

Math 3120 Practise Test

1. Find two independent power series solutions for,

$$y'' + xy = 0,$$

and discuss convergence (give the first 4 nonzero terms, you don't need to find a general formula for the n^{th} term).

First, $x = 0$ is a regular point, so we have a solution in the form $y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$. We substitute into the equation to get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_n n(n-1)x^{n-2} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{n+1} &= 0, \\ \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_n n(n-1)x^{n-2} + \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} a_{n-3} x^{n-2} &= 0, \\ \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} (a_n n(n-1) + a_{n-3})x^{n-2} + 2a_2 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

So we have $a_2 = 0$ and

$$a_n = -\frac{a_{n-3}}{n(n-1)}.$$

To get 2 independent solutions, we can first set $a_0 = 1$ and $a_1 = 0$.

$$\begin{aligned} a_3 &= -\frac{a_0}{3 \cdot 2} = -\frac{1}{6}, \\ a_6 &= -\frac{a_3}{6 \cdot 5} = \frac{1}{180}, \\ a_9 &= -\frac{a_6}{9 \cdot 8} = -\frac{1}{72 \cdot 180}, \end{aligned}$$

For the second solution, we take $a_0 = 0$ and $a_1 = 1$ then we have

$$\begin{aligned} a_4 &= -\frac{a_1}{4 \cdot 3} = -\frac{1}{12}, \\ a_7 &= -\frac{a_4}{7 \cdot 6} = \frac{1}{7 \cdot 72}, \\ a_{10} &= -\frac{a_7}{10 \cdot 9} = -\frac{1}{90 \cdot 7 \cdot 72}. \end{aligned}$$

and the two independent solutions can be written as

$$y = c_1 \left(1 - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{4x^6}{6!} - \frac{7 \cdot 4x^9}{9!} + \dots \right) + c_2 \left(x - \frac{2x^4}{4!} + \frac{2 \cdot 5x^7}{7!} - \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8x^{10}}{10!} + \dots \right)$$

Since the point is regular, the solutions will converge for all x .

2. For the differential equation,

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

- (a) Show $x = 0$ is a regular singular point.

Here $p(x) = -\frac{1+x}{2x}$ and $q(x) = \frac{1}{x}$, both are singular at $x = 0$, so $x = 0$ is a singular point. However,

$$\begin{aligned} p_0 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} xp(x) = -\frac{1}{2} < \infty, \\ q_0 &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^2 q(x) = 0 < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

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

- (b) Determine the indicial equation and its two roots.

The indicial equation is given by

$$r(r-1) + p_0r + q_0 = 0,$$

$$r(r-1) - \frac{1}{2}r = 0,$$

$$r\left(r - \frac{3}{2}\right) = 0,$$

So the two roots are $r = 0$ and $r = \frac{3}{2}$.

- (c) Write out the form of the series solution. If possible give the form for 2 independent solutions.

Since there are two distinct roots which don't differ by an integer, the method of Frobenius gives two independent solutions. The two forms of the solution will be

$$y_1 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n,$$

$$y_2 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^{n+3/2}.$$

- (d) Find the recurrence relation.

I'll find both relations at once, by subbing in $y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{n+r}$ then taking both valid values for r . We sub in to get

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 2a_n(n+r)(n+r-1)x^{n+r-1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(n+r)x^{n+r-1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(n+r)x^{n+r} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 2a_n x^{n+r}, \\ & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 2a_n(n+r)(n+r-1)x^{n+r-1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(n+r)x^{n+r-1} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{n-1}(n+r-1)x^{n+r-1} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2a_{n-1}x^{n+r-1}, \end{aligned}$$

So the recurrence relations are given by

$$a_n = \frac{r+n-3}{(2r+2n-3)(r+n)} a_{n-1},$$

where $r = 0$ or $r = 3/2$.

3. Given the following heat transfer problem:

$$u_t = (0.5)u_{xx}, \quad 0 < x < 4,$$

$$u(0, t) = 0,$$

$$u(4, t) = 100,$$

$$u(x, 0) = 25x + 80 \sin(\pi x) \cos(\pi x).$$

- (a) Construct a linear function $v(x)$ such that $u(x, t) - v(x)$ is 0 at $x = 0$ and $x = 4$.

We want the function v to be 0 at $x = 0$ and 100 at $x = 4$, so we set $v(x) = 25x$.

- (b) Determine the equation the function $w(x, t) = u(x, t) - v(x)$ must satisfy.

First we note that since $v(x)$ is a linear function of x , $w_t = u_t$ and $w_{xx} = u_{xx}$. We just need to work out the boundary conditions and the initial condition that w must satisfy. $w(0, t) = u(0, t) - v(0) = 0$ and $w(4, t) = u(4, t) - v(4) = 0$. Finally $w(x, 0) = u(x, 0) - v(x) = 80 \sin(\pi x) \cos(\pi x)$. So w must satisfy

$$w_t = (0.5)w_{xx}, \quad 0 < x < 4,$$

$$w(0, t) = 0,$$

$$w(4, t) = 0,$$

$$w(x, 0) = 80 \sin(\pi x) \cos(\pi x).$$

- (c) Use separation of variable and Fourier series to find a solution for w and then find u .

We have already solved this equation, it is just a sin series solution.

$$w = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n e^{-0.5 \frac{n^2 \pi^2}{16} t} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{4} x\right),$$

where

$$a_n = \frac{2}{4} \int_0^4 80 \sin(\pi x) \cos(\pi x) \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{4} x\right) dx,$$

Then $u(x, t) = w(x, t) + 25x$

4. Consider the eigenvalue problem,

$$\begin{aligned} u'' + 2u' + u &= -\lambda u, \\ u(0) &= 0, \\ u(1) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

- (a) Recast the differential equation in the form $L(u) = (p(x)u')' - q(x)u = -\lambda r(x)u$. What are p , q and r ?
We need to multiply the equation by $e^{\int 2 dx} = e^{2x}$.

$$\begin{aligned} e^{2x} u'' + 2e^{2x} u' + e^{2x} u &= -\lambda e^{2x} u, \\ (e^{2x} u')' + e^{2x} u &= -\lambda e^{2x} u. \end{aligned}$$

So $p(x) = e^{2x}$, $q(x) = -e^{2x}$ and $r(x) = e^{2x}$.

- (b) Determine the eigenpairs.

To find the eigenpairs, we try a solution in the form $y = e^{rx}$. This will result in the equation

$$r^2 + 2r + (1 + \lambda) = 0$$

The solutions are

$$r_{1,2} = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{4 - 4(1 + \lambda)}}{2}$$

or

$$r_{1,2} = -1 \pm \sqrt{-\lambda}.$$

Now if $\lambda \leq 0$ the solutions must be identically zero. So we will require $\lambda > 0$. After applying the boundary conditions, we will get the eigenpairs are

$$\lambda_n = n^2 \pi^2, \quad u_n = e^{-x} \sin(n\pi x)$$

- (c) Verify that the eigenfunctions are orthogonal with respect to the appropriate dot product.

The appropriate dot product for this problem is $\langle f, g \rangle = \int_0^1 f g e^{2x} dx$ so

$$\begin{aligned} \langle u_n, u_m \rangle &= \int_0^1 (e^{-x} \sin(n\pi x))(e^{-x} \sin(m\pi x)) e^{2x} dx, \\ &= \int_0^1 \sin(n\pi x) \sin(m\pi x) dx, \\ &= \begin{cases} 0 & m \neq n \\ \frac{1}{2} & m = n \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

So the eigenfunctions are orthogonal.

In addition to 4 questions like the above the test will also have a page of short answer type questions.
A formula sheet is allowed.