!(\nu+r)!} (2r) x^{2r-1} \frac{1}{2^{\nu+2r}} \\ &= \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r}{(r-1)!(\nu+r)!} x^{2r-1} \frac{1}{2^{\nu+2r-1}} \\ &= \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{r+1}}{r!(\nu+r+1)!} x^{2r+1} \frac{1}{2^{\nu+2r+1}} \\ &= -x^{-\nu} \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^r}{r!(\nu+1+r)!} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{\nu+1+2r} \\ &= -x^{-\nu} J_{\nu+1}(x). \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have the second recurrence relation:

$$\frac{d}{dx} [x^{-\nu} J_{\nu}(x)] = -x^{-\nu} J_{\nu+1}(x).$$

Now, we observe that you know all, although here the series started from  $r$  equal to 0, here you see that the series is actually going from  $r$  equal to 1. The reason is simply that you know  $r$  equal to 0 is just the constant term that is gone. So, you can also see that if you put  $2r$  times  $x$  to the  $2r$  minus 1 and include  $r$  equal to 0, it is ok. And that will go this  $2$  times  $r$  will give you 0. So, in fact, it starts from 1.

So, I mean rewriting this whole thing we have minus 1 to the  $r$  minus. So, this  $r$  cancels with this  $r$  factorial in the denominator the denominator becomes  $r$  minus 1 factorial, then we have a  $\nu$  plus  $r$  factorial. And then we have  $x$  to the  $2r$  minus 1 that this 2 which also cancels with one of these twos in the denominator, and we have 1 over 2 to the  $\nu$  plus  $2r$  minus 1.

And now, in fact, it is convenient to introduce a new dummy variable right. So,  $r$  is being summed from 1 to infinity. Suppose, we introduce  $r$  minus 1 equal to  $s$ , so we would get minus 1 to the  $s$  plus 1 well, and then  $s$  would go from 0 to infinity. And in place of  $r$  minus 1 factorial, we will have  $s$  factorial in place of  $\nu$  plus  $r$  the whole factorial, we will have  $\nu$  plus  $s$  plus 1 factorial.

And  $r$  will become  $s$  plus 1  $x$  to the  $2s$  plus 1. And then in place of the denominator we will have 2 to the  $\nu$  plus  $2s$  plus 1. So, it is a dummy variable which is getting summed from 0 to infinity. So, I might as well just call it  $r$ . So, it is  $r$  going from 0 to infinity that is this expression I have here.

And now I can actually pull out one of these minus 1. So, I have minus 1 to the r plus 1. I want to write it as just minus 1 to the r. So, I pull out a minus sign, then I pull out this x to the minus nu. So, if I pull out x to the minus nu, I will have an x to the plus nu. So, this becomes x to the; x to the nu plus 1 plus 2 r, but also the denominator that is 2 to the nu plus 1 plus 2 r. So, I might as well write this as x by 2 the whole power nu plus 1 plus 2 r. And then we have you know all these factorial constants everything stays here.

And when we look at this expression, we immediately are able to connect it to the expansion for the Bessel function, but now it is for an expansion for a Bessel function of order nu plus 1. So, immediately we are able to write down this relation minus x to the minus nu times J nu plus 1.

So, collecting this, we have the second recurrence relation here. So, which is the derivative of x 2 the minus nu times J nu of x is equal to minus x to the minus nu times J nu plus 1 of x. So, we have managed to connect the derivative of a Bessel function with respect to the Bessel function of the next higher order.

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The above two recursion relations can be combined suitably to immediately yield a couple of allied relations. To see this, we first rewrite the above relations explicitly as:

$$J_{\nu-1}(x) = \frac{1}{x^\nu} \frac{d}{dx} [x^\nu J_\nu(x)] = \frac{d}{dx} [J_\nu(x)] + \frac{\nu}{x} J_\nu(x)$$

$$J_{\nu+1}(x) = -x^\nu \frac{d}{dx} [x^{-\nu} J_\nu(x)] = -\frac{d}{dx} [J_\nu(x)] + \frac{\nu}{x} J_\nu(x)$$

Adding the above two relations gives us another useful relation:

$$2 \frac{\nu}{x} J_\nu(x) = J_{\nu-1}(x) + J_{\nu+1}(x)$$

Subtraction on the other hand yields the other useful relation:

$$2 \frac{d}{dx} [J_\nu(x)] = J_{\nu-1}(x) - J_{\nu+1}(x)$$

So, in fact, both these relations are you know can be written in this way right. So, what we have managed to show is that J nu minus 1 of x is 1 over x to the nu times derivative of x 2 the nu times J nu of x if I carry out this differentiation. So, I can either treat x to the nu as a constant and differentiate with respect to nu J nu of x.

So, then there will be a cancellation of  $x$  to the  $\nu$  and  $\nu x$  to the  $\nu$ . So, I get  $d$  by  $d x J_\nu$  of  $x$  plus if I take a derivative with respect to  $x$  to the  $\nu$ , then I will get  $\nu$  times  $x$  to the  $\nu$  minus 1 and that will cancel with  $x$  to the  $\nu$  in the denominator, and I just have  $\nu$  by  $x$  times  $J_\nu$  of  $x$ . So, this itself is a useful recurrence relation.

And likewise if I do the same with the other one and you know explicitly work out this differentiation, I have  $J_{\nu+1}$  of  $x$  is equal to minus derivative of  $J_\nu$  of  $x$  plus  $\nu$  by  $x J_\nu$  of  $x$  right. So, I have basically the same recurrence relations written in a slightly different way. And once again it is actually useful to rewrite this in the following way.

You can take the sum of these two or the difference of these two. If you take the sum of these two, you see that the first two term the first term in the first one and the derivative term in each of these will cancel, and so we are left with just  $2\nu$  by  $x J_\nu$  of  $x$  is equal to the sum of these two Bessel function  $J_{\nu-1}$  of  $x$  and  $J_{\nu+1}$  of  $x$  is related to  $J_\nu$  of  $x$ . If you can just sum these two as going to be just  $2\nu$  by  $x J_\nu$  of  $x$ , this is also of a useful recurrence relation to use.

And again if you take the difference it is the derivatives which you will survive if you take the difference and you know these terms the second term here and the second term here will vanish. When you are taking the difference and so we have the result 2 times the derivative of  $J_\nu$  of  $x$  is the same as  $J_{\nu-1}$  of  $x$  minus  $J_{\nu+1}$  of  $x$ . Ok, that is all for this lecture.

Thank you.