

# Note on Euler-Bernoulli Equation

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Received: 14 Feb. 2018, Revised: 2 Nov. 2019, Accepted: 23 Dec. 2019

Published online: 1 May 2020

**Abstract:** The Euler-Bernoulli equation, which is a fourth-order partial differential equation, and its related ones have been investigated in diverse ways. Here, by suitably choosing the transverse displacement function, the fourth-order partial differential equation reduces to a fourth-order ordinary differential equation. Then we solve the fourth-order ordinary differential equation using the theory of generalized hypergeometric functions.

**Keywords:** Euler-Bernoulli equation, generalized hypergeometric functions

## 1 Introduction

Since Daniel Bernoulli and Leonard Euler developed the theory of the Euler-Bernoulli beam problem, its related ones have been investigated in diverse ways (see, e.g. [1], [2], [3], [5], [6], [10], [11] and the references cited therein). Here we consider a rectangular rod length  $l$  ( $0 \leq x \leq l$ ), height  $h$  and width  $b$ . Let  $u(t, x)$  be the transverse displacement at time  $t$  and position  $x$  from one end of the rod (or beam) taken as the origin. Then the  $u(t, x)$  satisfies the following fourth-order partial differential equation (see, e.g., [11, p. 333])

$$12S\rho u_{tt} + Ebh^3 u_{xxxx} = 0, \quad (1)$$

where  $\rho$  is rod density,  $S$  is cross sectional area,  $E$  is modulus of elasticity of the rod material. Letting

$$12S\rho = x^\eta \quad (\eta = \text{constant}) \quad \text{and} \quad Ebh^3 = a^2 = \text{constant}, \quad (2)$$

equation (1) takes in the following form

$$x^\eta u_{tt} + a^2 u_{xxxx} = 0 \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}^+; \eta \in \mathbb{R}_0^+). \quad (3)$$

Here and in the following, let  $\mathbb{C}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}^+$ , and  $\mathbb{Z}_0^-$  be the sets of complex numbers, positive real numbers, and non-positive integers, respectively, and let  $\mathbb{R}_0^+ := \mathbb{R}^+ \cup \{0\}$ .

In this paper, by choosing  $u(t, x)$  in (3) as in (16), the fourth-order partial differential equation (3) reduces to a fourth-order ordinary differential equation. Then we present a general solution of the equation (16) using the theory of generalized hypergeometric functions.

## 2 Generalized hypergeometric function and its associated differential equation

Consider the following generalized hypergeometric function (see, e.g. [9, Section 1.5])

$${}_2F_3(a_1, a_2; c_1, c_2, c_3; x) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_1)_m (a_2)_m}{(c_1)_m (c_2)_m (c_3)_m m!} x^m \quad (4)$$

$$(c_j \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{Z}_0^- \quad (j = 1, 2, 3)),$$

where  $(\lambda)_m$  is the Pochhammer symbol (see, e.g. [9, Section 1.1]). The function (4) satisfies the following fourth order ordinary differential equation (see, e.g. [7, pp. 74-80])

$$\begin{aligned} x^3 \frac{d^4 u}{dx^4} + (c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + 3) x^2 \frac{d^3 u}{dx^3} \\ + (c_1 c_2 + c_2 c_3 + c_3 c_1 + c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + 1 - x) x \frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} \\ + [c_1 c_2 c_3 - (a_1 + a_2 + 1)x] \frac{du}{dx} - a_1 a_2 u = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Let  $u(x)$  be a solution of (5). We find the other linearly independent solutions of (5) in a neighborhood of  $x = 0$ . To do this, let

$$u(x) := x^\gamma w(x) \quad (\gamma \text{ is a constant}). \quad (6)$$

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Applying (6) to equation (5), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 & x^3 \frac{d^4 w}{dx^4} + (4\gamma + c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + 3) x^2 \frac{d^3 w}{dx^3} \\
 & + [6\gamma(\gamma - 1) + 3\gamma(c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + 3) \\
 & + (c_1 c_2 + c_2 c_3 + c_3 c_1 + c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + 1 - x)] x \frac{d^2 w}{dx^2} \\
 & + [4\gamma(\gamma - 1)(\gamma - 2) + 3\gamma(\gamma - 1)(c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + 3) \\
 & + 2\gamma(c_1 c_2 + c_2 c_3 + c_3 c_1 + c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + 1 - x) \\
 & + c_1 c_2 c_3 - (a_1 + a_2 + 1)x] \frac{dw}{dx} \\
 & + [\gamma\{(\gamma - 1)(\gamma - 2)(\gamma - 3) \\
 & + (\gamma - 1)(\gamma - 2)(c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + 3) \\
 & + (\gamma - 1)(c_1 c_2 + c_2 c_3 + c_3 c_1 + c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + 1) \\
 & + c_1 c_2 c_3\} x^{-1} \\
 & - \gamma(\gamma - 1) - \gamma(a_1 + a_2 + 1) - a_1 a_2] w = 0.
 \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

Using the following factorization in (7)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\gamma - 1)(\gamma - 2)(\gamma - 3) + (\gamma - 1)(\gamma - 2)(c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + 3) \\
 & + (\gamma - 1)(c_1 c_2 + c_2 c_3 + c_3 c_1 + c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + 1) + c_1 c_2 c_3 \\
 & = (\gamma + c_1 - 1)(\gamma + c_2 - 1)(\gamma + c_3 - 1),
 \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 & x^3 \frac{d^4 w}{dx^4} + (4\gamma + c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + 3) x^2 \frac{d^3 w}{dx^3} \\
 & + [6\gamma(\gamma - 1) + 3\gamma(c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + 3) \\
 & + (c_1 c_2 + c_2 c_3 + c_3 c_1 + c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + 1 - x)] x \frac{d^2 w}{dx^2} \\
 & + [4\gamma(\gamma - 1)(\gamma - 2) + 3\gamma(\gamma - 1)(c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + 3) \\
 & + 2\gamma(c_1 c_2 + c_2 c_3 + c_3 c_1 + c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + 1 - x) \\
 & + c_1 c_2 c_3 - (a_1 + a_2 + 1)x] \frac{dw}{dx} \\
 & + [\gamma(\gamma + c_1 - 1)(\gamma + c_2 - 1)(\gamma + c_3 - 1) x^{-1} \\
 & - (\gamma + a_1)(\gamma + a_2)] w = 0.
 \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

To vanish the term  $x^{-1}$  (see, e.g. [8, Section 18.2]), we should have

$$\gamma(\gamma + c_1 - 1)(\gamma + c_2 - 1)(\gamma + c_3 - 1) = 0, \tag{10}$$

which gives the following four solutions

$$\gamma = 0, \gamma = 1 - c_1, \gamma = 1 - c_2, \gamma = 1 - c_3. \tag{11}$$

Applying each of the four solutions in (11) to (9), we obtain the following four linearly independent solutions of (5)

$$u_1 = {}_2F_3(a_1, a_2; c_1, c_2, c_3; x), \tag{12}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 u_2 = & x^{1-c_1} {}_2F_3(1 - c_1 + a_1, 1 - c_1 + a_2; \\
 & 2 - c_1, 1 + c_2 - c_1, 1 + c_3 - c_1; x),
 \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 u_3 = & x^{1-c_2} {}_2F_3(1 - c_2 + a_1, 1 - c_2 + a_2; \\
 & 2 - c_2, 1 + c_1 - c_2, 1 + c_3 - c_2; x)
 \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 u_4 = & x^{1-c_3} {}_2F_3(1 - c_3 + a_1, 1 - c_3 + a_2; \\
 & 2 - c_3, 1 + c_1 - c_3, 1 + c_2 - c_3; x).
 \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

### 3 A solution of Euler-Bernoulli equation (3)

In (3), letting

$$\begin{aligned}
 u = & p(t; a) \omega(\sigma), \text{ where } p(t; a) := (-a^2 t^2)^{-1} \\
 \text{and } \sigma = & -\frac{4}{a^2 t^2 (\eta + 4)^4} x^{\eta+4},
 \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

where  $x \in \mathbb{R}^+$ ,  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}_0^+$ , and  $a^2$  is the same as in (2), we find the fourth-order *partial* differential equation (3) which reduces to a fourth-order *ordinary* differential equation (25) or (26). Then we solve the fourth-order ordinary differential equation (26) using the differential equation satisfied by  ${}_2F_3$  in Section 2.

**Theorem 1.** *The four linearly independent solutions of the Euler-Bernoulli equation in the form (26) are given as follows:*

$$u_1 = p(t; a) {}_2F_3\left(1, \frac{3}{2}; \frac{\alpha+3}{4}, \frac{\alpha+1}{2}, \frac{3\alpha+1}{4}; \sigma\right), \tag{17}$$

$$u_2 = p(t; a) \sigma^{\frac{1-\alpha}{4}} {}_1F_2\left(\frac{7-\alpha}{4}; \frac{\alpha+3}{4}, \frac{\alpha+1}{2}; \sigma\right), \tag{18}$$

$$u_3 = p(t; a) \sigma^{\frac{1-\alpha}{2}} {}_1F_2\left(\frac{4-\alpha}{2}; \frac{5-\alpha}{4}, \frac{\alpha+3}{4}; \sigma\right), \tag{19}$$

and

$$u_4 = p(t; a) \sigma^{\frac{3}{4}(1-\alpha)} {}_1F_2\left(\frac{9-3\alpha}{4}; \frac{3-\alpha}{2}, \frac{5-\alpha}{4}; \sigma\right), \tag{20}$$

where  $\alpha := \frac{\eta}{\eta+4}$ .

**Proof.** For simplicity, let  $p := p(t; a)$ . We find

$$u_{tt} = p_{tt} \omega + 2 p_t \omega_\sigma \sigma_t + p \omega_{\sigma\sigma} \sigma_t^2 + p \omega_\sigma \sigma_{tt} \tag{21}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 u_{xxxx} = & p_{xxxx} \omega + 6 p_{xx} \omega_\sigma \sigma_{xx} + 4 p_{xxx} \omega_\sigma \sigma_x + 6 p_{xx} \omega_{\sigma\sigma} \sigma_x^2 \\
 & + 4 p_x \omega_{\sigma\sigma\sigma} \sigma_x^3 + 12 p_x \omega_{\sigma\sigma} \sigma_x \sigma_{xx} + 4 p_x \omega_\sigma \sigma_{xxx} \\
 & + p \omega_{\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma} \sigma_x^4 + 6 p \omega_{\sigma\sigma\sigma} \sigma_x^2 \sigma_{xx} \\
 & + 3 p \omega_{\sigma\sigma} \sigma_{xx}^2 + 4 p \omega_{\sigma\sigma} \sigma_x \sigma_{xxx} + p \omega_\sigma \sigma_{xxx}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

Substituting (21) and (22) into (3), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & a^2 p \sigma_x^4 \omega_{\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma} + (4a^2 p_x \sigma_x^3 + 6a^2 p \sigma_x^2 \sigma_{xx}) \omega_{\sigma\sigma\sigma} \\ & + (6a^2 p_{xx} \sigma_x^2 + 12a^2 p_x \sigma_x \sigma_{xx} + 3a^2 p \sigma_{xx}^2 + x^\eta p \sigma_t^2 \\ & + 4a^2 p \sigma_x \sigma_{xxx}) \omega_{\sigma\sigma} \\ & + (2x^\eta p_t \sigma_t + x^\eta p \sigma_{tt} + 6a^2 p_{xx} \sigma_{xx} + 4a^2 p_{xxx} \sigma_x \\ & + 4a^2 p_x \sigma_{xxx} + a^2 p \sigma_{xxx}) \omega_\sigma + (a^2 p_{xxx} + x^\eta p_{tt}) \omega = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Considering  $p_x = 0$  in (23), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & a^2 p \sigma_x^4 \omega_{\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma} + 6a^2 p \sigma_x^2 \sigma_{xx} \omega_{\sigma\sigma\sigma} \\ & + p(3a^2 \sigma_{xx}^2 + x^\eta \sigma_t^2 + 4a^2 \sigma_x \sigma_{xxx}) \omega_{\sigma\sigma} \\ & + (2x^\eta p_t \sigma_t + x^\eta p \sigma_{tt} + a^2 p \sigma_{xxx}) \omega_\sigma + x^\eta p_{tt} \omega = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

Using

$$\sigma_x = -\frac{4}{a^2 t^2 (\eta + 4)^3} x^{\eta+3}, \dots, p_{tt} = -6a^2 p^2$$

in (24), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sigma^3 \omega_{\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma} + 6 \frac{\eta+3}{\eta+4} \sigma^2 \omega_{\sigma\sigma\sigma} \\ & + \left( \frac{\eta+3}{\eta+4} \cdot \frac{7\eta+17}{\eta+4} - \sigma \right) \sigma \omega_{\sigma\sigma} \\ & + \left( \frac{\eta+3}{\eta+4} \cdot \frac{\eta+2}{\eta+4} \cdot \frac{\eta+1}{\eta+4} - \frac{7}{2} \sigma \right) \omega_\sigma - \frac{3}{2} \omega = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

Setting  $\alpha := \frac{\eta}{\eta+4}$  in (25), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \sigma^3 \omega_{\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma} + \left( \frac{\alpha+3}{4} + \frac{\alpha+1}{2} + \frac{3\alpha+1}{4} + 3 \right) \sigma^2 \omega_{\sigma\sigma\sigma} \\ & + \left( \frac{\alpha+3}{4} \cdot \frac{\alpha+1}{2} + \frac{\alpha+1}{2} \cdot \frac{3\alpha+1}{4} + \frac{3\alpha+1}{4} \cdot \frac{\alpha+3}{4} \right. \\ & + \left. \frac{\alpha+3}{4} + \frac{\alpha+1}{2} + \frac{3\alpha+1}{4} + 1 - \sigma \right) \sigma \omega_{\sigma\sigma} \\ & + \left[ \frac{\alpha+3}{4} \cdot \frac{\alpha+1}{2} \cdot \frac{3\alpha+1}{4} - \left( 1 + \frac{3}{2} + 1 \right) \sigma \right] \omega_\sigma - \frac{3}{2} \omega = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

Comparing (9) ( $\gamma = 0$ ) with (26) and setting

$$a_1 = 1, a_2 = \frac{3}{2}, c_1 = \frac{\alpha+3}{4}, c_2 = \frac{\alpha+1}{2}, c_3 = \frac{3\alpha+1}{4}, x = \sigma$$

in (12), we obtain the following four linearly independent solutions of (26):

$$\omega_1 = {}_2F_3 \left( 1, \frac{3}{2}; \frac{\alpha+3}{4}, \frac{\alpha+1}{2}, \frac{3\alpha+1}{4}; \sigma \right), \quad (27)$$

$$\omega_2 = \sigma^{\frac{1-\alpha}{4}} {}_1F_2 \left( \frac{7-\alpha}{4}; \frac{\alpha+3}{4}, \frac{\alpha+1}{2}; \sigma \right), \quad (28)$$

$$\omega_3 = \sigma^{\frac{1-\alpha}{2}} {}_1F_2 \left( \frac{4-\alpha}{2}; \frac{5-\alpha}{4}, \frac{\alpha+3}{4}; \sigma \right), \quad (29)$$

and

$$\omega_4 = \sigma^{\frac{3}{4}(1-\alpha)} {}_1F_2 \left( \frac{9-3\alpha}{4}; \frac{3-\alpha}{2}, \frac{5-\alpha}{4}; \sigma \right). \quad (30)$$

Considering (16), we obtain the desired solutions.

## 4 Conclusion remark

In this paper, by suitably choosing the transverse displacement function, the Euler-Bernoulli equation; a partial differential equation, reduces to a fourth-order ordinary differential equation, which is shown to be solved using the theory of generalized hypergeometric functions. Certain similar partial differential equations are believed to be solved by applying the method used here.

## Acknowledgement

The authors are grateful to the anonymous referee for the constructive comments which improved this paper.

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