

Backward Substitution: Example 1

Example 1: Solve the following recurrence equation.

$$t_n = t_{n-1} + 3$$

$$t_1 = 4$$

Solution:

Substituting the values of t_{n-1} in the recurrence equation, one gets the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} t_n &= t_{n-1} + 3 \\ &= (t_{n-1-1} + 3) + 3 \\ &= (t_{n-2} + 3) + 3 \text{ (plug)} \end{aligned}$$

We can write it as:

$$= t_{n-2} + 2 \times 3 \text{ (chug)}$$

Repeat the process by substituting the value of t_{n-2} :

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

$$= (t_{n-3} + 3 + 3) + 3$$

$$= (t_{n-3} + 3) + (2 \times 3)(\text{plug})$$

$$= t_{n-3} + (3 \times 3)(\text{chug})$$

Repeat the process by substituting the value of t_{n-3} :

$$(t_{n-3-1} + 3 + 3 + 3) + 3$$

$$= (t_{n-4} + 3 + 3 + 3) + 3$$

$$= (t_{n-4} + 3) + (3 \times 3)(\text{plug})$$

$$= t_{n-4} + (4 \times 3)(\text{chug})$$

By Repeating the process, one can observe that at the i th iteration, this equation be as follows:

$$t_i = t_{n-i} + i \times 3$$

When $i = n - 1$, the resulting equation would be as follows:

$$t_i = t_{n-i} + i \times 3$$

Note: Here we will only change the right – hand side only according to backward substitution method.

$$\begin{aligned} &= t_{n-(n-1)} + (n-1) \times 3(\text{plug}) \\ &= t_1 + 3(n-1)(\text{chug}) \end{aligned}$$

Since $t_1 = 4$,

$$\begin{aligned} t_n &= 4 + 3(n-1) \\ &= 4 + 3n - 3 \\ &= 3n + 1 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the solution of this recurrence equation is $3n + 1$.

We can also relate the above problem as:

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= T(n-1) + 3 \\ T(1) &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

Solution:

$$T(n) = T(n-1) + 3$$

Substituting the values of $T(n - 1)$ in the recurrence equation, one gets the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} &T(n - 1 - 1 + 3) + 3 \\ &= T(n - 2) + 3 + 3 \\ &= T(n - 2) + 2 \times 3 \end{aligned}$$

Repeat the process by substituting the value of $T(n - 2)$:

$$\begin{aligned} &T(n - 2 - 1) + 3 + 3 + 3 \\ &= T(n - 3) + 3 + 3 + 3 \\ &= T(n - 3) + 3 \times 3 \end{aligned}$$

Repeat the process by substituting the value of $T(n - 3)$:

$$\begin{aligned} &T(n - 3 - 1) + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 \\ &= T(n - 4) + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 \\ &= T(n - 4) + 4 \times 3 \end{aligned}$$

By Repeating the process, one can observe that at the i th iteration, this equation be as follows:

$$T(i) = T(n - i) + i \times 3$$

When $i = n - 1$, the resulting equation would be as follows:

$$T(i) = T(n - i) + i \times 3$$

Note: Here we will only change the right – hand side only according to backward substitution method.

$$\begin{aligned} &= T(n - (n - 1)) + (n - 1) \times 3 \text{ (plug)} \\ &= T(1) + 3(n - 1) \text{ (chug)} \end{aligned}$$

We know $T(1) = 4$,

$$\begin{aligned} T(n) &= 4 + 3(n - 1). \\ &= 4 + 3n - 3. \\ &= 3n + 1. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore , the solution of this recurrence equation is $3n + 1$.
