

Today, we did the example

$$xy'' + y = 0.$$

$x=0$ is a regular singular point.

In class, we found that one solution was $y_1(x) = x - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{12}x^3 - \frac{1}{144}x^4 + \dots$

What about the second solution?

Since $r_1 - r_2 = 1 - 0 = 1$ is a positive integer, we know

y_2 will have the form

$$y_2(x) = ay_1 \ln(x) + \cancel{ax} x^{r_2} \left[1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n x^n \right]$$

since $r_2 = 0$, this is

$$y_2(x) = ay_1 \ln(x) + \left[1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n x^n \right]$$

Our goal is to find a and c_1, c_2, \dots

Let's plug in.

$$y_2'(x) = ay_1' \ln(x) + ay_1 \frac{1}{x} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n c_n x^{n-1}$$

$$y_2''(x) = ay_1'' \ln(x) + ay_1' \frac{1}{x} + ay_1' \frac{1}{x} + ay_1 \left(-\frac{1}{x^2}\right) + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) c_n x^{n-2}$$

Let's plug into formula $x^2 y'' + xy = 0.$

We get:

$$ax^2 y_1'' \ln(x) + 2ax y_1' - ay_1 + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) c_n x^n + ax y_1 \ln(x) + x + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+1} = 0$$

Notice that all log-terms disappear. This follows from the fact that y_1 is a solution to $x^2 y'' + xy' = 0$.

Therefore, we get:

$$(*) \quad 2axy_1' - ay_1 + x + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)c_n x^n + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} c_{n-1} x^n = 0$$

We want to find a and c_n for $n=1, 2, 3, \dots$

Notice that since $y_1 = x - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{12}x^3 - \frac{1}{144}x^4 + \dots$

then $y_1' = 1 - x + \frac{1}{4}x^2 - \frac{1}{36}x^3 + \dots$

So our equation (*) above can be rewritten as

$$2a\left(x - x^2 + \frac{1}{4}x^3 - \frac{1}{36}x^4 + \dots\right) - a\left(x - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{12}x^3 - \frac{1}{144}x^4 + \dots\right) + x + (2c_2 + c_1)x^2 + (6c_3 + c_2)x^3 + (12c_4 + c_3)x^4 + \dots = 0$$

Look at coeff of x^n for $n=1, 2, \dots$ and set $= 0$.

$$\underline{n=1, \text{ coeff of } x} : 2a - a + 1 = 0 \implies a = -1.$$

$c_n = c_1$ is arbitrary so take it to be $= 0$.

$$\underline{n=2: \text{ coeff of } x^2} : -2a + \frac{a}{2} + (2c_2 + c_1) = 0$$

$$\Downarrow \\ 2 - \frac{1}{2} + 2c_2 = 0 \implies c_2 = -\frac{3}{4}$$

$n=3$, coeff of x^3 : $\frac{2a}{4} - \frac{9}{12} + (6c_3 + c_2) = 0$

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$$-\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{12} + 6c_3 + \left(-\frac{3}{4}\right) = 0$$

$$6c_3 = \frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{12} = \frac{14}{12} = \frac{7}{6}$$

$$c_3 = \frac{7}{36}$$

and so on...

So $y_2 = a y_1 \ln(x) + [1 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + \dots]$

and thus

$$y_2 = -y_1 \ln(x) + 1 + \left(-\frac{3}{4}\right)x^2 + \frac{7}{36}x^3 + \dots$$

The general solution is $y(x) + c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$.