

Answer on Question #85176 – Math – Differential Equations

Question

Expand the function $f(x) = P_3'(x)$ in a series of the form:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} A_k P_k(x), \text{ where } P_3(x) = \frac{5x^3 - 3x}{2}.$$

The question is based on Legendre polynomials.

Solution

$$\text{If } P_3(x) = \frac{5x^3 - 3x}{2}, \text{ then } f(x) = \frac{3(5x^2 - 1)}{2}.$$

We give the function $f(x)$ in a series of Legendre polynomials, when $-1 \leq x \leq 1$:

$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} A_k P_k(x)$, when $P_0 = 1, P_1 = x, P_2 = \frac{3x-1}{2}, \dots, P_k = \frac{1}{2^k k!} \frac{d^k(x^2-1)^k}{dx^k}$ – the Legendre polynomials, $A_k = \frac{2^{k+1}}{2} \int_{-1}^1 f(x) P_k(x) dx$ – coefficients of the series.

In our case $A_k = 0$, when $k = 2m + 1, m = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$, because $f(x) = \frac{3(5x^2-1)}{2}$ is an even function.

$$A_0 = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 \left(\frac{3(5x^2-1)}{2} \times 1 \right) dx = \int_0^1 \left(\frac{3(5x^2-1)}{2} \right) dx = \left(\frac{5x^3}{2} - \frac{3x}{2} \right) \Big|_0^1 = 1,$$

$$A_2 = 5 \int_0^1 \frac{3(5x^2-1)}{2} \times \frac{3x^2-1}{2} dx = \frac{15}{4} \int_0^1 (15x^4 - 5x^2 - 3x^2 + 1) dx = \frac{15}{4} \left(3x^5 - \frac{8x^3}{3} + x \right) \Big|_0^1 = 5,$$

$$A_4 = 9 \int_0^1 \frac{3(5x^2-1)}{2} \times \frac{35x^4-30x^2+3}{8} dx = 9 \left(75 \frac{x^7}{16} - 111 \frac{x^5}{16} + 15 \frac{x^3}{16} + 9 \frac{x}{16} \right) \Big|_0^1 = \frac{27}{4},$$

...

$$A_{2k} = \frac{3(4k+1)}{2^{2k+1}(2k)!} \int_0^1 (5x^2 - 1) \times \frac{d^{2k}(x^2-1)^{2k}}{dx^{2k}} dx.$$

Then

$$\frac{3(5x^2-1)}{2} = 1 + \frac{5(3x^2-1)}{2} - \frac{27(35x^4-30x^2+3)}{32} + \dots = \sum_{2k=0}^{\infty} \frac{3(4k+1)}{2^{4k+1}((2k)!)^2} \times \frac{d^{2k}(x^2-1)^{2k}}{dx^{2k}} \int_0^1 (5x^2 - 1) \times \frac{d^{2k}(x^2-1)^{2k}}{dx^{2k}} dx.$$

$$\text{Answer: } \frac{3(5x^2-1)}{2} = \sum_{2k=0}^{\infty} \frac{3(4k+1)}{2^{4k+1}((2k)!)^2} \times \frac{d^{2k}(x^2-1)^{2k}}{dx^{2k}} \int_0^1 (5x^2 - 1) \times \frac{d^{2k}(x^2-1)^{2k}}{dx^{2k}} dx.$$