

## Problems

In each of Problems 1 through 8:

- a. Find all the regular singular points of the given differential equation.
  - b. Determine the indicial equation and the exponents at the singularity for each regular singular point.
1.  $xy'' + 2xy' + 6e^x y = 0$
  2.  $x^2 y'' - x(2+x)y' + (2+x^2)y = 0$
  3.  $y'' + 4xy' + 6y = 0$
  4.  $2x(x+2)y'' + y' - xy = 0$
  5.  $x^2 y'' + \frac{1}{2}(x + \sin x)y' + y = 0$

11.  $xy'' + y = 0$
12.  $x^2 y'' + (\sin x)y' - (\cos x)y = 0$
13. a. Show that

$$(\ln x)y'' + \frac{1}{2}y' + y = 0$$

has a regular singular point at  $x = 1$ .

- b. Determine the roots of the indicial equation at  $x = 1$ .
- c. Determine the first three nonzero terms in the series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x-1)^{r+n}$  corresponding to the larger root. You can assume  $x-1 > 0$ .
- d. What would you expect the radius of convergence of the series to be?

14. In several problems in mathematical physics, it is necessary to study the differential equation

$$x(1-x)y'' + (\gamma - (1+\alpha+\beta)x)y' - \alpha\beta y = 0, \quad (25)$$

where  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$  are constants. This equation is known as the **hypergeometric equation**.

- a. Show that  $x = 0$  is a regular singular point and that the roots of the indicial equation are 0 and  $1 - \gamma$ .
- b. Show that  $x = 1$  is a regular singular point and that the roots of the indicial equation are 0 and  $\gamma - \alpha - \beta$ .
- c. Assuming that  $1 - \gamma$  is not a positive integer, show that, in the neighborhood of  $x = 0$ , one solution of equation (25) is

$$y_1(x) = 1 + \frac{\alpha\beta}{\gamma \cdot 1!}x + \frac{\alpha(\alpha+1)\beta(\beta+1)}{\gamma(\gamma+1)2!}x^2 + \dots$$

What would you expect the radius of convergence of this series to be?

- d. Assuming that  $1 - \gamma$  is not an integer or zero, show that a second solution for  $0 < x < 1$  is

$$y_2(x) = x^{1-\gamma} \left( 1 + \frac{(\alpha-\gamma+1)(\beta-\gamma+1)}{(2-\gamma)1!}x + \frac{(\alpha-\gamma+1)(\alpha-\gamma+2)(\beta-\gamma+1)(\beta-\gamma+2)}{(2-\gamma)(3-\gamma)2!}x^2 + \dots \right).$$

- e. Show that the point at infinity is a regular singular point and that the roots of the indicial equation are  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . See Problem 32 of Section 5.4.

6.  $x^2(1-x)y'' - (1+x)y' + 2xy = 0$
7.  $(x-2)^2(x+2)y'' + 2xy' + 3(x-2)y = 0$
8.  $(4-x^2)y'' + 2xy' + 3y = 0$

In each of Problems 9 through 12:

- a. Show that  $x = 0$  is a regular singular point of the given differential equation.
  - b. Find the exponents at the singular point  $x = 0$ .
  - c. Find the first three nonzero terms in each of two solutions (not multiples of each other) about  $x = 0$ .
9.  $xy'' + y' - y = 0$
  10.  $xy'' + 2xy' + 6e^x y = 0$  (see Problem 1)

15. Consider the differential equation

$$x^3 y'' + \alpha x y' + \beta y = 0,$$

where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are real constants and  $\alpha \neq 0$ .

- a. Show that  $x = 0$  is an irregular singular point.
- b. By attempting to determine a solution of the form  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{r+n}$ , show that the indicial equation for  $r$  is linear and that, consequently, there is only one formal solution of the assumed form.
- c. Show that if  $\beta/\alpha = -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , then the formal series solution terminates and therefore is an actual solution. For other values of  $\beta/\alpha$ , show that the formal series solution has a zero radius of convergence and so does not represent an actual solution in any interval.

16. Consider the differential equation

$$y'' + \frac{\alpha}{x^s} y' + \frac{\beta}{x^t} y = 0, \quad (26)$$

where  $\alpha \neq 0$  and  $\beta \neq 0$  are real numbers, and  $s$  and  $t$  are positive integers that for the moment are arbitrary.

- a. Show that if  $s > 1$  or  $t > 2$ , then the point  $x = 0$  is an irregular singular point.
- b. Try to find a solution of equation (26) of the form

$$y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{r+n}, \quad x > 0. \quad (27)$$

Show that if  $s = 2$  and  $t = 2$ , then there is only one possible value of  $r$  for which there is a formal solution of equation (26) of the form (27).

- c. Show that if  $s = 1$  and  $t = 3$ , then there are no solutions of equation (26) of the form (27).
- d. Show that the maximum values of  $s$  and  $t$  for which the indicial equation is quadratic in  $r$  [and hence we can hope to find two solutions of the form (27)] are  $s = 1$  and  $t = 2$ . These are precisely the conditions that distinguish a “weak singularity,” or a regular singular point, from an irregular singular point, as we defined them in Section 5.4.

As a note of caution, we point out that although it is sometimes possible to obtain a formal series solution of the form (27) at an irregular singular point, the series may not have a positive radius of convergence. See Problem 15 for an example.