

Backward Substitution: Example 3

Solve the following recurrence equation using the backward substitution method:

$$t_n = nt_{n-1} \text{ for } n > 1$$

$$t_0 = 1$$

Solution:

Let us apply the backward substitution method:

$$t_n = nt_{n-1}$$

$$= n[(n-1)t_{n-2}]$$

$$= n(n-1)[(n-2)t_{n-3}]$$

$$= n(n-1)(n-2)[(n-3)t_{n-4}]$$

... ..

At the i th step this leads to

$$= n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3) \dots (n-i)$$

When $i = n-1$,

$$= n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3) \dots (n-(n-1))$$

$$= n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3) \dots 1$$

$$= n!$$

We can re – write it as :

$$T(n) = n \times T(n - 1) \text{ for } n > 1$$

$$T(0) = 1$$

Solution:

$$T(n) = n \times (T(n - 1))$$

$$= n[(n - 1)T(n - 2)]$$

$$= n(n - 1)[(n - 2)T(n - 3)]$$

$$= n(n - 1)(n - 2)[(n - 3)T(n - 4)]$$

... ..

At the ith step this leads to

$$= n(n - 1)(n - 2)(n - 3) \dots (n - i)$$

When $i = n - 1$,

$$= n(n - 1)(n - 2)(n - 3) \dots (n - (n - 1))$$

$$= n(n - 1)(n - 2)(n - 3) \dots 1$$

$$= n!$$
