

On New Solutions To Lamé's Differential Equation

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Abstract

We extend the works of [1] and [2] in obtaining new polynomial solutions of the Lamé differential equation. We show that the derivative of a solution of Lamé's equation can be expressed in terms of a solution different from the former. However, the new solutions are expressed in terms of polynomials as suggested in [1].
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1 Introduction

The Heun's differential equation is a natural extension of the Riemann hypergeometric differential equation which can be written as [4]

$$P_3(z)y''(z) + P_2(z)y'(z) + P_1(z)y(z) = 0, \quad (1.1)$$

where $P_i(z)$ are arbitrary polynomials of degree i ($i = 3, 2, 1$) in the complex variable z . Replacing the variable z by the variable x , the above equation reads as

$$D^2y + \left(\frac{\gamma}{x} + \frac{\delta}{x-1} + \frac{\epsilon}{x-a}\right)Dy + \frac{(\alpha\beta x - q)}{x(x-1)(x-a)}y = 0, \quad (1.2)$$

where $D = \frac{d}{dx}$, $\{\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \epsilon, a, q\}$ ($a \neq 0, 1$) are parameters, generally complex and arbitrary, linked by the Fuchsian constraint $\alpha + \beta + 1 = \gamma + \delta + \epsilon$. This equation has four regular singular points at $\{0, 1, a, \infty\}$, with the exponents of these singularities being respectively, $\{0, 1 - \gamma\}$, $\{0, 1 - \delta\}$, $\{0, 1 - \epsilon\}$, and $\{\alpha, \beta\}$.

With the following assumptions

$$\gamma = \delta = \epsilon = \frac{1}{2}, \quad \alpha = -\frac{1}{2}v, \quad \beta = \frac{1}{2}(v+1), \quad q = -\frac{1}{4}dh, \quad (1.3)$$

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equation (1.2) above reduces to

$$\frac{d^2u}{dt^2} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{t} + \frac{1}{t-1} + \frac{1}{t-d} \right) \frac{du}{dt} + \frac{dh - v(v+1)z}{4t(t-1)(t-d)} u = 0. \quad (1.4)$$

This equation is called the **Lame's** equation in one of its algebraic form. The parameter v is called the order of the equation and many special features arises when v is an integer. The Heun's equation arises from the separation of variables for Schrodinger equation in certain system. This equation arises from the separation of variables in Laplace's equation, ellipsoidal or elliptic-conal coordinates. Indeed, it is the only equation of non-confluent Heun's type.

In this paper, the works in [1] and [2] are combined together to obtain polynomial solutions to the **Lame's** equation.

In [1], a newly method to solve linear differential equations was developed. Their approach to Heun equation is very transparent in obtaining solution; in particular the polynomial solutions come out very naturally as it was shown below. A single variable differential equation, after appropriate manipulation, can be cast in the form

$$\left(F(D) + P\left(x, \frac{d}{dx}\right) \right) y(x) = 0, \quad (1.5)$$

where $D \equiv x \frac{d}{dx}$, and $F(D) = \sum_n a_n D^n$ is a diagonal operator in the space of monomials with a_n 's being some parameters. $P(x, \frac{d}{dx})$ is an arbitrary polynomial function of x and d/dx , excluding the diagonal operator. It was shown that the following ansatz,

$$y_\lambda(x) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m \left[\frac{1}{F(D)} P\left(x, \frac{d}{dx}\right) \right]^m x^\lambda \quad (1.6)$$

is a solution of the above equation provided and the coefficient of x^λ in $y(x) - x^\lambda$ is zero, in order to ensure that the solution, $y(x)$ is non - singular. The fact that D is diagonal in the space of monomials x^n , makes $1/F(D)$ well defined in the above expression.

In [2], it was shown that any differential equation (1.4), say, can be rewritten in the general form

$$PD^2 y + QD y + R y = 0, \quad (1.7)$$

where P, Q, R , are polynomial functions. Setting $\mathcal{D}y = z$, taking the derivative of

(1.7), subtracting the equation (1.7) multiplied by some function $\psi(x)$, we obtain the differential equation of the form

$$P\mathcal{D}^2z + (P' + Q - \psi(x)P)\mathcal{D}z + (Q' + R - \psi(x)Q)z + (R' - \psi(x)R)y = 0, \quad (1.8)$$

where $V' := \mathcal{D}V$. The condition which render (1.7) invariant under derivative operation, i.e, allowing to write (1.8) in the form

$$\bar{P}\mathcal{D}^2z + \bar{Q}\mathcal{D}z + \bar{R}z = 0, \quad (1.9)$$

where $\bar{P}, \bar{Q}, \bar{R}$ being appropriate polynomials, are of great interest in the investigation of solutions of the **Lame's** equation [4]. The suitable ansatz reads $\psi = \frac{R'}{R}$. In this case, (1.7) reads

$$P\mathcal{D}^2z + (P' + Q - \frac{R'}{R}P)\mathcal{D}z + (Q' + R - \frac{R'}{R}Q)z = 0, \quad (1.10)$$

where $R(x) = xR' + R(0)$ is a polynomial of degree 1 which can be written as

$$R(x) = R'(x - c), \quad \text{with} \quad c = -\frac{R(0)}{R'}. \quad (1.11)$$

Therefore, P/R and Q/R have to be polynomials defining the singularities of the equation (1.10). In general, such a transformation leads to more singular points than in the initial equations. When the singular points coincide with already existing ones, the number of singularities to that of the initial **Lame's** equation increases by one. The derived equation can be transformed to another **Lame's** equation (1.4) and the derivative of the solution to the initial **Lame's** equation can be expressed in terms of a solution to another **Lame's** equation. This property may lead to interesting series solutions to **Lame's** equation.

After appropriate manipulation, the **Lame's** equation (1.4) can be cast in form (1.10) and the polynomial $\bar{P}, \bar{Q}, \bar{R}$ identified. For any such transformed equation, the pole can be eliminated setting either $R' = 0$ or $R(0) = 0$.

Let us denote $\mathcal{L}_n(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta; x)$, the corresponding solutions to **Lame's**. In the next section we proceed to obtaining the derived polynomial solutions of the **Lame's** at the various singularities.

2 Derived solutions to Lamé's Equation

Considering the Lamé's equation (1.4) and (1.10), we have

$$(x) = -\frac{v(v+1)}{ah - v(v+1)},$$

leading to an extra singularity

$$z = \frac{ah}{v(v+1)}.$$

This extra singularity coincides with the singularity $z = 0$ when $ah = 0$ and with $z = 1$ when $ah = v(v+1)$, and $z = \infty$ when $v(v+1) = 0$. These conditions leads to three cases to investigate.

2.1 Case I: Singularity at $t = 0$

In this case we have the following characteristics ;

$$ah = 0, \psi(x) = 1/z$$

leading to the equation

$$A(z)D^2 z + B(z)Dz + C(z)z = 0, \quad (2.1)$$

where

$$A(z) = z^3 - z^2(a+1) + az, \quad B(z) = \frac{7}{2}z^3 - 2z^2(a+1) + \frac{1}{2}az$$

and

$$C(z) = z^2\left(\frac{3}{2} - \frac{v(v+1)}{4}\right) - z\frac{ah}{4} - \frac{a}{2}$$

Applying (1.6) to (2.1), we obtain

$$a_0 = -\frac{a}{2}, \quad a_1 = 1 + \frac{3}{2}a, \quad a_2 = -(1+a), \quad \lambda = 1 \text{ or } \frac{a}{2(a+1)},$$

where the λ 's are the exponents of the singularity at $z = 0$ of equation (2.1).

Since $z := \mathcal{D}y$, the polynomial solution is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}y_\lambda &= \mathcal{DL}_n(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta; z) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m \left[\frac{1}{(D-1)(D + \frac{a}{2(a+1)})} \right]^m \times \\ &\quad \left[(z^3 + az) \frac{d^2}{dz^2} + \left(\frac{7}{2}z^3 - 2z^2(a+1) \right) \frac{d}{dz} + z^2 \left(\frac{3}{2} - \frac{v(v+1)}{4} \right) - z \frac{ah}{4} \right]^m z^\lambda dz : \\ &\quad \lambda = 1 \text{ or } \frac{a}{2(a+1)} \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

2.2 Case II: Singularity at $t = 1$

When $x = 1$, the corresponding characteristics are

$$\sigma = 4p\alpha, \quad \psi(x) = \frac{1}{x-1}.$$

The corresponding differential equation is

$$x(x-1)^2 D^2 z + (1 + \gamma + 4px)(x-1)^2 + \delta x(x-1) Dz + (1 + \alpha)4p(x-1)^2 - \delta z = 0. \quad (2.3)$$

With the application of $t = x - 1$, we obtain the equation

$$(t^2 + t^3)D^2 z + (1 + 4p + \gamma + \delta)t^2 + 4pt^3 + \delta t Dz + 4p(1 + \alpha)t^2 - \delta z = 0, \quad (2.4)$$

leading to $\lambda = -1$ or $\lambda = -\delta$. The corresponding polynomial solution is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}y_\lambda &= \mathcal{DC}_n(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta; t) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m \left[\frac{1}{(D-1)(D+\delta)} \right]^m \times \\ &\quad \left[t^3 \frac{d^2}{dt^2} + (1 + 4p + \gamma + \delta)t^2 + 4pt^3 \right] \frac{d}{dt} + 4p(1 + \alpha)t^2 \Big]^m t^\lambda dt \quad \lambda = 1 \text{ or } -\delta \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

2.3 Case III: Singularity at $t = \infty$

When $x = \infty$, the corresponding characteristics are

$$4p\alpha = 0, \quad \psi(x) = 0.$$

The corresponding differential equation with the introduction of transformation $x = 1/t$ and assumption of $p = 0$ for possible solution is

$$t^2(1-t)D^2 z + (\gamma - 1)t^2 + 2t(1-t) - t(1 + \gamma + \delta) Dz + (\gamma + \delta - \sigma) z = 0, \quad (2.6)$$

leading to

$$\lambda = \frac{1 + \gamma + \delta \pm \sqrt{(1 + \delta + \gamma)^2 - 4(\gamma + \delta - \sigma)}}{2}.$$

The corresponding polynomial solution is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}y_\lambda &= \mathcal{DC}_n(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta; t) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m \left[\frac{1}{(D-1)(D+\delta)} \right]^m \times \\ &\quad \left[t^3 \frac{d^2}{dt^2} + (1 + 4p + \gamma + \delta)t^2 + 4pt^3 \right] \frac{d}{dt} + 4p(1 + \alpha)t^2 \Big]^m t^\lambda dt : \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

If we assume that $\sigma = 0$, we obtain $\lambda = 1$ or $\lambda = \gamma + \delta$ with the polynomial solution

$$\mathcal{D}y_\lambda = \mathcal{DC}_n(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta; t) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m \left[\frac{1}{(D-1)(D-(\delta+\gamma))} \right]^m \times$$

$$\left[t^3 \frac{d^2}{dt^2} + (1+4p+\gamma+\delta)t^2 + 4pt^3 \right] \frac{d}{dt} + 4p(1+\alpha)t^2 \Bigg]^m t^\lambda dt : \quad (2.8)$$

These solutions are new solutions of **Lame** equation in relation to the derivatives of the old ones.

3 Concluding remarks

Derivatives of old solutions of the **Lame** equation has been expressed in terms of new ones. The polynomial solutions obtained are from the series solutions to the derived differential equation terminated at some positive integer say m . This method of obtaining polynomial solutions is being extended to some other confluent forms of differential equations, in particular other various confluent forms of the Heun's differential equation.

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