

VV286
Honors Mathematics IV
Ordinary Differential Equations
Assignment 8

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Exercise 8.2

i)

Set $x(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k t^k$, then

$$tx'(t) = t \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k a_k t^{k-1} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+1) a_{k+1} t^{k+1}$$

$$x''(t) = \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} k(k-1) a_k t^{k-2} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+2)(k+1) a_{k+2} t^k$$

Since

$$x'' - 2tx' + \lambda x = 0$$

then we can obtain that

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+2)(k+1) a_{k+2} t^k - 2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+1) a_{k+1} t^{k+1} + \lambda \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k t^k = 0$$

i.e.

$$(2a_2 + \lambda a_0) + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} ((k+3)(k+2) a_{k+3} - 2(k+1) a_{k+1} + \lambda a_{k+1}) t^{k+1} = 0$$

So

$$\begin{cases} 2a_2 + \lambda a_0 = 0 \\ (k+3)(k+2) a_{k+3} + (\lambda - 2(k+1)) a_{k+1} = 0, k \in \mathbb{N} \end{cases}$$

So for $k = 2j+1, j \geq 1$

$$a_{2j+1} = \frac{4j-2-\lambda}{(2j+1)(2j)} a_{2j-1} = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^j (4i-2-\lambda)}{(2j+1)!} a_1$$

for $k = 2j+2, j \geq 0$

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

$$a_{2j+2} = \frac{4j-\lambda}{(2j+2)(2j+1)} a_{2j} = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^j (4i-\lambda)}{(2j+2)!/2} a_2 = \frac{\prod_{i=0}^j (4i-\lambda)}{(2j+2)!} a_0 \quad (j \geq 1)$$

Set $a_0 = c_1, a_1 = 0$ and we get

$$x_1(t) = c_1 + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{\prod_{i=0}^j (4i-\lambda)}{(2j+2)!} c_1 t^{2j}$$

Set $a_0 = 0, a_1 = c_2$ and we get

$$x_2(t) = c_2 t + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{\prod_{i=1}^j (4i-2-\lambda)}{(2j+1)!} c_2 t^{2j+1}$$

ii)

If $n = 2m + 1, m \in \mathbb{N}$, then $\forall j \geq m + 1$, since $\lambda = 2n = 4m + 2$

$$a_{2j+1} = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^j (4i - 2 - \lambda)}{(2j + 1)!} a_1 = 0$$

and $\forall j \leq m$

$$a_{2j+1} = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^j (4i - 2 - \lambda)}{(2j + 1)!} a_1 \neq 0$$

and therefore if $m > 0$

$$x_2(t) = c_2 t + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{\prod_{i=1}^j (4i - 2 - \lambda)}{(2j + 1)!} c_2 t^{2j+1} = c_2 t + \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{\prod_{i=1}^j (4i - 2 - \lambda)}{(2j + 1)!} c_2 t^{2j+1}$$

if $m = 0, x_2(t) = c_2 t$

This is a polynomial of degree n and it is a solution to Hermite equation.

If $n = 2m, m \in \mathbb{N}$, then $\forall j \geq m + 1$, since $\lambda = 2n = 4m$

$$a_{2j+2} = \frac{\prod_{i=0}^j (4i - \lambda)}{(2j + 2)!} a_0 = 0$$

and $\forall j \leq m$

$$a_{2j+2} = \frac{\prod_{i=0}^j (4i - \lambda)}{(2j + 2)!} a_0 \neq 0$$

and therefore if $m > 0$

$$x_1(t) = c_1 + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{\prod_{i=0}^j (4i - \lambda)}{(2j + 2)!} c_1 t^{2j} = c_1 + \sum_{j=0}^m \frac{\prod_{i=0}^j (4i - \lambda)}{(2j + 2)!} c_1 t^{2j}$$

if $m = 0, x_1(t) = c_1$ This is a polynomial of degree n and it is a solution to Hermite equation.

To sum up, the Hermite equation has a polynomial solution of degree n if $\lambda = 2n$.

Exercise 8.3

i)

Set $y(t) = t^r \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k t^k$, then

$$y'(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k + r) a_k t^{k+r-1}$$

$$y''(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k + r)(k + r - 1) a_k t^{k+r-2}$$

Since

$$2ty'' + (1 - 2t)y' - y = 0$$

then we can obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= 2t \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r)(k+r-1)a_k t^{k+r-2} + (1-2t) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r)a_k t^{k+r-1} - \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k t^{k+r} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} 2(k+r)(k+r-1)a_k t^{k+r-1} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r)a_k t^{k+r-1} - \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} 2(k+r)a_k t^{k+r} - \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k t^{k+r} \\ &= (2r(r-1)a_0 + ra_0)t^{r-1} \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (2(k+r+1)(k+r)a_{k+1} + (k+r+1)a_{k+1} - 2(k+r)a_k - a_k)t^{k+r} \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{cases} 2r(r-1)a_0 + ra_0 = 0 \\ (k+r+1)(2k+2r+1)a_{k+1} = (2k+2r+1)a_k, k \in \mathbb{N}^* \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} r = 0 \vee r = \frac{1}{2} \\ a_{k+1} = \frac{1}{k+r+1}a_k, k \in \mathbb{N} \end{cases}$$

then for $r = 0$ we obtain that $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, a_k = \frac{1}{k!}a_0$

$$x_1(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k t^k = a_0 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} t^k = a_0 e^t$$

for $r = \frac{1}{2}$ we obtain that $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}^*, a_k = a_0 \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{i + \frac{1}{2}} = a_0 \frac{2^k}{\prod_{i=1}^k (2i+1)} = a_0 \frac{2^k}{\prod_{i=0}^k (2i+1)}$

$$x_2(t) = t^{\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k t^k = a_0 t^{\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{2^k}{\prod_{i=0}^k (2i+1)} t^k$$

So two independent solutions of $2ty'' + (1 - 2t)y' - y = 0$ are

$$y_1(t) = c_1 e^t, y_2(t) = c_2 t^{\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{2^k}{\prod_{i=0}^k (2i+1)} t^k, c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$$

ii)

Set $y(t) = t^r \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k t^k$, then

$$y'(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r)a_k t^{k+r-1}$$

$$y''(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r)(k+r-1)a_k t^{k+r-2}$$

Since

$$t^2 y'' + (t - t^2) y' - y = 0$$

then we can obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= t^2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r)(k+r-1) a_k t^{k+r-2} + (t - t^2) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r) a_k t^{k+r-1} - \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k t^{k+r} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r)(k+r-1) a_k t^{k+r} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r) a_k t^{k+r} - \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r) a_k t^{k+r+1} - \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k t^{k+r} \\ &= (r(r-1)a_0 + r a_0 - a_0) t^r \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} ((k+r)(k+r-1)a_k + (k+r)a_k - (k+r-1)a_{k-1} - a_k) t^{k+r} \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{cases} r(r-1)a_0 + r a_0 - a_0 = 0 \\ (k+r+1)(k+r-1)a_k = (k+r-1)a_{k-1}, k \in \mathbb{N}^* \end{cases}$$

then for $r = 1$ we obtain that $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, a_k = \frac{2}{(k+2)!} a_0$

$$x_1(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k t^{k+1} = a_0 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{2}{(k+2)!} t^{k+1} = -a_0 \left(\frac{1}{t} + 1 \right) + a_0 \frac{e^t}{t}$$

for $r = -1$ we obtain that $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}^*, k \geq 3, a_k = a_2 \prod_{i=3}^k \frac{1}{i} = \frac{2a_2}{k!}, a_1 = a_0,$

$$x_2(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k t^{k-1} = \frac{a_0}{t} + a_0 + 2a_2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} t^{k-1} - 2a_2 \left(\frac{1}{t} + 1 \right) = (a_0 - 2a_2) \left(\frac{1}{t} + 1 \right) + 2a_2 \frac{e^t}{t}$$

So two independent solutions for $t^2 y'' + (t - t^2) y' - y = 0$ is

$$y_1(t) = c_1 \left(\frac{1}{t} + 1 \right), y_2(t) = c_2 e^t, c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$$

iii)

Set $y(t) = t^r \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k t^k$, then

$$y'(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r) a_k t^{k+r-1}$$

$$y''(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r)(k+r-1) a_k t^{k+r-2}$$

Since

$$t^2 y'' - t(1+t) y' + y = 0$$

then we can obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &= t^2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r)(k+r-1)a_k t^{k+r-2} - t(1+t) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r)a_k t^{k+r-1} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k t^{k+r} \\
&= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r)(k+r-1)a_k t^{k+r} - \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r)a_k t^{k+r} - \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r)a_k t^{k+r+1} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k t^{k+r} \\
&= (r(r-1)a_0 - ra_0 + a_0)t^r \\
&\quad + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} ((k+r)(k+r-1)a_k - (k+r)a_k - (k+r-1)a_{k-1} + a_k)t^{k+r}
\end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{cases} r(r-1)a_0 - ra_0 + a_0 = 0 \\ (k+r-1)^2 a_k = (k+r-1)a_{k-1}, k \in \mathbb{N}^* \end{cases}$$

then $r = 1$ and we obtain that $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, a_k = \frac{1}{k!}a_0$

$$x_1(t) = t \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k t^k = a_0 t \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} t^k = a_0 t e^t$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
x_2(t) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(t^r \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k(r) t^k \right)_{r=1} = \left(t^r \ln t \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k(r) t^k + t^r \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a'_k(r) t^k \right)_{r=1} \\
&= a_0 t e^t \ln t + t \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a'_k(r) t^k \right)_{r=1}
\end{aligned}$$

Since for $k \geq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{a'_k(1)}{a_k(1)} &= \left(\frac{d}{dr} \ln a_k(r) \right)_{r=1} = \frac{d}{dr} \left(\ln a_0(r) - \sum_{i=1}^k \ln(i+r-1) \right)_{r=1} \\
&= \frac{a'_0(1)}{a_0(1)} - \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{i}
\end{aligned}$$

then for $k \geq 1$,

$$a'_k = \left(\frac{a'_0}{a_0} - \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{i} \right) \frac{1}{k!} a_0$$

so

$$\begin{aligned}
x_2(t) &= a_0 t e^t \ln t + t \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a'_0 \frac{1}{k!} t^k - t \left(a_0 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{i} \right) \frac{1}{k!} t^k \right) \\
&= a'_0 t e^t + a_0 (t e^t \ln t - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{i} \right) \frac{1}{k!} t^{k+1})
\end{aligned}$$

So two independent solutions for $t^2 y'' - t(1+t)y' + y = 0$ is

$$y_1(t) = c_1 t e^t, y_2(t) = c_2 (t e^t \ln t - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{i} \right) \frac{1}{k!} t^{k+1})$$

Exercise 8.4

i)

Set $y(x) = x^r \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^k$, then

$$y'(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r) a_k x^{k+r-1}$$

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

Since

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

then we can obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= x^2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r)(k+r-1) a_k x^{k+r-2} + x \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r) a_k x^{k+r-1} + (x^2 - \nu^2) x^r \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^k \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r)(k+r-1) a_k x^{k+r} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r) a_k x^{k+r} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^{k+r+2} - \nu^2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^{k+r} \\ &= r(r-1) a_0 x^r + (1+r) r a_1 x^{1+r} + r a_0 x^r + (1+r) a_1 x^{1+r} - \nu^2 a_0 x^r - \nu^2 a_1 x^{1+r} \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+r+2)(k+r+1) a_{k+2} + (k+r+2) a_{k+2} + a_k - \nu^2 a_{k+2} x^{k+r+2} \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{cases} (r^2 - \nu^2) a_0 = 0 \\ ((r+1)^2 - \nu^2) a_1 = 0 \\ ((k+r+2)^2 - \nu^2) a_{k+2} = -a_k, k \geq 2 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} r = \nu \vee r = -\nu \\ a_1 = 0 \\ ((k+r+2)^2 - \nu^2) a_{k+2} = -a_k, k \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

For $r = \nu$,

$$\begin{aligned} a_{2k+1} &= 0, k \in \mathbb{N} \\ a_{2k} &= -\frac{1}{(2k)(2k+2\nu)} a_{2k-2} = -\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \frac{1}{k(k+\nu)} a_{2k-2} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k! \prod_{i=1}^k (i+\nu)} a_0, k \in \mathbb{N}^* \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Set } a_0 = \frac{1}{2^\nu \Gamma(\nu+1)}, \text{ then } a_{2k} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k! \prod_{i=1}^k (i+\nu)} \frac{1}{2^\nu \Gamma(\nu+1)} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2k+\nu} \frac{(-1)^k}{k! \Gamma(1+k+\nu)}$$

So one solution is

$$J_\nu(x) = x^r \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^k = x^\nu \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2n+\nu} \frac{(-1)^n}{n! \Gamma(1+n+\nu)} x^{2n} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n! \Gamma(1+n+\nu)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2n+\nu}$$

ii)

For $r = -\nu$, if 2ν is not an integer

$$\begin{cases} r = \nu \vee r = -\nu \\ a_1 = 0 \\ a_{k+2} = -\frac{1}{(k+2)(k+2-2\nu)}a_k, k \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} a_{2k+1} &= 0, k \in \mathbb{N} \\ a_{2k} &= -\frac{1}{(2k)(2k-2\nu)}a_{2k-2} = -\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \frac{1}{k(k-\nu)}a_{2k-2} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k! \prod_{i=1}^k (i-\nu)} a_0, k \in \mathbb{N}^* \end{aligned}$$

If $0 < \nu < 1$, we can set $a_0 = \frac{2^\nu}{\Gamma(1-\nu)}$, then

$$a_{2k} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k! \prod_{i=1}^k (i-\nu)} \frac{2^\nu}{\Gamma(1-\nu)} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2k-\nu} \frac{(-1)^k}{k! \Gamma(1+k-\nu)}$$

this is also hold for $k = 0$. So one solution is

$$J_{-\nu}(x) = x^r \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^k = x^{-\nu} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2n-\nu} \frac{(-1)^n}{n! \Gamma(1+n-\nu)} x^{2n} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n! \Gamma(1+n-\nu)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2n-\nu}$$

If $\lceil \nu \rceil = m > 1$, we can set $a_0 = \frac{2^\nu}{\Gamma(-\nu)} = \frac{2^\nu \prod_{i=1}^m (i-\nu)}{\Gamma(m-\nu)}$, then

$$a_{2k} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2k} \frac{(-1)^k}{k! \prod_{i=1}^k (i-\nu)} \frac{2^\nu \prod_{i=1}^m (i-\nu)}{\Gamma(m-\nu)} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2k-\nu} \frac{(-1)^k}{k! \Gamma(1+k-\nu)}$$

this is also hold for $k = 0$. So one solution is

$$J_{-\nu}(x) = x^r \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^k = x^{-\nu} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2n-\nu} \frac{(-1)^n}{n! \Gamma(1+n-\nu)} x^{2n} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n! \Gamma(1+n-\nu)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2n-\nu}$$

that is for $\nu < 0, 2\nu \notin \mathbb{N}$,

$$J_{-\nu}(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n! \Gamma(1+n-\nu)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2n-\nu}$$

iii)

Since $a_{2n-2} = -(2n-2+2)(2n-2+2-2n)a_{2n} = 0$, $\forall 2k \leq 2n-2, k \in \mathbb{N}, a_{2k} = 0$. And $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, 2k \geq 2n+2$

$$\begin{aligned} a_{2k} &= -\frac{1}{(2k)(2k-2n)}a_{2k-2} = -\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \frac{1}{k(k-n)}a_{2k-2} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2(k-n)} \frac{(-1)^{(k-n)}}{\left(\prod_{i=n+1}^k i\right)\left(\prod_{i=n+1}^k (i-n)\right)}a_{2n} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2(k-n)} \frac{(-1)^{(k-n)}n!}{(k-n)!k!}a_{2n} \end{aligned}$$

This is also true for $2k = 2n$. Set $a_{2n} = \frac{(-1)^n}{2^n n! \Gamma(n)}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} J_{-n}(x) &= x^r \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^k = x^{-n} \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2(k-n)} \frac{(-1)^{(k-n)}n!}{(k-n)!k!} a_{2n} x^{2k} \\ &= \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2t} \frac{(-1)^t n!}{t!(t+n)!} a_{2n} x^{2t+n} \\ &= (-1)^n \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{2t+n} \frac{(-1)^t}{t! \Gamma(t+n+1)} x^{2t+n} \\ &= (-1)^n J_n(x) \end{aligned}$$

So $J_{-n} = (-1)^n J_n$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and J_{-n} does not yield a second independent solution.

iv)

Set $y_2(x) = J_\nu c(x)$, since $x^2 y'' + xy' + (x^2 - \nu^2)y = 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= x^2(J_\nu''(x)c(x) + 2J_\nu'(x)c'(x) + J_\nu(x)c''(x)) + x(J_\nu'(x)c(x) + J_\nu(x)c'(x)) + (x^2 - \nu^2)J_\nu(x)c(x) \\ &= c(x)(x^2 J_\nu''(x) + x J_\nu'(x) + (x^2 - \nu^2)J_\nu(x)c(x)) + (2x^2 J_\nu'(x) + x J_\nu(x))c'(x) + x^2 J_\nu(x)c''(x) \\ &= (2x^2 J_\nu'(x) + x J_\nu(x))c'(x) + x^2 J_\nu(x)c''(x) \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dc'(x)}{dx} &= -2 \frac{J_\nu'(x)}{J_\nu(x)} - \frac{1}{x} \frac{dc(x)}{dx} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{dc'(x)}{dx} &= \left(-2 \frac{d \ln |J_\nu(x)|}{dx} - \frac{1}{x}\right)c'(x) \\ \Rightarrow \ln |c'(x)| &= (-2 \ln |J_\nu(x)| - \ln |x|) \\ \Rightarrow c'(x) &= \frac{1}{x \cdot J_\nu^2(x)} \\ \Rightarrow c(x) &= \int \frac{dx}{x \cdot J_\nu^2(x)} \end{aligned}$$

So a second solution can be formally represented as

$$y_2(x) = J_\nu(x) \int \frac{dx}{x \cdot J_\nu^2(x)}$$

Exercise 8.5

i)

Set $u(t) = x^{-1/2}y(x)$ and $t = \frac{2}{3}x^{3/2}$, then

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{du(t)}{dt} &= \left(\frac{d}{dx}x^{-1/2}y(x)\right)\frac{dx}{dt} = \left(-\frac{1}{2}x^{-3/2}y(x) + x^{-1/2}y'(x)\right)(3/2)^{2/3}\frac{2}{3}t^{-1/3} \\ &= \left(-\frac{1}{2}x^{-3/2}y(x) + x^{-1/2}y'(x)\right)x^{-1/2} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2x^2}y(x) + \frac{y'(x)}{x}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d^2u(t)}{dt^2} &= \frac{d}{dx}\left(-\frac{1}{2x^2}y(x) + \frac{y'(x)}{x}\right)\frac{dx}{dt} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{x^3}y(x) - \frac{1}{2x^2}y'(x) - \frac{y'(x)}{x^2} + \frac{1}{x}y''(x)\right)x^{-1/2} \\ &= x^{-7/2}y(x) - \frac{3}{2}x^{-5/2}y'(x) + y''(x)x^{-3/2}\end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned}&t^2u'' + tu' + (t^2 - (1/3)^2)u \\ &= \frac{4}{9}x^3(x^{-7/2}y(x) - \frac{3}{2}x^{-5/2}y'(x) + y''(x)x^{-3/2}) + \frac{2}{3}x^{3/2}\left(-\frac{1}{2x^2}y(x) + \frac{y'(x)}{x}\right) \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{4}{9}x^3 - (1/3)^2\right)x^{-1/2}y(x) \\ &= \frac{4}{9}x^{-1/2}y(x) - \frac{2}{3}x^{1/2}y'(x) - \frac{4}{9}x^{5/2}y(x) - \frac{1}{3}x^{-1/2}y(x) + \frac{2}{3}x^{1/2}y'(x) + \frac{4}{9}x^{5/2}y(x) - \frac{1}{9}x^{-1/2}y(x) \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

So Airy's equation is Bessel's equation of order $\nu = 1/3$.

ii)

The general solution of $t^2u'' + tu' + (t^2 - (1/3)^2)u = 0$ is

$$u(t) = c_1J_{1/3}(t) + c_2J_{-1/3}(t)$$

So

$$\begin{aligned}y(x) &= x^{1/2}u(t) = x^{1/2}(c_1J_{1/3}(t) + c_2J_{-1/3}(t)) \\ &= x^{1/2}\left(c_1J_{1/3}\left(\frac{2}{3}x^{3/2}\right) + c_2J_{-1/3}\left(\frac{2}{3}x^{3/2}\right)\right)\end{aligned}$$

To sum up, the general solution to Airy's equation is

$$y(x) = x^{1/2}\left(c_1J_{1/3}\left(\frac{2}{3}x^{3/2}\right) + c_2J_{-1/3}\left(\frac{2}{3}x^{3/2}\right)\right)$$