

## §4.1 General theory:

$$y^{(n)} + p_1(t)y^{(n-1)} + p_2(t)y^{(n-2)} + \dots + p_{n-1}(t)y' + p_n(t)y = g(t) \quad (1)$$

with initial conditions:

$$y(t_0) = y_0, \quad y'(t_0) = y'_0, \quad \dots, \quad y^{(n-1)}(t_0) = y_0^{(n-1)} \quad (2).$$

Theorem. (Existence &amp; Uniqueness).

If  $p_1, \dots, p_n$  and  $g$  are continuous, there exists exactly one solution  $y = y(t)$  of (1) satisfying (2).

Consider (1) only. If  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  are solutions, then  $Y_1 - Y_2$  is a solution of

$$y^{(n)} + p_1(t)y^{(n-1)} + \dots + p_{n-1}(t)y' + p_n(t)y = 0. \quad (3)$$

(3) is called the associated homogeneous equation of (1).

So it reduces to find general solution  $y_c$  of (3) and a particular solution  $Y_p$  of (1). The structure is:

$$y = y_c + Y_p. \quad (\text{general solution of (1)}).$$

For (3), we expect to have  $n$  linear independent solutions  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$ .

Def.  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n$  are said to be linearly dependent on  $I$  if there exists a set of constants  $k_1, \dots, k_n$ , not all zero, such that

$$k_1 f_1(t) + \dots + k_n f_n(t) = 0 \quad \text{for all } t \text{ in } I.$$

Otherwise, they are linearly independent.

Example.  $f_1(t) = 2t - 3$ ,  $f_2(t) = 2t^2 + 1$ ,  $f_3(t) = 3t^2 + t$ .

Set  $k_1 f_1(t) + k_2 f_2(t) + k_3 f_3(t) = 0$  for all  $t$ .

Then  $k_1(2t - 3) + k_2(2t^2 + 1) + k_3(3t^2 + t) = 0$ .

$$\Rightarrow (2k_2 + 3k_3)t^2 + (2k_1 + k_3)t + (-3k_1 + k_2) = 0.$$

$$\text{So } \begin{cases} 2k_2 + 3k_3 = 0 \\ 2k_1 + k_3 = 0 \\ -3k_1 + k_2 = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} k_2 = 3k_1 \\ k_3 = -2k_1 \end{cases} \quad (2k_2 + 3k_3 = 6k_1 - 6k_1 = 0) \text{ automatic}$$

There exists non zero  $k_1, k_2, k_3$ . So  $f_1, f_2, f_3$  are linearly dependent.

Example.  $f_1(t) = t - 1$ ,  $f_2(t) = t^2 + 2$ ,  $f_3(t) = 2t^2 + t$ .

Set.  $k_1 f_1(t) + k_2 f_2(t) + k_3 f_3(t) = 0$  for all  $t$ .

Then.  $k_1(t - 1) + k_2(t^2 + 2) + k_3(2t^2 + t) = 0$ .

$$\Rightarrow (k_2 + 2k_3)t^2 + (k_1 + k_3)t + (-k_1 + 2k_2) = 0.$$

$$\text{So } \begin{cases} k_2 + 2k_3 = 0 \\ k_1 + k_3 = 0 \\ -k_1 + 2k_2 = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} k_2 = -2k_3 \\ k_1 = -k_3 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} k_1 = 0 \\ k_2 = 0 \\ k_3 = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$-k_1 + 2k_2 = k_3 - 4k_3 = 0.$$

So  $f_1, f_2, f_3$  are linearly independent.

Fundamental set of solutions:

Let  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$  be solutions of (3). Define the Wronskian

$$W(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) = \det \begin{pmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & \dots & y_n \\ y_1' & y_2' & \dots & y_n' \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ y_1^{(n-1)} & y_2^{(n-1)} & \dots & y_n^{(n-1)} \end{pmatrix}$$

If  $W(y_1, \dots, y_n) \neq 0$  for at least one point in  $I$ , then  $\{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n\}$  is a fundamental set of solutions of (3).

As a consequence, the general solution  $y_c$  of (3) can be expressed

$$y_c = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2 + \dots + c_n y_n ;$$

also  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$  are linearly independent in  $I$ .

#### § 4.2. Constant Coefficients:

$$a_0 y^{(n)} + a_1 y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_{n-1} y' + a_n y = 0. \quad (4)$$

where  $a_0 \neq 0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  are real constants.

The associated characteristic equation is  $a_0 r^n + a_1 r^{n-1} + \dots + a_{n-1} r + a_n = 0$ . (5)

Case 1°. (5) has distinct real roots:  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n$ .

$\{e^{r_1 t}, e^{r_2 t}, \dots, e^{r_n t}\}$  is a fundamental set of solutions.

Case 2°. (5) has complex roots: (in pairs).  $\lambda \pm i\mu$ .

$e^{\lambda t} \cos(\mu t), e^{\lambda t} \sin(\mu t)$  are the solutions to these roots.

Case 3°. (5) has repeated roots:  $r_1$  (real,  $s$  times).

$e^{r_1 t}, t e^{r_1 t}, \dots, t^{s-1} e^{r_1 t}$  are the solutions.

$r_{1,2} = \lambda \pm i\mu$ . (in pairs, each  $s$  times).

$e^{\lambda t} \cos(\mu t), e^{\lambda t} \sin(\mu t), \dots, t^{s-1} e^{\lambda t} \cos(\mu t), t^{s-1} e^{\lambda t} \sin(\mu t)$  are solutions.

Example.  $y^{(4)} - y = 0$ .

$$r^4 - 1 = 0. \Rightarrow (r-1)(r+1)(r^2+1) = 0. \quad r = 1, -1, i, -i.$$

$$\text{So } y = C_1 e^t + C_2 e^{-t} + C_3 \cos(t) + C_4 \sin(t).$$

Example. 1°  $y'' + 4y' + 4y = 0$ .

2°  $y'' + 4y' + 3y = 0$ .

3°  $y'' + 4y' + 5y = 0$ .

1°.  $r^2 + 4r + 4 = 0 \Rightarrow r = -2$  (multiplicity 2).

$$y = c_1 e^{-2t} + c_2 t e^{-2t}.$$

2°.  $r^2 + 4r + 3 = 0 \Rightarrow r_1 = -3$  and  $r_2 = -1$ .

$$y = c_1 e^{-3t} + c_2 e^{-t}.$$

3°.  $r^2 + 4r + 5 = 0 \Rightarrow r_{1,2} = -2 \pm i$ .

$$y = c_1 e^{-2t} \cos(t) + c_2 e^{-2t} \sin(t).$$

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### § 4.3 Undetermined Coefficients

Focus on:  $a_0 y^{(n)} + a_1 y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_{n-1} y' + a_n y = g(t)$ . (6)

where  $a_0 \neq 0$ ,  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  are constants (real), and  $g(t)$  is of an appropriate form: polynomial / exponential / sine & cosine

1° When  $g(t)$  is polynomial  $k_n t^n + \dots + k_1 t + k_0$ , then

$$Y_p = A_n t^n + \dots + A_1 t + A_0.$$

2° When  $g(t)$  is exponential  $b_1 e^{k_1 t} + \dots + b_n e^{k_n t}$ , then

$$Y_p = B_1 e^{k_1 t} + \dots + B_n e^{k_n t}$$

3° When  $g(t)$  is sine/cosine/both:  $b_1 \sin(kt)$ ,  $b_2 \cos(kt)$ ,  $b_1 \cos(kt) + b_2 \sin(kt)$

$$Y_p = B_1 \cos(kt) + B_2 \sin(kt).$$

Example. Find a particular solution  $Y_p$  using undetermined coefficients:

$$y'' - y = g(t).$$

$$1^\circ \quad g(t) = 2t^2 + 1$$

$$2^\circ \quad g(t) = e^{4t}.$$

$$3^\circ \quad g(t) = \cos(3t).$$

Homogeneous equation:  $y'' - y = 0$ . char. equation  $r^2 - 1 = 0$ .

$$\Rightarrow r = \pm 1. \quad y_c = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-t}.$$

$1^\circ \sim 3^\circ \quad g(t)$  does not involve any terms of  $y_c$ .

$$1^\circ. \quad \text{Let } Y_p = A_2 t^2 + A_1 t + A_0.$$

$$\text{Then } Y_p' = 2A_2 t + A_1 \quad \text{and} \quad Y_p'' = 2A_2$$

$$\text{So } Y_p'' - Y_p = -A_2 t^2 - A_1 t + (2A_2 - A_0) = g(t) = 2t^2 + 1.$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} -A_2 = 2. \\ -A_1 = 0. \\ 2A_2 - A_0 = 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} A_2 = -2. \\ A_1 = 0. \\ A_0 = -5 \end{cases} \Rightarrow Y_p = -2t^2 - 5.$$

$$2^\circ. \quad \text{Let } Y_p = A e^{4t}. \quad \text{Then } Y_p' = 4A e^{4t} \quad \text{and} \quad Y_p'' = 16A e^{4t}.$$

$$\text{So } Y_p'' - Y_p = 15A e^{4t} = g(t) = e^{4t}.$$

$$\Rightarrow 15A = 1 \Rightarrow A = \frac{1}{15}. \Rightarrow Y_p = \frac{1}{15} e^{4t}.$$

$$3^\circ. \quad \text{Let } Y_p = A \sin(3t) + B \cos(3t).$$

$$\text{Then } Y_p' = 3A \cos(3t) - 3B \sin(3t), \quad \text{and} \quad Y_p'' = -9A \sin(3t) - 9B \cos(3t).$$

$$\text{So } Y_p'' - Y_p = -10A \sin(3t) - 10B \cos(3t) = g(t) = \cos(3t).$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} -10A = 0 \\ -10B = 1. \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} A = 0. \\ B = -\frac{1}{10}. \end{cases} \Rightarrow Y_p = -\frac{1}{10} \cos(3t).$$

Exception case 4°: In <6>, when  $g(t)$  involves a term that is a solution of <4>, modify  $\tilde{Y}_p = t^s Y_p$ , where  $s$  is the smallest nonnegative integer so that no terms in  $\tilde{Y}_p$  is a solution of <4>.

Example:  $y^{(3)} - 3y'' + 3y' - y = 4e^t$ .

For  $y^{(3)} - 3y'' + 3y' - y = 0$ . char. eq. is  $r^3 - 3r^2 + 3r - 1 = 0$ .

$\Rightarrow (r-1)^3 = 0$ . i.e.  $r=1$  (3 times).  $\{e^t, te^t, t^2e^t\}$ .

$g(t) = 4e^t$  is one of the solutions.  $Y_p = At^3e^t$ .

Then  $Y_p' = A(3t^2 + t^3)e^t$ ,  $Y_p'' = A(6t + 6t^2 + t^3)e^t$ ,  $Y_p^{(3)} = A(6 + 18t + 9t^2 + t^3)e^t$ .

So  $Y_p^{(3)} - 3Y_p'' + 3Y_p' - Y_p = 6Ae^t = g(t) = 4e^t \Rightarrow 6A = 4$ .

i.e.  $A = \frac{2}{3}$ . So  $Y_p = \frac{2}{3}t^3e^t$ . and  $y = c_1e^t + c_2te^t + c_3t^2e^t + \frac{2}{3}t^3e^t$ .

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#### § 4.4. Variation of parameters.

Focus on ( $n=2$ ).  $y'' + p_1(t)y' + p_2(t)y = g(t)$ . <7>

with a fundamental set of solutions  $\{y_1, y_2\}$  of  $y'' + p_1y' + p_2y = 0$ .

$$Y_p = u_1y_1 + u_2y_2 = -y_1 \int \frac{g(t)y_2(t)dt}{W(y_1, y_2)} + y_2 \int \frac{g(t)y_1(t)dt}{W(y_1, y_2)}.$$

Example. Find a particular solution of  $y'' + y = 3\sec(t)$  by variation of parameters

Look at  $y'' + y = 0$ . char. eq.  $r^2 + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow r = \pm i$ .

So  $y_1 = \cos(t)$  and  $y_2 = \sin(t)$ .  $W(y_1, y_2) = \begin{vmatrix} \cos(t) & \sin(t) \\ -\sin(t) & \cos(t) \end{vmatrix} = 1$ .

$$-\int \frac{g(t)y_2(t)dt}{W(y_1, y_2)} = -\int \frac{3\sec(t)\sin(t)}{1} dt = -3 \int \tan(t) dt = 3 \ln |\cos(t)| + C_1$$

$$\int \frac{g(t)y_1(t)dt}{W(y_1, y_2)} = \int \frac{3\sec(t)\cos(t)}{1} dt = 3 \int dt = 3t + C_2.$$

$$\text{So } Y_p = 3 \cos(t) \ln|\cos(t)| + 3t \sin(t) + C_1 \cos(t) + C_2 \sin(t).$$

§ 5.1 Power Series:

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

If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = L$ , and  $\rho = \frac{1}{L}$ , then  $\rho$  is the radius of convergence.  
the power series converges for all  $|x-x_0| < \rho$ .

Example.  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(x+1)^n}{n \cdot 2^n}$ .

Test:  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\frac{1}{(n+1)2^{n+1}}}{\frac{1}{n \cdot 2^n}} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{n+1} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$ .  $\rho = \frac{1}{1/2} = 2$ .

Shift of index:

Example.  $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_n x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{n+2} x^{n+2}$ .

Example. Assume  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n x^{n-1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$ .

then  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+1) a_{n+1} x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n \Rightarrow a_n = (n+1) a_{n+1}$  for  $n=0, 1, 2, \dots$

So  $a_0 = a_1$ ,  $a_1 = 2a_2$ ,  $a_2 = 3a_3, \dots$ ,  $a_{n-1} = n a_n$ .

Multiply all.  $\Rightarrow a_0 \cdot a_1 \cdots a_{n-1} = a_1 \cdot a_2 \cdots a_n \cdot (1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdots n)$ .

$\Rightarrow a_0 = a_n \cdot n!$

$\Rightarrow a_n = \frac{a_0}{n!}$

So  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{a_0}{n!} x^n = a_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = a_0 e^x$ .

§5.2/5.3. Series solutions. (ordinary point).

Mainly focus on  $P(x)y'' + Q(x)y' + R(x)y = 0$ .  $\langle 8 \rangle$

where  $P, Q, R$  are polynomials.

Then  $P(x_0) \neq 0 \Rightarrow x_0$  is an ordinary point of  $\langle 8 \rangle$ .

Otherwise,  $x_0$  is a singular point.

Existence. Theorem:

If  $x_0$  is an ordinary point of  $\langle 8 \rangle$ , then the general solution of  $\langle 8 \rangle$  is

$$y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x-x_0)^n = a_0 y_1 + a_1 y_2 = a_0 (1 + b_2 (x-x_0)^2 + \dots) + a_1 ((x-x_0) + c_2 (x-x_0)^3 + \dots)$$

Where  $\{y_1, y_2\}$  is a fundamental set of solutions. The radius of convergence of  $y$  is at least the min of radii of convergence of  $\frac{Q}{P}$  and  $\frac{R}{P}$ .

Example. (Legendre equation). Near  $x_0 = 0$ .

$$(1-x^2)y'' - 2xy' + d(d+1)y = 0 \quad \text{where } d \text{ is constant.}$$

$$P(x) = 1-x^2, \quad Q(x) = -2x, \quad R(x) = d(d+1). \quad P(x_0) = P(0) \neq 0.$$

Zeros of  $P(x)$  are  $x = \pm 1$ . distance from  $x_0$  to nearest zero is 1. So radius of convergence  $\rho \geq 1$ .

Example. (Airy's equation).  $y'' - xy = 0$ . near  $x_0 = 0$ .

$$P(x) \equiv 1, \quad Q(x) \equiv 0, \quad R(x) = -x. \quad P(x_0) = P(0) \neq 0.$$

$P$  does not have zeros.  $\Rightarrow \rho = \infty$ .

$$\text{Let } y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n, \text{ then } y' = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n x^{n-1} \text{ and } y'' = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) a_n x^{n-2}.$$



Plug back in:  $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)a_n x^{n-2} - x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n = 0.$

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

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

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

So  $a_2 = 0$  and  $(n+2)(n+1)a_{n+2} = a_{n-1}$  for  $n=1, 2, 3, \dots$

Take  $n=3, 6, 9, \dots \Rightarrow 0 = a_2 = a_5 = a_8 = \dots = a_{3k+2} = \dots \quad k=0, 1, 2, \dots$

Take  $n=1, 4, 7, \dots \Rightarrow a_3 = \frac{a_0}{2 \cdot 3}, \quad a_6 = \frac{a_3}{5 \cdot 6} = \frac{a_0}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 6}, \dots$

Take  $n=2, 5, 8, \dots \Rightarrow a_4 = \frac{a_1}{3 \cdot 4}, \quad a_7 = \frac{a_4}{6 \cdot 7} = \frac{a_1}{3 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \cdot 7}, \dots$

In general:  $a_{3k} = \frac{a_0}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 6 \dots (3k-1)3k}, \quad k=1, 2, \dots$

and  $a_{3k+1} = \frac{a_1}{3 \cdot 4 \cdot \dots \cdot 3k(3k+1)}, \quad k=1, 2, \dots$

So  $y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n = a_0 \left( 1 + \frac{x^3}{2 \cdot 3} + \dots + \frac{x^{3k}}{2 \cdot 3 \dots (3k-1)3k} + \dots \right) + a_1 \left( x + \frac{x^4}{3 \cdot 4} + \dots + \frac{x^{3k+1}}{3 \cdot 4 \dots 3k(3k+1)} + \dots \right)$   
 $= a_0 \left( \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{3k}}{2 \cdot 3 \dots (3k-1)3k} + 1 \right) + a_1 \left( x + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{3k+1}}{3 \cdot 4 \dots 3k(3k+1)} \right)$   
 $= a_0 y_1 + a_1 y_2.$

Note:  $y_1(0)=1$  and  $y_1'(0)=0 \Rightarrow W(y_1, y_2)(0) = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1$   
 $y_2(0)=0$  and  $y_2'(0)=1.$

So  $\{y_1, y_2\}$  is a fundamental set of solutions.

(Also, recommended practice: P263 of textbook. §5.2 Problem 1 and 2).

Answers: Prob. 1.  $y = a_0 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2k}}{(2k)!} + a_1 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!}$

Prob. 2.  $y = a_0 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2k}}{(2k)!} + a_1 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{2^k k! x^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!} \leftarrow \left( \text{or } a_1 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!} \right)$

$$x^2 y'' + \alpha x y' + \beta y = 0. \quad \text{for } x > 0. \quad (x_0 = 0). \quad (9).$$

$$P(x) = x^2, \quad Q(x) = \alpha x, \quad R(x) = \beta. \quad P(x_0) = P(0) = 0. \quad \text{Singular point.}$$

$$\text{Indicial equation: } r^2 + (\alpha - 1)r + \beta = 0. \quad (10).$$

Case 1°. (10) has distinct real roots:  $r_1, r_2$ .

$$\text{Then } y_1 = x^{r_1} \text{ and } y_2 = x^{r_2}.$$

Case 2°. (10) has equal roots:  $r = r_1 = r_2$ .

$$\text{Then } y_1 = x^r \text{ and } y_2 = x^r \ln(x).$$

Case 3°. (10) has complex roots:  $r = \lambda \pm i\mu$ . ( $\mu > 0$ ).

$$\text{Then } y_1 = x^\lambda \cos(\mu \ln(x)) \text{ and } y_2 = x^\lambda \sin(\mu \ln(x)).$$

Example. 1°.  $2x^2 y'' + 3x y' - y = 0$ . ( $x > 0$ ).

$$r^2 + \left(\frac{3}{2} - 1\right)r - \frac{1}{2} = 0 \Rightarrow 2r^2 + r - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow (r-1)(r+1) = 0.$$

$$r_1 = \frac{1}{2}, \quad r_2 = -1. \quad \text{So } y = C_1 x^{\frac{1}{2}} + C_2 x^{-1}. \quad (x > 0).$$

2°.  $x^2 y'' + 5x y' + 4y = 0$  ( $x > 0$ ).

$$r^2 + 4r + 4 = 0 \Rightarrow (r+2)^2 = 0. \quad r = r_1 = r_2 = -2.$$

$$\text{So } y = C_1 x^{-2} + C_2 x^{-2} \ln(x), \quad (x > 0).$$

3°.  $x^2 y'' + x y' + y = 0$  ( $x > 0$ ).

$$r^2 + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow r = \pm i.$$

$$\text{So } y = C_1 \cos(\ln(x)) + C_2 \sin(\ln(x)), \quad x > 0.$$

General 2<sup>nd</sup> order equation :

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$$P(x) y'' + Q(x) y' + R(x) y = 0. \quad (8) \quad \text{near } x_0$$

where.  $P(x_0) = 0$ . ( $P, Q, R$  are polynomials).

Then  $x_0$  is a singular point of (8).

If both  $(x-x_0) \frac{Q(x)}{P(x)}$  and  $(x-x_0)^2 \frac{R(x)}{P(x)}$  are analytic at  $x_0$ ,

then  $x_0$  is a regular singular point of (8),

Otherwise, it is an irregular singular point.

Example. (Legendre equation)  $(1-x^2) y'' - 2x y' + \alpha(\alpha+1) y = 0$ .

$P(x) = 0 \Rightarrow x_0 = \pm 1$ . Singular points.

Look at  $x_0 = -1$ :

$$(x+1) \frac{Q(x)}{P(x)} = (x+1) \frac{-2x}{1-x^2} = \frac{2x}{x-1} \quad \text{analytic at } x_0 = -1.$$

$$(x+1)^2 \frac{R(x)}{P(x)} = (x+1)^2 \frac{\alpha(\alpha+1)}{1-x^2} = \frac{\alpha(\alpha+1)(x+1)}{1-x} \quad \text{analytic at } x_0 = -1$$

So  $x_0 = -1$  is a regular singular point.

Example.  $2x(x-2)^2 y'' + 3x y' + (x-2) y = 0$  at  $x_0 = 2$ .

$P(x_0) = P(2) = 0 \Rightarrow x_0 = 2$  singular.

$$\text{Check: } (x-2) \cdot \frac{Q(x)}{P(x)} = (x-2) \cdot \frac{3x}{2x(x-2)^2} = \frac{3}{2(x-2)}, \quad \text{not analytic at } x_0 = 2.$$

So  $x_0 = 2$  is irregular.