

5.2 Series Solution Near an Ordinary Point x_0 131

"Part I"

• Given the DE

$$P(x)y'' + Q(x)y' + R(x)y = 0 \quad \dots (*)$$

where P, Q, R are polynomials

• Note that $(*)$ is 2nd order linear homogeneous DE with variable coefficients

Def • The DE $(*)$ has an Ordinary point x_0 iff $P(x_0) \neq 0$

• The DE $(*)$ has Singular point z_0 iff $P(z_0) = 0$

Exp ① The DE $(x^2 - 4)y'' + (\sin x)y' - e^x y = 0$
has two singular points \Rightarrow
 $P(x) = x^2 - 4 = 0$
 $(x-2)(x+2) = 0$
 $x = 2$ or $x = -2$

All other points are ordinary " $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{-2, 2\}$ "

② $(\ln x)y'' - xy' + y = 0$
has only one singular point \Rightarrow
 $P(x) = \ln x = 0$
 $x = 1$

All other points are ordinary " $\mathbb{R}^+ \setminus \{1\}$ "

③ $y'' - e^x y' + y = 0$
has no singular points \Rightarrow All points are ordinary

- Assume x_0 is an Ordinary Point (OP) for the DE (*):

$$P(x)y'' + Q(x)y' + R(x)y = 0$$

- Hence, $P(x_0) \neq 0$.

- Let $p(x) = \frac{Q(x)}{P(x)}$ and $q(x) = \frac{R(x)}{P(x)}$

- Note that $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ are well-defined at the OP x_0 . Moreover, $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ are analytic at x_0 . That is, $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ have Taylor Series Expansion about the OP x_0 :

$$p(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_n (x-x_0)^n \quad \text{and} \quad q(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q_n (x-x_0)^n$$

- Now divide the DE (*) by $P(x) \Rightarrow$

$$(*)' \quad y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0, \quad \begin{array}{l} y(x_0) = y_0 \\ y'(x_0) = y_0' \end{array}$$

where $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ are cont. on an open interval I about x_0

- By Th 3.2.1 $\Rightarrow \exists$ a unique solution $y(x)$ satisfies the IVP $(*)'$ on I .

In this section we will find a series solution of the form

$$y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x-x_0)^n = a_0 + a_1(x-x_0) + a_2(x-x_0)^2 + \dots$$

about the OP x_0 for the DE (*).

To find two independent power series solutions $y_1(x)$ and $y_2(x) \Rightarrow$ we write the coefficients

a_2, a_3, a_4, \dots in terms of a_0 or a_1 so that

the power series solution

$$y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x-x_0)^n = a_0 + a_1 (x-x_0) + a_2 (x-x_0)^2 + a_3 (x-x_0)^3 + \dots$$

$$= a_0 y_1(x) + a_1 y_2(x)$$

Then we check $w(y_1(x), y_2(x))(x_0) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1(x_0) & y_2(x_0) \\ y_1'(x_0) & y_2'(x_0) \end{vmatrix}$

Exp Find a series solution $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$ for the DE

$$y'' + y = 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

• Comparing $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$ with $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x-x_0)^n \Rightarrow x_0 = 0$ is an OP

since $P(x) = 1$ and so all points are ordinary

• Our power series solution is then given by

$$y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n \Rightarrow y'(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n x^{n-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow y''(x) = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_n n(n-1) x^{n-2}$$

• Substitute y'' and y in the DE \Rightarrow

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

↑ not
↑ same power

shifting index ←

- ① same power
② same index

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+2)(n+1) a_{n+2} X^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n X^n = 0$$

same index

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [(n+2)(n+1) a_{n+2} + a_n] X^n = 0$$

Comparing the coefficients of $X^n \Rightarrow$

$$(n+2)(n+1) a_{n+2} + a_n = 0, \quad n=0,1,2,\dots$$

Recurrence
Relation
(RR)

$$a_{n+2} = \frac{-a_n}{(n+1)(n+2)}, \quad n=0,1,2,\dots$$

We use RR to write a_2, a_3, \dots in terms of a_0 and $a_1 \Rightarrow$

$$n=0 \Rightarrow a_2 = \frac{-a_0}{(1)(2)} = -\frac{a_0}{2!}$$

$$n=1 \Rightarrow a_3 = \frac{-a_1}{(2)(3)} = -\frac{a_1}{3!}$$

$$n=2 \Rightarrow a_4 = \frac{-a_2}{(3)(4)} = \frac{-(-\frac{a_0}{2!})}{(3)(4)} = \frac{a_0}{4!}$$

$$n=3 \Rightarrow a_5 = \frac{-a_3}{(4)(5)} = -\frac{-\frac{a_1}{3!}}{(4)(5)} = \frac{a_1}{5!}$$

$$n=4 \Rightarrow a_6 = \frac{-a_4}{(5)(6)} = -\frac{\frac{a_0}{4!}}{(5)(6)} = -\frac{a_0}{6!}$$

⋮

The series solution is

$$y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x-x_0)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + a_3 x^3 + a_4 x^4 + \dots$$

$$= a_0 + a_1 x - \frac{a_0}{2!} x^2 - \frac{a_1}{3!} x^3 + \frac{a_0}{4!} x^4 + \frac{a_1}{5!} x^5 - \frac{a_0}{6!} x^6 + \dots$$

$$= a_0 \left[1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \dots \right] + a_1 \left[x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} + \dots \right]$$

$$= a_0 y_1(x) + a_1 y_2(x)$$

$$= a_0 \cos x + a_1 \sin x$$

Note that the power series solutions $y_1(x)$ and $y_2(x)$ are L. Indep. since

$$\begin{aligned} W(y_1(x), y_2(x))(x_0) &= W(y_1(x), y_2(x))(0) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1(0) & y_2(0) \\ y_1'(0) & y_2'(0) \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1 \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, they form fundamental series solutions

Note also that this DE: $\ddot{y} + y = 0$ can be easily solved as follows: Ch. Eq. $r^2 + 1 = 0$

$$r_{1,2} = \pm i \quad \begin{array}{l} \lambda = 0 \\ \mu = 1 \end{array}$$

$$y_1(x) = \cos x \quad \text{and} \quad y_2(x) = \sin x$$

Hence, the gen. sol. is $y(x) = c_1 y_1(x) + c_2 y_2(x)$
 $= c_1 \cos x + c_2 \sin x$

Exp Find two indep. power series solutions in the power of x for the DE $y'' - xy = 0$

The series solution is $y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$ so $x_0 = 0$ is OP since $P(x) = 1$ and so all points are ordinary

$y'(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n x^{n-1}$ and $y'' = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_n n(n-1) x^{n-2}$

Substitute y'' and y in the DE above \Rightarrow

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

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

↑ not
↑ not same power

✓ ① same power
 ✓ ② same index

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

not same index

$$(2)(1) a_2 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n+2)(n+1) a_{n+2} x^n - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{n-1} x^n = 0$$

$$2 a_2 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[(n+2)(n+1) a_{n+2} - a_{n-1} \right] x^n = 0$$

$$a_2 = 0$$

and

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

(RR)
 Recurrence
 Relation

We use RR to write a_2, a_3, \dots in terms of a_0 and $a_1 \Rightarrow$

$$n=1 \Rightarrow a_3 = \frac{a_0}{(2)(3)} = \frac{a_0}{3!}$$

$$n=2 \Rightarrow a_4 = \frac{a_1}{(3)(4)} = \frac{2a_1}{4!}$$

$$n=3 \Rightarrow a_5 = \frac{a_2}{(4)(5)} = 0$$

$$n=4 \Rightarrow a_6 = \frac{a_3}{(5)(6)} = \frac{\frac{a_0}{(2)(3)}}{(5)(6)} = \frac{a_0}{(2)(3)(5)(6)} = \frac{4a_0}{6!}$$

$$n=5 \Rightarrow a_7 = \frac{a_4}{(6)(7)} = \frac{\frac{2a_1}{(3)(4)}}{(6)(7)} = \frac{a_1}{(3)(4)(6)(7)} = \frac{10a_1}{7!}$$

$$n=6 \Rightarrow a_8 = \frac{a_5}{(7)(8)} = 0$$

\vdots
The series solution is

$$\begin{aligned} y(x) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n = a_0 + a_1 x + \cancel{a_2 x^2} + a_3 x^3 + a_4 x^4 + \cancel{a_5 x^5} + a_6 x^6 + \dots \\ &= a_0 + a_1 x + 0 + \frac{a_0}{3!} x^3 + \frac{2a_1}{4!} x^4 + 0 + \frac{4a_0}{6!} x^6 + \frac{10a_1}{7!} x^7 + \dots \\ &= a_0 \left[1 + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{4x^6}{6!} + \dots \right] + a_1 \left[x + \frac{2x^4}{4!} + \frac{10x^7}{7!} + \dots \right] \\ &= a_0 y_1(x) + a_1 y_2(x) \end{aligned}$$

$y_1(x)$ and $y_2(x)$ are the two indep. power series solutions since

$$W(y_1(x), y_2(x))(x_0) = W(y_1(x), y_2(x))(0) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1(0) & y_2(0) \\ y_1'(0) & y_2'(0) \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1 \neq 0$$

Hence, they also form Fundamental series solutions.

Exp Find Fundamental series solutions for the DE: $y'' - xy = 0$ about $x_0 = 1$

• $P(x) = 1$ never zero so all points are ordinary $\Rightarrow x_0 = 1$ is OP

• The series solution is

$$y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x-x_0)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x-1)^n$$

$$y'(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n (x-1)^{n-1} \quad \text{and} \quad y''(x) = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) a_n (x-1)^{n-2}$$

• substitute y'' and y in the DE \Rightarrow

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

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

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

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

① same power
② same index

$$(2)(1) a_2 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n+2)(n+1) a_{n+2} (x-1)^n - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{n-1} (x-1)^n - a_0 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n (x-1)^n = 0$$

$$2a_2 - a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[(n+2)(n+1) a_{n+2} - a_{n-1} - a_n \right] (x-1)^n = 0$$

Comparing coefficients \Rightarrow

$$2a_2 - a_0 = 0 \Rightarrow a_2 = \frac{a_0}{2}$$

$$a_{n+2} = \frac{a_{n-1} + a_n}{(n+1)(n+2)}, \quad n=1, 2, 3, \dots \quad \text{(RR) Recurrence Relation}$$

We use RR to write the coefficients a_3, a_4, a_5, \dots in terms of a_0 and $a_1 \Rightarrow$

$$n=1 \Rightarrow a_3 = \frac{a_0 + a_1}{(2)(3)} = \frac{a_0}{3!} + \frac{a_1}{3!}$$

$$n=2 \Rightarrow a_4 = \frac{a_1 + a_2}{(3)(4)} = \frac{2a_1}{4!} + \frac{a_0/2}{(3)(4)} = \frac{2a_1}{4!} + \frac{a_0}{4!}$$

$$n=3 \Rightarrow a_5 = \frac{a_2 + a_3}{(4)(5)} = \frac{a_0/2 + a_0/3! + a_1/3!}{(4)(5)} = \frac{4a_0}{5!} + \frac{a_1}{5!}$$

\vdots

The series solution is

$$\begin{aligned} y(x) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x-1)^n = a_0 + a_1(x-1) + a_2(x-1)^2 + a_3(x-1)^3 + a_4(x-1)^4 + \dots \\ &= a_0 + a_1(x-1) + \frac{a_0}{2}(x-1)^2 + \left(\frac{a_0}{3!} + \frac{a_1}{3!}\right)(x-1)^3 + \left(\frac{2a_1}{4!} + \frac{a_0}{4!}\right)(x-1)^4 + \dots \\ &= a_0 \left[1 + \frac{(x-1)^2}{2!} + \frac{(x-1)^3}{3!} + \frac{(x-1)^4}{4!} + \dots \right] + a_1 \left[(x-1) + \frac{(x-1)^3}{3!} + \frac{2(x-1)^4}{4!} + \dots \right] \\ &= a_0 y_1(x) + a_1 y_2(x) \end{aligned}$$

$$W(y_1(x), y_2(x))(1) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1(1) & y_2(1) \\ y_1'(1) & y_2'(1) \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 1 \neq 0$$

y_1 and y_2 are L. indep. Thus, they form fundamental set of solutions.

Exp Find power series solution for the DE

$$(1-x^2)y'' - 2xy' + 6y = 0 \text{ about } x_0 = 0$$

• $P(x) = 1 - x^2 = 0 \iff x = \pm 1$ singular points

Hence, $x_0 = 0$ is OP

• The series solution is $y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n \implies y'(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n x^{n-1}$

• substitute y'', y', y in the DE $\implies y''(x) = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)a_n x^{n-2}$

$$(1-x^2) \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)a_n x^{n-2} - 2x \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n x^{n-1} + 6 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n = 0$$

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)a_n x^{n-2} - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)a_n x^n - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2n a_n x^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 6a_n x^n = 0$$

✓ same power
✓ same index

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+2)(n+1)a_{n+2} x^n - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)a_n x^n - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2n a_n x^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 6a_n x^n = 0$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left[(n+2)(n+1)a_{n+2} - n(n-1)a_n - 2n a_n + 6a_n \right] x^n = 0$$

$$- a_n (n^2 - n + 2n - 6)$$
$$- a_n (n^2 + n - 6)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left[(n+2)(n+1)a_{n+2} - a_n (n-2)(n+3) \right] x^n = 0$$

\implies

$$a_{n+2} = \frac{(n-2)(n+3)a_n}{(n+1)(n+2)}, \quad n=0,1,2,\dots \rightarrow \text{Recurrence Relation (RR)}$$

We use RR to write a_2, a_3, a_4, \dots in terms of a_0 and a_1 as follows \Rightarrow

$$n=0 \Rightarrow a_2 = \frac{(-2)(3)a_0}{(1)(2)} = -3a_0$$

$$n=1 \Rightarrow a_3 = \frac{(-1)(4)a_1}{(2)(3)} = -\frac{2}{3}a_1$$

$$n=2 \Rightarrow a_4 = 0$$

$$n=3 \Rightarrow a_5 = \frac{(1)(6)a_3}{(4)(5)} = \frac{3(-\frac{2}{3}a_1)}{(2)(5)} = -\frac{1}{5}a_1$$

$$n=4 \Rightarrow a_6 = 0$$

$$n=5 \Rightarrow a_7 = \frac{(3)(8)a_5}{(6)(7)} = \frac{4(-\frac{1}{5}a_1)}{7} = -\frac{4}{35}a_1$$

$$n=6 \Rightarrow a_8 = 0$$

\vdots

$$y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + a_3 x^3 + a_4 x^4 + a_5 x^5 + a_6 x^6 + \dots$$

$$= a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + a_3 x^3 + a_4 x^4 + a_5 x^5 + a_6 x^6 + \dots$$

$$= a_0 + a_1 x - 3a_0 x^2 - \frac{2}{3}a_1 x^3 - \frac{1}{5}a_1 x^5 - \frac{4}{35}a_1 x^7 + \dots$$

$$= a_0 [1 - 3x^2] + a_1 [x - \frac{2}{3}x^3 - \frac{1}{5}x^5 - \frac{4}{35}x^7 + \dots]$$

$$= a_0 y_1(x) + a_1 y_2(x)$$