

### Example: Ordinary Point

1. Solve  $y'' - xy' + 2y = 0$  about the ordinary point  $x = 0$  (we also did this in class)

Substituting  $y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n$  into the differential equation,

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^{n-2} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n c_n x^n + 2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n = 0$$

Rewrite so that every sum begins with the same power of  $x$ . In this case, we start with  $x^1$  because of the middle sum. Rewriting the first two sums gives us:

$$\left( 2c_2 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} x^k \right) - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k c_k x^k + \left( 2c_0 + 2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k x^k \right) = 0$$

And simplify:

$$2(c_2 + c_0) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} ((k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} - (k-2)c_k) x^k = 0$$

This gives us the recurrence relation for the coefficients:

$$c_2 = -c_0 \quad \text{and} \quad c_{k+2} = \frac{k-2}{(k+2)(k+1)} c_k, \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

With  $c_0 = 1$ , and  $c_1 = 0$ , we should find that  $c_2 = -1$  and the rest of the coefficients are zero. Therefore, the first solution is:

$$y_1(x) = 1 - x^2$$

With  $c_0 = 0$  and  $c_1 = 1$ , we should find that

$$c_2 = 0, \quad c_3 = -\frac{1}{6}, \quad c_4 = 0, \quad c_5 = -\frac{1}{120}, \dots$$

Now,

$$y_2(x) = x - \frac{1}{6}x^3 - \frac{1}{120}x^5 + \dots$$

and the general solution is  $y = c_0 y_1 + c_1 y_2$ .

2. (Problem 18, Section 6.1 for Extra Practice) Solve  $y'' - xy = 0$  about  $x = 0$ .

Going through our substitution, we get:

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^{n-2} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+1} = 0$$

Rewrite so that the sums both start with  $x^1$  (because of the second sum):

$$2c_2 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} x^k - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_{k-1} x^k = 0$$

And simplify:

$$2c_2 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} ((k+2)(k+1)c_{k+2} - c_{k-1}) x^k = 0$$

Therefore,  $c_2 = 0$  and

$$c_{k+2} = \frac{1}{(k+2)(k+1)} c_{k-1}, \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

To get our linearly independent solutions, first let  $c_0 = 1, c_1 = 0$  to get:

$$c_3 = \frac{1}{6}, \quad c_4 = 0, \quad c_5 = 0, \quad c_6 = \frac{1}{180}$$

And now let  $c_0 = 0, c_1 = 1$  to get the second solution:

$$c_3 = 0, \quad c_4 = \frac{1}{12}, \quad c_5 = c_6 = 0, \quad c_7 = \frac{1}{504}$$

The two solutions are:

$$y_1 = 1 + \frac{1}{6}x^3 + \frac{1}{180}x^6 + h.o.t., \quad y_2 = x + \frac{1}{12}x^4 + \frac{1}{504}x^7 + h.o.t$$

### Examples: Regular Singular Point

3. Solve  $y'' - \frac{1}{2x}y' + \frac{1+x}{2x^2}y = 0$  using the power series method about  $x = 0$ .

First, we see that:

$$P(x) = -\frac{1}{2x}, \quad Q(x) = \frac{1+x}{2x^2}$$

and we verify that  $x = 0$  is a regular singular point. We do this by checking that  $xP(x)$  and  $x^2Q(x)$  are analytic at  $x = 0$ :

$$xP(x) = -\frac{1}{2}, \quad x^2Q(x) = \frac{1}{2}(1+x)$$

Both of these are analytic at  $x = 0$ , so  $x = 0$  is a regular singular point.

Our technique will be to first multiply the equation by  $x^2$ , and we'll multiply by 2 to simplify the algebra:

$$2x^2y'' - xy' + (1+x)y = 0$$

Now assume the form of the solution to be the following. We've also include the first few terms for later:

$$y = x^r \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{r+n} = c_0 x^r + c_1 x^{r+1} + c_2 x^{r+2} + \dots$$

Previously, when we differentiated, we re-started the index (because the constant terms drop out), but now the constant terms will not drop out:

$$y' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (r+n) x^{r+n-1}, \quad y'' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (r+n)(r+n-1) x^{r+n-2}$$

Substitute into the differential equation:

$$2x^2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (r+n)(r+n-1) x^{r+n-2} - x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (r+n) x^{r+n-1} + (1+x) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{r+n} = 0$$

Simplifying:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (r+n)(r+n-1) x^{r+n} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (r+n) x^{r+n} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{r+n} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{r+n+1} = 0$$

The last sum could be rewritten (let  $k = n + 1$ , then let  $n = k$ ) as

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_{n-1} x^{r+n}$$

The first three sums begin with  $x^r$ , the last one starts with  $x^{r+1}$ . We split off the first entry from the first three sums, and combine the remaining sums to get:

$$(2c_0 r(r-1) - c_0 r + c_0) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (2c_n(r+n)(r+n-1) - (r+n)c_n + c_n + c_{n-1}) x^{r+n} = 0$$

The constant term tells us what  $r$  should be (THE INDICIAL EQUATION):

$$c_0(2r(r-1) - r + 1) = 0 \Rightarrow 2r^2 - 2r - r + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow 2r^2 - 3r + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow r = 1, \frac{1}{2}$$

We will get two linearly independent solutions by using the two values of  $r$ . First, for  $r = 1$ , we are back to our usual situation:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (2c_n(n+1)n - nc_n + c_{n-1}) x^{n+1} = 0$$

which simplifies:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (nc_n(2n+1) + c_{n-1}) x^{n+1} = 0$$

which implies that each coefficient must be zero:

$$c_n = -\frac{c_{n-1}}{n(2n+1)}$$

Notice that, rather than depending on both  $c_0$  and  $c_1$ , we will now only depend on one of them. Let  $c_0 = 1$ , and compute the remaining coefficients, written out so you can see the pattern:

$$c_1 = -\frac{1}{3 \cdot 1}, \quad c_2 = -\frac{c_1}{2 \cdot 5} = \frac{1}{(3 \cdot 5) \cdot (1 \cdot 2)}, \quad c_3 = -\frac{c_2}{3 \cdot 7} = -\frac{1}{(3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7) \cdot (1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3)}$$

For the actual series, simplify to:

$$c_0 = 1, c_1 = -\frac{1}{3}, c_2 = \frac{1}{30}, c_3 = -\frac{1}{630}, \dots$$

Similarly, solve when  $r = \frac{1}{2}$ . In this case, we have:

$$\sqrt{x} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( 2c_n \left( \frac{1}{2} + n \right) \left( n - \frac{1}{2} \right) - \left( n + \frac{1}{2} \right) c_n + c_n + c_{n-1} \right) x^n = 0$$

which simplifies to:

$$\sqrt{x} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (c_n(2n-1)n + c_{n-1}) x^n = 0$$

so that:

$$c_n = -\frac{c_{n-1}}{n(2n-1)}$$

Again by taking  $c_0 = 1$ , we get:

$$c_1 = -\frac{1}{1} = -1, \quad c_2 = -\frac{c_1}{2 \cdot 3} = \frac{1}{6}, \quad c_3 = -\frac{c_2}{3 \cdot 5} = -\frac{1}{90}, \dots$$

We now have  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ . Putting it all together, the general solution is:

$$y(x) = C_1 y_1 + C_2 y_2$$

or

$$y(x) = C_1 x \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3}x + \frac{1}{30}x^2 - \frac{1}{630}x^3 + h.o.t \right) + C_2 \sqrt{x} \left( 1 - x + \frac{1}{6}x^2 - \frac{1}{90}x^3 + h.o.t \right)$$

In Maple, verify this:

```
Order:=4;
de:=2*x^2*diff(y(x),x$2)-x*diff(y(x),x)+(1+x)*y(x)=0;
dsolve(de,y(x),type=series);
```

4. (Problem 16, Sect 6.2) Solve:  $2xy'' + 5y' + xy = 0$  about the point  $x = 0$ .

We multiply through by  $x$ , although that is not necessary, to get:

$$2x^2 y'' + 5xy' + x^2 y = 0$$

Now substitute the power series for  $y, y', y''$  to get:

$$2x^2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(r+n)(r+n-1)x^{r+n-2} + 5x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(r+n)x^{r+n-1} + x^2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{r+n} = 0$$

Simplifying,

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 2c_n(r+n)(r+n-1)x^{r+n} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 5c_n(r+n)x^{r+n} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{r+n+2} = 0$$

The last sum starts with  $x^{r+2}$ , so pull the first two terms off the first two sums:

$$(2c_0 r(r-1) + 5c_0 r) x^r + (2c_1(r+1)r + 5c_1(r+1)) x^{r+1} + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (2c_n(r+n)(r+n-1) + 5c_n(r+n) + c_{n-2}) x^{r+n} = 0$$

The first term gives the indicial equation,

$$r(2r+3) = 0 \Rightarrow r = 0, r = -\frac{3}{2}$$

The second term implies that  $c_1 = 0$  for either  $r$ , and for the rest of the coefficients,

$$c_n = -\frac{c_{n-2}}{(n+r)(2n+2r+3)}, \quad n = 2, 3, 4, \dots$$

Choosing  $r = -3/2$  first, the formula simplifies to:

$$c_n = -\frac{c_{n-2}}{(2n-3)n}$$

Choosing  $r = 0$ , we get:

$$c_n = -\frac{c_{n-2}}{n(2n+3)}$$

In either case, set  $c_0 = 1$ , and we get:

$$y = C_1 x^{-3/2} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{40}x^4 + \dots \right) + C_2 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{14}x^2 + \frac{1}{616}x^4 + \dots \right)$$