

# Appels Theorem for a certain 3rd order differential equation

**Summary:**  $u(x)$  and  $v(x)$  are independent solutions of

$$u''(x) + p(x) u'(x) + q(x) u(x) = 0, \quad (1)$$

Then the general solution of

$$w'''(x) + 3 p(x) w'' + [2 p(x)^2 + p'(x) + 4 q(x)] w' + [4p(x) q(x) + 2 q'(x)] w = 0 \quad (2)$$

is:  $A p(x)^2 + B p(x) q(x) + C p(x)^2$ , with arbitrary constants A, B, C.

E.T. Whitaker, G.N. Watson: A Course of Modern Analysis. Cambridge, University Press, 1927. p.298. Ex.10 quotes:  
Appel, Comptes Rendus, XCL

## ■ The general case, eqs.(1) and (2)

## ■ Appels operator

```

o3[ww_] := D[ww, {x, 3}] + 3 p[x] D[ww, {x, 2}] +
  (2 p[x]^2 + D[p[x], x] + 4 q[x]) D[ww, x] + (4 p[x] q[x] + 2 D[q[x], x]) ww

duv = o3[u[x] v[x]]

u[x] v[x] (4 p[x] q[x] + 2 q'[x]) +
  (2 p[x]^2 + 4 q[x] + p'[x]) (v[x] u'[x] + u[x] v'[x]) + 3 v'[x] u''[x] + 3 u'[x] v''[x] +
  3 p[x] (2 u'[x] v'[x] + v[x] u''[x] + u[x] v''[x]) + v[x] u^{(3)}[x] + u[x] v^{(3)}[x]

duu = o3[u[x] u[x]]

u[x]^2 (4 p[x] q[x] + 2 q'[x]) + 2 u[x] (2 p[x]^2 + 4 q[x] + p'[x]) u'[x] +
  6 u'[x] u''[x] + 3 p[x] (2 u'[x]^2 + 2 u[x] u''[x]) + 2 u[x] u^{(3)}[x]

dvv = o3[v[x] v[x]]

v[x]^2 (4 p[x] q[x] + 2 q'[x]) + 2 v[x] (2 p[x]^2 + 4 q[x] + p'[x]) v'[x] +
  6 v'[x] v''[x] + 3 p[x] (2 v'[x]^2 + 2 v[x] v''[x]) + 2 v[x] v^{(3)}[x]

```

■ **u[x] is solution of (1)**

```

equ = o[u[x]] == 0
q[x] u[x] + p[x] u'[x] + u''[x] == 0

souu = Solve[equ, Derivative[2][u][x]] // Flatten
{u''[x] → -q[x] u[x] - p[x] u'[x]}

souuu = D[souu, x]
{u^(3)[x] → -u[x] q'[x] - q[x] u'[x] - p'[x] u'[x] - p[x] u''[x]}

souuu /. souu
{u^(3)[x] → -u[x] q'[x] - q[x] u'[x] - p'[x] u'[x] - p[x] (-q[x] u[x] - p[x] u'[x])}

```

■ **v[x] is solution of (1)**

```

eqv = o[v[x]] == 0
q[x] v[x] + p[x] v'[x] + v''[x] == 0

sov = Solve[eqv, Derivative[2][v][x]] // Flatten
{v''[x] → -q[x] v[x] - p[x] v'[x]}

sovvv = D[sov, x]
{v^(3)[x] → -v[x] q'[x] - q[x] v'[x] - p'[x] v'[x] - p[x] v''[x]}

sovvv /. sov
{v^(3)[x] → -v[x] q'[x] - q[x] v'[x] - p'[x] v'[x] - p[x] (-q[x] v[x] - p[x] v'[x])}

```

■ **u[x] u[x] is solution of (2)**

```

fuu = duu /. Join[souuu, sovvv] /. Join[souu, sov]
u[x]^2 (4 p[x] q[x] + 2 q'[x]) +
2 u[x] (2 p[x]^2 + 4 q[x] + p'[x]) u'[x] + 6 u'[x] (-q[x] u[x] - p[x] u'[x]) +
2 u[x] (-u[x] q'[x] - q[x] u'[x] - p'[x] u'[x] - p[x] (-q[x] u[x] - p[x] u'[x])) +
3 p[x] (2 u'[x]^2 + 2 u[x] (-q[x] u[x] - p[x] u'[x]))

Simplify[fuu]
0

```

- $u[x] v[x]$  is solution of (2)

```
fuv = duv /. Join[souuu, sovvv] /. Join[souu, sovv]

u[x] v[x] (4 p[x] q[x] + 2 q'[x]) +
v[x] (-u[x] q'[x] - q[x] u'[x] - p'[x] u'[x] - p[x] (-q[x] u[x] - p[x] u'[x])) +
3 (-q[x] u[x] - p[x] u'[x]) v'[x] + 3 u'[x] (-q[x] v[x] - p[x] v'[x]) +
(2 p[x]^2 + 4 q[x] + p'[x]) (v[x] u'[x] + u[x] v'[x]) +
u[x] (-v[x] q'[x] - q[x] v'[x] - p'[x] v'[x] - p[x] (-q[x] v[x] - p[x] v'[x])) +
3 p[x] (v[x] (-q[x] u[x] - p[x] u'[x])) + 2 u'[x] v'[x] + u[x] (-q[x] v[x] - p[x] v'[x]))

Simplify[fuv]

0
```

- $v[x] v[x]$  is solution of (2)

```
fvv = dvv /. Join[souuu, sovvv] /. Join[souu, sovv]

v[x]^2 (4 p[x] q[x] + 2 q'[x]) +
2 v[x] (2 p[x]^2 + 4 q[x] + p'[x]) v'[x] + 6 v'[x] (-q[x] v[x] - p[x] v'[x]) +
2 v[x] (-v[x] q'[x] - q[x] v'[x] - p'[x] v'[x] - p[x] (-q[x] v[x] - p[x] v'[x])) +
3 p[x] (2 v'[x]^2 + 2 v[x] (-q[x] v[x] - p[x] v'[x]))

Simplify[fvv]

0
```

- The special case, Mathieu eq. ,  $p(x) \equiv 0$ ,  $q(x) = J(x)$ .

```
suma = {p[x] → 0, p'[x] → 0, q[x] → J[x]};

o3[w[x]] /. suma

2 w[x] q'[x] + 4 J[x] w'[x] + w^(3)[x]
```