



Exact Solutions > Ordinary Differential Equations > Second-Order Linear Ordinary Differential Equations > Legendre Equation

23. $(1 - x^2)^2 y''_{xx} - 2x(1 - x^2) y'_x + [\nu(\nu + 1)(1 - x^2) - \mu^2] y = 0.$

Legendre equation, ν and μ are arbitrary parameters.

The transformation $x = 1 - 2\xi$, $y = |x^2 - 1|^{\mu/2} w$ leads to the [hypergeometric equation 2.22](#) :

$$\xi(\xi - 1)w''_{\xi\xi} + (\mu + 1)(1 - 2\xi)w'_{\xi} + (\nu - \mu)(\nu + \mu + 1)w = 0$$

with parameters $\alpha = \mu - \nu$, $\beta = \mu + \nu + 1$, $\gamma = \mu + 1$.

In particular, the original equation is integrable by quadrature if $\nu = \mu$ or $\nu = -\mu - 1$.

See also special cases of the Legendre equation:

- [Legendre equation, special case 1](#) ,
- [Legendre equation, special case 2](#) .

References

Bateman, H. and Erdélyi, A., *Higher Transcendental Functions*, Vol. 1, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1953.

Abramowitz, M. and Stegun, I. A. (Editors), *Handbook of Mathematical Functions with Formulas, Graphs and Mathematical Tables*, National Bureau of Standards Applied Mathematics, Washington, 1964.

Polyanin, A. D. and Zaitsev, V. F., *Handbook of Exact Solutions for Ordinary Differential Equations, 2nd Edition* , Chapman & Hall/CRC, Boca Raton, 2003.

Legendre Equation