

# Quiz12 Frobenius Form and Method

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

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**Question:** Find two independent solutions of the equation

$x^2y'' + xy' + x^2y = 0$  using power series solutions centered at  $x=0$ .

Write the recurrence equations for the coefficients. Calculate the first few terms. Find the series convergence domain.

**Idea:** Frobenius form and method

**Solution:**  $y = x^r \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{n+r}$  Always start with this guess, want to find  $r$ .

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

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

$$x y' = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r) a_n x^{n+r} \quad \text{and} \quad x^2 y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{n+r+2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{st } 0 &= x^2 y'' + x y' + x^2 y = \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r-1)(n+r) a_n x^{n+r} \right) + \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r) a_n x^{n+r} \right) + \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{n+r+2} \right) \\ &= \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r-1)(n+r) a_n x^{n+r} \right) + \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r) a_n x^{n+r} \right) + \left( \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_{n-2} x^{n+r} \right) \\ &= \left( r(r-1)a_0 + r a_0 \right) x^r + \left( r(1+r)a_1 + (1+r)a_1 \right) x^{r+1} + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left[ (n+r)(n+r-1)a_n + (n+r)a_n + a_{n-2} \right] x^{n+r} \end{aligned}$$

Assume  $a_0 = 1$  by convention. we can always multiply a constant to make the first non-zero coefficient equals to 1.

$$\text{st } \begin{cases} r(r-1)a_0 + r a_0 = 0 & \textcircled{1} \\ r(1+r)a_1 + (1+r)a_1 = 0 & \textcircled{2} \\ (n+r)(n+r-1)a_n + (n+r)a_n + a_{n-2} = 0 \text{ for } n \geq 2 & \textcircled{3} \end{cases}$$

① since  $a_0 = 1$ , st  $r(r-1) + r = 0$  Indicial Equation

such that  $r_1 = r_2 = 0$  Index

②  $(1+r)^2 a_1 = 0$  and when  $r=0$ ,  $a_1(0) = 0$

③  $(n+r)^2 a_n + a_{n-2} = 0$  for  $n \geq 2$

$$a_n = -\frac{1}{(n+r)^2} a_{n-2} \text{ for } n \geq 2$$

when  $r=0$ ,

$$a_3(0) = -\frac{1}{3^2} a_1(0) = 0$$

similarly,  $a_n = 0$  for  $n=1, 3, 5, \dots$

$$\text{and } a_2(0) = -\frac{1}{2^2} a_0(0) = -\frac{1}{4}$$

$$\text{similarly, } a_4(0) = -\frac{1}{4^2} a_2(0) = -\frac{1}{16} \cdot \left(-\frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{1}{64}$$

we have calculated the first few terms, when  $r=0$

$$a_0 = 1, a_1 = 0, a_2 = -\frac{1}{4}, a_3 = 0 \text{ and } a_4 = \frac{1}{64}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{thus } y_1(x) &= x^r \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n = 1 + 0 \cdot x - \frac{1}{4} x^2 + 0 \cdot x^3 + \frac{1}{64} x^4 + \dots \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{2n} (x^2)^n \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{and } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{2n}}{a_{2(n-1)}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{2n}}{a_{2n-2}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(-\frac{1}{n^2}\right) \text{ by } \textcircled{3} \text{ with } r=0 = 0$$

Therefore  $y_1$  is well-defined for any  $x$ .

Now, we want to find  $y_2$ , and know

$$y_2 = y_1 \cdot \log x + x^r \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^n, \text{ where } b_n = \partial_r a_n(r) \big|_{r=0}$$

where,

$b_0 = 0$  b/c  $a_0(r) = 1$  which is independent of  $r$

know  $(1+r)^2 a_1(r) = 0$ , st

$$2(1+r)a_1(r) + (1+r)^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial r} a_1(r) = 0 \text{ by implicit differentiation.}$$

$$\text{st } 2a_1(0) + \frac{\partial}{\partial r} a_1(r) \big|_{r=0} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial r} a_1(r) \big|_{r=0} = 0$$

therefore,  $b_1 = 0$

$$\text{and } b_2 = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} a_2(r) \big|_{r=0} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( -\frac{1}{(2+r)^2} a_0(r) \right) \big|_{r=0} \text{ by } \textcircled{3}$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( -\frac{1}{(2+r)^2} \right) \big|_{r=0} \text{ b/c } a_0(r) = 1 \text{ for all } r$$

$$= \frac{2}{(2+r)^3} \big|_{r=0} = \frac{2}{8} = \frac{1}{4}$$

st the first few terms are  $b_0 = 0, b_1 = 0, b_2 = \frac{1}{4}$