

# Recurrence Relation

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Recursion  $\rightarrow$  A tech of defining a function, set, seq, Algo in the term of itself.

Recursive formula: A formula which define any term of a sequence in terms of any number of its previous terms or which express any terms of a sequence as a function of its previous terms is called recursive and the relation is called recursive relation.

$\rightarrow$  Also called the Difference Equation.

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + 1$$

Initial  $a_0 = 0$

$$n = 1$$

$$I_1: a_1 = a_0 + 1$$

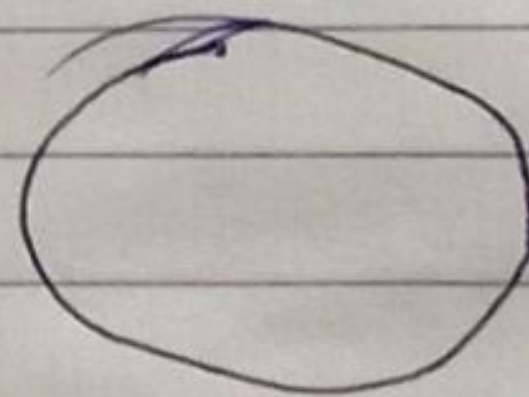
$$I_2: a_2 = a_1 + 1$$

$\vdots$

$$I_n = a_n = a_{n-1} + 1 \text{ Recurrence relation.}$$

Ex:-

"Every hour the no. of bacteria is getting doubled".



Bacteria Colony

which one is the recurrence relation which defines the statement.

(a)  $a_n = a_{n-1} + 2$

(b)  $a_n = 2a_{n-1}$

(c)  $a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$

(d) None.

# Recursive Formula: A

There are three steps:-

- ① Basic step: We find out the primitive term / initial term
- ② Recursive step: We generate a formula / Rule to find the new term using existing term.
- ③ Terminal / final  $\div$  Verification of formula.

Ex. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, ...

$$a_1 = 2, a_2 = 9, a_3 = 16, a_4 = 23, \dots$$

$$a_2 - a_1 = 7$$

$$a_3 - a_2 = 7$$

$$a_4 - a_3 = 7$$

$\Rightarrow$  Generalize

$$a_n - a_{n-1} = 7$$

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + 7$$

$$a_1 = 2, n \geq 2$$

## Recurrence Formula

(Step by step)

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + 7; n \geq 2, a_1 = 2$$

$$n = 2$$

$$a_2 = a_{2-1} + 7$$

$$= a_1 + 7$$

$$= 2 + 7 = 9$$

$$n = 3$$

$$a_3 = a_2 + 7$$

$$= 9 + 7$$

$$= 16$$

## General Formula

(Direct)

$$a = 2 \quad d = 7$$

$$t_n = a + (n-1)d$$

$$a_n = 2 + (n-1)7$$

$$a_n = 7n - 5 \quad n \in \mathbb{I}$$

Ex:- find  $a_{10}$ .  $n = 10$

$$a_{10} = 7(10) - 5$$

$$= 65$$

find  $a_{10} = a_9 + 7$

To find  $a_{10}$ , we have to find  $a_9$ .

So, we cannot find any term directly

So you should move step by step.

In general formula, we directly move to the term we want to find.

Fibonacci Series:  $0, 1, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Primitive/initial

$a_1 = 0$  or  $a_0 = 0$   
 $a_2 = 1$  or  $a_1 = 1$

$a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2} : n \geq 3$

$a_{n+1} = a_n + a_{n-1} : n \geq 2$

Note: The recurrence relation can be written in different form of equation

Ex:  $a_n = a_{n-1} + 5$        $a_n + a_{n-1} - 2a_{n-2} = 0$   
 $f_n = f_{n-1} + 5$        $y_n + y_{n-1} + 2y_{n-2} = 5$   
 $f_n = f_{n-1} = 5$        $f_n + f_{n-1} + 2f_{n-2} = 5$   
 $f_n = f_{n-1} + 5$        $S_n + S_{n-1} + 2S_{n-2} = 5$

Order of recurrence relation - The order of recurrence relation or difference equation is defined to be the difference between highest and lowest subscripts of the  $f(n)$ , or  $a_n$  or  $y_n$  or  $f(n)$  etc.

Ex:  $y_n + y_{n-1} - 3y_{n-2} + 6y_{n-3} = 5$   
 Highest =  $n$   
 lowest =  $n-3$   
 Order =  $H - L$   
 $= n - (n - 3)$   
 $= 3$

So, this is a third order recurrence relation.

Degree of recurrence relation or Difference equation :-

The degree of the recurrence relation is defined to be the highest power of  $f(n)$  or  $a_n$  or  $b_n$  or  $f(x)$  or  $y_n$ .

Ex:-  $y_{n+3} - 5y_{n+2} + 3y_n - 2y_{n-1} = 0$

Order =  $(n+3) - (n-1) = 4$ .

So, this is a 4<sup>th</sup> order recurrence relation.

Degree - 3.

Note: If the degree of recurrence relation is

- 1) One, it is called linear RR.
- 2) Two, it is called quad RR.
- 3) Three, " " " Cubic RR
- 4) Four, " " " Biquadratic RR.

Homogeneous and Non-homogeneous RR. :- A recurrence relation is called Homogeneous RR if it contains no term that depends upon only on variable 'n' or  $a$  otherwise it is called Non-homogeneous RR.

Linear recurrence relation with constant coefficient

A recurrence relation of the form  $a_1 y_n + a_2 y_{n-1} + \dots = f(n)$  where  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  are cons. called coefficient of R.R.  $f(n)$  is a function of  $n$  only. is called a linear RR with cons. coeff.

If  $f(n) = 0$ , it is called homogeneous RR.  
If  $f(n) \neq 0$ , it is called non-homo. RR.

Ex  $a_n = 2a_{n-1} + 5a_{n-2} + 6a_{n-3} + 9$

a) Homogeneous

b) Non-homogeneous.

Because  $f(n) \neq 0$ .

{ but linear }

Ex.  $a_n - 5a_{n-2} + 6n^2 a_{n-3} = 0$

a) Homogeneous

b) Non-homogeneous.

Because  $f(n) = 0$ .

{ but not linear }

Ex.  $a_n - a_{n-2} + 6a_{n-3} = n^2$

→ Cons. coeff and  $f(n) \neq 0$

→ Non linear non-homogeneous RR

Method to find the solution of linear, homogeneous RR.

① Iteration Method :- In this method the recurrence relation of RR for  $a_n$  is used repeatedly to solve for a general solution for  $a_n$  in terms of  $a_{m'}$ .

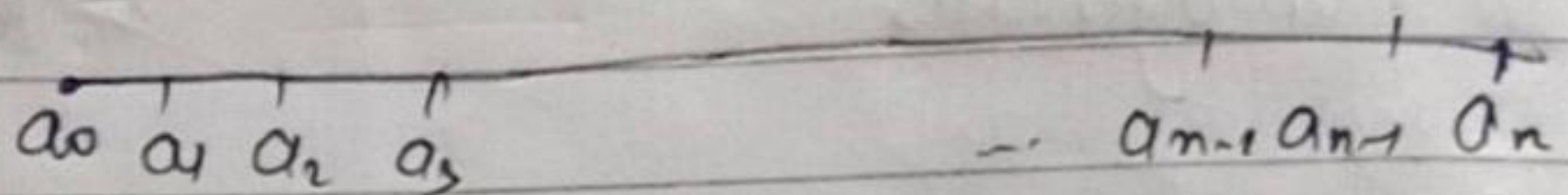
Q Solve the recurrence Relation  $a_n = a_{n-1} + 3 \forall n \geq 1$  where  $a_0 = 2$  by iteration method.

Solution :-

Here,

$$a_0 = 2$$

{ Primitive }



$$a_n - a_{n-1} = 3 \quad ; n \geq 1$$

$$a_n = 3 + a_{n-1}$$

{ We want a relationship b/w  $a_n$  and  $a_0$ .

$$\left. \begin{aligned} a_{n-1} &= a_{n-2} + 3 \\ a_{n-2} &= a_{n-3} + 3 \\ a_{n-3} &= a_{n-4} + 3 \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + 3$$

$$a_n = [a_{n-2} + 3] + 3$$

$$a_n = [a_{n-2}] + 2 \times 3$$

$$a_n = [a_{n-3} + 3] + 2 \times 3$$

$$= [a_{n-3}] + 3 \times 3$$

$$a_n = [a_{n-4}] + 4 \times 3$$

$\vdots$

$\vdots$

After iteration

$$a_n = [a_0] + n \times 3$$

⑥ the term  $a_{n-i} = 0 \Rightarrow i = n$

$$a_n = a_{n-n} + 3 \times n$$

$$a_n = a_0 + n \times 3$$

$$a_n = 2 + 3n$$

( $a_0 = 2$  Given)

required sol<sup>n</sup> of given RR.

8.4

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + 3 \quad n \geq 1$$

$$a_0 = 2$$

$$n=1 \quad a_1 = a_0 + 3 = 2 + 3 = 5$$

$$n=2 \quad a_2 = a_1 + 3 = 5 + 3 = 8$$

$$n=3 \quad a_3 = a_2 + 3 = 8 + 3 = 11$$

2, 5, 8, 11, 14, ...

$$a_n = 3n + 2$$

$$a_0 = 2$$

$$a_1 = 3 \times 1 + 2 = 5$$

$$a_2 = 3 \times 2 + 2 = 8$$

# A.P.

$$a_n - a_{n-1} = k$$

$k$  = comm. diff. of A.P.

$$a_n = k + a_{n-1}$$

$$a_n = \begin{cases} a + (n-1)d; & n \geq 1 \quad \text{i.e., 1st term} = a \\ a + nd; & n \geq 0 \quad \text{i.e., 1st term} = a_0 \end{cases}$$

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + 5 \quad \text{here } k=5 \quad a_0=3 \quad a_n = a + nd \\ = 3 + 5n$$

# G.P.

$$\frac{a_n}{a_{n-1}} = k \Rightarrow a_n = k \cdot a_{n-1}$$

$$a_n = \begin{cases} ar^{n-1}; & n \geq 1 \quad \text{1st term} = a_1 \\ ar^n; & n \geq 0 \quad \text{1st term} = a_0 \end{cases}$$

Ex  $a_n = 3a_{n-1} + 5; \quad n \geq 2 \quad a_1 = 2$

$a_n = 3a_{n-1} + 5$  — (I)

$a_n = 3a_{n-1} + 5$

$a_{n-1} = 3a_{n-2} + 5$

$a_n = 3[3a_{n-2} + 5] + 5$

$a_{n-2} = 3a_{n-3} + 5$

$a_n = 3^2 a_{n-2} + (4 \times 5)$  — (II)

$a_n = 3^2 [3a_{n-3} + 5] + 5(1+3) = 3^3 a_{n-3} + 5(1+3+3^2) \dots$

— (III)

$a_n = 3^4 a_{n-4} + 5(1+3+3^2+3^3)$

$a_n = 3^m a_{n-i} + 5(1+3+3^2 \dots i \text{ terms})$

then  $a_{n-i}$  will be  $a_1$  if  $n-i = 1$   
 $i = n-1$

$a_n = 3^{n-1} a_1 + 5[1+3+\dots (n-1) \text{ terms}]$

$= 3^{n-1} \times 2 + 5[\text{Sum of } (n-1) \text{ terms of G.P.}]$   
 $a=1, r=3$

$S_n = \frac{a(a^n - 1)}{r-1}$

$= 2 \times 3^{n-1} + 5 \left[ \frac{3^n - 1}{3-1} \right]$

$= 2 \times 3^{n-1} + \frac{5}{2} (3^n - 1)$

$S_{n-1} = \frac{a(a^{n-1} - 1)}{r-1}$

$a_n = \frac{9}{2} \times 3^{n-1} - \frac{5}{2}, \quad n \geq 1$



## Some useful Result

(1) Sum of  $n$  terms of an A.P with first term 'a' and common difference 'd'.

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2a + (n-1)d] = \frac{n}{2} (a + l) \quad l - \text{last term}$$

(2) Sum of  $n$  terms of a GP

$$a, ar, ar^2, \dots$$

$$S_n = \frac{a(r^n - 1)}{r - 1}$$

$$(3) \sum n = 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

$$(4) \sum n^2 = 1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + n^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$$

## Linear homogeneous recurrence relation

A RR of the form

$$C_0 a_n + C_1 a_{n-1} + C_2 a_{n-2} + \dots + C_k a_{n-k} = f(n)$$

where  $C_0, C_1, \dots, C_k$  are constants called coefficient and  $f(n)$  is a function 'n' only. is called linear recurrence relation with cons. coefficient

~~an~~ If  $f(n) = 0$ , it is called Homo RR  
If  $f(n) \neq 0$ , Non-homo RR

## Method-2. Method of characteristic equation

Working rule:  $a_n = C_0 a_{n-1} + C_1 a_{n-2} + \dots + C_k a_{n-k} + \dots$

Step I: Transpose all the terms to LHS and write the RR in the form and be sure the equation is complete.

$$a_n - C_0 a_{n-1} - C_1 a_{n-2} - \dots - C_k a_{n-k} = 0$$

Step II: Find the order of RR

here the order is  $n - (n-k) = k$

Step III: Write down the characteristic equation

$$x^k - C_0 x^{n-1} - C_1 x^{n-2} - C_2 x^{n-3} - \dots - C_k x^{n-k} = 0$$

Replace the term

$$[a_n \text{ by } x^n] [a_{n-1} \text{ by } x^{n-1}] [a_{n-2} \text{ by } x^{n-2}] - \dots$$

Step IV: Solve the characteristic equation and find the roots of CE i.e., the value of  $x$

Step V (a): If all the roots of C.E are real and distinct say,  $x = \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \dots$  then linear independent solution and then the general solution

$$a_n = C_1 (\alpha_1)^n + C_2 (\alpha_2)^{n-1} + C_3 (\alpha_3)^{n-2} + \dots$$

where  $C_1, C_2, C_3 \dots$  are arbitrary constant.

By giving using the given internal condition we can find the values of  $C_1, C_2 \dots C_k$ .

(b) If two roots of C.E are equal say  $\alpha, \alpha$  then the corresponding general solution is  $(C_1 + C_2 n) \alpha^n$ .

Note: Corresponding L.I solution will be

$$\alpha^n, n\alpha^n$$

then General sol<sup>n</sup>

$$a_n = C_1 \alpha^n + C_2 n \alpha^n$$

$$= \alpha^n (C_1 + n C_2)$$

(c) In case of complex roots i.e., the roots of the form  $\alpha + i\beta$  and  $\alpha - i\beta$  or  $\alpha \pm i\beta$ .

the corresponding general solution will be

$$a_n = f^n [C_1 \cos \theta n + C_2 \sin \theta n]$$

where  $f = \sqrt{\alpha^2 + \beta^2}$        $\tan \theta = \frac{\beta}{\alpha}$        $\theta = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \right)$ .

$$\alpha = f \cos \theta \quad \beta = f \sin \theta$$

Ex Solve the 2nd order recurrence relation

$$a_n = 10a_{n-1} - 9a_{n-2}, \quad n \geq 2 \quad a_0 = 3, a_1 = 11$$

$$\text{Order} = n - (n-2) = 2$$

char =  $n^2$

$$x^2 - 10x + 9 = 0$$

$$(x-9)(x-1) = 0 \Rightarrow x = 1, 9$$

$\lambda = 1, 9$  roots are real and distinct.

$$a_n = C_1(1)^n + C_2(9)^n = C_1 + C_2 9^n$$

$$a_n = C_1 + C_2 9^n \quad a_0 = 3, a_1 = 11$$

$$a_0 = C_1 + C_2 \times 9^0 = 3$$

$$\Rightarrow C_1 + C_2 = 3$$

— (I)

$$a_1 = C_1 + C_2 \times 9$$

$$11 = C_1 + 9C_2$$

— (II)

Solving (I) and (II)

$$C_1 + 9C_2 = 11$$

$$-C_1 - C_2 = 3$$

$$\hline 8C_2 = 8$$

$$C_2 = 1$$

$$C_1 = 11 - 9 \\ = 2$$

$$\therefore \text{Soln: } \boxed{a_n = 2 + 9^n} \quad n \geq 0$$

Generating Function: If  $S = \{a_0, a_1, \dots\}$  is a sequence of real or complex numbers, then the power series given by

$$G(S, z) = G(z) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a_i z^i = a_0 + a_1 z + a_2 z^2 + \dots$$

is called the generating function for the given sequence.

$$G(S, z) = G(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n \quad \text{where } a_n \text{ is the general term}$$

of the sequence.

$$G(S, z) = G(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$$