

Polynomial Reduction – Solving Homogeneous Equation – Example – 2

Example 2: Solve the following recurrence equation using the polynomial reduction method:

$$t_n - 11t_{n-1} + 30t_{n-2} = 0$$

$$t_0 = 0$$

$$t_1 = 1$$

$$t_2 = 2$$

Solution:

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

$$\text{Then we have : } r^n - 11r^{n-1} + 30r^{n-2} = 0$$

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

$$\Rightarrow \frac{r^n}{r^{n-2}} - 11 \times \frac{r^{n-1}}{r^{n-2}} + 30 \times \frac{r^{n-2}}{r^{n-2}} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow r^{n-(n-2)} - 11 \times r^{n-1-(n-2)} + 30 \times r^{n-2-(n-2)} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow r^2 - 11 \times r^1 + 30 \times r^0 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow r^2 - 11r + 30 = 0$$

By middle term factor we can get the roots:

$$\Rightarrow r^2 - 5r - 6r + 30 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow r(r - 5) - 6(r - 5) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (r - 5)(r - 6) = 0$$

$$i.e., r - 5 = 0 \Rightarrow r = 5 \text{ and } r - 6 = 0 \Rightarrow r = 6 .$$

Hence r is 5 and 6.

Therefore, the roots of this characteristic equation are 5 and 6 .

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

$$t_n = c_1 5^n + c_2 6^n$$

One can verify the correctness of this solution by substituting these 5^n or 6^n in the original equation.

Let us substitute 5^n in the original to get the following equations:

$$r^n - 11r^{n-1} + 30r^{n-2} = 0,$$

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

$$\Rightarrow 5^n - 11 \times 5^{n-1} + 30 \times 5^{n-2}$$

$$\Rightarrow 5^n - 11 \times 5^{n-1} + 6 \times 5 \times 5^{n-2}$$

$$\Rightarrow 5^n - 11 \times 5^{n-1} + 6 \times 5^{n-2+1}$$

$$\Rightarrow 5^n - 11 \times 5^{n-1} + 6 \times 5^{n-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow 5^n + 5^{n-1} \times (-11 + 6)$$

$$\Rightarrow 5^n + 5^{n-1} \times (-5)$$

$$\Rightarrow 5^n - 5^{n-1+1}$$

$$\Rightarrow 5^n - 5^n$$

$$\Rightarrow 0$$

Similarly , one can also verify by substituting 6^n in the original equation and check that is a correct solution:

$$r^n - 11r^{n-1} + 30r^{n-2} = 0,$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} &\Rightarrow 6^n - 11 \times 6^{n-1} + 30 \times 6^{n-2} \\ &\Rightarrow 6^n - 11 \times 6^{n-1} + 30 \times 6^{n-2} \\ &\Rightarrow 6^n - 11 \times 6^{n-1} + 6 \times 5 \times 6^{n-2} \\ &\Rightarrow 6^n - 11 \times 6^{n-1} + 5 \times 6^{n-2+1} \\ &\Rightarrow 6^n - 11 \times 6^{n-1} + 5 \times 6^{n-1} \\ &\Rightarrow 6^n + 6^{n-1} \times (-11 + 5) \\ &\Rightarrow 6^n + 6^{n-1} \times (-6) \\ &\Rightarrow 6^n - 6^{n-1+1} \\ &\Rightarrow 6^n - 6^n \\ &\Rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

In this original solution $t_n = c_1 5^n + c_2 6^n$, 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 $t_n = c_1 5^n + c_2 6^n$ to get the following equations:

$$t_0 = c_1 5^0 + c_2 6^0 = c_1 + c_2$$

$$\Rightarrow c_1 + c_2 = 0$$

and ,

$$t_1 = c_1 5^1 + c_2 6^1 = 5c_1 + 6c_2 ,$$

$$\Rightarrow 5c_1 + 6c_2 = 1$$

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

Now we have to cancel out , hence multiplying 5 with equation : $c_1 + c_2 = 0$ we get $5c_1 + 5c_2 = 0$.

$$\therefore 5c_1 + 5c_2 = 0$$

$$5c_1 + 6c_2 = 1$$

$$(-) \quad (-) \quad (-)$$

$$0 - c_2 = -1$$

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

$$1 + c_1 = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = -1.$$

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

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

$$t_n = c_1 5^n + c_2 6^n$$

$$t_n = -1 \times 5^n + 1 \times 6^n$$

$$= -5^n + 6^n$$

The solution $-5^n + 6^n$ is the solution of the recurrence equation with respect to the initial condition.
