

# MA 207 - Differential Equations-II

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October 16, 2020

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# Start with Two Quotations

*"Newton has shown us that a law is only a necessary relation between the present state of the world and its immediately subsequent state. All the other laws since discovered are nothing else; they are in sum, differential equations. "*

*by Henri Poincare*



A black and white portrait of Sophus Lie, a Norwegian mathematician. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark suit and a white shirt. He has a full, dark beard and mustache, and is wearing round-rimmed spectacles.

Sophus Lie

Among all of the mathematical disciplines the theory of differential equations is the most important... It furnishes the explanation of all those elementary manifestations of nature which involve time.

AZ QUOTES

# Outline of the lecture

- Recall- Legendre polynomials
- Exercises, Rodrigue's formula.
- Ordinary Point / Singular point
- Regular singular point
- Frobenius method: An outline

# RECALL - Legendre Polynomials

Consider the Legendre DE:  $(1 - x^2)y'' - 2xy' + n(n + 1)y = 0$ ,  
where  $n$  is a non-negative integer.

Recall that

$$y_1(x) = 1 - \frac{n(n+1)}{2!}x^2 + \frac{n(n-2)(n+1)(n+3)}{4!}x^4 + \dots$$

and

$$y_2(x) = x - \frac{(n-1)(n+2)}{3!}x^3 + \frac{(n-1)(n-3)(n+2)(n+4)}{5!}x^5 + \dots$$

are linearly independent solutions of the Legendre DE.

If  $n$  is a non-negative **even** integer (resp. an **odd** integer), the solution  $y_1(x)$  (resp.  $y_2(x)$ ) terminates.

That is, we obtain **polynomial solutions** to Legendre equation.

The **polynomial solutions**  $P_n(x)$  which satisfy  $P_n(1) = 1$ , for

**non-negative integers**  $n$  are called **LEGENDRE POLYNOMIALS**.

# Exercise

Assuming that  $a_n = 1$  for the case  $n = 0$  and

$$a_n = \frac{(2n)!}{2^n(n!)^2}, \quad (1)$$

prove that the polynomial solutions

$$P_n(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-2} x^{n-2} + a_{n-4} x^{n-4} + \dots \quad (2)$$

(the sum terminating with  $a_0$  if  $n$  is even and  $a_1 x$  if  $n$  is odd) of the Legendre equation  $(1 - x^2)y'' - 2xy' + n(n+1)y = 0$  can be

expressed as

$$P_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^M (-1)^k \frac{(2n-2k)!}{2^n k! (n-k)! (n-2k)!} x^{n-2k},$$

where  $M = n/2$  or  $(n-1)/2$ , whichever is an integer.

Proceed to derive the Rodrigue's formula (Q9, Tut. Sheet 1) :

$$P_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^n n!} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x^2 - 1)^n.$$

$$P_n(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-2} x^{n-2} + a_{n-4} x^{n-4} + \dots \quad (3)$$

(the sum terminating with  $a_0$  if  $n$  is even and  $a_1 x$  if  $n$  is odd)

Now from recurrence relation, we have

$$a_{k+2} = \frac{(k-n)(k+n+1)}{(k+2)(k+1)} a_k$$

$$a_k = \frac{(k+2)(k+1)}{(k-n)(k+n+1)} a_{k+2}$$

That is,

$$a_{n-2} = -\frac{n(n-1)}{2(2n-1)} a_n,$$

$$a_{n-4} = -\frac{(n-2)(n-3)}{4(2n-3)} a_{n-2} = (-1)^2 \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3)}{2 \cdot 4(2n-1)(2n-3)} a_n, \dots$$

$$a_{n-2k} = (-1)^k \frac{n(n-1)(n-2) \cdots (n-2k+1)}{2 \cdot 4 \cdots (2k)(2n-1)(2n-3) \cdots (2n-2k+1)} a_n.$$

$$a_{n-2k} = (-1)^k \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)\cdots(n-2k+1)}{2 \cdot 4 \cdots (2k)(2n-1)(2n-3)\cdots(2n-2k+1)} a_n.$$

$$\text{Numerator} = n(n-1)(n-2)\cdots(n-2k+1) = \frac{n!}{(n-2k)!}$$

$$\begin{aligned} Dr &= 2 \cdot 4 \cdots (2k)(2n-1)(2n-3)\cdots(2n-2k+1) \\ &= 2^k \cdot k! \frac{(2n)(2n-1)(2n-2)\cdots(2n-2k+1)(2n-2k)!}{(2n)(2n-2)\cdots(2n-2k+2) \times (2n-2k)!} \\ &= 2^k \cdot k! \frac{(2n)!}{2^k (n)(n-1)\cdots(n-k+1) \times (2n-2k)!} \\ &= k! \frac{(2n)!(n-k)!}{(n!)(2n-2k)!} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_{n-2k} &= (-1)^k \frac{n!}{(n-2k)!} \times \frac{(n!)(2n-2k)!}{k! (2n)!(n-k)!} \times \frac{(2n)!}{2^n (n!)^2} \\ &= (-1)^k \frac{(2n-2k)!}{k! 2^n (n-k)!(n-2k)!} \end{aligned}$$



$$a_{n-2k} = (-1)^k \frac{(2n-2k)!}{k!2^n(n-k)!(n-2k)!}$$

Substituting in

$$P_n(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-2} x^{n-2} + a_{n-4} x^{n-4} + \dots$$

$$P_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^M (-1)^k \frac{(2n-2k)!}{2^n k! (n-k)! (n-2k)!} x^{n-2k}, \text{ Is } P_n(x) \text{ even ??}$$

where  $M = n/2$  or  $(n-1)/2$ , whichever is an integer.

$$\begin{aligned} P_n(x) &= \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{k=0}^M \frac{(-1)^k}{k!(n-k)!} \frac{(2n-2k)!}{(n-2k)!} x^{n-2k} \\ &= \frac{1}{2^n n!} \sum_{k=0}^M \frac{(-1)^k}{k!} \frac{n!}{(n-k)!} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x^{2n-2k}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2^n n!} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} \left( \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(-1)^k}{k!} \frac{n!}{(n-k)!} x^{2n-2k} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2^n n!} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x^2 - 1)^n. \text{ (Rodrigue's formula)} \end{aligned}$$

To prove that  $P_n(1) = 1$  (Tut. Sheet 1, 13(i)).

(From Rodrigue's formula,  $P_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^n n!} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x^2 - 1)^n$ .)

That is, to prove that  $\phi(1) = n!2^n$ , where  $\phi(x) = \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x^2 - 1)^n$ .

Note that  $\phi(x) = \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x^2 - 1)^n = \frac{d^n}{dx^n} ((x-1)^n (x+1)^n)$

Use **LEIBNITZ FORMULA** given by

$(fg)^{(n)} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} f^{(k)} g^{(n-k)}$  to differentiate  $(n)$  times to obtain

$\phi(x) = \frac{d^n}{dx^n} ((x-1)^n (x+1)^n) + \text{terms involving } (x-1) \text{ as a factor}$   
(second term onwards go to 0 at  $x = 1$ ).

Now,  $\frac{d}{dx} (x-1)^n = n(x-1)^{n-1}$ ,  $\frac{d^2}{dx^2} (x-1)^n = n(n-1)(x-1)^{n-2}$

$\vdots$

$\frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x-1)^n = n(n-1) \cdots (n-(n-1))(x-1)^{n-n}$

To prove that  $P_n(1) = 1$  (Tut. Sheet 1, 13(i)).

(From Rodrigue's formula,  $P_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^n n!} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x^2 - 1)^n$ .)

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(second term onwards go to 0 at  $x = 1$ ).

Now,  $\frac{d}{dx} (x-1)^n = n(x-1)^{n-1}$ ,  $\frac{d^2}{dx^2} (x-1)^n = n(n-1)(x-1)^{n-2}$

$\vdots$

$\frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x-1)^n = n(n-1) \cdots (n-(n-1))(x-1)^{n-n} = n!$

Hence,  $\phi(1) = n!(1+1)^n$

To prove that  $P_n(1) = 1$  (Tut. Sheet 1, 13(i)).

(From Rodrigue's formula,  $P_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^n n!} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x^2 - 1)^n$ .)

That is, to prove that  $\phi(1) = n!2^n$ , where  $\phi(x) = \frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x^2 - 1)^n$ .

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(second term onwards go to 0 at  $x = 1$ ).

Now,  $\frac{d}{dx} (x-1)^n = n(x-1)^{n-1}$ ,  $\frac{d^2}{dx^2} (x-1)^n = n(n-1)(x-1)^{n-2}$

$\vdots$

$\frac{d^n}{dx^n} (x-1)^n = n(n-1) \cdots (n-(n-1))(x-1)^{n-n} = n!$

Hence,  $\phi(1) = n!(1+1)^n = n!2^n$ . (Prove  $P_n(-1) = (-1)^n$ ).

# Power Series Method doesn't work always! (Tut. sheet 1, Problem 8)

Let us try to obtain power series solution for

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

Seek a solution

$$y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n.$$

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

$$xy = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{n+1}$$

On substituting  $y$ ,  $xy$ ,  $x^2 y''$  in the DE, we obtain,

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) a_n x^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{n+1} = 0 \quad (4)$$

Shifting indices so that  $x$  in each of the summation has exponent

$\infty$

$\infty$

$\infty$



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

The common ranges of the summation is from 1 to  $\infty$ ; write out the terms in each summation which do not belong to this common range.

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1)a_n x^n - a_0 - a_1 x - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_n x^n - a_0 x - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_{n-1} x^n = 0$$

That is,

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left( n(n-1)a_n - a_n - a_{n-1} \right) x^n - a_0 - (a_1 + a_0)x = 0$$

For the expression to hold true for all  $x$  in the interval of convergence,

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= 0, \quad a_1 = -a_0 = 0, \\ (n^2 - n - 1)a_n &= a_{n-1}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we obtain  $a_0 = a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = a_4 = \dots = 0$ .

Hence we obtain only the trivial solution  $y = 0$  for the DE.

### WHAT WENT WRONG?

The normalized form of the DE  $x^2 y'' - (1+x)y = 0$  is

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0, \text{ where } p(x) = 0 \text{ and } q(x) = -\frac{1+x}{x^2}.$$

Note that  $q(x)$  is not **REAL ANALYTIC** at  $x = 0$  and hence we could'nt apply the existence of power series solution theorem.

Recall,

#### Definition

A real function  $f(x)$  is called **real analytic** at the point  $x = x_0$  if it can be represented by a power series in powers of  $(x - x_0)$  with non-zero radius of convergence  $R > 0$ .

Can we obtain non trivial solutions to DE's which have coefficients which are not real analytic?

# Ordinary Point of a DE

Consider the second order homogeneous linear DE:

$$A_0(x)y'' + A_1(x)y' + A_2(x)y = 0$$

The equivalent normalized form is  $y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0$ ,

$$\text{where } p(x) = \frac{A_1(x)}{A_0(x)}, \quad q(x) = \frac{A_2(x)}{A_0(x)}.$$

The point  $x_0$  is called an **ORDINARY POINT** of the DE, if both the functions  $p(x)$  and  $q(x)$  are analytic at  $x_0$ .

If either (or both) of these functions are not analytic at  $x_0$ , then  $x_0$  is called a **SINGULAR POINT** of  $A_0(x)y'' + A_1(x)y' + A_2(x)y = 0$ .



# Examples

Consider  $(x - 1)y'' + xy' + \frac{1}{x}y = 0$ .

The normalized form yields

$$y'' + \frac{x}{x-1}y' + \frac{1}{x(x-1)}y = 0$$

Here  $p(x) = \frac{x}{x-1}$ ,  $q(x) = \frac{1}{x(x-1)}$ .

$p(x)$  is not analytic at  $x = 1$ ,  $q(x)$  is not analytic at  $x = 0$  and  $x = 1$ .

Hence  $x = 0$  and  $x = 1$  are **SINGULAR POINTS** of the DE (even if  $p(x)$  is analytic at  $x = 0$ ).

All the other points in  $\mathbb{R}$  are ordinary points.

# Examples

For  $y'' + xy' + x^2y = 0$ ,  $p(x) = x$ ,  $q(x) = x^2$ .

Being polynomial functions,  $p(x)$  and  $q(x)$  are **analytic** everywhere in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Hence all the points in  $\mathbb{R}$  are **ORDINARY POINTS** of the DE.

Consider the **Cauchy-Euler equation** :  $y'' + \frac{2}{x}y' - \frac{2}{x^2}y = 0$ .

$x = 0$  is a **singular point** of this equation, but we know that  $y_1(x) = x$  and  $y_2(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ ,  $x > 0$  are solutions of this equation.

**HOPES OF GETTING NON-TRIVIAL SOLUTION TO A DE WITH SINGULAR POINTS !**

**MOTIVATION FOR CLASSIFYING SINGULAR POINTS..**

# REGULAR SINGULAR POINT

## Definition

A singular point  $x_0$  of the DE  $y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0$  is called a **REGULAR SINGULAR POINT** if both  $(x - x_0)p(x)$  and  $(x - x_0)^2q(x)$  are ANALYTIC at  $x = x_0$ . If either (or both) of the functions  $(x - x_0)p(x)$ ,  $(x - x_0)^2q(x)$  is NOT ANALYTIC at  $x_0$ , then  $x_0$  is called an **IRREGULAR SINGULAR POINT** of the DE.

## Examples:

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

The normalized form is  $y'' + \frac{2}{x^2(x-2)}y' + \frac{x+2}{x^2(x-2)}y = 0$ .

The singular points of the DE are  $x = 0$ ,  $x = 2$ .

$x p(x) = \frac{2}{x(x-2)}$  is **NOT ANALYTIC** at  $x = 0$ , though

$x^2 q(x) = \frac{x+1}{(x-2)^2}$  is analytic at  $x = 0$ .

Hence,  $x = 0$  is an **IRREGULAR SINGULAR POINT** of the given DE.

Also,  $(x-2)p(x) = \frac{2}{x^2}$  and  $(x-2)^2 q(x) = \frac{x+1}{x^2}$  are **ANALYTIC** at  $x = 2$ .

Hence,  $x = 2$  is a **REGULAR SINGULAR POINT** of the given DE.

# Airy's equation (Tut. Sheet 2, Qn. 4)

The **point at infinity** is an **irregular singular point** of the Airy's equation :

$$y'' - xy = 0.$$

The transformation  $x = \frac{1}{t}$  yields :

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dt} \times \frac{dt}{dx} = -t^2 \frac{dy}{dt}, \quad (\text{since } \frac{dt}{dx} = -1/x^2 = -t^2)$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left( -t^2 \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = \frac{d}{dt} \left( -t^2 \frac{dy}{dt} \right) (-t^2) = t^4 \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + 2t^3 \frac{dy}{dt}$$

$$\text{Hence, } t^5 \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + 2t^4 \frac{dy}{dt} - y = 0.$$

The normalized form of this equation is  $\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + \frac{2}{t} \frac{dy}{dt} - \frac{1}{t^5} y = 0$

$t = 0$  is an **IRREGULAR SINGULAR POINT** of this DE as  
 $tp(t) = t \times \frac{2}{t}$  and  $t^2q(t) = t^2 \times -\frac{1}{t^5}$ ,  $t^2q(t)$  is **NOT ANALYTIC**  
at  $t = 0$ .

Hence, the **point at infinity** is an **IRREGULAR SINGULAR POINT**  
of the Airy's equation.

# Series Solution about a Regular Singular Point

Let  $x = x_0$  be a **Regular Singular Point** of the DE:

$$A_0(x)y'' + A_1(x)y' + A_2(x)y = 0.$$

Then, the DE has at least one **Non-Trivial Solution** of the form

$$|x - x_0|^r \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (x - x_0)^n, \quad a_0 \neq 0,$$

where  $r$  is a constant which may be determined and this solution is valid in  $0 < |x - x_0| < R$ , ( $R > 0$ ).

**Example :** For the DE  $y'' + \frac{b(x)}{x}y' + \frac{c(x)}{x^2}y = 0$ , where  $x = 0$  is a regular singular point, that is,  $xp(x) = b(x)$  and  $x^2q(x) = c(x)$  are real analytic at  $x = 0$ , there exists at least one solution that can be represented by  $y(x) = |x|^r \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$ ,  $a_0 \neq 0$ , where  $r$  may be determined and this solution is valid in  $0 < |x| < R$ ,  $R > 0$ .

# Frobenius

Ferdinand Georg Frobenius (1849-1917) was a German mathematician, best known for his contributions to the theory of differential equations and to group theory. He also gave the first full proof for the Cayley–Hamilton theorem.



# FROBENIUS METHOD

Let us outline the Frobenius method for

$$x^2 y'' + x b(x) y' + c(x) y = 0, \quad x > 0 \quad (5)$$

where  $b(x)$  and  $c(x)$  are **real-analytic** at  $x = 0$ ; that is,

$$b(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^n, \quad c(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n.$$

Note that the solution  $y(x)$  of (5) can be written as :

$$y(x) = x^r \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n, \quad (r \text{ is to be determined})$$

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

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



On substituting in (5), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)a_n x^{n+r} \\ & + (b_0 + b_1x + \cdots + b_n x^n + \cdots) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)a_n x^{n+r} \\ & + (c_0 + c_1x + \cdots + c_n x^n + \cdots) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{n+r} = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

For the above expression to hold true for all  $x$  in the interval of convergence, we equate the coefficients of  $x^r, x^{r+1}, x^{r+2}, \dots$  to **ZERO**.

Equating the coefficient of  $x^r$  to 0, we obtain a **quadratic equation** in  $r$ , called the **INDICIAL EQUATION** of the DE.

For (6), we obtain the coefficient of  $x^r$  as  $(r(r-1) + b_0r + c_0)a_0 = 0$ .

Since  $a_0 \neq 0$ , we obtain the **INDICIAL EQUATION** as

$$r(r-1) + b_0r + c_0 = 0. \quad (7)$$

This is a quadratic equation in  $r$ .

Depending on the roots, three cases arise:

Roots are  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{CASE 1 : distinct, but not differing by an integer;} \\ \text{CASE 2: equal,} \\ \text{CASE 3: distinct differing by an integer,} \end{array} \right.$

# CASE 1: Roots of the indicial equation are distinct, but do not differ by an integer.

Let the distinct roots be  $r_1$  and  $r_2$ .

Two linearly independent solutions  $y_1(x)$  and  $y_2(x)$  are given by

$$y_1(x) = x^{r_1} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n, \quad a_0 \neq 0$$

$$y_2(x) = x^{r_2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n^* x^n, \quad a_0^* \neq 0$$

We obtain the coefficients  $a_n$  (resp.  $a_n^*$ ) using recurrence relations.

The solutions  $y_1(x)$  and  $y_2(x)$  are linearly independent solutions to the DE.

## CASE 2: Roots of the indicial equation equal, that is, they do differ by the integer '0'.

The roots are say,  $r = r_1 = r_2 = \frac{1 - b_0}{2}$ .

Now  $y_1(x)$  is given by  $y_1(x) = x^r \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$ ,  $a_0 \neq 0$

The second linearly independent solution will have the form

$$y_2(x) = x^{r+1} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n^* x^n + y_1(x) \ln |x|, \quad a_0^* \neq 0.$$

(Use method of reduction of order to obtain the second solution,

$$y_2(x) = y_1(x) \int \frac{1}{y_1^2} e^{-\int p(x) dx} dx )$$

The solutions  $y_1(x)$  and  $y_2(x)$  are linearly independent solutions to the DE.

## Case 3 : Roots of the indicial equation differ by an integer.

$$y_1(x) = x^{r_1} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n, \quad a_0 \neq 0$$

The second linearly independent solution can be obtained by say, the method of reduction of order, as

$$y_2(x) = x^{r_2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n^* x^n + C y_1(x) \ln |x|, \quad a_0^* \neq 0,$$

$C$  could be zero or non-zero .

**Self Study.** Example 3 of Section 4.4 (pages:215-216) of the text book : E. Kreyszig.

## Tutorial Sheet 2:

- Qn. 1 (locate singular points, classify them)
- Qn.2
- Qn.3
- Qn. 4 - Airy's done discussed in class, work out for hypergeometric equation.