

Name (IN CAPITAL LETTERS!): ..... TID:

CID: ..... Personal tutor: .....

**Question 4.**

A professor once told me he gave up applied Maths because he was terrified of Bessel functions. One of these harmless functions is defined as an infinite series by

$$J_0(x) = 1 - \frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{x^4}{64} + \dots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-x^2/4)^n}{(n!)^2}.$$

- (1) Use the ratio test to determine the radius of convergence of this series.
- (2) Assuming it is legitimate to differentiate the series term by term, show that  $x^2 J_0'' + x J_0' = -x^r J_0$ , for some value of  $r$ , where  $'$  denotes a derivative.

---

**Answer.** Defining the  $n^{\text{th}}$  term of the series as  $u_n = (-x^2/4)^n / (n!)^2$ , we have

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{-x^2/4}{(n+1)^2} \right| = 0$$

As  $L < 1$  for every value of  $x$ , the radius of convergence is infinite. **(5 marks)**

(2) If we write  $J_0 = \sum a_n x^{2n}$ , then

$$x^2 J_0'' + x J_0' = \sum [2n(2n-1) + 2n] a_n x^{2n} = \sum 4n^2 a_n x^{2n} = \sum \frac{4(-x^2/4)^n}{[(n-1)!]^2}.$$

So writing  $m = n - 1$ , we have

$$x^2 J_0'' + x J_0' = \sum (-x^2) \frac{(-x^2/4)^m}{(m!)^2} = -x^2 J_0(x). \quad \mathbf{(5 \text{ marks})}$$

**Total 10**

*[Notes for markers: This could well be a messy question to mark – sorry! Obviously do not give full credit in part 2 unless they consider the general term, and cancel  $n$  into the factorial. In part 1 they may come unstuck for not taking the limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , or for quoting some formula for  $\sum a_n x^n$  and then having  $a_n = 0$  for odd  $n$ . Remember that they have under 15 minutes for the question. You may, to a large extent, do as you choose, but of course you must be consistent across all the scripts. The students will see a copy of this sheet.]*