

Q4. (12 points) Given that $y_1(x) = x + 1$ is a solution of the differential equation

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

find a second solution $y_2(x)$ of the equation.

Solution:

The standard form of the equation is

$$y'' + \frac{2(1+x)}{1-2x-x^2} y' - \frac{2}{1-2x-x^2} y = 0,$$

$$P(x) = \frac{2(1+x)}{1-2x-x^2}.$$

The second solution is

$$y_2(x) = y_1(x) \int \frac{e^{-\int P(x) dx}}{y_1(x)^2} dx$$
$$= (x+1) \int \frac{e^{-\int \frac{2(1+x)}{1-2x-x^2} dx}}{(x+1)^2} dx$$

$$= (x+1) \int \frac{e^{\ln(x^2+2x-1)}}{(x+1)^2} dx$$

$$= (x+1) \int \frac{x^2+2x-1}{(x+1)^2} dx$$

$$= (x+1) \int \left[1 - \frac{2}{(x+1)^2} \right] dx$$

$$= (x+1) \left[x + \frac{2}{x+1} \right]$$

$$= x^2 + x + 2$$