

Recurrence Relations

A recurrence relation is a functional relation between the independent variable x , dependent variable $f(x)$ and the differences of various order of $f(x)$. A recurrence relation is also called a difference equation, and we will use these two terms interchangeably.

Example1: The equation $f(x + 3h) + 3f(x + 2h) + 6f(x + h) + 9f(x) = 0$ is a recurrence relation.

It can also be written as

$$a_{x+3} + 3a_{x+2} + 6a_{x+1} + 9a_x = 0$$

$$y_{k+3} + 3y_{k+2} + 6y_{k+1} + 9y_k = 0$$

Example2: The Fibonacci sequence is defined by the recurrence relation $a_r = a_{r-2} + a_{r-1}$, $r \geq 2$, with the initial conditions $a_0=1$ and $a_1=1$.

Order of the Recurrence Relation:

The order of the recurrence relation or difference equation is defined to be the difference between the highest and lowest subscripts of $f(x)$ or $a_r=y_k$.

Example1: The equation $13a_r+20a_{r-1}=0$ is a first order recurrence relation.

Example2: The equation $8f(x) + 4f(x + 1) + 8f(x+2) = k(x)$

Degree of the Difference Equation:

The degree of a difference equation is defined to be the highest power of $f(x)$ or $a_r=y_k$

Example1: The equation $y^3_{k+3}+2y^2_{k+2}+2y_{k+1}=0$ has the degree 3, as the highest power of y_k is 3.

Example2: The equation $a^4_r+3a^3_{r-1}+6a^2_{r-2}+4a_{r-3} = 0$ has the degree 4, as the highest power of a_r is 4.

Example3: The equation $y_{k+3} + 2y_{k+2} + 4y_{k+1} + 2y_k = k(x)$ has the degree 1, because the highest power of y_k is 1 and its order is 3.

Example4: The equation $f(x+2h) - 4f(x+h) + 2f(x) = 0$ has the degree 1 and its order is 2.

Linear Recurrence Relations with Constant Coefficients

A Recurrence Relations is called linear if its degree is one.

The general form of linear recurrence relation with constant coefficient is

$$C_0 y_{n+r} + C_1 y_{n+r-1} + C_2 y_{n+r-2} + \dots + C_r y_n = R(n)$$

Where $C_0, C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n$ are constant and $R(n)$ is same function of independent variable n .

A solution of a recurrence relation in any function which satisfies the given equation.

Linear Homogeneous Recurrence Relations with Constant Coefficients:

The equation is said to be linear homogeneous difference equation if and only if $R(n) = 0$ and it will be of order n .

The equation is said to be linear non-homogeneous difference equation if $R(n) \neq 0$.

Example1: The equation $a_{r+3} + 6a_{r+2} + 12a_{r+1} + 8a_r = 0$ is a linear non-homogeneous equation of order 3.

Example2: The equation $a_{r+2} - 4a_{r+1} + 4a_r = 3r + 2^r$ is a linear non-homogeneous equation of order 2.

A linear homogeneous difference equation with constant coefficients is given by

$$C_0 y_n + C_1 y_{n-1} + C_2 y_{n-2} + \dots + C_r y_{n-r} = 0 \dots \dots \text{equation (i)}$$

Where $C_0, C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n$ are constants.

The solution of the equation (i) is of the form $A\alpha_1^K$, where α_1 is the characteristics root and A is constant.

Substitute the values of $A\alpha^K$ for y_n in equation (1), we have

$$C_0 A\alpha^K + C_1 A\alpha^{K-1} + C_2 A\alpha^{K-2} + \dots + C_r A\alpha^{K-r} = 0 \dots \dots \text{equation (ii)}$$

After simplifying equation (ii), we have

$$C_0 \alpha^r + C_1 \alpha^{r-1} + C_2 \alpha^{r-2} + \dots + C_r = 0 \dots \dots \text{equation (iii)}$$

The equation (iii) is called the characteristics equation of the difference equation.

If α_1 is one of the roots of the characteristics equation, then $A\alpha_1^K$ is a homogeneous solution to the difference equation.

To find the solution of the linear homogeneous difference equations, we have the four cases that are discussed as follows:

Case1: If the characteristic equation has n distinct real roots $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \dots, \alpha_n$.

Thus, $\alpha_1^K, \alpha_2^K, \dots, \alpha_n^K$ are all solutions of equation (i).

Also, we have $A_1 \alpha_1^K, A_2 \alpha_2^K, \dots, A_n \alpha_n^K$ are all solutions of equation (i). The sums of solutions are also solutions.

Hence, the homogeneous solutions of the difference equation are

$$y_k = A_1 \alpha_1^k, A_2 \alpha_2^k, \dots, A_n \alpha_n^k.$$

Case2: If the characteristics equation has repeated real roots.

If $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2$, then $(A_1 + A_2 k) \alpha_1^k$ is also a solution.

If $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3$ then $(A_1 + A_2 k + A_3 k^2) \alpha_1^k$ is also a solution.

Similarly, if root α_1 is repeated n times, then.

$$(A_1 + A_2 k + A_3 k^2 + \dots + A_n k^{n-1}) \alpha_1^k$$

The solution to the homogeneous equation.

Case3: If the characteristics equation has one imaginary root.

If $\alpha + i\beta$ is the root of the characteristics equation, then $\alpha - i\beta$ is also the root, where α and β are real.

Thus, $(\alpha + i\beta)^k$ and $(\alpha - i\beta)^k$ are solutions of the equations. This implies

$$(\alpha + i\beta)^k A_1 + (\alpha - i\beta)^k A_2$$

Is also a solution to the characteristics equation, where A_1 and A_2 are constants which are to be determined.

Case4: If the characteristics equation has repeated imaginary roots.

When the characteristics equation has repeated imaginary roots,

$$(C_1 + C_2 k) (\alpha + i\beta)^k + (C_3 + C_4 k) (\alpha - i\beta)^k$$

Is the solution to the homogeneous equation.

Example1: Solve the difference equation $a_r - 3a_{r-1} + 2a_{r-2} = 0$.

Solution: The characteristics equation is given by

$$s^2 - 3s + 2 = 0 \text{ or } (s-1)(s-2) = 0 \\ \Rightarrow s = 1, 2$$

Therefore, the homogeneous solution of the equation is given by

$$a_r = C_1^1 + C_2^2 \cdot 2^r.$$

Example2: Solve the difference equation $9y_{k+2} - 6y_{k+1} + y_k = 0$.

Solution: The characteristics equation is

$$9s^2 - 6s + 1 = 0 \text{ or } (3s - 1)^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow s = \frac{1}{3} \text{ and } \frac{1}{3}$$

Therefore, the homogeneous solution of the equation is given by

$$y_k = (C_1 + C_2 k) \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^k$$

Example3: Solve the difference equation $y_k - y_{k-1} - y_{k-2} = 0$.

Solution: The characteristics equation is $s^2 - s - 1 = 0$

$$s = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1+4}}{2} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$$

Therefore, the homogeneous solution of the equation is

$$y_k = C_1 \left[\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right]^k + C_2 \left[\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right]^k$$

Example4: Solve the difference equation $y_{k+4} + 4y_{k+3} + 8y_{k+2} + 8y_{k+1} + 4y_k = 0$.

Solution: The characteristics equation is $s^4 + 4s^3 + 8s^2 + 8s + 4 = 0$

$$(s^2 + 2s + 2)(s^2 + 2s + 2) = 0$$

$$s = -1 \pm i, -1 \pm i$$

Therefore, the homogeneous solution of the equation is given by

$$y_k = (C_1 + C_2 k)(-1+i)^k + (C_3 + C_4 k)(-1-i)^k$$

Particular Solution

(a) Homogeneous Linear Difference Equations and Particular Solution:

We can find the particular solution of the difference equation when the equation is of homogeneous linear type by putting the values of the initial conditions in the homogeneous solutions.

Example1: Solve the difference equation $2a_r - 5a_{r-1} + 2a_{r-2} = 0$ and find particular solutions such that $a_0 = 0$ and $a_1 = 1$.

Solution: The characteristics equation is $2s^2 - 5s + 2 = 0$

$$(2s-1)(s-2) = 0$$

$$s = \frac{1}{2} \text{ and } 2.$$

Therefore, the homogeneous solution of the equation is given by

$$a_{r(h)} = C_1 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^r + C_2 \cdot 2^r \dots \dots \dots \text{equation (i)}$$

Putting $r=0$ and $r=1$ in equation (i), we get

$$a_0 = C_1 + C_2 = 0 \dots \dots \dots \text{equation (a)}$$

$$a_1 = \frac{1}{2} C_1 + 2C_2 = 1 \dots \dots \dots \text{equation (b)}$$

Solving eq (a) and (b), we have

$$C_1 = -\frac{2}{3} \text{ and } C_2 = \frac{2}{3}$$

Hence, the particular solution is

$$a_{r(P)} = -\frac{2}{3} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^r + \frac{2}{3} \cdot (2)^r$$

Example2: Solve the difference equation $a_r - 4a_{r-1} + 4a_{r-2} = 0$ and find particular solutions such that $a_0 = 0$ and $a_1 = 6$.

Solution: The characteristics equation is
 $s^2 - 4s + 4 = 0$ or $(s-2)^2 = 0$ $s = 2, 2$

Therefore, the homogeneous solution of the equation is given by
 $a_{r(h)} = (C_1 + C_2 r) \cdot 2^r \dots \dots \dots \text{equation (i)}$

Putting $r = 0$ and $r = 1$ in equation (i), we get
 $a_0 = (C_1 + 0) \cdot 2^0 = 1 \quad \therefore C_1 = 1$
 $a_1 = (C_1 + C_2) \cdot 2 = 6 \quad \therefore C_1 + C_2 = 3 \Rightarrow C_2 = 2$

Hence, the particular solution is
 $a_{r(P)} = (1 + 2r) \cdot 2^r$.

Example3: Solve the difference equation $9a_r - 6a_{r-1} + a_{r-2} = 0$ satisfying the conditions $a_0 = 0$ and $a_1 = 2$.

Solution: The characteristics equation is

$$9s^2 - 6s + 1 = 0 \text{ or } (3s-1)^2 = 0$$
$$s = \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}$$

Therefore, the homogeneous solution of the equation is given by

$$a_{r(h)} = (C_1 + C_2 r) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^r \dots \dots \dots \text{equation (i)}$$

Putting $r = 0$ and $r = 1$ in equation (i), we get
 $a_0 = C_1 = 0$
 $a_1 = (C_1 + C_2) \cdot \frac{1}{3} = 2. \quad \therefore C_1 + C_2 = 6 \Rightarrow C_2 = 6$

Hence, the particular solution is
 $a_{r(P)} = 6r \cdot \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^r$.

(b) Non-Homogeneous Linear Difference Equations and Particular Solution:

There are two methods to find the particular solution of a non-homogeneous linear difference equation. These are as follows:

1. Undetermined coefficients method
2. E and Δ operator method.

1. Undetermined Coefficients Method: This method is used to find a particular solution of non-homogeneous linear difference equations, whose R.H.S term $R(n)$ consist of terms of special forms.

In this method, firstly we assume the general form of the particular solutions according to the type of $R(n)$ containing some unknown constant coefficients, which have to be determined. Then according to the difference equation, we will determine the exact solution.

The general form of a particular solution to be assumed for the special forms of $R(n)$, to find the exact solution is shown in the table.

Form of $R(n)$	General form to be assumed
Z , here z is constant	A
Z^r , here z is constant	Z^r
$P(r)$, a polynomial of degree n	$A_0 r^n + A_1 r^{n-1} + \dots + A_n$
$Z^r \cdot P(r)$, here $P(r)$ is a polynomial of the n th degree in r . Z is a constant.	$[A_0 r^n + A_1 r^{n-1} + \dots + A_n] \cdot Z^r$

Example1: Find the particular solution of the difference equation $a_{r+2} - 3a_{r+1} + 2a_r = Z^r$ equation (i)

Where Z is some constant.

Solution: The general form of solution is $= A \cdot Z^r$

Now putting this solution on L.H.S of equation (i), we get
 $= A Z^{r+2} - 3AZ^{r+1} + 2AZ^r = (Z^2 - 3Z + 2) A Z^r$ equation (ii)

Equating equation (ii) with R.H.S of equation (i), we get

$$(Z^2 - 3Z + 2)A = 1$$

$$A = \frac{1}{(Z^2 - 3Z + 2)} = \frac{1}{(Z - 1)(Z - 2)} \quad (Z \neq 1, Z \neq 2)$$

Therefore, the particular solution is $\frac{Z^r}{(Z - 1)(Z - 2)}$

Example2: Find the particular solution of the difference equation $a_{r+2} - 5a_{r+1} + 6a_r = 5^r$ equation (i)

Solution: Let us assume the general form of the solution = $A \cdot 5^r$.

Now to find the value of A, put this solution on L.H.S of the equation (i), then this becomes

$$\begin{aligned} &= A \cdot 5^{r+2} - 5 \cdot A \cdot 5^{r+1} + 6 \cdot A \cdot 5^r \\ &= 25A \cdot 5^r - 25A \cdot 5^r + 6A \cdot 5^r \\ &= 6A \cdot 5^r \dots\dots\dots \text{equation (ii)} \end{aligned}$$

Equating equation (ii) to R.H.S of equation (i), we get

$$A = \frac{1}{6}$$

Therefore, the particular solution of the difference equation is $= \frac{1}{6} \cdot 5^r$.

Example3: Find the particular solution of the difference equation $a_{r+2} + a_{r+1} + a_r = r \cdot 2^r \dots\dots\dots$ equation (i)

Solution: Let us assume the general form of the solution = $(A_0 + A_1 r) \cdot 2^r$

Now, put these solutions in the L.H.S of the equation (i), we get

$$\begin{aligned} &= 2^{r+2} [A_0 + A_1 (r+2)] + 2^{r+1} [A_0 + A_1 (r+1)] + 2^r (A_0 + A_1 r) \\ &= 4 \cdot 2^r (A_0 + A_1 r + 2A_1) + 2 \cdot 2^r (A_0 + A_1 r + A_1) + 2^r (A_0 + A_1 r) \\ &= r \cdot 2^r (7A_1) + 2^r (7A_0 + 10A_1) \dots\dots\dots \text{equation (ii)} \end{aligned}$$

Equating equation (ii) with R.H.S of equation (i), we get

$$\begin{aligned} 7A_1 &= 1 & \therefore A_1 &= \frac{1}{7} \\ 7A_0 + 10A_1 &= 0 & \therefore A_0 &= \frac{-10}{49} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the particular solution is $2^r \left(\frac{-10}{49} + \frac{1}{7} r \right)$

2. E and Δ operator Method:

Definition of Operator E: The operator of E on $f(x)$ means that give an increment to the value of x in the function. The operation of E is, put $(x+h)$ in the function wherever there is x . Here h is increment quantity. So $Ef(x) = f(x+h)$

Here, E is operated on $f(x)$, therefore, E is a symbol known as shift operator.

Definition of Operator Δ: The operation Δ is an operation of two steps.

Firstly, x in the function is incremented by a constant and then former is subtracted from the later i.e., $\Delta f(x) = f(x+h) - f(x)$

Theorem1: Prove that $E \cong 1 + \Delta$.

Proof: The operation of Δ on $f(x)$ is of two steps. First, increment the value of x in the function. So, whenever, there is x in $f(x)$ put $x+h$ (here h is constant increment), which means operation of E on $f(x)$ i.e.,

$$f(x+h) = Ef(x).$$

Second, subtract the original function from the value obtained in the first step, hence
 $\Delta f(x) = Ef(x) - f(x) = (E-1)f(x)$

So, the operation of Δ on $f(x)$ is equivalent to the operation of $(E-1)$ on $f(x)$.

Therefore, we have
 $E \cong 1 + \Delta$.

Theorem2: Show that $E^n f(x) = f(x+nh)$.

Proof: We know that $E f(x) = f(x+h)$

Now $E^n f(x) = E.E.E.E.....n \text{ times } f(x)$
 $= E^{n-1} [E f(x)] = E^{n-1} f(x+h)$
 $= E^{n-2} [E f(x+h)] = E^{n-2} f(x+2h)$

 $= E f[x + (n-1) h] = f(x+nh)$.

Theorem3: Show that $E Cf(x) = CE f(x)$

Proof: We know that $E C f(x) = C f(x+h) = CE f(x+h)$. Hence Proved.

There is no effect of the operation of E on any constant. Therefore, the operation of E on any constant will be equal to constant itself.

By E and Δ operator method, we will find the solution of

$$C_0 y_{n+r} + C_1 y_{n+r-1} + C_2 y_{n+r-2} + \dots + C_n y_n = R(n) \dots \dots \dots \text{equation (i)}$$

Equation (i) can be written as

$$C_0 E^r y_n + C_1 E^{r-1} y_n + C_2 E^{r-2} y_n + \dots + C_n y_n = R(n)$$

$$(C_0 E^r + C_1 E^{r-1} + C_2 E^{r-2} + \dots + C_n) y_n = R(n)$$

Putting $C_0 E^r + C_1 E^{r-1} + C_2 E^{r-2} + \dots + C_n = P(E)$

So $P(E) y_n = R(n)$

$$\therefore y_n = \frac{R(n)}{P(E)} \dots \dots \dots \text{equation (ii)}$$

To find the particular solution of (ii) for different forms of $R(n)$, we have the following cases.

Case1: When $R(n)$ is some constant A .

We know that, the operation of E on any constant will be equal to the constant itself i.e.,

$$EA = A$$

Therefore, $P(E) A = (C_0 E^r + C_1 E^{r-1} + C_2 E^{r-2} + \dots + C_n)A$

$$= (C_0 + C_1 + C_2 + \dots + C_n)A$$

$$= P(1) A$$

$$\frac{A}{P(E)} = \frac{1}{P(1)} \cdot A$$

Therefore, using equation (ii), the particular solution of (i) is

$$y_n = \frac{A}{P(1)}, P(1) \neq 0$$

$P(1)$ is obtained by putting $E = 1$ in $P(E)$.

Case2: When $R(n)$ is of the form $A \cdot Z^n$, where A and Z are constants

$$\begin{aligned} \text{We have, } P(E)(A \cdot Z^n) &= \{C_0 E^r + C_1 E^{r-1} + \dots + C_n\} (A \cdot Z^n) \\ &= A \{C_0 Z^{r+n} + C_1 Z^{r+n-1} + \dots + C_n Z^n\} \\ &= A \{C_0 Z^r + C_1 Z^{r-1} + \dots + C_n\} \cdot Z^n \\ &= AP(Z) \cdot Z^n \end{aligned}$$

To get, $P(Z)$ put $E=Z$ in $P(E)$

$$\text{Therefore, } \frac{A \cdot Z^n}{P(E)} = \frac{A \cdot Z^n}{P(Z)}, \text{ provided } P(Z) \neq 0$$

$$\text{Thus, } y_n = \frac{A \cdot Z^n}{P(Z)}, P(Z) \neq 0$$

$$\text{If } A = 1, \text{ then } y_n = \frac{Z^n}{P(Z)}$$

When $P(Z) = 0$ then for equation

$$(i) (E-Z) y_n = A \cdot Z^n$$

$$\text{For this, the particular solution becomes } A \cdot \frac{1}{(E-Z)} Z^n = A \cdot n Z^{n-1}$$

$$(ii) (E-Z)^2 y_n = A \cdot Z^n$$

$$\text{For this, the particular solution becomes } A \cdot \frac{1}{(E-Z)^2} Z^n = \frac{A \cdot n(n-1)}{2!} \cdot Z^{n-2}$$

$$(iii) (E-Z)^3 y_n = A \cdot Z^n$$

$$\text{For this, the particular solution becomes } A \cdot \frac{1}{(E-Z)^3} Z^n = \frac{A \cdot n(n-1)(n-2)}{3!} \cdot Z^{n-3} \text{ and so on.}$$

Case3: When $R(n)$ be a polynomial of degree m is n .

We know that $E \cong 1 + \Delta$
So, $P(E) = P(1 + \Delta)$

$$\frac{1}{P(E)} = \frac{1}{P(1 + \Delta)}$$

Which can be expanded in ascending power of Δ as far as upto Δ^m

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{P(E)} = \frac{1}{P(1 + \Delta)} = (b_0 + b_1 \Delta + b_2 \Delta^2 + \dots + b_m \Delta^m + \dots)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{P(E)} \cdot R(n) &= (b_0 + b_1 \Delta + b_2 \Delta^2 + \dots + b_m \Delta^m + \dots) \cdot R(n) \\ &= b_0 R(n) + b_1 \Delta R(n) + \dots + b_m \Delta^m R(n) \end{aligned}$$

All other higher terms will be zero because $R(n)$ is a polynomial of degree m .

Thus, the particular solution of equation (i), in this case will be

$$y_n = b_0 R(n) + b_1 \Delta R(n) + \dots + b_m \Delta^m R(n).$$

Case4: When $R(n)$ is of the form $R(n) \cdot Z^n$, where $R(n)$ is a polynomial of degree m and Z is some constant

We have $E^r [Z^n R(n)] = Z^{r+n} R(n+r) = Z^r \cdot Z^n \cdot E^r R(n) = Z^n (ZE)^r R(n)$

Similarly, we have

$$\frac{1}{P(E)} [Z^n R(n)] = Z^n \frac{1}{P(ZE)} \cdot R(n) = Z^n [P(Z+Z\Delta)]^{-1} \cdot R(n)$$

Thus, the particular solution of equation (i), in this case will be

$$y_n = Z^n [P(Z+Z\Delta)]^{-1} \cdot R(n)$$

Example1: Find the particular solution of the difference equation

$$2a_{r+1} - a_r = 12.$$

Solution: The above equation can be written as

$$(2E-1) a_r = 12$$

The particular solution is given by

$$a_r = \frac{1}{(2E-1)} \cdot 12$$

Put $E=1$, in the equation. The particular solution is $a_r = 12$

Example2: Find the particular solution of the difference equation $a_r - 4a_{r-1} + 4a_{r-2} = 2^r$.

Solution: The above equation can be written as

$$(E^2 - 4E + 4) a_r = 2^r$$

Therefore, $P(E) = E^2 - 4E + 4 = (E-2)^2$

Thus, the particular solution is given by

$$a_r = \frac{1}{(E-2)^2} \cdot 2^r = \frac{r(r-1)}{2} \cdot 2^{r-2}$$

$$a_r = r(r-1) \cdot 2^{r-3}$$

Total Solution

The total solution or the general solution of a non-homogeneous linear difference equation with constant coefficients is the sum of the homogeneous solution and a particular solution. If no initial conditions are given, obtain n linear equations in n unknowns and solve them, if possible to get total solutions.

If $y_{(h)}$ denotes the homogeneous solution of the recurrence relation and $y_{(p)}$ indicates the particular solution of the recurrence relation then, the total solution or the general solution y of the recurrence relation is given by

$$y = y_{(h)} + y_{(p)}$$

Example: Solve the difference equation
 $a_r - 4a_{r-1} + 4a_{r-2} = 3r + 2^r$equation (i)

Solution: The homogeneous solution of this equation is obtained by putting R.H.S equal to zero i.e.,
 $a_r - 4a_{r-1} + 4a_{r-2} = 0$

The homogeneous solution is $a_{r(h)} = (C_1 + C_2 r) \cdot 2^r$

The equation (i) can be written as $(E^2 - 4E + 4) a_r = 3r + 2^r$

The particular solution is given as

$$\begin{aligned} a_{r(p)} &= \frac{1}{(E^2 - 4E + 4)} \cdot (3r + 2^r) = \frac{1}{(E-2)^2} \cdot (3r) + \frac{1}{(E-2)^2} \cdot 2^r \\ &= 3 \cdot \frac{1}{(1-\Delta)^2} (r) + \frac{r(r-1)}{2!} \cdot 2^{r-2} = 3(1-\Delta)^{-2} (r) + \frac{r(r-1)}{2!} \cdot 2^{r-2} \\ &= 3(1+2\Delta) \cdot [r] + \frac{r(r-1)}{2!} \cdot 2^{r-2} = 3(r+2) + r(r-1) \cdot 2^{r-3} \\ a_{r(p)} &= 3(r+2) + r(r-1) \cdot 2^{r-3} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the total solution is $a_r = (C_1 + C_2 r) \cdot 2^r + 3(r+2) + r(r-1) \cdot 2^{r-3}$

Generating Functions

Generating function is a method to solve the recurrence relations.

Let us consider, the sequence $a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_r$ of real numbers. For some interval of real numbers containing zero values at t is given, the function $G(t)$ is defined by the series

$$G(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 + \dots + a_r t^r + \dots \text{.....equation (i)}$$

This function $G(t)$ is called the generating function of the sequence a_r .

Now, for the constant sequence 1, 1, 1, 1.....the generating function is

$$G(t) = \frac{1}{(1-t)}$$

It can be expressed as

$$G(t) = (1-t)^{-1} = 1 + t + t^2 + t^3 + t^4 + \dots [\text{By binomial expansion}]$$

Comparing, this with equation (i), we get

$$a_0 = 1, a_1 = 1, a_2 = 1 \text{ and so on.}$$

For, the constant sequence 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,..the generating function is

$$\begin{aligned} G(t) &= \frac{1}{(1-t)^2} \text{ because it can be expressed as} \\ G(t) &= (1-t)^{-2} = 1 + 2t + 3t^2 + 4t^3 + \dots + (r+1) t^r \end{aligned}$$

Comparing, this with equation (i), we get $a_0=1, a_1=2, a_2=3, a_3=4$ and so on.

The generating function of Z^r , ($Z \neq 0$ and Z is a constant) is given by

$$G(t) = 1 + Zt + Z^2 t^2 + Z^3 t^3 + \dots + Z^r t^r$$

$$G(t) = \frac{1}{1 - Zt} \quad [\text{Assume } |Zt| < 1]$$

So, $G(t) = \frac{1}{1 - Zt}$ generates $Z^r, Z \neq 0$

Also, If $a_r^{(1)}$ has the generating function $G_1(t)$ and $a_r^{(2)}$ has the generating function $G_2(t)$, then $\lambda_1 a_r^{(1)} + \lambda_2 a_r^{(2)}$ has the generating function $\lambda_1 G_1(t) + \lambda_2 G_2(t)$. Here λ_1 and λ_2 are constants.

Application Areas:

Generating functions can be used for the following purposes -

- For solving recurrence relations
- For proving some of the combinatorial identities
- For finding asymptotic formulae for terms of sequences

Example: Solve the recurrence relation $a_{r+2} - 3a_{r+1} + 2a_r = 0$

By the method of generating functions with the initial conditions $a_0=2$ and $a_1=3$.

Solution: Let us assume that

$$G(t) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} a_r t^r$$

Multiply equation (i) by t^r and summing from $r = 0$ to ∞ , we have

$$\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} a_{r+2} t^r - 3 \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} a_{r+1} t^r + 2 \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} a_r t^r = 0$$

$$(a_2 + a_3 t + a_4 t^2 + \dots) - 3(a_1 + a_2 t + a_3 t^2 + \dots) + 2(a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 + \dots) = 0$$

$[\because G(t) = a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 + \dots]$

$$\therefore \frac{G(t) - a_0 - a_1 t}{t^2} - 3 \left(\frac{G(t) - a_0}{t} \right) + 2G(t) = 0 \dots \dots \dots \text{equation (ii)}$$

Now, put $a_0=2$ and $a_1=3$ in equation (ii) and solving, we get

$$G(t) = \frac{2-3t}{1-3t+2t^2} \text{ or } G(t) = \frac{2-3t}{(1-t)(1-2t)}$$

Now, Let $\frac{2-3t}{(1-t)(1-2t)} = \frac{A}{1-t} + \frac{B}{1-2t}$

i.e., $2-3t = A(1-2t) + B(1-t) \dots \dots \dots \text{equation (iii)}$

Put $t=1$ on both sides of equation (iii) to find A. Hence

$$-1 = -A \quad \therefore A = 1$$

Put $t = \frac{1}{2}$ on both sides of equation (iii) to find B. Hence

$$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} B \quad \therefore B = 1$$

Thus $G(t) = \frac{1}{1-t} + \frac{1}{1-2t}$. Hence, $a_r = 1 + 2^r$.