

# Accessory parameter of the Heun equation

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November 26, 2020

Consider the Heun equation

$$y'' + \left( \sum_{j=0}^2 \frac{1 - \alpha_j}{z - a_j} \right) y' + \frac{Az - \lambda}{(z - a_0)(z - a_1)(z - a_2)} y = 0,$$

where the parameters  $\alpha_j, a_j, A$  satisfy  $\alpha_j > 0$ ,

$$A = \alpha' \alpha'', \quad \sum_{j=0}^2 \alpha_j + \alpha' + \alpha'' = 2,$$

where  $\alpha'$  and  $\alpha''$  are real.  $\lambda$  is called the *accessory parameter*.

Problem. For given  $a_j, \alpha_j, A$ , describe the set of values of  $\lambda$  for which the projective monodromy group of the equation is conjugate to a subgroup of  $PSU(2)$ .

Same question when the parameters  $a_j$  and  $\lambda$  are also real.

For which parameters  $a_j, \alpha_j, A$  is this set non-empty? Is it always finite? How many elements can it contain?

Update (May 2019). I proved that this set is finite,

A. Eremenko, Metrics of constant positive curvature with four conic singularities on the sphere, Proc. AMS 148, 9 (2020) 3957–3965; arXiv:1905.02537.

However this proof is non-constructive: no explicit upper estimate in terms of  $\alpha_j, A$  is known, except for very special cases.