

Solve the differential equation $x^2y'' + 3xy' + (1+x)y = 0$ about $x = 0$.

Comparing the differential equation with $P(x)y'' + Q(x)y' + R(x)y = 0$, we get $P(x) = x^2$. Note that $x = 0$ makes $P(x)$ zero, so $x = 0$ is a singular point.

Since $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (x-0) \frac{Q(x)}{P(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \frac{3x}{x^2} = 3$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (x-0)^2 \frac{R(x)}{P(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^2 \frac{1+x}{x^2} = 1$ we conclude

that $x = 0$ is a regular singular point.

Let $y = x^r \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{n+r}$ be a solution.

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

Substituting these into the differential equation ($x^2y'' + 3xy' + y + xy = 0$), we get

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1) a_n x^{n+r} + 3 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r) a_n x^{n+r} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{n+r} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{n+r+1} = 0$$

$$[r(r-1) + 3r + 1] a_0 x^r + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \{[(n+r)(n+r-1) + 3(n+r) + 1] a_n + a_{n-1}\} x^{n+r} = 0$$

$$F(r) a_0 x^r + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \{F(n+r) a_n + a_{n-1}\} x^{n+r} = 0, \quad \text{where } F(r) := r(r-1) + 3r + 1 = (r+1)^2$$

$$(a_0 \neq 0) \implies F(r) = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad F(n+r) a_n + a_{n-1} = 0, \quad n \geq 1$$

$$\implies r = -1, -1 \quad a_n(r) = -\frac{a_{n-1}(r)}{F(n+r)}, \quad n \geq 1 \quad (\text{Recurrence Relation})$$

From the recurrence relation, we get

$$a_1 = -\frac{a_0}{F(r+1)} = -\frac{a_0}{(r+2)^2}$$

$$a_2 = -\frac{a_1}{F(r+2)} = \frac{a_0}{(r+3)^2(r+2)^2}$$

$$a_3 = -\frac{a_2}{F(r+3)} = -\frac{a_0}{(r+4)^2(r+3)^2(r+2)^2}$$

⋮

$$a_n(r) = (-1)^n \frac{a_0}{(r+n+1)^2(r+n)^2 \dots (r+2)^2}, \quad n \geq 1$$

For the first solution (@ $r = -1$), we get

$$a_n = (-1)^n \frac{1}{n^2 \cdot (n-1)^2 \dots 2^2 \cdot 1^2} = (-1)^n \frac{1}{(n!)^2}, \quad n \geq 0, \quad (a_0 = 1).$$

Thus the first solution is

$$y(x) = y_1(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{n-1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1}{(n!)^2} x^{n-1}, \quad x > 0.$$

Since $r_1 = r_2$, the second solution has the form

$$y = y_2(x) = y_1(x) \ln x + x^{r_1} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a'_n(r_1) x^n, \quad x > 0.$$

To find $a'_n(r_1)$ we write $a_n(r) = (-1)^n \frac{a_0}{(r+n+1)^2(r+n)^2 \dots (r+2)^2}$, $n \geq 1$ as

$$a_n(r) = (-1)^n \frac{1}{G_n(r)} \text{ taking } a_0 = 1 \text{ where } G_n(r) := (r+n+1)^2(r+n)^2 \dots (r+2)^2.$$

Note that $\frac{G'_n(r)}{G_n(r)} = \frac{2}{r+n+1} + \frac{2}{r+n} + \dots + \frac{2}{r+2}$, using the fact that if

$$f(x) = (x-a_1)^{b_1}(x-a_2)^{b_2} \dots (x-a_n)^{b_n}, \text{ then } \frac{f'(x)}{f(x)} = \frac{b_1}{x-a_1} + \frac{b_2}{x-a_2} + \dots + \frac{b_n}{x-a_n}.$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned} a_n(r_1) &= \left. \frac{d}{dr} a_n(r) \right|_{r=r_1} \\ &= \left. \frac{d}{dr} \left[(-1)^n \frac{1}{G_n(r)} \right] \right|_{r=-1} = (-1)^n \cdot -\frac{1}{G_n^2(r)} \cdot G'_n(r) \Big|_{r=-1} = (-1)^{n+1} \frac{G'_n(r)}{G_n(r)} \cdot \frac{1}{G_n(r)} \Big|_{r=-1} \\ &= (-1)^{n+1} \left[\frac{2}{r+n+1} + \frac{2}{r+n} + \dots + \frac{2}{r+2} \right] \left[\frac{1}{(r+n+1)^2(r+n)^2 \dots (r+2)^2} \right]_{r=-1} \\ &= (-1)^{n+1} \left[\frac{2}{n} + \frac{2}{n-1} + \dots + \frac{2}{1} \right] \left[\frac{1}{n^2(n-1)^2 \dots (1)^2} \right] \\ &= (-1)^{n+1} 2H_n \frac{1}{(n!)^2}, \quad \text{where } H_n := 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n} \end{aligned}$$

Thus a second solution is

$$y_2(x) = y_1(x) \ln x + x^{-1} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{2H_n}{(n!)^2} x^n, \quad x > 0,$$

where y_1 is the first solution.