

Polynomial Reduction – Solving Homogeneous Equation – Example – 1

Example 1: Solve the following recurrence equation using the polynomial reduction method:

$$t_n - 3t_{n-1} + 2t_{n-2} = 0 \text{ for } n > 0$$

$$t_0 = 0$$

$$t_1 = 1$$

Solution:

Let $t_n = r^n$ be a solution of this second – order recurrence equation.

$$\text{Then we have : } r^n - 3r^{n-1} + 2r^{n-2} = 0$$

If so, let us divide the entire equation by r^{n-2} seeing we have t_{n-2} .

$$\Rightarrow \frac{r^n}{r^{n-2}} - 3 \times \frac{r^{n-1}}{r^{n-2}} + 2 \times \frac{r^{n-2}}{r^{n-2}} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow r^{n-(n-2)} - 3 \times r^{n-1-(n-2)} + 2 \times r^{n-2-(n-2)} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow r^2 - 3 \times r^1 + 2 \times r^0 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow r^2 - 3r + 2 = 0$$

By middle term factor we can get the roots:

$$\Rightarrow r^2 - 2r - r + 2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow r(r - 2) - 1(r - 2) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (r - 2)(r - 1) = 0$$

$$i.e., r - 2 = 0 \Rightarrow r = 2 \text{ and } r - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow r = 1.$$

Hence r is 2 and 1.

Therefore, the roots of this characteristic equation are 2 and 1.

Since, the roots are distinct, hence Case 1 of Theorem is applicable. Therefore, the general solution can be given as follows:

$$t_n = c_1 2^n + c_2 1^n$$

One can verify the correctness of this solution by substituting these 2^n or 1^n in the original equation.

Let us substitute 2^n in the original to get the following equations:

$$r^n - 3r^{n-1} + 2r^{n-2} = 0,$$

Substituting 2^n on the above equation, we get:

$$\Rightarrow 2^n - 3 \times 2^{n-1} + 2 \times 2^{n-2}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2^n - 3 \times 2^{n-1} + 2^{n-2+1}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2^n - 3 \times 2^{n-1} + 2^{n-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2^n + 2^{n-1} \times (-3 + 1)$$

$$\Rightarrow 2^n + 2^{n-1} \times (-2)$$

$$\text{or, } 2^n - 2 \times 2^{n-1}$$

$$\text{or, } 2^n - 2^{n-1+1}$$

$$\text{or, } 2^n - 2^n$$

$$\text{or, } 0$$

Similarly , one can also verify by substituting 1^n in the original equation and check that is a correct solution:

$$r^n - 3r^{n-1} + 2r^{n-2} = 0,$$

Substituting 1^n on the above equation, we get:

$$\Rightarrow 1^n - 3 \times 1^{n-1} + 2 \times 1^{n-2} = 0$$

Taking Left – Hand – Side:

$\Rightarrow 1 - 3 \times 1 + 2 \times 1$, as anything power of 1 results 1 only.

$$\Rightarrow 1 - 3 + 2$$

$$\Rightarrow 3 - 3 = 0$$

In this original solution $t_n = c_1 2^n + c_1 1^n$, only the values of the constant c_1 and c_2 are unknown.

For determining these values , substitute $n = 0$ and $n = 1$ in the general equation $t_n = c_1 2^n + c_2 1^n$ to get the following equations:

$$t_0 = c_1 2^0 + c_2 1^0 = c_1 + c_2$$

$$\Rightarrow c_1 + c_2 = 0$$

and ,

$$t_1 = c_1 2^1 + c_2 1^1 = 2c_1 + c_2 ,$$

$$\Rightarrow 2c_1 + c_2 = 1$$

The initial values t_0 and t_1 are already given in the problem as initial conditions. The obtained equations are as follows:

$$\therefore c_1 + c_2 = 0$$

$$2c_1 + c_2 = 1$$

$$\begin{array}{r} (-) \quad (-) \quad (-) \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} -c_1 + 0 = -1 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$-c_1 = -1$ or $c_1 = 1$ and replacing $c_1 = 1$ in equation $(c_1 + c_2 = 0)$ we get:

$$1 + c_2 = 0 \Rightarrow c_2 = -1.$$

Hence $c_1 = 1$ and $c_2 = -1$.

Substituting these values in the general equation, one gets the following:

$$t_n = c_1 2^n + c_2 1^n$$

$$t_n = 1 \times 2^n + (-1) \times 1^n$$

$$= 2^n - 1^n$$

The solution $2^n - 1^n$ is the solution of the recurrence equation with respect to the initial condition.
