

The second-order differential equation $x^2 y'' + xy' + (x^2 - \nu^2)y = 0$ is called Bessel's equation of order ν , for $\nu \geq 0$. Solution of Bessel's equation are called Bessel functions. (hint: Example 4.12)

- 1) Find one Frobenius solution of Bessel's equation of order $\nu = 1$
- 2) Show the Frobenius series solution is convergent by using the ratio test (hint: Theorem 4.6)

1) First of all, **zero** is a *regular singular point* of Bessel's equation, so

attempt a Frobenius solution $y(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r}$

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

Upon substituting this series into Bessel's equation

$$\rightarrow \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r} + (x^2 - 1)\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r} = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r+2} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r} = 0$$

Shift indices in the third summation as

$$\text{Set } n+r+2 = m+r \rightarrow \sum_{m=2}^{\infty} c_{m-2} x^{m+r} \rightarrow \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} c_{n-2} x^{n+r}$$

Then combine terms to write

$$\rightarrow \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)(n+r-1)c_n x^{n+r} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+r)c_n x^{n+r} + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} c_{n-2} x^{n+r} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^{n+r} = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{aligned} & [r(r-1) + r - 1] c_0 x^r + [r(r+1) + (r+1) - 1] c_1 x^{r+1} + \\ & \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \{ [(n+r)(n+r-1) + (n+r) - 1] c_n + c_{n-2} \} x^{n+r} = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (*)$$

Setting the coefficient of x^r equal to zero (remember $c_0 \neq 0$ as part of

the Frobenius method), we obtain *the indicial equation*

$$r(r-1) + (r-1) = 0 \rightarrow r = 1, \quad -1$$

Note: usually we have $r_1 \geq r_2$ in the Frobenius method.

On the other hand, with $r_1 = 1$, $\rightarrow [r(r+1) + (r+1) - 1]c_1 x^{r+1} = 3c_1 x^{r+1}$

For the equation (*) to hold

$$\rightarrow c_1 = 0$$

$$\rightarrow [(n+r)(n+r-1) + (n+r) - 1] c_n + c_{n-2} = 0 \quad \text{for } n = 2, 3, \dots$$

$$\rightarrow c_n = -\frac{1}{n(n+2)} c_{n-2} \quad (\text{with } r_1 = 1)$$

Since $c_1 = 0$, this equation yields $c_3 = c_5 = \dots = c_{\text{odd}} = 0$.

For the even-indexed coefficients, write

$$c_{2n} = -\frac{1}{2n(2n+2)} c_{2n-2} = -\frac{1}{2^2 n(n+1)} c_{2n-2}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2^2 n(n+1)} \frac{-1}{2(n-1)[2(n-1)+2]} c_{2n-4}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2^4 n(n-1)(n+1)(n)} c_{2n-4}$$

$$= \dots = \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n} n(n-1)\dots(2)(1)(n+1)(n)\dots(2)} c_0$$

$$= \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n} n!(2)(3)\dots(n+1)} c_0$$

$$= \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n} n!(n+1)!} c_0$$

\rightarrow One Frobenius solution of Bessel's equation of order $\nu = 1$ is therefore

$$y_1(x) = J_1(x) = c_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n} n!(n+1)!} x^{2n+1} \rightarrow \text{Bessel's functions of the first kind}$$

of order $\nu = 1$.

Note that, we here just find one solution of Bessel's equation. You are encouraged to try for the second solution for exercise. \rightarrow *Bessel's functions of the second kind of order* $\nu = 1$.

2) By theorem 4.6 ratio test,

$$b_n = \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n} n!(n+1)!} x^{2n+1}$$

$$b_{n+1} = \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{2^{2(n+1)} (n+1)!(n+2)!} x^{2(n+1)+1}$$

$$\rightarrow \left| \frac{b_{n+1}}{b_n} \right| = \left| \frac{\frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{2^{2(n+1)} (n+1)!(n+2)!} x^{2(n+1)+1}}{\frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n} n!(n+1)!} x^{2n+1}} \right| = \left| \frac{-1}{2^2 (n+1)(n+2)} x^2 \right|$$

$$\rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{b_{n+1}}{b_n} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{-1}{2^2 (n+1)(n+2)} x^2 \right| = 0$$

$$\because \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{b_{n+1}}{b_n} \right| = L = 0 < 1 \quad \rightarrow \text{the Frobenius series solution is convergent for all } x.$$

Note that, you should be familiar with the ratio test.