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$$F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2} \text{ for } n \geq 2 \text{ with } F_0 = 0, F_1 = 1$$
$$\Rightarrow F_n - F_{n-1} - F_{n-2} = 0.$$

Homogeneous Recurrence Relations

In general.

$$a_n - c_1 a_{n-1} - c_2 a_{n-2} - \dots - c_k a_{n-k} = 0$$

with $a_0 = A_0, a_1 = A_1, \dots, a_{k-1} = A_{k-1}.$

Recurrence Relations

Example

Fibonacci numbers

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, ...

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k -th order linear homogeneous recurrence relation (HRR)
with constant coefficients
or k -th order linear homogeneous difference equation (HDE)
with constant coefficients

homogeneous difference equation (HDE)
with constant coefficients

Example Solve $a_{n+1} - 5a_n + 6a_{n-1} = 0$ for $n \geq 2$
with $a_1 = 1, a_2 = 5$.

Try $a_n = r^n$.

$$\Rightarrow r^{n+1} - 5r^n + 6r^{n-1} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow r^{n-1} (r^2 - 5r + 6) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{r^2 - 5r + 6 = 0}$$

↘ characteristic equation

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$$\Rightarrow r^2 - 5r + 6 = 0 \quad \rightarrow \text{characteristic equation}$$

$$\Rightarrow (r-2)(r-3) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow r = 2, 3$$

Hence both $a_n = 2^n$ and $a_n = 3^n$ are solutions.

Since the equation is linear

$a_n = \alpha_1 2^n + \alpha_2 3^n$ is also a solution

for any constants α_1 and α_2 .

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$\therefore a_n = \alpha_1 2^n + \alpha_2 3^n$ is the general solution.

For initial conditions,

$$1 = a_1 = 2\alpha_1 + 3\alpha_2$$

$$5 = a_2 = 4\alpha_1 + 9\alpha_2$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_1 = -1, \alpha_2 = 1$$

$\therefore a_n = -2^n + 3^n$ for $n \geq 1$. For example, $a_6 = -2^6 + 3^6 = 665$.

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with $F_0 = 0, F_1 = 1$.

characteristic eq. $r^2 - r - 1 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow r = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$$

$$\therefore \text{General solution} = \alpha_1 \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n + \alpha_2 \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n$$

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$$1 = F_1 = \alpha_1 \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right) + \alpha_2 \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}, \quad \alpha_2 = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$$

$$\therefore F_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left[\left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n - \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n \right] \text{ for } n \geq 0$$

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$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F_{n+1}}{F_n} = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$$

$$1.618 \approx \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$$

golden ratio

$$\frac{a}{c} + \frac{b}{c} = \frac{a+b}{c}$$

$$\frac{a+b}{a} = \frac{a}{b}$$

Example $a_n - 4a_{n-1} + 4a_{n-2} = 0$

characteristic eq. $r^2 - 4r + 4 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow (r-2)^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow r = 2, 2$$

$\therefore a_n = 2^n$ is a solution

However, $a_n = n2^n$ is also a solution.

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However, $a_n = n2^n$ is also a solution.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{since } & a_n - 4a_{n-1} + 4a_{n-2} \\ &= n2^n - 4(n-1)2^{n-1} + 4(n-2)2^{n-2} \\ &= 2^{n-2} \left[n \cdot 2^2 - 4(n-1) \cdot 2 + 4(n-2) \right] \\ &= 2^{n-2} \left[n(4-8+4) + (8-8) \right] \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

\therefore The general solution is $\alpha_1 2^n + \alpha_2 n 2^n$.

$$= 0.$$

∴ The general solution is $\alpha_1 z^n + \alpha_2 n z^n$.

In general, if the characteristic equation is $(r-r_0)^m$, then

$$a_n = r_0^n, n r_0^n, n^2 r_0^n, \dots, n^{m-1} r_0^n$$

are all solutions to the HRR.

since $a_n - 4a_{n-1} + 4a_{n-2}$

$$= n z^n - 4(n-1) z^{n-1} + 4(n-2) z^{n-2}$$

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

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Characteristic Equations with Complex Roots

Example $a_n - 2a_{n-1} + 2a_{n-2} = 0$ for $n \geq 2$
with $a_0 = 1, a_1 = 2$.

characteristic
equation

$$r^2 - 2r + 2 = 0$$
$$\Rightarrow r = 1 \pm j \quad (\text{where } j = \sqrt{-1})$$

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$$\Rightarrow r = \sqrt{2} e^{j\frac{\pi}{4}} \quad \text{or} \quad \sqrt{2} e^{-j\frac{\pi}{4}} \quad (e^{j\theta} = \cos\theta + j\sin\theta)$$

The general solution is

$$a_n = \alpha_1 (\sqrt{2} e^{j\frac{\pi}{4}})^n + \alpha_2 (\sqrt{2} e^{-j\frac{\pi}{4}})^n$$

$$= \alpha_1 2^{\frac{n}{2}} e^{j\frac{n\pi}{4}} + \alpha_2 2^{\frac{n}{2}} e^{-j\frac{n\pi}{4}}$$

$$= 2^{\frac{n}{2}} \left[(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2) \cos \frac{n\pi}{4} + j(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2) \sin \frac{n\pi}{4} \right]$$

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$$= 2^{\frac{n}{2}} \left[(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2) \cos \frac{n\pi}{4} + j(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2) \sin \frac{n\pi}{4} \right]$$

for (possibly complex) constants α_1 and α_2 .

A new form of the general solution

$$a_n = \beta_1 2^{\frac{n}{2}} \cos \frac{n\pi}{4} + \beta_2 2^{\frac{n}{2}} \sin \frac{n\pi}{4}$$

for real constants β_1 and β_2 .

For initial conditions

$$1 = a_0 = \beta_1$$

$$2 = a_1 = \sqrt{2} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \beta_1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \beta_2 \right) = \beta_1 + \beta_2$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta_1 = 1, \beta_2 = 1.$$

$$\therefore a_n = 2^{\frac{n}{2}} \left(\cos \frac{n\pi}{4} + \sin \frac{n\pi}{4} \right) \text{ for } n \geq 0.$$

for (possibly complex) constants α_1 and α_2 .

A new form of the general solution

$$a_n = \beta_1 2^{\frac{n}{2}} \cos \frac{n\pi}{4} + \beta_2 2^{\frac{n}{2}} \sin \frac{n\pi}{4}$$

for real constants β_1 and β_2 .

In general, if the roots of the characteristic equation are $\lambda e^{j\theta}$ and $\lambda e^{-j\theta}$, then the general solution to the HRR can be written as

$$a_n = \beta_1 \lambda^n \cos n\theta + \beta_2 \lambda^n \sin n\theta.$$

If λ_1 and λ_2 are $\lambda e^{i\theta}$ and $\lambda e^{-i\theta}$, then the general solution to the HRR can be written as

$$a_n = \beta_1 \lambda^n \cos n\theta + \beta_2 \lambda^n \sin n\theta$$

Non homogeneous Recurrence Relations

$$a_n - c_1 a_{n-1} - c_2 a_{n-2} - \dots - c_k a_{n-k} = f_n$$

k th-order linear nonhomogeneous (inhomogeneous) recurrence relation (NRR) with constant coefficients
or k th-order linear nonhomogeneous difference equation (NDE) with constant coefficients

f_n ← forcing sequence

Let a_n be any solution to this NRR

and p_n be a particular solution

$$\text{Then } a_n - c_1 a_{n-1} - \dots - c_k a_{n-k} = f_n$$

$$p_n - c_1 p_{n-1} - \dots - c_k p_{n-k} = f_n$$

$$\Rightarrow (a_n - p_n) - c_1 (a_{n-1} - p_{n-1}) - \dots - c_k (a_{n-k} - p_{n-k}) = f_n - f_n = 0$$

and p_n be a particular solution

Then $a_n - c_1 a_{n-1} - \dots - c_k a_{n-k} = f_n$
 $p_n - c_1 p_{n-1} - \dots - c_k p_{n-k} = f_n$
 $\Rightarrow (a_n - p_n) - c_1 (a_{n-1} - p_{n-1}) - \dots - c_k (a_{n-k} - p_{n-k}) = f_n - f_n = 0$

We have $z_n = a_n - p_n$ satisfies the associated HRR
 $z_n - c_1 z_{n-1} - \dots - c_k z_{n-k} = 0$.

Conversely, let z_n be any solution to the HRR
and p_n be a particular solution to the NRR.
Then $z_n - c_1 z_{n-1} - \dots - c_k z_{n-k} = 0$
 $p_n - c_1 p_{n-1} - \dots - c_k p_{n-k} = f_n$
 $\Rightarrow (z_n + p_n) - c_1 (z_{n-1} + p_{n-1}) - \dots - c_k (z_{n-k} + p_{n-k}) = f_n$

We have $a_n = z_n + p_n$ is a solution to the NRR.

\therefore The general solution to a given NRR is obtained by adding the general solution to the associated HRR and any particular solution to the NRR.

Example $a_n - a_{n-1} - 2a_{n-2} = 1, \quad n \geq 3$
with $a_1 = 1, a_2 = 3$.

HRR: $a_n - a_{n-1} - 2a_{n-2} = 0$
characteristic eq. $r^2 - r - 2 = 0$
 $\Rightarrow r = 2, -1$

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Guess a particular to the NRR:
 $p_n = B$.

$$\Rightarrow B - B - 2B = 1 \Rightarrow B = -\frac{1}{2}$$

\therefore The general solution to the NRR is
 $a_n = \alpha_1 2^n + \alpha_2 (-1)^n - \frac{1}{2}$.

For initial conditions,

$$1 = a_1 = 2\alpha_1 - \alpha_2 - \frac{1}{2}$$

$$3 = a_2 = 4\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 - \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_1 = \frac{5}{6}, \quad \alpha_2 = \frac{1}{6}$$

$$\therefore a_n = \frac{5}{6} \cdot 2^n + \frac{1}{6} (-1)^n - \frac{1}{2}, \quad \text{for } n \geq 1$$

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