

# Bessel Functions

## 1 A Special Class of Equations

Consider

$$(1 + R_M x^M) \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} (P_0 + P_M x^M) \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{1}{x^2} (Q_0 + Q_M x^M) y = 0 \quad (1)$$

where,  $M$  is a positive integer. This equation is a special case of

$$\mathcal{L}y \equiv R(x) \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + \frac{1}{x} P(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{1}{x^2} Q(x) y = 0 \quad (2)$$

since  $R(x) = 1 + R_M x^M$ ,  $P(x) = P_0 + P_M x^M$  and  $Q(x) = Q_0 + Q_M x^M$ . Let

$$y(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^{k+s} \quad (3)$$

The Indicial Equation should be the same as before, i.e.,

$$f(s) = s^2 + (P_0 - 1)s + Q_0 = 0 \quad (4)$$

For  $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ,

$$f(s+k)a_k + \sum_{i=1}^k g_i(s+k)a_{k-i} = 0 \quad (5)$$

But

$$g_i(s) = R_i(s-i)(s-i-1) + P_i(s-i) + Q_i \quad (6)$$

for  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ . Thus,

$$g_i(s) = 0 \quad (7)$$

for  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, M-1, M+1, \dots$ , and

$$g_M(s) \neq 0 \quad (8)$$

When  $k = 1$ ,

$$f(s+1)a_1 + g_1(s+1)a_0 = 0 \quad \Rightarrow a_1 = 0 \quad (9)$$

When  $k = 2$ ,

$$f(s+2)a_2 + \sum_{i=1}^2 g_i(s+2)a_{2-i} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow a_2 = 0 \quad (10)$$

Thus,

$$a_1 = a_2 = \cdots = a_{M-1} = 0 \quad (11)$$

However, when  $k = M$

$$f(s+M)a_M + \sum_{i=1}^M g_i(s+M)a_{k-i} = f(s+M)a_M + g_M(s+M)a_0 = 0$$

$$a_M = -\frac{g_M(s+M)}{f(s+M)}a_0 \quad (12)$$

When  $k = M+1$ ,

$$f(s+M+1)a_{M+1} + g_M(s+M+1)a_1 = f(s+M+1)a_{M+1} = 0$$

$$a_{M+1} = 0 \quad (13)$$

Similarly,

$$a_{M+1} = a_{M+2} = \cdots = a_{2M-1} = 0 \quad (14)$$

When  $k = 2M$ ,

$$f(s+2M)a_{2M} + g_M(s+2M)a_M = 0$$

$$a_{2M} = -\frac{g_M(s+2M)}{f(s+2M)}a_M = \frac{g_M(s+2M)}{f(s+2M)} \frac{g_M(s+M)}{f(s+M)}a_0 \quad (15)$$

Thus,

$$a_{nM+1} = a_{nM+2} = \cdots = a_{(n+1)M-1} = 0 \quad (16)$$

and

$$a_{(n+1)M} = -\frac{g_M(s+nM+M)}{f(s+nM+M)}a_{nM} \quad (17)$$

where  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ .

Therefore,

$$y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{nM} x^{nM+s} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} B_n x^{nM+s} \quad (18)$$

The exceptional cases will be

- $s_1 = s_2$ , or
- $s_1 - s_2 = nM$ , where  $n$  is a positive integer.

## 2 A Summary of Bessel Functions

The Bessel function satisfy

$$x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + x \frac{dy}{dx} + (x^2 - p^2)y = 0 \quad (19)$$

where  $p \geq 0$ .

- First Solution

$$J_p(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k (x/2)^{2k+p}}{\Gamma(k+p+1)k!} \quad (20)$$

- Second Solution

1.  $p \neq 0$  and  $p$  is not an integer

$$J_{-p}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k (x/2)^{2k-p}}{\Gamma(k-p+1)k!} \quad (21)$$

2.  $p = 0$

$$Y_0(x) = \frac{2}{\pi} \left[ \left( \ln \frac{x}{2} + \gamma \right) J_0(x) - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^k \varphi(k) \frac{(x/2)^{2k}}{(k!)^2} \right] \quad (22)$$

where

$$\varphi(k) = \sum_{m=1}^k \frac{1}{m} \quad (23)$$

$$\gamma \text{ (Euler constant)} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} [\varphi(k) - \ln k] = 0.57721566 \dots \quad (24)$$

3.  $p = \ell =$  a positive integer

$$Y_{\ell}(x) = \frac{2}{\pi} \left\{ \left( \ln \frac{x}{2} + \gamma \right) J_{\ell}(x) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{\ell-1} \frac{(\ell - k - 1)! (x/2)^{2k-\ell}}{k!} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k [\varphi(k) + \varphi(k + \ell)] \frac{(x/2)^{2k+\ell}}{k!(\ell + k)!} \right\} \quad (25)$$

### 3 Origins of Bessel Functions

Solutions of the differential equation

$$x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + x \frac{dy}{dx} + (x^2 - p^2)y = 0 \quad (26)$$

or

$$x \frac{d}{dx} \left( x \frac{dy}{dx} \right) + (x^2 - p^2)y = 0 \quad (27)$$

are known as Bessel functions of order  $p$ , where  $p$  is real and non-negative.

Since  $M = 2$ , the solution is of the following form:

$$y(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} B_k x^{2k+s} \quad (28)$$

After substituting this into equation (26), the resulting indicial equation yields:

$$s_1 = p \quad s_2 = -p \quad (29)$$

Thus, the exceptional cases occur only when

- $s_1 = s_2 = 0$ , i.e.,  $p = 0$ .
- $s_1 - s_2 = 2p = 2\ell$ , i.e.,  $p = \ell =$  a positive integer.

We can nonetheless always obtain the first solution for  $s_1 = p$ :

$$y_1(x) = B_0 \left[ x^p + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k x^{2k+p}}{2^{2k} k! (1+p)(2+p) \cdots (k+p)} \right] \quad (30)$$

According to the definition of gamma function, this solution can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} y_1(x) &= B_0 \Gamma(1+p) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k x^{2k+p}}{2^{2k} \Gamma(k+p+1) k!} \\ &= 2^p \Gamma(1+p) B_0 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k (x/2)^{2k+p}}{\Gamma(k+p+1) k!} \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

Here, let us define

$$J_p(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k (x/2)^{2k+p}}{\Gamma(k+p+1) k!} \quad (32)$$

and  $J_p(x)$  is known as the *Bessel function of the first kind, of order  $p$* .

The second solution is presented in the sequel:

1. If  $p \neq 0$  and is not an integer, a second solution is obtained by replacing  $p$  by  $-p$  in the first solution, i.e.,

$$J_{-p}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k (x/2)^{2k-p}}{\Gamma(k-p+1)k!} \quad (33)$$

Thus the complete solution of equation (26) is

$$y(x) = c_1 J_p(x) + c_2 J_{-p}(x) \quad (34)$$

However, if  $p$  is an integer, it can be shown that

$$J_{-p}(x) = (-1)^p J_p(x)$$

Thus,  $J_p(x)$  and  $J_{-p}(x)$  are *linearly independent* in this situation.

2. If  $p = 0$ , i.e.,  $s_1 = s_2 = 0$ , then

$$y_2(x) = \left[ \frac{\partial y(x, s)}{\partial s} \right]_{s=0} \quad (35)$$

The result of this derivation is

$$y_2(x) = B_0 \left[ J_0(x) \ln x - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^k \varphi(k) \frac{(x/2)^{2k}}{(k!)^2} \right] \quad (36)$$

where

$$\varphi(k) = \sum_{m=1}^k \frac{1}{m}$$

Define

$$Y^{(0)}(x) = J_0(x) \ln x - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^k \varphi(k) \frac{(x/2)^{2k}}{(k!)^2} \quad (37)$$

Since equation (26) is linear, a linear combination of the above two solutions, i.e.,  $J_0(x)$  and  $Y^{(0)}(x)$ , is still a solution of the original differential equation. An alternative form of the second solution is thus more often used:

$$Y_0(x) = \frac{2}{\pi} [Y^{(0)} + (\gamma - \ln 2)J_0(x)]$$

$$= \frac{2}{\pi} \left[ \left( \ln \frac{x}{2} + \gamma \right) J_0(x) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{k+1} \varphi(k) \frac{(x/2)^{2k}}{(k!)^2} \right] \quad (38)$$

where

$$\gamma = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} [\varphi(k) - \ln k] = 0.57721566490 \dots$$

This standard particular solution is called *Bessel function of the second kind of order zero* or *Neumann function of order zero*. This definition of the Bessel function of the 2nd kind is more convenient to use and thus is usually preferred, because of the fact that the behavior of the function  $Y_0(x)$ , for large value of  $x$ , is more comparable with the behavior of  $J_0(x)$ . Thus, the complete solution in this case is

$$y(x) = c_1 J_0(x) + c_2 Y_0(x) \quad (39)$$

3.  $p = \ell =$  a positive integer.

$$y_2(x) = \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial s} [(s + \ell)y(x, s)] \right\}_{s=-\ell} \quad (40)$$

The result

$$Y_\ell(x) = \frac{2}{\pi} \left\{ \left( \ln \frac{x}{2} + \gamma \right) J_\ell(x) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{\ell-1} \frac{(\ell - k - 1)!(x/2)^{2k-\ell}}{k!} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k [\varphi(k) + \varphi(k + \ell)] \frac{(x/2)^{2k+\ell}}{k!(\ell + k)!} \right\} \quad (41)$$

Notice that the second solution is defined differently, depending on whether the order  $p$  is an integer or not. To provide uniformity of formalism and numerical tabulation. it is desirable to adopt a form of the second solution that is *valid for all values of the order*. The standard second solution  $Y_p(x)$  defined for all  $p$  is

$$Y_p(x) = \frac{1}{\sin p\pi} [J_p(x) \cos p\pi - J_{-p}(x)]$$

$$Y_\ell(x) = \lim_{p \rightarrow \ell} Y_p(x)$$

## Asymptotic Behaviors of Bessel Functions

$$J_0(0) = 1 \quad (42)$$

$$J_1(0) = J_2(0) = \cdots = 0 \quad (43)$$

$$J_0(\infty) = J_1(\infty) = \cdots = 0 \quad (44)$$

$$Y_0(0) = Y_1(0) = Y_2(0) = \cdots = -\infty \quad (45)$$

$$Y_0(\infty) = Y_1(\infty) = \cdots = 0 \quad (46)$$

Next, let  $y = u/\sqrt{x}$ , then substitute it into equation (26) to obtain

$$\frac{d^2u}{dx^2} + \left(1 - \frac{p^2 - 1/4}{x^2}\right)u = 0 \quad (47)$$

As  $x \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$1 \gg \frac{p^2 - 1/4}{x^2}$$

Thus,

$$\frac{d^2u}{dx^2} + u \simeq 0 \quad (48)$$

$$y \simeq \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}(A \cos x + B \sin x) \quad (49)$$

It can be shown that, as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$J_p \sim \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi x}} \cos(x - \alpha_p) \quad (50)$$

$$Y_p \sim \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi x}} \sin(x - \alpha_p) \quad (51)$$

where,

$$\alpha_p = (2p + 1)\frac{\pi}{4}$$

On the other hand, if  $p = 1/2$ , then equation (47) can be reduced to

$$\frac{d^2u}{dx^2} + u = 0 \quad (52)$$

Thus, the complete solution is of the form

$$y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}(A \cos x + B \sin x) \quad (53)$$

The standard solutions are

$$J_{1/2}(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi x}} \sin x \quad (54)$$

$$J_{-1/2}(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi x}} \cos x \quad (55)$$

## 4 Modified Bessel Functions

A slight variation of the standard Bessel equation (of order  $p$ ) is the Bessel equation of order  $p$  with parameter  $\alpha$ :

$$x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + x \frac{dy}{dx} + (\alpha^2 x^2 - p^2)y = 0$$

This equation can be transformed into the standard form by substituting

$$t = \alpha x$$

Thus,

$$t^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} + t \frac{dy}{dt} + (t^2 - p^2)y = 0$$

The solution of this equation is

$$y = c_1 J_p(t) + c_2 J_{-p}(t) = c_1 J_p(\alpha x) + c_2 J_{-p}(\alpha x)$$

or

$$y = c_1 J_p(t) + c_2 Y_p(t) = c_1 J_p(\alpha x) + c_2 Y_p(\alpha x)$$

Next, let us consider

$$x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + x \frac{dy}{dx} - (x^2 + p^2)y = 0 \tag{56}$$

which is also an alternative form of the Bessel's equation. If we substitute  $t = ix$  into this equation, the resulting equation is

$$t^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} + t \frac{dy}{dt} + (t^2 - p^2)y = 0 \tag{57}$$

which is the same as the standard Bessel's equation.

- If  $p$  is not zero or a positive integer, the general solution is

$$y(x) = c_1 J_p(ix) + c_2 J_{-p}(ix) \tag{58}$$

- Otherwise,

$$y(x) = c_1 J_\ell(ix) + c_2 Y_\ell(ix) \tag{59}$$

In the above equations, it is necessary to use

$$J_p(ix) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{\Gamma(k+p+1)k!} \left(\frac{ix}{2}\right)^{2k+p} = i^p \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\Gamma(k+p+1)k!} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2k+p} \quad (60)$$

Define

$$I_p(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\Gamma(k+p+1)k!} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2k+p} = i^{-p} J_p(ix) \quad (61)$$

where  $I_p(x)$  is referred to as the *modified Bessel function of the first kind of order  $p$* . Thus, the complete solution for non-zero and non-integer  $p$  is

$$y(x) = c_1 I_p(x) + c_2 I_{-p}(x) \quad (62)$$

If  $p = \ell =$  a non-negative integer, the second solution can be redefined as

$$K_\ell(x) = \frac{\pi}{2} i^{\ell+1} [J_\ell(ix) + iY_\ell(ix)] \quad (63)$$

where  $K_\ell(x)$  is referred to as the *modified Bessel function of the second kind of order  $\ell$* .

**Asymptotic Behavior of  $I_p(x)$  and  $K_p(x)$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$**

$$I_p(x) \sim \frac{e^x}{\sqrt{2\pi x}} \quad (64)$$

$$K_p(x) \sim \frac{e^{-x}}{\sqrt{2x/\pi}} \quad (65)$$

## 5 Properties of Bessel Functions

- For small values of  $x$ , i.e., as  $x \rightarrow 0$ ,

$$J_p(x) \sim \frac{1}{2^p \Gamma(p+1)} x^p \quad (66)$$

$$J_{-p}(x) \sim \frac{2^p}{\Gamma(-p+1)} x^{-p} \quad (p \neq \ell) \quad (67)$$

$$Y_p(x) \sim -\frac{2^p (p-1)!}{\pi} x^{-p} \quad (p \neq 0) \quad (68)$$

$$Y_0(x) \sim \frac{2}{\pi} \ln x \quad (69)$$

$$I_p(x) \sim \frac{1}{2^p \Gamma(p+1)} x^p \quad (70)$$

$$I_{-p}(x) \sim \frac{2^p}{\Gamma(-p+1)} x^{-p} \quad (p \neq \ell) \quad (71)$$

$$K_p(x) \sim 2^{p-1}(p-1)!x^{-p} \quad (p \neq 0) \quad (72)$$

$$K_0(x) \sim -\ln x \quad (73)$$

Notice that only  $J_p(x)$  and  $I_p(x)$  are finite at  $x = 0$  for  $p \geq 0$ .

- Differential properties:

$$\frac{d}{dx} [x^p y_p(\alpha x)] = \begin{cases} \alpha x^p y_{p-1}(\alpha x) & \text{for } y \equiv J, Y, I \\ -\alpha x^p y_{p-1}(\alpha x) & \text{for } y \equiv K \end{cases} \quad (74)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [x^{-p} y_p(\alpha x)] = \begin{cases} -\alpha x^{-p} y_{p+1}(\alpha x) & \text{for } y \equiv J, Y, K \\ \alpha x^{-p} y_{p+1}(\alpha x) & \text{for } y \equiv I \end{cases} \quad (75)$$

These formulas are established for  $J_p$  and  $Y_p$  by considering their series definitions, and for the remaining functions by considering their definitions in terms of  $J_p$  and  $Y_p$ .

From equation (74),

$$\frac{dy_p(\alpha x)}{dx} = \begin{cases} \alpha y_{p-1}(\alpha x) - (p/x)y_p(\alpha x) & \text{for } y \equiv J, Y, I \\ -\alpha y_{p-1}(\alpha x) - (p/x)y_p(\alpha x) & \text{for } y \equiv K \end{cases} \quad (76)$$

From equation (75),

$$\frac{dy_p(\alpha x)}{dx} = \begin{cases} -\alpha y_{p+1}(\alpha x) + (p/x)y_p(\alpha x) & \text{for } y \equiv J, Y, K \\ \alpha y_{p+1}(\alpha x) + (p/x)y_p(\alpha x) & \text{for } y \equiv I \end{cases} \quad (77)$$

- For  $J$  and  $Y$ ,

By adding equations (76) and (77) and then dividing the result by 2, one can obtain

$$\frac{dy_p(\alpha x)}{dx} = \frac{\alpha}{2} [y_{p-1}(\alpha x) - y_{p+1}(\alpha x)] \quad (78)$$

By subtracting equation (77) from equation (76) and then dividing the result by 2, one can obtain

$$y_{p-1}(\alpha x) + y_{p+1}(\alpha x) = \frac{2p}{\alpha x} y_p(\alpha x) \quad (79)$$

– For  $I$ ,

$$\frac{dI_p(\alpha x)}{dx} = \frac{\alpha}{2} [I_{p-1}(\alpha x) + I_{p+1}(\alpha x)] \quad (80)$$

$$I_{p-1}(\alpha x) - I_{p+1}(\alpha x) = \frac{2p}{\alpha x} I_p(\alpha x) \quad (81)$$

– For  $K$ ,

$$\frac{dK_p(\alpha x)}{dx} = -\frac{\alpha}{2} [K_{p-1}(\alpha x) + K_{p+1}(\alpha x)] \quad (82)$$

$$K_{p-1}(\alpha x) - K_{p+1}(\alpha x) = -\frac{2p}{\alpha x} K_p(\alpha x) \quad (83)$$

**[Example]**

Using the table of  $J_0$  and  $J_1$  to integrate

$$I = \int_1^2 x^{-3} J_4(x) dx$$

**[Solution]**

From (75) with  $p = 3$  and  $\alpha = 1$  we obtain

$$\int_1^2 x^{-3} J_4(x) dx = -x^{-3} J_3(x) \Big|_{x=1}^{x=2}$$

By (79) with  $p = 2$  and  $\alpha = 1$  we have

$$J_1(x) + J_3(x) = \frac{4}{x} J_2(x) \quad \Rightarrow \quad J_3(x) = \frac{4}{x} J_2(x) - J_1(x)$$

Again by (79) with  $p = 1$  and  $\alpha = 1$ ,

$$J_0(x) + J_2(x) = \frac{2}{x} J_1(x) \quad \Rightarrow \quad J_2(x) = \frac{2}{x} J_1(x) - J_0(x)$$

Thus,

$$J_3(x) = \frac{4}{x} \left[ \frac{2}{x} J_1(x) - J_0(x) \right] - J_1(x) = \left( \frac{8}{x^2} - 1 \right) J_1(x) - \frac{4}{x} J_0(x)$$

From Table A1,

$$J_1(2) = 0.5767; \quad J_0(2) = 0.2239 \quad \Rightarrow \quad J_3(2) = J_1(2) - 2J_0(2) = 0.1289$$

$$J_1(1) = 0.4401; \quad J_0(1) = 0.7652 \quad \Rightarrow \quad J_3(1) = 7J_1(1) - 4J_0(1) = 0.0199$$

$$I = - \left[ \frac{1}{8} J_3(2) - \frac{1}{1} J_3(1) \right] = 0.0038$$

**[Example]**

Determine  $J_{\frac{3}{2}}(x)$  and  $J_{-\frac{3}{2}}(x)$

**[Solution]**

From (79), (54) and (55) and let  $p = 1/2$  and  $\alpha = 1$ , we get

$$J_{\frac{3}{2}}(x) = \frac{1}{x}J_{\frac{1}{2}} - J_{-\frac{1}{2}}(x) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi x}} \left( \frac{\sin x}{x} - \cos x \right)$$

From (79), (54) and (55), and let  $p = -1/2$  and  $\alpha = 1$ , we can obtain

$$J_{-\frac{3}{2}}(x) = -\frac{1}{x}J_{-\frac{1}{2}} - J_{\frac{1}{2}}(x) = -\sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi x}} \left( \frac{\cos x}{x} + \sin x \right)$$

## 6 Differential Equations Satisfied by Bessel Functions

Given that the solution of

$$X^2 \frac{d^2 Y}{dX^2} + X \frac{dY}{dX} + (X^2 - p^2)Y = 0 \quad (84)$$

can be written in the form

$$Y = Z_p(X) = \begin{cases} c_1 J_p(X) + c_2 J_{-p}(X) & p \neq 0 \text{ and } p \neq \text{integer} \\ c_1 J_p(X) + c_2 Y_p(X) & p = 0 \text{ or } p = \text{integer} \end{cases} \quad (85)$$

Let

$$X = f(x) \quad Y = \frac{y}{g(x)}$$

Note that

$$\frac{d}{dX} = \frac{d}{dx} \frac{dx}{dX} = \frac{1}{f'(x)} \frac{d}{dx} \quad (86)$$

Substitution into equation (84) yields

$$f \frac{d}{dx} \left[ \frac{1}{f'} \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{y}{g} \right) \right] + \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{y}{g} \right) + \frac{f'}{f} (f^2 - p^2) \frac{y}{g} = 0 \quad (87)$$

The solution of this equation is

$$y = g(x) Z_p[f(x)] \quad (88)$$

In particular, if we select

$$f(x) = \frac{\sqrt{d}}{s} x^s \quad (89)$$

$$g(x) = x^{(1-a)/2} \exp \left[ -\frac{b}{r} x^r \right] \quad (90)$$

$$p = \frac{1}{s} \sqrt{\left( \frac{1-a}{2} \right)^2 - c} \quad (91)$$

where  $a, b, c, d, r$  and  $s$  are constants. Then equation (87) can be transformed to

$$x^2 \frac{dy^2}{dx^2} + x(a + 2bx^r) \frac{dy}{dx} + [c + dx^{2s} - b(1-a-r)x^r + b^2 x^{2r}] y = 0 \quad (92)$$

The solution of this equation is

$$y = g(x) Z_p[f(x)] = x^{\frac{1-a}{2}} \exp \left[ -\frac{b}{r} x^r \right] Z_p \left[ \frac{\sqrt{d}}{s} x^s \right] \quad (93)$$

where

$$p = \frac{1}{s} \sqrt{\left( \frac{1-a}{2} \right)^2 - c}$$

Thus, if it is possible to identify a particular second order differential equation with equation (92) by suitably choosing the constants  $a, b, c, d, r$  and  $s$ , the solution is immediately given in terms of Bessel function of order  $p$ .

**[Example]**  $x^2 y'' + xy' + (\lambda^2 x^2 - p^2)y = 0 \quad (\lambda \neq 0)$

Since  $a = 1, b = 0, c = -p^2, d = \lambda^2, r = r$  and  $s = 1$ , then

$$p = \frac{1}{1} \left[ \left( \frac{1-1}{2} \right)^2 - (-p^2) \right]^{0.5} = p$$

Thus,

$$y = Z_p(\lambda x)$$

**[Example]**  $x^2 y'' + xy' - (\lambda^2 x^2 + p^2)y = 0 \quad (\lambda \neq 0)$

Since  $a = 1, b = 0, c = -p^2, d = -\lambda^2, r = r$  and  $s = 1$ , then

$$p = \frac{1}{1} \left[ \left( \frac{1-1}{2} \right)^2 - (-p^2) \right]^{0.5} = p$$

Thus,

$$y = Z_p(i\lambda x)$$

[Exercise]  $y'' + 3x^5y = 0$

Ans:

$$y = \sqrt{x} Z_{\frac{1}{7}} \left( \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{7} x^{\frac{7}{2}} \right)$$

[Exercise]  $y'' + 5x^4y = 0$

Ans:

$$y = \sqrt{x} Z_{\frac{1}{6}} \left( \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3} x^3 \right)$$