



## Recurrence Relation

An equation that expresses  $a_n$ , the general term of the sequence  $\{a_n\}$  in terms of one or more of the previous terms of the sequence, namely  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}$ , for all integer  $n$  with  $n \geq n_0$ , where  $n_0$  is a non-negative integer is called a recurrence relation for  $\{a_n\}$  or a difference equation.

① Find the recurrence relation for the sequence  $a_n = 2n + 9$ ,  $n \geq 1$ .

$$\text{For } n \geq 1, a_n = 2n + 9$$

$$a_{n-1} = 2(n-1) + 9 = 2n - 2 + 9 \\ = a_n - 2$$

$$\therefore a_{n-1} = a_n - 2$$

$$\Rightarrow a_n = \underline{a_{n-1}} + 2, \text{ with } a_0 = 9$$



② Find the recurrence relation of  
 $S(n) = a^n ; n \geq 1$ .

Given for  $n \geq 1$ ,  $S(n) = a^n$

Now,  $S(n-1) = a^{n-1}$

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

$$\Rightarrow S(n-1) = \frac{S(n)}{a}$$

$$\Rightarrow S(n) = a S(n-1), \text{ for } n \geq 1$$

with  $S(0) = 1$



③ Find the recurrence relation satisfying

$$y_n = A 3^n + B (-2)^n.$$

Given  $y_n = A 3^n + B (-2)^n \rightarrow$  ①

$$y_{n+1} = A 3^{n+1} + B (-2)^{n+1}$$

$$y_{n+1} = 3A 3^n - 2B (-2)^n \rightarrow$$
 ②

and  $y_{n+2} = A 3^{n+2} + B (-2)^{n+2}$

$$y_{n+2} = 9A 3^n + 4B (-2)^n \rightarrow$$
 ③

$$y_{n+2} - y_{n+1} - 6y_n = 9A 3^n - 3A 3^n - 6A 3^n + 4B (-2)^n + 2B (-2)^n - 6B (-2)^n$$

$$y_{n+2} - y_{n+1} - 6y_n = 0$$

solve  $a_n = 6a_{n-1} - 9a_{n-2}$  with  $a_0 = 1$  and  $a_1 = 6$ .

The recurrence relation can be rewritten as

$$a_n - 6a_{n-1} + 9a_{n-2} = 0$$

The characteristic equation is

$$r^2 - 6r + 9 = 0$$

Roots are  $r = 3, 3$ .

$$a_n = \alpha_1 (3)^n + \alpha_2 n (3)^n \rightarrow \textcircled{1}$$

Given  $a_0 = 1$

Sub.  $n = 0$  in  $\textcircled{1}$ ,

$$a_0 = \alpha_1 + n\alpha_2 = 1$$

$$\boxed{\alpha_1 = 1}$$

Sub.  $n = 1$  in  $\textcircled{1}$ ,

Given  $a_1 = 6$



$$a_1 = \alpha_1 (3)^1 + \alpha_2 (3) = 6$$

$$3 + 3\alpha_2 = 6$$

$$\boxed{\alpha_2 = 1}$$

Sub  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$  values in (1), we get

$$a_n = 1 \cdot (3)^n + 1 \cdot n \cdot (3)^n$$

$$= 3^n + n 3^n$$

$$\boxed{a_n = (1+n) 3^n}$$

(5) solve the recurrence relation

$$a_n = -3a_{n-1} - 3a_{n-2} - a_{n-3} \text{ given that } a_0 = 5,$$

$$a_1 = 9 \text{ and } a_2 = 15.$$

The recurrence relation can be rewritten as

$$a_n + 3a_{n-1} + 3a_{n-2} + a_{n-3} = 0$$

The characteristic equation is

$$r^3 + 3r^2 + 3r + 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (r+1)(r+1)(r+1) = 0$$



$$\therefore a_n = \alpha_1 (-1)^n + \alpha_2 n \cdot (-1)^n + \alpha_3 \cdot n^2 (-1)^n \rightarrow \textcircled{1}$$

Given  $a_0 = 5$ ,

Put  $n=0$  in  $\textcircled{1}$ , we get

$$a_0 = \boxed{\alpha_1 = 5}$$

$a_1 = 9$ , put  $n=1$  in  $\textcircled{1}$  we get

$$\alpha_1 (-1) + \alpha_2 (-1) + \alpha_3 (-1) = 9$$

$$-5 - \alpha_2 - \alpha_3 = 9$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 = -14 \rightarrow \textcircled{2}$$

Given  $a_2 = 15$ , put  $n=2$  in  $\textcircled{1}$ , we get

$$a_2 = \alpha_1 + 2\alpha_2 + 4\alpha_3 = 15$$

$$5 + 2\alpha_2 + 4\alpha_3 = 15$$

$$\Rightarrow 2\alpha_2 + 4\alpha_3 = 10$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_2 + 2\alpha_3 = 5 \rightarrow \textcircled{3}$$





Solving ② and ③,

$$\text{②} - \text{③} \Rightarrow \alpha_3 - 2\alpha_3 = -14 - 5$$

$$-\alpha_3 = -19$$

$$\boxed{\alpha_3 = 19}$$

sub. in ③,

$$\alpha_2 + 38 = 5 \Rightarrow \boxed{\alpha_2 = -33}$$

Sub.  $\alpha_1$ ,  $\alpha_2$  and  $\alpha_3$  values in ①,

$$a_n = 5(-1)^n - 33n(-1)^n + 19n^2(-1)^n$$

$$\boxed{a_n = [5 - 33n + 19n^2](-1)^n}$$

⑥ Find the solution to the recurrence

relation  $a_n = 6a_{n-1} - 11a_{n-2} + 6a_{n-3}$

with the initial condit<sup>n</sup>  $a_0 = 2$ ,  $a_1 = 5$  and  $a_2 = 15$ .



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