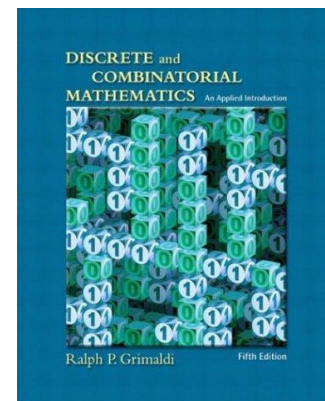
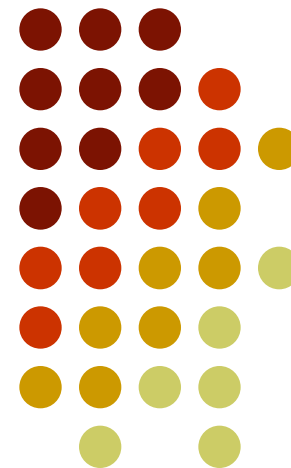


# Discrete Mathematics

## -- Chapter 10: Recurrence Relations



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# First glance at “recurrence”



$$F_{n+2} = F_{n+1} + F_n$$

$$\underline{a_{n+1}} = 3 \underline{a_n}$$

$$a_n = A * 3^n$$



# Outline

- The first-order **linear** recurrence relation
- The second-order **linear homogeneous** recurrence relation with constant coefficients
- The **nonhomogeneous** recurrence relation
- The method of generating Functions

# The First-Order Linear Recurrence Relation



- The equation  $a_{n+1} = 3a_n$  is a recurrence relation with constant coefficients. Since  $a_{n+1}$  *only depends on its immediate predecessor*, the relation is said to be first order.
- The expression  $a_0 = A$ , where  $A$  is a constant, is referred to as an initial condition.
- The **unique** solution of the recurrence relation  $a_{n+1} = da_n$ , where  $n \geq 0$ ,  $d$  is a constant, and  $a_0 = A$ , is given by  $a_n = Ad^n$ .

# The First-Order Linear Recurrence Relation



- **Ex 10.1** : Solve the recurrence relation  $a_n = 7a_{n-1}$ , where  $n \geq 1$  and  $a_2 = 98$ .
  - $a_n = a_0(7^n)$ ,  $a_2 = 98 = a_0(7^2) \Rightarrow a_0 = 2$ ,  $a_n = 2(7^n)$ .
- **Ex 10.2** : A bank pay 6% annual interest on savings, compounding the interest monthly. If we deposit \$1000, how much will this deposit be worth a year later?
  - $p_{n+1} = (1.005)p_n$ ,  $p_0 = 1000 \Rightarrow p_n = p_0(1.005)^n$
  - $p_{12} = 1000(1.005)^{12} = \$1061.68$

# The First-Order Linear Recurrence Relation



- The recurrence relation  $a_{n+1} - da_n = 0$  is called linear because each term appears to the first power.
- Ex 10.4 : Find  $a_{12}$  if  $a_{n+1}^2 = 5a_n^2$  where  $a_n > 0$  for  $n \geq 0$  and  $a_0 = 2$ .
  - Let  $b_n = a_n^2$ . Then  $b_{n+1} = 5b_n$  (linear) for  $n \geq 0$  and  $b_0 = 4 \Rightarrow b_n = 4 \cdot 5^n$



# Homogeneous and Nonhomogeneous

- The general first-order linear recurrence relation with constant coefficients has the form

$$a_{n+1} + ca_n = f(n).$$

- $f(n) = 0$ , the relation is called homogeneous.
- Otherwise, it is called nonhomogeneous.
- **Ex 10.5** : Let  $a_n$  denote the number of comparisons needed to sort  $n$  numbers in bubble sort, we find the recurrence relation
  - $a_n = a_{n-1} + (n - 1)$  ,  $n \geq 2$ ,  $a_1 = 0$



```
procedure BubbleSort(n: positive integer;  $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n$ : real numbers)
begin
  for  $i := 1$  to  $n - 1$  do
    for  $j := n$  downto  $i + 1$  do
      if  $x_j < x_{j-1}$  then
        begin      {interchange}
          temp :=  $x_{j-1}$ 
           $x_{j-1} := x_j$ 
           $x_j := temp$ 
        end
      end
    end
  end
end
```

at each iteration  $i$ :  
puts the minimum element in cells  $[i..n]$   
in the  $i$ -th cell

Figure 10.2

sorts increasingly



# The First-Order Linear Recurrence Relation



- **Ex 10.6** : In Example 9.6 we sought the generating function for the sequence 0, 2, 6, 12, 20, 30, 42,..., due to the observation  $a_n = n^2 + n$ . If we fail to see this, alternatively

$$a_1 - a_0 = 2$$

$$a_2 - a_1 = 4$$

$$a_3 - a_2 = 6$$

$$\vdots \quad \vdots \quad \vdots$$

$$\underline{a_n - a_{n-1} = 2n.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_n - a_0 &= 2 + 4 + 6 + \cdots + 2n = 2(1 + 2 + 3 + \cdots + n) \\ &= 2[n(n+1)/2] = n^2 + n. \end{aligned}$$

## 10.2

# The Second-Order Linear Homogeneous Recurrence Relation with Constant Coefficients



- Linear recurrence relation of order  $k$ :
  - $C_0a_n + C_1a_{n-1} + C_2a_{n-2} + \dots + C_ka_{n-k} = f(n), n \geq 0.$
- Homogeneous relation of order 2:
  - $C_0a_n + C_1a_{n-1} + C_2a_{n-2} = 0, n \geq 2.$
- **Substituting  $a_n = cr^n$  into the equation**, we have
  - $C_0cr^n + C_1cr^{n-1} + C_2cr^{n-2} = 0, n \geq 2.$
  - Characteristic equation:  $C_0r^2 + C_1r + C_2 = 0, n \geq 2.$
- The roots  $r_1, r_2$  of this equation are called characteristic roots.
- Three cases for the roots:
  - (A) distinct real roots
  - (B) complex conjugate roots
  - (C) equivalent real roots



## Case (A): Distinct Real Roots

- **Ex 10.9** : Solve the recurrence relation  $a_n + a_{n-1} - 6a_{n-2} = 0$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , and  $a_0 = -1$  and  $a_1 = 8$ .

- **Solution**

Let  $a_n = cr^n$

$$r^2 + r - 6 = 0 \Rightarrow r = 2, -3$$

$$a_n = c_1(2)^n + c_2(-3)^n$$

$$-1 = a_0 = c_1 + c_2$$

$$8 = a_1 = 2c_1 - 3c_2 \Rightarrow c_1 = 1, c_2 = -2$$

$$\Rightarrow a_n = (2)^n - 2(-3)^n$$

$a_n = 2^n$  and  $a_n = (-3)^n$  are both solutions

*Linearly independent solutions*



# Distinct Real Roots

- **Ex 10.10** : Solve Fibonacci relation,  $F_{n+2} = F_{n+1} + F_n$ ,  $n \geq 0$ ,  $F_0 = 0$ ,  $F_1 = 1$ .

- **Solution**

Let  $F_n = cr^n$ ,

$$r^2 - r - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow r = (1 \pm \sqrt{5}) / 2$$

$$F_n = c_1 \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n + c_2 \left( \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n.$$

$$F_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left[ \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n - \left( \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n \right], \quad n \geq 0.$$



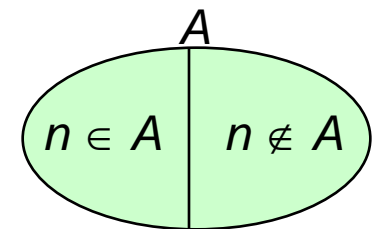
# Distinct Real Roots

- **Ex 10.11** : For  $n \geq 0$ , let  $S = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ , and let  $a_n$  denote the number of subsets of  $S$  that contains no consecutive integers. Find and solve a recurrence relation for  $a_n$ .

- **Solution**

- $a_0 = 1$  and  $a_1 = 2$  and  $a_2 = 3$  and  $a_3 = 5$  (Fibonacci?)
- If  $A \subseteq S$  and  $A$  is to be counted in  $a_n$ , there are two cases
  - (1)  $n \in A$ , then  $A - \{n\}$  would be counted in  $a_{n-2}$
  - (2)  $n \notin A$ , then  $A$  would be counted in  $a_{n-1}$
- $a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$ ,  $n \geq 2$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left[ \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^{n+2} - \left( \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^{n+2} \right], \quad n \geq 0.$$



*Exhaustive and mutually disjoint*



# Distinct Real Roots

- **Ex 10.12** : Suppose we have a  $2 \times n$  chessboard. We wish to cover such a chessboard using  $2 \times 1$  vertical dominoes or  $1 \times 2$  horizontal dominoes.

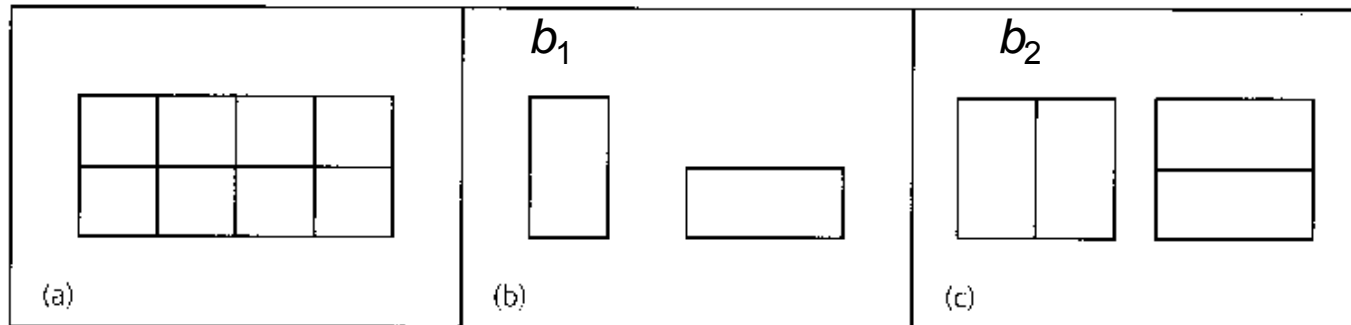
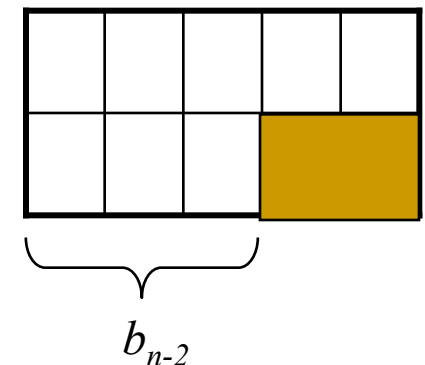
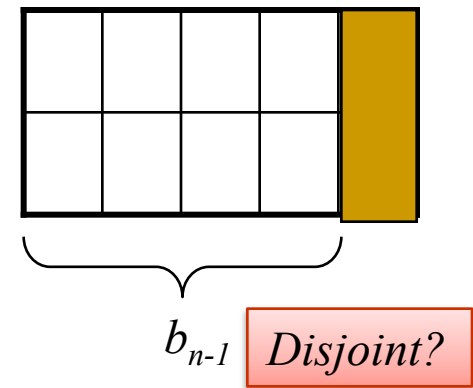
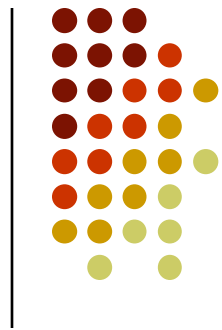


Figure 10.5

# Distinct Real Roots

- Let  $b_n$  count the number of ways we can cover a  $2 \times n$  chessboard by using  $2 \times 1$  vertical dominoes or  $1 \times 2$  horizontal dominoes.
- $b_1=1$  and  $b_2=2$
- For  $n \geq 3$ , consider the last ( $n$ th) column of the chessboard
  - By one  $2 \times 1$  vertical domino: Now the remaining  $2 \times (n-1)$  subboard can be covered in  $b_{n-1}$  ways.
  - By two  $1 \times 2$  horizontal dominoes, place one above the other: Now the remaining  $2 \times (n-2)$  subboard can be covered in  $b_{n-2}$  ways.
- $b_n = b_{n-1} + b_{n-2}$ ,  $n \geq 3$ ,  $b_1=1$  and  $b_2=2$   
 $\Rightarrow b_n = F_{n+1}$





# Distinct Real Roots

$$p_n = 2p_{n-2}, \quad n \geq 3, \quad p_1 = 1, \quad p_2 = 2.$$

Substituting  $p_n = cr^n$ , for  $c, r \neq 0, n \geq 1$ , into this recurrence relation, the resulting characteristic equation is  $r^2 - 2 = 0$ . The characteristic roots are  $r = \pm \sqrt{2}$ , so  $p_n = c_1(\sqrt{2})^n + c_2(-\sqrt{2})^n$ . From

$$1 = p_1 = c_1(\sqrt{2}) + c_2(-\sqrt{2})$$

$$2 = p_2 = c_1(\sqrt{2})^2 + c_2(-\sqrt{2})^2$$

we find that  $c_1 = \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}\right)$ ,  $c_2 = \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}\right)$ , so

$$p_n = \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}\right) (\sqrt{2})^n + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}\right) (-\sqrt{2})^n, \quad n \geq 1.$$

we consider  $n$  even, say  $n = 2k$

$$\begin{aligned} p_n &= \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}\right) (\sqrt{2})^{2k} + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}\right) (-\sqrt{2})^{2k} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}\right) 2^k + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}\right) 2^k = 2^k = 2^{n/2} \end{aligned}$$



# Second- or Higher-Order Recurrence Relation



- **Ex 10.18** : Solve  $2a_{n+3} = a_{n+2} + 2a_{n+1} - a_n$ ,  $n \geq 0$ ,  $a_0=0$ ,  $a_1=1$ ,  $a_2=2$ 
  - Let  $a_n = cr^n$
  - Characteristic equation:  $2r^3 - r^2 - 2r + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow r = 1, 1/2, -1$
  - $a_n = c_1(1)^n + c_2(-1)^n + c_3(1/2)^n$
  - From  $a_0=0$ ,  $a_1=1$ ,  $a_2=2$ , derive  $c_1=5/2$ ,  $c_2=1/6$ ,  $c_3=-8/3$
  - $a_n = (5/2) + (1/6)(-1)^n + (-8/3)(1/2)^n$

# Second- or Higher-Order Recurrence Relation



- **Ex 10.19** : We want to tile a  $2 \times n$  chessboard using two types of tiles shown in Figure 10.8.

$a_2$ :  $2 \times 2$  chessboard

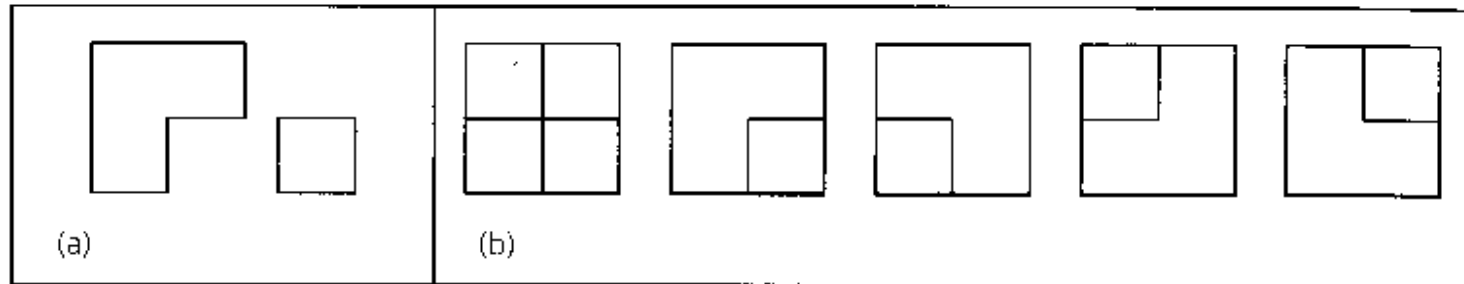


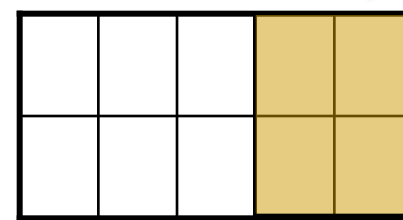
Figure 10.8

$a_3$ :  $2 \times 3$  chessboard

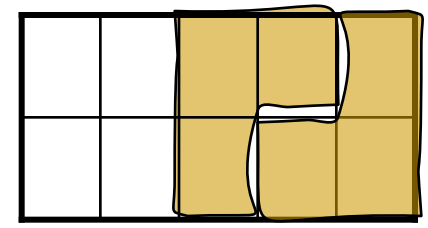
# Second- or Higher-Order Recurrence Relation



- Let  $a_n$  count the number of such tilings.
- $a_1=1$  and  $a_2=5$  and  $a_3=11$
- For  $n \geq 4$ , consider the last column of the chessboard
  - 1) the  $n$ th column is covered by two  $1 \times 1$  tiles  $\Rightarrow a_{n-1}$
  - 2) the  $(n-1)$ st and the  $n$ th column are tiled with one  $1 \times 1$  tile and a larger tile  $\Rightarrow 4a_{n-2}$
  - 3) the  $(n-2)$ nd,  $(n-1)$ st and the  $n$ th columns are tiled with two large tiles  $\Rightarrow 2a_{n-3}$
- $a_n = a_{n-1} + 4a_{n-2} + 2a_{n-3}, n \geq 4$



$a_{n-2}$



$a_{n-3}$



## Case (B): Complex Roots

- DeMoivre's Theorem:  
 $(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^n = \cos n\theta + i \sin n\theta$
- If  $z = x + iy \in \mathbf{C} \Rightarrow z = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta), r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}, \frac{y}{x} = \tan \theta$ , for  $x \neq 0$   
  
If  $x = 0, \begin{cases} y > 0, z = yi = yi \sin(\pi / 2) = y(\cos(\pi / 2) + i \sin(\pi / 2)) \\ y < 0, z = |y| \sin(3\pi / 2) = |y| (\cos(3\pi / 2) + i \sin(3\pi / 2)) \end{cases}$   
  
By DeMoivre's Theorem,  $z^n = r^n (\cos n\theta + i \sin n\theta)$

# Complex Roots



- **Ex 10.20** : Determine  $(1 + \sqrt{3}i)^{10}$ 
  - Solution

Complex number  $1 + \sqrt{3}i$  is represented as the point  $(1, \sqrt{3})$  in the  $xy$ -plane

$$r = \sqrt{1^2 + (\sqrt{3})^2} = 2, \theta = \pi / 3$$

$$1 + \sqrt{3}i = 2(\cos(\pi / 3) + i \sin(\pi / 3))$$

$$\begin{aligned}(1 + \sqrt{3}i)^{10} &= 2^{10}(\cos(10\pi / 3) + i \sin(10\pi / 3)) = 2^{10}(\cos(4\pi / 3) + i \sin(4\pi / 3)) \\ &= 2^{10}((-1/2) - (\sqrt{3}/2)i) = (-2^9)(1 + \sqrt{3}i)\end{aligned}$$

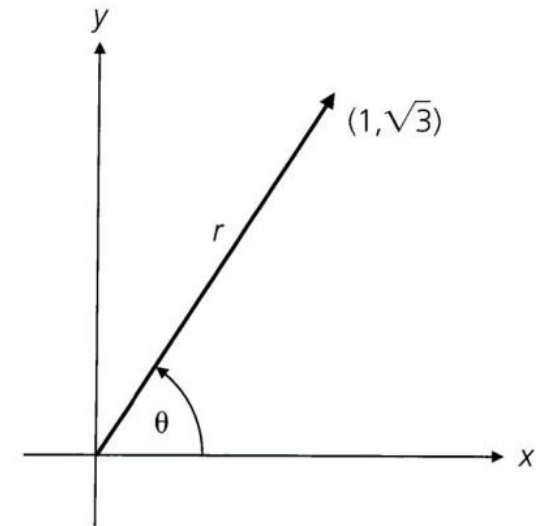


Figure 10.9



# Complex Roots

- **Ex 10.21** : Solve the recurrence relation  $a_n = 2(a_{n-1} - a_{n-2})$  where  $n \geq 2$ ,  $a_0 = 1$ ,  $a_1 = 2$ .
  - Let  $a_n = cr^n$
  - $r^2 - 2r + 2 = 0 \Rightarrow r = 1 \pm i$
  - $1 + i = \sqrt{2}(\cos(\pi/4) + i \sin(\pi/4))$
  - $1 - i = \sqrt{2}(\cos(\pi/4) - i \sin(\pi/4))$



$$\begin{aligned}
 a_n &= c_1(1+i)^n + c_2(1-i)^n \\
 &= c_1[\sqrt{2}(\cos(\pi/4) + i \sin(\pi/4))]^n + c_2[\sqrt{2}(\cos(-\pi/4) + i \sin(-\pi/4))]^n \\
 &= c_1(\sqrt{2})^n(\cos(n\pi/4) + i \sin(n\pi/4)) + c_2(\sqrt{2})^n(\cos(-n\pi/4) + i \sin(-n\pi/4)) \\
 &= c_1(\sqrt{2})^n(\cos(n\pi/4) + i \sin(n\pi/4)) + c_2(\sqrt{2})^n(\cos(n\pi/4) - i \sin(n\pi/4)) \\
 &= (\sqrt{2})^n[k_1 \cos(n\pi/4) + k_2 \sin(n\pi/4)],
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $k_1 = c_1 + c_2$  and  $k_2 = (c_1 - c_2)i$ .

$$1 = a_0 = [k_1 \cos 0 + k_2 \sin 0] = k_1$$

$$2 = a_1 = \sqrt{2}[1 \cdot \cos(\pi/4) + k_2 \sin(\pi/4)], \text{ or } 2 = 1 + k_2, \text{ and } k_2 = 1.$$

The solution for the given initial conditions is then given by

$$a_n = (\sqrt{2})^n[\cos(n\pi/4) + \sin(n\pi/4)], \quad n \geq 0.$$



# Complex Roots

- **Ex 10.22** : Let  $a_n$  denote the value of the  $n \times n$  determinant  $D_n$

- $a_1 = b, a_2 = 0$  and  $a_3 = -b^3$
- $D_n = bD_{n-1} - b^2D_{n-2}$
- $a_n = ba_{n-1} - b^2a_{n-2}$

$$a_1 = |b| = b \quad \text{and} \quad a_2 = \begin{vmatrix} b & b \\ b & b \end{vmatrix} = 0 \quad (\text{and} \quad a_3 = \begin{vmatrix} b & b & 0 \\ b & b & b \\ 0 & b & b \end{vmatrix} = -b^3).$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} b & b & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ b & b & b & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & b & b & b & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & b & b & b & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \dots & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & b & b & b & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & b & b & b & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & b & b & b \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & b & b \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= b \begin{vmatrix} b & b & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ b & b & b & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & b & b & b & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \dots & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & b & b & b & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & b & b & b \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & b & b \end{vmatrix} - b \begin{vmatrix} b & b & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & b & b & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & b & b & b & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \dots & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & b & b & b & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & b & b & b \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & b & b \end{vmatrix}$$

(This is  $D_{n-1}$ .)





If we let  $a_n = cr^n$  for  $c, r \neq 0$  and  $n \geq 1$ , the characteristic equation produces the roots  $b[(1/2) \pm i\sqrt{3}/2]$ .

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}a_n &= c_1[b((1/2) + i\sqrt{3}/2)]^n + c_2[b((1/2) - i\sqrt{3}/2)]^n \\&= b^n[c_1(\cos(\pi/3) + i \sin(\pi/3))^n + c_2(\cos(\pi/3) - i \sin(\pi/3))^n] \\&= b^n[k_1 \cos(n\pi/3) + k_2 \sin(n\pi/3)].\end{aligned}$$

$b = a_1 = b[k_1 \cos(\pi/3) + k_2 \sin(\pi/3)]$ , so  $1 = k_1(1/2) + k_2(\sqrt{3}/2)$ , or  $k_1 + \sqrt{3} k_2 = 2$ .

$0 = a_2 = b^2[k_1 \cos(2\pi/3) + k_2 \sin(2\pi/3)]$ , so  $0 = (k_1)(-1/2) + k_2(\sqrt{3}/2)$ , or

$$k_1 = \sqrt{3} k_2.$$

Hence  $k_1 = 1$ ,  $k_2 = 1/\sqrt{3}$  and the value of  $D_n$  is

$$b^n[\cos(n\pi/3) + (1/\sqrt{3}) \sin(n\pi/3)].$$



## Case (C): Repeated Real Roots

- **Ex 10.23** : Solve the recurrence relation

$$a_{n+2} = 4a_{n+1} - 4a_n \text{ where } n \geq 0, a_0 = 1, a_1 = 3$$

- **Solution**

Let  $a_n = cr^n$

$$a_n = c_1 2^n + c_2 2^n ?$$



$r^2 - 4r + 4 = 0 \Rightarrow r = 2 \Rightarrow 2^n$  and  $2^n$  are not independent solutions, need another independent solution

So, try  $g(n)2^n$ , where  $g(n)$  is not a constant

$$\Rightarrow g(n+2)2^{n+2} = 4g(n+1)2^{n+1} - 4g(n)2^n$$

$$\Rightarrow g(n+2) = 2g(n+1) - g(n) \Rightarrow g(n) = n, \therefore n2^n \text{ is a solution}$$

$$a_n = c_1(2^n) + c_2(n2^n) \text{ with } a_0 = 1, a_1 = 3$$

$$a_n = 1(2^n) + (1/2)(n2^n)$$



# Repeated Real Roots

- In general, if

$$C_0 a_n + C_1 a_{n-1} + C_2 a_{n-2} + \dots + C_k a_{n-k} = 0$$

with  $r$ , a characteristic root of multiplicity  $m$ , then the part of the general solution that involves the root  $r$  has the form

$$\begin{aligned} &A_0 r^n + A_1 n r^n + A_2 n^2 r^n + A_3 n^3 r^n + \dots + A_{m-1} n^{m-1} r^n \\ &= (A_0 + A_1 n + A_2 n^2 + A_3 n^3 + \dots + A_{m-1} n^{m-1}) r^n \end{aligned}$$



# Repeated Real Roots

- **Ex 10.24** : Let  $p_n$  denote the probability that at least one case of measles is reported during the  $n$ th week after the first recorded case. School records provide evidence that  $p_n = p_{n-1} - (0.25)p_{n-2}$ , for  $n \geq 2$ . Since  $p_n = 0$  and  $p_1 = 1$ , if the first case is recorded on Monday, March 3, 2003, when did the probability for the occurrence of a new case decrease to less than 0.01 for the first time?

- **Solution**

$$\text{Let } p_n = cr^n$$

$$r^2 - r + (1/4) = 0 \Rightarrow r = 1/2$$

$$p_n = (c_1 + c_2 n)(1/2)^n \Rightarrow c_1 = 0 \text{ and } c_2 = 2 \Rightarrow p_n = n2^{-n+1}$$

$$p_n < 0.01 \Rightarrow \text{the first } n \text{ is } 12, \text{ the week of May 19, 2003.}$$

## 10.3 The Nonhomogeneous Recurrence Relation



- $a_n + C_1 a_{n-1} = f(n), n \geq 1,$
- $a_n + C_1 a_{n-1} + C_2 a_{n-2} = f(n), n \geq 2$
- Let  $\mathbf{a}_n^{(h)}$  denote the general solution of the associated homogeneous relation.
- Let  $\mathbf{a}_n^{(p)}$  denote a solution of the given nonhomogeneous relation. (particular solution)
- Then  $\mathbf{a}_n = \mathbf{a}_n^{(h)} + \mathbf{a}_n^{(p)}$  is the general solution of the recurrence relation.

# The Nonhomogeneous Recurrence Relation



- **Ex 10.26** : Solve the recurrence relation  $a_n - 3a_{n-1} = 5(7^n)$  for  $n \geq 1$  and  $a_0 = 2$ .

- **Solution**

The solution for  $a_n - 3a_{n-1} = 0$  is  $a_n^{(h)} = c(3^n)$ .

Since  $f(n) = 5(7^n)$ , let  $a_n^{(p)} = A(7^n)$

$$\Rightarrow A(7^n) - 3A(7^{n-1}) = 5(7^n) \Rightarrow A = 35/4$$

$$a_n^{(p)} = (35/4)7^n = (5/4)7^{n+1}.$$

The general solution is  $a_n = a_n^{(h)} + a_n^{(p)} = c(3^n) + (5/4)7^{n+1}$

$$\text{So, } a_n = (-1/4)(3^{n+3}) + (5/4)7^{n+1}$$

# The Nonhomogeneous Recurrence Relation



- **Ex 10.27** : Solve the recurrence relation  $a_n - 3a_{n-1} = 5(3^n)$  for  $n \geq 1$  and  $a_0 = 2$ .

- **Solution**

Let  $a_n^{(h)} = c(3^n)$ .

Since  $a_n^{(h)}$  and  $f(n)$  are not linearly independent, let  
 $a_n^{(p)} = Bn(3^n) \Rightarrow Bn(3^n) - 3B(n-1)(3^{n-1}) = 5(3^n). \Rightarrow$   
 $B=5.$

The general solution is  $a_n = a_n^{(h)} + a_n^{(p)} = c(3^n) + (5)n3^n$

$$a_n = (2 + 5n)(3^n)$$

# Solution for the Nonhomogeneous First-Order Relation



- $a_n + C_1 a_{n-1} = kr^n.$ 
  - If  $r^n$  is not a solution of the homogeneous relation  $a_n + C_1 a_{n-1} = 0$ , then  $a_n^{(p)} = Ar^n.$
  - If  $r^n$  is a solution of the homogeneous relation, then  $a_n^{(p)} = Bnr^n.$



# Solution for the Nonhomogeneous Second-Order Relation



- $a_n + C_1 a_{n-1} + C_2 a_{n-2} = kr^n.$ 
  - If  $r^n$  is not a solution of the homogeneous relation, then  $a_n^{(p)} = Ar^n.$
  - If  $a_n^{(h)} = c_1 r^n + c_2 r_1^n$ , where  $r \neq r_1$ , then  $a_n^{(p)} = Bnr^n.$
  - If  $a_n^{(h)} = (c_1 + c_2 n)r^n$ , then  $a_n^{(p)} = Cn^2 r^n.$

# The Nonhomogeneous Recurrence Relation



- **Ex 10.28** : The Towers of Hanoi.

- Let count the minimum number of moves it takes to transfer  $n$  disks from peg 1 to peg 3.
- $a_{n+1} = 2a_n + 1$ 
  - Transfer the top  $n$  disks from peg 1 to peg 2, need  $a_n$  moves.
  - Transfer the largest disk from peg 1 to peg 3, need 1 moves.
  - Transfer the  $n$  disks on peg 2 onto the largest disk, need  $a_n$  moves.

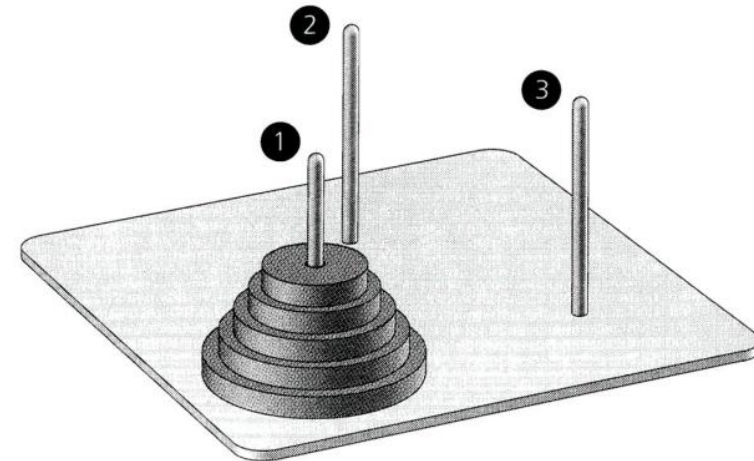


Figure 10.11

For  $a_{n+1} - 2a_n = 1$ , we know that  $a_n^{(h)} = c(2^n)$ . Since  $f(n) = 1 = (1)^n$  is not a solution of  $a_{n+1} - 2a_n = 0$ , we set  $a_n^{(p)} = A(1)^n = A$  and find from the given relation that  $A = 2A + 1$ , so  $A = -1$  and  $a_n = c(2^n) - 1$ . From  $a_0 = 0 = c - 1$  it then follows that  $c = 1$ , so  $a_n = 2^n - 1$ ,  $n \geq 0$ .

# The Nonhomogeneous Recurrence Relation



- **Ex 10.31** : For the alphabet =  $\{0,1,2,3\}$ , how many strings of length  $n$  contains an even number of 1's.
- Let  $a_n$  count those strings among the  $4^n$  strings.  
Consider the  $n$ th symbol of a string of length  $n$ 
  1. The  $n$ th symbol is 0, 2, 3  $\Rightarrow 3a_{n-1}$
  2. The  $n$ th symbol is 1  $\Rightarrow$  there must be an odd number of 1's among the first  $n-1$  symbols  $\Rightarrow 4^{n-1} - a_{n-1}$

$$a_n = 3a_{n-1} + (4^{n-1} - a_{n-1}) = 2a_{n-1} + 4^{n-1}$$

$$a_n^{(h)} = c(2^n), a_n^{(p)} = A(4^{n-1})$$

$$a_1 = 3 \Rightarrow a_n = 2^{n-1} + 2(4^{n-1})$$

# The Nonhomogeneous Recurrence Relation



- **Ex 10.34** : Solve the recurrence relation  $a_{n+2} - 4a_{n+1} + 3a_n = -200$  for  $n \geq 0$  and  $a_0 = 3000$  and  $a_1 = 3300$ .

- **Solution**

$$a_n^{(h)} = c_1(3^n) + c_2(\mathbf{1}^n).$$

$$\text{Let } a_n^{(p)} = A\mathbf{n} \Rightarrow A(n+2) - 4A(n+1) + 3An = -200$$

$$\Rightarrow a_n^{(p)} = 100n.$$

$$a_n = a_n^{(h)} + a_n^{(p)} = c_1(3^n) + c_2(1^n) + 100n$$

$$\Rightarrow a_n = 100(3^n) + 2900 + 100n$$

# Particular Solutions to Nonhomogeneous Recurrence Relation



- $C_0 a_n + C_1 a_{n-1} + C_2 a_{n-2} + \dots + C_k a_{n-k} = f(n)$
- (1) If  $f(n)$  is a constant multiple of one of the forms in the first column of Table 10.2  $\Rightarrow a_n^{(p)}$  in the second column.
- (2) When  $f(n)$  comprises a sum of constant multiples of terms.
  - E.g.,  $f(n) = n^2 + 3 \sin 2n \Rightarrow a_n^{(p)} = (A_2 n^2 + A_1 n + A_0) + (A \sin 2n + B \cos 2n)$
- (3) If a summand  $f_1(n)$  of  $f(n)$  is a solution of the associated homogeneous relation.
  - If  $f_1(n)$  causes this problem, we multiply the trial solution  $(a_n^{(p)})_1$  corresponding to  $f_1(n)$  by the smallest power of  $n$ , say  $n^s$ , for which no summand of  $n^s f_1(n)$  is a solution of the associated homogeneous relation. Thus,  $n^s (a_n^{(p)})_1$  is the corresponding part of  $a_n^{(p)}$ .



**Table 10.2**

|                           | $a_n^{(p)}$   |
|---------------------------|---|
| $c$ , a constant          | $A$ , a constant  |
| $n$                       | $A_1n + A_0$  |
| $n^2$                     | $A_2n^2 + A_1n + A_0$                                   |
| $n^t, t \in \mathbf{Z}^+$ | $A_tn^t + A_{t-1}n^{t-1} + \dots + A_1n + A_0$          |
| $r^n, r \in \mathbf{R}$   | $Ar^n$  |
| $\sin \theta n$           | $A \sin \theta n + B \cos \theta n$                     |
| $\cos \theta n$           | $A \sin \theta n + B \cos \theta n$                     |
| $n^t r^n$                 | $r^n (A_t n^t + A_{t-1} n^{t-1} + \dots + A_1 n + A_0)$ |
| $r^n \sin \theta n$       | $Ar^n \sin \theta n + Br^n \cos \theta n$               |
| $r^n \cos \theta n$       | $Ar^n \sin \theta n + Br^n \cos \theta n$               |



# Particular Solutions to Nonhomogeneous Recurrence Relation

- **Ex 10.36** : For  $n$  people at a party, each of them shakes hands with others.
  - $a_n$  counts the total number of handshakes:
$$a_{n+1} = a_n + n, n \geq 2, a_2 = 1$$
  - $a_n^{(h)} = c(1^n) = c.$
  - Let  $a_n^{(p)} = A_1 n + A_0$
  - By the third remark stated above, multiplying  $a_n^{(p)}$  by  $n^1$ , then  $a_n^{(p)} = A_1 n^2 + A_0 n$
  - $A_1 = 1/2, A_0 = -1/2 \Rightarrow a_n^{(p)} = (1/2)n^2 + (-1/2)n.$
  - $a_n = a_n^{(h)} + a_n^{(p)} = c + (1/2)n^2 + (-1/2)n \Rightarrow c = 0$
  - $a_n = (1/2)n(n-1)$



# Particular Solutions to Nonhomogeneous Recurrence Relation

- **Ex 10.37** :  $a_{n+2} - 10a_{n+1} + 21a_n = f(n), n \geq 0$
- $a_n^{(h)} = c_1(3^n) + c_2(7^n).$

**Table 10.3**

| $f(n)$                 | $a_n^{(p)}$                                    |
|------------------------|--|
| 5                      | $A_0$  |
| $3n^2 - 2$             | $A_3n^2 + A_2n + A_1$                          |
| $7(11^n)$              | $A_4(11^n)$                                    |
| $31(r^n), r \neq 3, 7$ | $A_5(r^n)$                                     |
| $6(3^n)$               | $\underline{A_6n3^n}$                          |
| $2(3^n) - 8(9^n)$      | $\underline{A_7n3^n} + A_8(9^n)$               |
| $4(3^n) + 3(7^n)$      | $\underline{A_9n3^n} + \underline{A_{10}n7^n}$ |



## 10.4 The Method of Generating Functions



- **Ex 10.38** : Solve the relation  $a_n - 3a_{n-1} = n, n \geq 1, a_0 = 1$ .
  - Let  $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$  be the generating function for  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n$ .

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n x^n - 3 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{n-1} x^n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n x^n.$$

$$(f(x) - a_0) - 3x \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{n-1} x^{n-1} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n x^n \left( = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n x^n \right).$$

$$\frac{x}{(1-x)^2} = x + 2x^2 + 3x^3 + \dots,$$

$$(f(x) - 1) - 3xf(x) = \frac{x}{(1-x)^2}, \quad \text{and} \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{(1-3x)} + \frac{x}{(1-x)^2(1-3x)}.$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) &= \frac{1}{1-3x} + \frac{(-1/4)}{(1-x)} + \frac{(-1/2)}{(1-x)^2} + \frac{(3/4)}{(1-3x)} \\
 &= \frac{(7/4)}{(1-3x)} + \frac{(-1/4)}{(1-x)} + \frac{(-1/2)}{(1-x)^2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

We find  $a_n$  by determining the coefficient of  $x^n$  in each of the three summands.

- a)  $(7/4)/(1-3x) = (7/4)[1/(1-3x)]$   
 $= (7/4)[1 + (3x) + (3x)^2 + (3x)^3 + \dots]$ , and the coefficient of  $x^n$  is  $(7/4)3^n$ .
- b)  $(-1/4)/(1-x) = (-1/4)[1 + x + x^2 + \dots]$ , and the coefficient of  $x^n$  here is  $(-1/4)$ .
- c)  $(-1/2)/(1-x)^2 = (-1/2)(1-x)^{-2}$   
 $= (-1/2) \left[ \binom{-2}{0} + \binom{-2}{1}(-x) + \binom{-2}{2}(-x)^2 + \binom{-2}{3}(-x)^3 + \dots \right]$   
and the coefficient of  $x^n$  is given by  $(-1/2)\binom{-2}{n}(-1)^n = (-1/2)(-1)^n \binom{2+n-1}{n} \cdot (-1)^n = (-1/2)(n+1)$ .

Therefore  $a_n = (7/4)3^n - (1/2)n - (3/4), n \geq 0$ .



# The Method of Generating Functions

- **Ex 10.39** : Solve the relation

$$a_{n+2} - 5a_{n+1} + 6a_n = 2, \quad n \geq 0, \quad a_0 = 3, \quad a_1 = 7.$$

- Let  $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$  be the generating function for  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{n+2} x^{n+2} - 5 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{n+1} x^{n+2} + 6 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{n+2} = 2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^{n+2}.$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{n+2} x^{n+2} - 5x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{n+1} x^{n+1} + 6x^2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n = 2x^2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n.$$

$$(f(x) - a_0 - a_1 x) - 5x(f(x) - a_0) + 6x^2 f(x) = \frac{2x^2}{1-x},$$



$$(1 - 5x + 6x^2)f(x) = 3 - 8x + \frac{2x^2}{1 - x} = \frac{3 - 11x + 10x^2}{1 - x},$$

from which it follows that

$$f(x) = \frac{3 - 11x + 10x^2}{(1 - 5x + 6x^2)(1 - x)} = \frac{(3 - 5x)(1 - 2x)}{(1 - 3x)(1 - 2x)(1 - x)} = \frac{3 - 5x}{(1 - 3x)(1 - x)}.$$

A partial-fraction decomposition (by hand, or via a computer algebra system) gives us

$$f(x) = \frac{2}{1 - 3x} + \frac{1}{1 - x} = 2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (3x)^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n.$$

Consequently,  $a_n = 2(3^n) + 1, n \geq 0$ .