

$$\frac{(1 + \sqrt{5})^n}{2^n} - \frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})^n}{2^n}$$

20. Let $a_1 = 1, a_2 = 1$, and $a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$ for $n \geq 3, n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then $P(n) : a_n = \frac{(1 + \sqrt{5})^n}{2^n} - \frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})^n}{2^n}$.

Proof. (Strong induction).

Suppose $n = 1$. Then $a_1 = 1 = \frac{1 - 1 + 2\sqrt{5}}{2} = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} - \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2}$. Thus $P(1)$.

Now suppose $P(k)$ for some n and all $k \leq n$, where $k, n \in \mathbb{N}$. Hence $a_k = \frac{(1 + \sqrt{5})^k}{2^k} - \frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})^k}{2^k}$. Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} a_n n + 1 &= a_n + a_{n-1} \\ &= \frac{\frac{(1 + \sqrt{5})^n}{2^n} - \frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})^n}{2^n}}{\sqrt{5}} + \frac{\frac{(1 + \sqrt{5})^{n-1}}{2^{n-1}} - \frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})^{n-1}}{2^{n-1}}}{\sqrt{5}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{(1 + \sqrt{5})^n}{2^n} + \frac{(1 + \sqrt{5})^{n-1}}{2^{n-1}} - \frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})^n}{2^n} - \frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})^{n-1}}{2^{n-1}}}{\sqrt{5}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{(1 + \sqrt{5})^{n-1}}{2^{n-1}} \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} + 1 \right) - \frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})^{n-1}}{2^{n-1}} \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} + 1 \right)}{\sqrt{5}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{(1 + \sqrt{5})^{n-1}}{2^{n-1}} \left(\frac{2}{2} \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} + \frac{2}{2} \right) \right) - \frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})^{n-1}}{2^{n-1}} \left(\frac{2}{2} \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} + \frac{2}{2} \right) \right)}{\sqrt{5}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{(1 + \sqrt{5})^{n-1}}{2^{n-1}} \left(\frac{6 + 2\sqrt{5}}{2^2} \right) - \frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})^{n-1}}{2^{n-1}} \left(\frac{6 - 2\sqrt{5}}{2^2} \right)}{\sqrt{5}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{(1 + \sqrt{5})^{n-1}}{2^{n-1}} \left(\frac{1^2 + 2\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{5}^2}{2^2} \right) - \frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})^{n-1}}{2^{n-1}} \left(\frac{1^2 - 2\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{5}^2}{2^2} \right)}{\sqrt{5}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{(1 + \sqrt{5})^{n-1}}{2^{n-1}} \left(\frac{(1 + \sqrt{5})^2}{2^2} \right) - \frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})^{n-1}}{2^{n-1}} \left(\frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})^2}{2^2} \right)}{\sqrt{5}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{(1 + \sqrt{5})^{n+1}}{2^{n+1}} - \frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})^{n+1}}{2^{n+1}}}{\sqrt{5}}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $P(n + 1)$. Therefore, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ it follows by induction that $P(n) : a_n = \frac{(1 + \sqrt{5})^n}{2^n} - \frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})^n}{2^n}$.