

# Lesson 49: Practice Problems - Frobenius Method

ODE 1 - Prof. Adi Ditkowski

## Part A: Classifying Singular Points (6 problems)

1. Classify all singular points (regular or irregular) for:

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

2. For Bessel's equation  $x^2y'' + xy' + (x^2-4)y = 0$ , verify that  $x = 0$  is a regular singular point.

3. Determine the nature of  $x = 0$  for:

$$x$$

$$3y'' + xy' + y = 0$$

4. Show that both  $x = 0$  and  $x = 1$  are regular singular points of:

$$x(1-x)y'' + [c - (a+b+1)x]y' - aby = 0$$

(This is the hypergeometric equation)

5. Classify the singular point at  $x = 0$  for:

$$x$$

$$2y'' + \sin(x)y' + xy = 0$$

6. Find and classify all singular points:

$$(x^2 - 1)$$

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

## Part B: Finding Indicial Equations (6 problems)

1. Find the indicial equation at  $x = 0$  for:

$$xy'' + y' - y = 0$$

2. Determine the indicial equation for:

$$x$$

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

3. Find the indicial equation and its roots for:

$$2x$$

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

4. For the equation  $x^2 y'' + 3xy' + (1-x)y = 0$ , find the indicial equation and identify which case applies.

5. Find the indicial equation at  $x = 1$  for:

$$(x - 1)$$

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

6. Determine the indicial equation for Laguerre's equation:

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

## Part C: Determining Solution Forms (5 problems)

7. For  $x^2 y'' + xy' + (x^2 - 1/4)y = 0$ , find the roots of the indicial equation and state the form of the general solution.
8. Given the indicial roots  $r_1 = 3$  and  $r_2 = -2$ , write the general form of the solution.
9. If the indicial equation has repeated root  $r = 1/2$ , write the form of both linearly independent solutions.
10. For Bessel's equation of order 2, explain why the second solution must contain  $\ln(x)$ .
11. Given roots  $r_1 = 1$  and  $r_2 = 0$ , determine whether a logarithmic term is needed by checking the recurrence at  $n = 1$ .

## Part D: Computing Frobenius Series (5 problems)

12. Find the first three non-zero terms of the Frobenius series solution for:

$$xy'' + 2y' + xy = 0$$

using the larger root.

13. For  $x^{2y''} + xy' + (x^2 - 1)y = 0$ , find the recurrence relation for the root  $r = 1$ .
14. Solve using Frobenius method:

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

Find coefficients  $a_0, a_1, a_2$  for the larger root.

15. For the equation  $x^{2y''} + x^{2y'} - 2y = 0$ :
16. Find the indicial equation
17. Find the recurrence relation for  $r = 2$
18. Compute the first four coefficients

Apply Frobenius method to find one solution of:

$$x$$

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

## Part E: Special Cases and Logarithmic Solutions (3 problems)

19. Show that for  $x^{2y''} + 3xy' + (1+x)y = 0$  with repeated root  $r = -1$ , the second solution must contain  $\ln(x)$ .
20. For the equation with roots differing by an integer:

$$x$$

$$2y'' + xy' - y = 0$$

*Determine if both solutions can be pure Frobenius series or if logarithms are needed.*

21. Verify that Euler's equation  $x^{2y''} - xy' + y = 0$  has solutions  $y_1 = x$  and  $y_2 = x \ln(x)$ .

## Part F: Exam-Style Problems (5 problems)

22. [10 points] Consider the modified Bessel equation:

$$x$$

$$2y'' + xy' - (x^2 + n^2)y = 0 \text{ where } n = 2.$$

2 pts Show that  $x = 0$  is a regular singular point

3 pts Find the indicial equation and its roots

2 pts Which case applies for the general solution?

3 pts Write the form of both linearly independent solutions

**[9 points]** For the equation:

$$x(x-1)y'' + 3y' + y = 0$$

3 pts Find and classify all singular points

3 pts Find the indicial equation at  $x = 0$

3 pts Find the first three terms of the Frobenius series for the larger root

**[8 points]** Given:

$$2x$$

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

Find the indicial equation and roots

Set up the recurrence relation

Determine if the second solution requires logarithms

**[10 points]** *Comprehensive Problem*

$$x$$

$$2y'' + x(1-x)y' - (1+3x)y = 0$$

Verify  $x = 0$  is a regular singular point

Find the indicial equation and solve for  $r$

Find the recurrence relation for the larger root

State the form of the general solution

**[12 points]** *Prof. Ditkowski Special - Hypergeometric Type* Consider:  $x(1-x)y'' + [2 - (3+x)]y' - y = 0$

3 pts Show both  $x = 0$  and  $x = 1$  are regular singular points

3 pts Find the indicial equation at  $x = 0$

3 pts Find the indicial equation at  $x = 1$

3 pts Around which point would you prefer to expand and why?

## Solutions and Hints

### Selected Solutions:

**Problem 1:** -  $x = 0$ : Check  $x p(x) = 2x^2/(x(x-1))$  and  $x^{2q}(x) = x^2/(x(x-1))$   
at  $x = 0 \rightarrow \text{Regular}$  -  $x = 1$ : Check  $(x-1)p(x)$  and  $(x-1)^{2q}(x)$  at  $x = 1 \rightarrow \text{Regular}$

**Problem 7:** Standard form:  $y'' + (1/x)y' - (1/x)y = 0$  -  $p_0 = 1$ ,  $q_0 = 0$  - Indicial equation:  
 $r(r-1) + r = 0 \rightarrow r^2 = 0 \rightarrow r = 0$  (repeated)

**Problem 13:** - Indicial equation:  $r^2 - 1/4 = 0$  - Roots:  $r_1 = 1/2$ ,  $r_2 = -1/2$  (differ by 1) -  
Form: Check if pure Frobenius works for  $r_2$  or needs log term

**Problem 18:** For larger root  $r = 0$ : -  $y = a_0(1 - x^2/2 + x^4/24 - \dots)$  - This gives the Bessel  
function  $J_0(x)$  series

**Problem 26:** - Indicial roots:  $r = 2, -1$  (differ by 3) - At  $x = 0$ : Regular singular point -  
Second solution likely needs no logarithm (check recurrence)

**Key Insights:** - Always check  $r_1 - r_2$  first - Integer differences require careful analysis -  
Bessel-type equations are exam favorites - When  $r = 0$  appears, one solution is a regular  
power series