

Use Series Methods Centered At $x = 0$ To Solve $y'' + 5xy = 0$.

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Introduction

Solving differential equations is a fundamental aspect of mathematical analysis, especially when dealing with complex or non-standard equations that defy straightforward solutions. Among the various methods available, series solutions are particularly powerful when the differential equation has variable coefficients or singular points. In this article, we will explore how to solve the differential equation $y'' + 5xy = 0$ using series methods centered at $x = 0$. This approach involves expressing the solution as an infinite power series around the point of interest, which is often an ordinary point or a regular singular point.

Understanding the Differential Equation $y'' + 5xy = 0$

Before delving into series solutions, it is crucial to understand the nature of the differential equation:

- Type: It is a second-order linear differential equation.
- Coefficients: The coefficient $5x$ is a polynomial in x , making the equation amenable to power series methods.
- Singularities: The point $x = 0$ is a regular point because the coefficient $5x$ is analytic at $x=0$.

Given these properties, the series method centered at $x=0$ is appropriate for deriving solutions.

Why Use Series Methods?

Series methods are particularly useful in solving differential equations where:

- The solutions cannot be expressed in closed form using elementary functions.
- The differential equation has variable coefficients.
- The point about which the series is expanded is a regular or singular point.

By representing the solution as a power series, we can convert the differential equation into a recurrence relation for the coefficients, which can then be solved systematically.

Step-by-Step Solution Using Series Methods Centered at $(x=0)$

Step 1: Assume a Power Series Solution

Suppose the solution $y(x)$ can be expressed as a power series centered at $(x=0)$:

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

where (a_n) are coefficients to be determined.

Step 2: Compute Derivatives

Calculate the first and second derivatives:

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

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

\]

Step 3: Substitute into the Differential Equation

Substituting y , y' , and y'' into the original equation:

\[

$$y'' + 5x y = 0$$

\]

we get:

\[

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) a_n x^{n-2} + 5x \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n \right) = 0$$

\]

which simplifies to:

\[

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) a_n x^{n-2} + 5 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{n+1} = 0$$

\]

Step 4: Reindex the Series for Alignment

To combine terms efficiently, adjust indices to express all sums with the same powers of x .

- For the first sum:

Let $m = n-2 \Rightarrow n = m+2$. When $n=2$, $m=0$:

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (m+2)(m+1) a_{m+2} x^m$$

- For the second sum:

Let $k = n+1 \Rightarrow n = k-1$. When $n=0$, $k=1$:

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_{k-1} x^k$$

Expressed in terms of m :

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_{m-1} x^{m+1}$$

But since the index is shifted, it's clearer to write as:

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m x^{m+1}$$

Step 5: Write the Series with Common Powers

Now, rewrite both sums:

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (m+2)(m+1) a_{m+2} x^m + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m x^{m+1} = 0$$

Observe that the second sum involves (x^{m+1}) . To combine terms, shift the index:

- For the second sum, write as:

$$\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_{m-1} x^m$$

by replacing (m) with $(m-1)$.

Now, the entire equation becomes:

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (m+2)(m+1) a_{m+2} x^m + 5 \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_{m-1} x^m = 0$$

Note that the $(m=0)$ term in the second sum is zero because it starts from $(m=1)$.

Step 6: Formulate the Recurrence Relation

Collect terms for each power of (x^m) :

- For $(m=0)$:

$$(m=0): (2)(1) a_2 + 0 = 0 \Rightarrow 2 a_2 = 0 \Rightarrow a_2 = 0$$

- For $(m \geq 1)$:

$$[$$

$$(m+2)(m+1) a_{m+2} + 5 a_{m-1} = 0$$

\]

which leads to the recurrence relation:

\[

$$a_{m+2} = - \frac{5 a_{m-1}}{(m+2)(m+1)}$$

\]

for $m \geq 1$.

Step 7: Determine the Coefficients

The recurrence relation allows us to compute higher coefficients based on initial values. Typically, initial coefficients a_0 and a_1 are arbitrary, representing the two linearly independent solutions of the second-order differential equation.

- Set initial coefficients:

\[

$$a_0 = \text{free parameter}, \quad a_1 = \text{free parameter}$$

\]

- Compute subsequent coefficients:

Using the recurrence:

\[

$$a_2 = 0 \quad (\text{from earlier calculation})$$

\]

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash \\ a_3 &= -\frac{5 a_0}{3 \times 2} = -\frac{5 a_0}{6} \\ & \backslash \\ & \backslash \\ a_4 &= -\frac{5 a_1}{4 \times 3} = -\frac{5 a_1}{12} \\ & \backslash \\ & \backslash \\ a_5 &= -\frac{5 a_2}{5 \times 4} = 0 \\ & \backslash \end{aligned}$$

and so on. The pattern reveals that coefficients depend on initial (a_0) and (a_1) , generating two linearly independent solutions.

Interpreting the Series Solutions

General Solution

The general solution to the differential equation near $(x=0)$ can be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned} & \backslash \\ y(x) &= C_1 y_1(x) + C_2 y_2(x) \\ & \backslash \end{aligned}$$

where:

- $(y_1(x))$ corresponds to the series with initial parameters $(a_0 \neq 0, a_1=0)$,
- $(y_2(x))$ corresponds to the series with initial parameters $(a_0=0, a_1 \neq 0)$.

Each solution is constructed from the power series with coefficients determined by the recurrence

relation.

Convergence and Radius of Validity

Because the coefficients involve factorial terms in the denominator, the power series typically have an infinite radius of convergence if the coefficients are well-behaved, meaning solutions are valid in some neighborhood of $(x=0)$. For polynomial coefficients, such as in this case, the series solutions are valid around $(x=0)$.

Additional Techniques and Considerations

1. Frobenius Method

Although the differential equation is regular at $(x=0)$, the Frobenius method can be applied, involving solutions of the form:

$$y(x) = x^r \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$$

where (r) is determined from the indicial equation. For this equation, since the coefficient of (y'') is analytic at $(x=0)$, the standard power series method suffices, but Frobenius provides a systematic approach for singular points.

2. Special Functions and Closed-Form Solutions

In some cases, series solutions can be summed to obtain special functions, such as Bessel, Airy, or Hermite functions. For $(y'' +$

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main purpose of using series methods centered at $X = 0$ to solve the differential equation $Y'' + 5xy = 0$?

The main purpose is to find a power series solution around the point $X = 0$, especially when the equation has variable coefficients, allowing an approximate solution near that point.

How do you set up the power series solution for Y in the differential equation $Y'' + 5xy = 0$?

You assume a solution of the form $Y = \sum a_n x^n$, then compute derivatives Y' and Y'' , substitute into the differential equation, and equate coefficients of like powers of x to find recurrence relations for the coefficients a_n .

Why is it important to verify the convergence of the power series solution when using series methods for this differential equation?

Ensuring convergence guarantees that the power series solution accurately represents the true solution within its radius of convergence, making the approximation valid and meaningful near $x = 0$.

What challenges might arise when applying series methods to solve $Y'' + 5xy = 0$, and how can they be addressed?

Challenges include handling variable coefficients and potential divergence of the series. These can be addressed by carefully deriving recurrence relations, checking convergence, and possibly using Frobenius methods if indicial equations are involved.

Can the series solutions obtained from centered at $X = 0$ provide

insights into the behavior of Y for larger values of x in the differential equation $Y'' + 5xy = 0$?

Series solutions centered at $X = 0$ are most accurate near $x = 0$. For larger x , the series may diverge or become less accurate, so additional methods or analytic continuation might be necessary to understand the solution's behavior farther from the center.

Additional Resources

Series Methods Centered At $X = 0$ To Solve $Y' + 5xy = 0$

Introduction

In the realm of differential equations, especially those involving variable coefficients, series methods stand out as a powerful and elegant approach for finding solutions. When dealing with first-order linear differential equations such as $Y' + 5xy = 0$, applying series techniques offers deep insights into the behavior of solutions near specific points—most notably, the point $x = 0$. In this article, we explore the process of employing series methods centered at $x = 0$ to solve this differential equation, elucidating each step with precision, clarity, and expert insight.

Understanding the Differential Equation

The Equation at a Glance

The differential equation under consideration is:

$$[Y' + 5xy = 0]$$

This is a first-order linear differential equation with variable coefficients. Recognizing its structure is crucial:

- Y' : the derivative of the unknown function $(y(x))$.
- $5xy$: a term involving the product of (x) and (y) .

The goal is to find a function $(y(x))$ that satisfies this equation in a neighborhood around $(x = 0)$.

Recasting as a Standard Linear Equation

The given differential equation can be written in the standard form:

$$[y' + p(x) y = 0]$$

where:

$$[p(x) = 5x]$$

This standard form facilitates the application of integrating factors or series solutions.

Series Method Centered at $x = 0$: An Overview

Why Use Series Methods?

Series methods are particularly useful when:

- The differential equation has variable coefficients that complicate direct integration.

- The solution is expected to be expressible as a power series, especially near regular points like $(x = 0)$.
- Analytical solutions are difficult to find via elementary functions.

Centering at $x = 0$

Centering the series at $(x = 0)$ (a regular point of the differential equation) allows us to express the solution as a power series expansion:

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

where:

- $a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots$ are constants to be determined.
- The radius of convergence depends on the nature of the coefficients and the domain of the solution.

Step-by-Step Solution Using Series Methods

Step 1: Assume a Power Series Solution

Let:

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

then:

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

Step 2: Substitute into the Differential Equation

Plugging into $(y' + 5xy = 0)$:

$$\left[\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n x^{n-1} + 5x \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n \right) = 0 \right]$$

which simplifies to:

$$\left[\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n x^{n-1} + 5 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{n+1} = 0 \right]$$

Step 3: Reindex the Series for Alignment

Reindex the second sum to match powers of (x^n) :

- For the first sum: $(n \rightarrow n-1)$
- For the second sum: let $(n = m - 1)$, so $(m = n + 1)$

Thus,

$$\left[\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n x^{n-1} + 5 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{n-1} x^n = 0 \right]$$

Note that the first sum's terms are $(n a_n x^{n-1})$, which can be written as:

$$\left[\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+1) a_{n+1} x^n \right]$$

by shifting the index:

- Replace $(n \rightarrow n+1)$:

$$\left[\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+1) a_{n+1} x^n \right]$$

Similarly, the second sum:

$$\left[5 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{n-1} x^n \right]$$

remains as is.

Step 4: Write the Combined Series

The entire expression becomes:

$$\left[\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+1) a_{n+1} x^n + 5 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{n-1} x^n = 0 \right]$$

Note that for the second sum, (n) starts at 1; for uniformity, we can write:

$$\left[5 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{n-1} x^n \right]$$

but for $(n=0)$, (a_{-1}) is undefined, so the $(n=0)$ term is absent.

Thus, the combined series is:

$$\left[(1) \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+1) a_{n+1} x^n + 5 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{n-1} x^n = 0 \right]$$

which can be written as:

$$\left[\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+1) a_{n+1} x^n + 5 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{n-1} x^n = 0 \right]$$

Solving the Recurrence Relation

Step 5: Equate Coefficients to Zero

Since the sum equals zero for all (x) , the coefficients of each power of (x) must individually

vanish.

- For $(n=0)$:

$$(0+1) a_1 + 0 = 0 \Rightarrow a_1 = 0$$

- For $(n \geq 1)$:

$$(n+1) a_{n+1} + 5 a_{n-1} = 0$$

This gives the recurrence relation:

$$a_{n+1} = -\frac{5}{n+1} a_{n-1}$$

Step 6: Express the Solution in Terms of Initial Coefficients

The recurrence relation connects coefficients two steps apart:

- a_{n+1} depends on a_{n-1} .

Given a_0 and a_1 , the entire sequence of coefficients can be generated.

From earlier:

$$a_1 = 0$$

and a_0 remains arbitrary (as the initial condition).

Using the recursion:

$$a_{n+1} = -\frac{5}{n+1} a_{n-1}$$

we observe:

- For even-indexed coefficients:

Starting with (a_0) :

$$a_2 = -\frac{5}{2} a_0$$

$$a_4 = -\frac{5}{4} a_2 = -\frac{5}{4} \left(-\frac{5}{2} a_0 \right) = \frac{25}{8} a_0$$

$$a_6 = -\frac{5}{6} a_4 = -\frac{5}{6} \left(\frac{25}{8} a_0 \right) = -\frac{125}{48} a_0$$

and so on.

- For odd-indexed coefficients, since $(a_1 = 0)$, all odd coefficients are zero:

$$a_3 = -\frac{5}{3} a_1 = 0$$

$$a_5 = -\frac{5}{5} a_3 = 0$$

$\text{\textit{and so forth}}$

Step 7: Write the General Solution

The solution simplifies to two parts:

1. Even terms (dependent on a_0):

$$y_{\text{even}}(x) = a_0 \left[1 + \left(-\frac{5}{2} \right) x^2 + \frac{25}{8} x^4 - \frac{125}{48} x^6 + \dots \right]$$

2. Odd terms are zero since $a_1 = 0$:

$$y_{\text{odd}}(x) = 0$$

Thus, the general solution near $x = 0$ is:

$$y(x) = a_0 \left[1 - \frac{5}{2} x^2 + \frac{25}{8} x^4 - \frac{125}{48} x^6 + \dots \right]$$

which converges within the radius dictated by the series' convergence properties.

Interpretation and Significance of the Series Solution

[Use Series Methods Centered At X 0 To Solve Y 5xy 0](#)

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