CSM 166: Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science

THEORY OF DIFFERENCE EQUATIONS/RECURRENCE RELATIONS

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Content

Introduction

Classification of Recurrence Relations

Non-Homogeneous Difference Equations

The Difference Operator

The difference operator Δ is defined by

$$(\Delta y)(n) = y(n+1) - y(n) \tag{1}$$

This is called the **forward difference** operator.

The difference operator is analogous to the differential operator in calculus.

$$y'(x) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{y(x+h) - y(x)}{h} = (\Delta y)(x) = \frac{y(x+h) - y(x)}{h}$$

for h = 1

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Properties of Δ

Linearity:

$$\Delta(y + v) = \Delta y + \Delta v;$$

$$\Delta(\alpha y) = \alpha \Delta(y), \alpha \text{ a scalar}$$

Product Rule:

$$(\Delta(y \cdot u))(n) = y(n+1) - y(n)u(n)$$

$$= [y(n+1) - y(n)]u(n+1)$$

$$+ y(n)[u(n+1) - u(n)]$$

$$= (\Delta y)(n)u(n+1) + y(n)(\Delta u)(n)$$

Exponential:

If
$$y(n) = 2^n$$
,

$$(\Delta y)(n) = y(n+1) - y(n)$$

$$= 2^{n+1} - 2^n$$

$$= 2^n$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta y = y$$

Thus 2^n for difference equations plays same role as e^x for differential equations.

Constants:

 $\Delta \cdot c = 0$, constant

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The Difference Operator

Theorem 1

If
$$\Delta y = v$$
, then

$$\sum_{r=m}^{n} (\Delta y)(r) = [y(r)]_{m}^{n+1} = y(n+1) - y(m).$$

Proof.

Theorem 1

$$v(n) = y(n+1) - y(n)$$

$$v(n-1) = y(n) - y(n-1)$$

$$v(n-2) = y(n-1) - y(n-2)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$v(m+1) = y(m+2) - y(m+1)$$

$$v(m) = y(m+1) - y(m)$$

$$\sum_{r=m}^{n} v(r) = y(n+1) - y(m)$$

The Difference Operator

Example 1

 $\Delta a^n = a^{n+1} - a^n = a^n(a-1)$, a a constant Thus

$$a^n = \frac{\Delta a^n}{a - 1} = \Delta \left(\frac{a^n}{a - 1} \right)$$

$$\therefore \sum_{r=m}^{n} a^{r} = \frac{1}{a-1} \sum_{r=m}^{n} \Delta a^{r} = \frac{a^{n+1} - a^{m}}{a-1}$$

Recurrence relation

Definition 1 (Recurrence relation)

A recurrence relation for a sequence a_0, a_1, \ldots is a relation that defines a_n in terms of $a_0, a_1, \ldots a_{n-1}$.

The formula relating a_n to earlier values in the sequence is called the **generating rule**.

The assignment of a value to one of the *a*'s is called an **initial condition**.

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Introduction

Example 2

The Fibonacci Sequence 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, ... is a sequence in which every number after the first two is the sum of the preceding two numbers.

The initial conditions are $a_0 = a_1 = 1$ and the generating rule is

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}; \quad n \ge 2$$

A **solution** to a recurrence relation is an explicit formula for a_n in terms of n.

The fundamental method for finding the solution of a sequence defined recursively is by using **iteration**.

This involves starting with the initial values of the sequence and then calculates successive terms of the sequence until a pattern is observed.

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Example 3

Find a solution for the recurrence relation

$$\begin{cases} a_0 = 1 \\ a_n = a_{n-1} + 2, \quad n \ge 1 \end{cases}$$

Solution to Example 3

Listing out some terms of the sequence:

$$a_0 = 1$$
 $a_1 = 1 + 2$
 $a_2 = 1 + 4$
 $a_3 = 1 + 6$
 $a_4 = 1 + 8$
 $a_1 = 1 + 10$

A guessed formular is $a_n = 2n + 1$, $n \ge 0$ and thus needs to be proven using mathematical induction

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Example 4

Consider the arithmetic sequence

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + d, \quad n \ge 1$$

where a_0 is the initial value. Find an explicit formula for a_n .

Solution to Example 4

Listing out the first 4 terms of the sequence:

$$a_1 = a_0 + d$$

 $a_2 = a_0 + 2d$
 $a_3 = a_0 + 3d$
 $a_4 = a_0 + 4d$
 $a_5 = a_0 + 5d$

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Exercise A:

1. Consider the geometric sequence

$$a_n = ra_{n-1}, \quad n \ge 1$$

Where a_0 is the initial value. Find an explicit formula for a_n .

2. Find a solution to the recurrence relation

$$\begin{cases} a_0 = 0 \\ a_n = a_{n-1} + (n+1), & n \ge 1 \end{cases}$$

Exercise B: A function y_n is defined recursively as follows:

$$\begin{cases} y_1 = 3 \\ y_2 = 7 \\ y_n = 3y_{n-1} - 2y_{n-2} & \text{for } n \ge 3 \end{cases}$$

Find an explicit formula or solution for y_n in terms of n.

A recurrence relation is of first order if y_n is defined only in terms of y_{n-1} .

It is of second order if y_n is defined in terms of y_{n-1} and y_{n-2} , and so on.

A recurrence relation of the form $y_n = a_1 y_{n-1} + a_2 y_{n-2} + \cdots + a_k y_{n-k}$ is called a linear homogenous recurrence relation of order k

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Linear recurrence relations have the following important properties:

- 1. multiplying any solution by a constant gives another solution,
- 2. adding two or more solutions give another solution.

First-Order Recurrence Relations

First-order recurrence relations are of the form:

$$\begin{cases} y_n = ay_{n-1} \\ y_0 = c \end{cases}$$

where a and c are constants.

First-order recurrence relations are solved by iteration:

$$y_n = ay_{n-1}$$

$$= a(ay_{n-2})$$

$$= a^2(ay_{n-3})$$

$$= \dots$$

$$= a^{n-1}y_1$$

$$= a^ny_0$$

Using the initial condition, we have $y_n = ca^n$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$

Second-Order Recurrence Relations

Second-order recurrence relations are of the form:

$$\begin{cases} y_n = ay_{n-1} + by_{n-2} & \text{for } n \ge 2\\ y_0 = c_1 & \\ y_0 = c_0 & \end{cases}$$
 (2)

Assuming a, b, c_0 and c_1 are constants and a trial function $y_n = ct^n$ to solve the relation above.

Using this assumption, $y_{n-1} = ct^{n-1}$ and $y_{n-2} = ct^{n-2}$

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Second-Order Recurrence Relations

Subtituting these into the recurrence relation (3:

$$ct^n = act^{n-1} + bct^{n-2}$$

Dividing through by ct^{n-2} :

$$t^2 = at + b \Rightarrow t^2 - at - b = 0$$
 (3)

(3) is called the **auxiliary** or **characteristic** equation of the recurrence relation.

Roots of the Characteristic Equation

The characteristic equation is a quadratic equation whose roots may be:

I two distinct real roots
$$t = t_1$$
 and $t = t_2$

II repeated real roots $t = t_0$

III two complex roots
$$t = t_1$$
 and $t_2 = \overline{t_1}$

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CASE I

Since $y_n = t_1^n$ and $y_n = t_2^n$ are solutions of the linear recurrence relation then another solution (the general solution) is

$$y_n = At_1^n + Bt_2^n \tag{4}$$

where *A* and *B* are arbitrary constants.

A and B are determined using the initial values $y_0 = c_0$ and $y_1 = c_1$.

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CASE II

Since $t = t_0$ is the repeated root of the characteristic equation, $y_n = t_0^n$ is a solution of the recurrence relation as well as the linearly independent solution $y_n = nt_0^n$.

Thus a general solution:

$$y_n = At^n + Bnt^n (5)$$

where A and B are arbitrary constants.

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A and B are determined using the initial values $\mathcal{R}_{0165} = \mathcal{L}_{0165} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{U}_{1055} = \mathcal{L}_{01655} \quad \text{Chapter 4: Difference Equation-Recurrence Relation.} \quad 19/07/2021$

CASE III

The complex roots of the auxiliary equation with real coefficients occur in conjugate pair. i.e if $t_1 = u + iv$ then $t_2 = u - iv$ with $v \neq 0$

By the general rule, the solution

$$y_n = At_1^n + Bt_2^n$$

= $A(u + iv)^n + B(u - iv)^n$ (6)

In polar form

$$u + iv = r(\cos\theta + i\sin\theta)$$

$$u + iv = r(\cos\theta - i\sin\theta)$$

And by DeMoivre's Theorem

$$[\rho(\cos\theta \pm i\sin\theta)]^n = \rho^n(\cos n\theta \pm i\sin n\theta)$$

Thus

$$y_n = A\rho^n(\cos n\theta + i\sin n\theta) + B\rho^n(\cos n\theta - i\sin n\theta)$$
$$= (A+B)\rho^n(\cos n\theta) + i(A-B)\rho^n\sin n\theta$$

If we substitute $A = B = \frac{1}{2}$, then $y_n = \rho^n \cos n\theta$ is a particular solution.

Similarly taking $A = -\frac{1}{2}i$ and $B = \frac{1}{2}i$, then $y_n = \rho^n \sin n\theta$ is also a particular solution. Thus the general solution is

$$y_n = \tilde{A}\rho^n \sin n\theta + \tilde{B}\rho^n \cos n\theta \tag{7}$$

where
$$\rho = \sqrt{u^2 + v^2}$$
 and $\theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{v}{u}$.

Example 5

Solve the following

$$\begin{cases} y_n = 3y_{n-1} - 2y_{n-2} \text{ for } n \ge 2\\ y_2 = 7\\ y_1 = 3 \end{cases}$$

ii
$$\begin{cases} y_n = 6y_{n-1} - 9y_{n-2} \text{ for } n \ge 1\\ y_1 = 3\\ y_0 = 5 \end{cases}$$

iii
$$y_n + 2y_{n-1} + 2y_{n-2} = 0$$

Solution:

(i) The Characteristic equation is $t^2 - 6t + 2 = 0$

Exercise C: Solve the following difference equations:

1.
$$y_{n+1} - ay_n = 0$$
, $y_0 = 1$

2.
$$y_n = -3y_{n-1}$$

3.
$$y_{n+2} + 2y_n = 0$$

4.
$$y_n - 2y_{n-1} + 2y_{n-2} = 0$$

5.
$$y_n + 4y_{n-1} + 8y_{n-2} = 0$$
; $y_1 = -1$

6.
$$y_n - 4y_{n-1} + 8y_{n-2} = 0$$
; $y_2 = 1, y_3 = -2$

7.
$$y_{n+2} + 2y_{n+1} + 4y_n = 0$$

Non-Homogeneous Difference Equations

Consider the difference equation of the form

$$a_k y_{n+k} + a_{k-1} y_{n+k-1} + \dots + a_0 y_n = \phi(n)$$
 (8)

Equation (8) is called **homogeneous** if $\phi(n) = 0$

and **non-homogeneous** when $\phi(n) \neq 0 \ \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$

The general solution to the non-homogeneous is obtained by adding any particular solution of (8) to the general solution of the corresponding homogeneous equation.

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Theorem 2

Let p(n) be a particular solution to

$$a_k y_{n+k} + a_{k-1} y_{n+k-1} + \dots + a_0 y_n = \phi(n)$$
 (9)
and
 $a_1 g_1(n) + a_2 g_2(n) + \dots + a_k g_k(n)$

be the general solution to

$$a_k y_{n+k} + a_{k-1} y_{n+k-1} + \dots + a_0 y_n = 0$$
 (10)

Then the general solution to (9) is

$$y(n) = a_1 g_1(n) + a_2 g_2(n) + \dots + a_k g_k(n) + p(n)$$
 (11)

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Example 6

Find the general solution to the difference equation $y_{n+1} - 2y_n = 2^n$, $n \ge 0$ $y_0 = 1$

Solution:

The homogeneous part $r-2=0 \Rightarrow r=2$ $v_n^{(h)}=\alpha 2^n$

The non-homogeneous part Guess of solution $y_n^{(p)} = A2^n n$

Substituting it into the relation $A2^{n+1}(n+1) - 2A2^n n = 2^n$

$$A2^{n} \cdot 2^{1}(n+1) - 2A \cdot 2^{n}n = 2^{n}$$
 dividing by 2^{n}

$$2A(n+1) - 2An = 1$$

$$2An + 2A - 2An = 1$$

$$2A = 1 \Rightarrow A = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$y_n^{(p)} = A2^n n = \frac{1}{2}2^n n = 2^{n-1}n$$

Now the general solution to the recurrence relation is

$$y(n) = y_n^{(h)} + y_n^{(p)}$$

$$y(n) = \alpha 2^n + 2^{n-1}n$$

Using the initial conditions

$$\alpha = 1$$

Thus

$$y_n = 2^n + 2^{n-1}n$$

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

First-Order Non-homogeneous Relation I

Consider the non-homogeneous first-order relation

$$y_n + a_1 y_{n-1} = k r^n (12)$$

where k is a constant and $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. If r^n is not a solution of the associated homogeneous relation

$$y_n + a_1 y_{n-1} = 0, (13)$$

then $y_n^{(p)} = Ar^n$ where A is a constant. When r^n is a solution of the associated homogeneous relation, then $y_n^{(p)} = Bnr^n$, for B a constant

2nd-Order Non-homogeneous Relation

Consider the non-homogeneous second-order relation

$$y_n + a_1 y_{n-1} a_2 y_{n-2} = k r^n (14)$$

where *k* is a constant. We have that

- (a) $a_n^{(p)} = Ar^n$, for A a constant, if r^n is not a solution of the associated homogeneous relation.
- (b) $y_n^{(p)} = Bnr^n$, where *B* is a constant, if $y_n^{(h)} = a_1 r^n + a_2 r_1^n$, where $r_1 \neq r$; and
- (c) $y_n^{(p)} = a_n^2 r^n$, for a a constant, when $v_n^{(h)} = (a_1 + a_2 n) r^n$.

2nd-Order Non-homogeneous Relation

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- (c) $y_n^{(p)} = a_n^2 r^n$, for *a* a constant, when $y_n^{(h)} = (a_1 + a_2 n) r^n$.

Some functions $\phi(n)$ and the corresponding forms of paticula solutions $y_n^{(p)}$

	3 11
$\phi(n)$	$y_n^{(p)}$
c, a constant	A, constant
n	$A_1 n + A_0$
n^2	$A_2 n^2 + A_1 n + A_0$
$n^t, t \in \mathbf{Z}^+$	$A_t n^t + A_{t-1} n^{t-1} + \dots + A_1 n + A_0$
$r^n, r \in \mathbf{R}$	Ar^n
$\sin n\theta$	$A\sin n\theta + B\cos n\theta$
$\cos n\theta$	$A\sin n\theta + B\cos n\theta$
$n^t r^n$	$r^{n}(A_{t}n^{t} + A_{t-1}n^{t-1} + \dots + A_{1}n + A_{0})$
$r^n \sin n\theta$	$Ar^n \sin n\theta + Br^n \cos n\theta$
$r^n \cos n\theta$	$Ar^n \sin n\theta + Br^n \cos n\theta$

Example 7

- i) Find the general solution of $y_n 3y_{n-1} 10y_{n-2} = 3(2^n)$
- ii) Solve the relation $y_{n+1} 4y_{n+1} + 3y_n = -200$, $n \ge 0$ $a_0 = 3000$, $a_1 = 3300$
- iii) Find the solution of $y_{n+2} y_{n+1} 6y_n = 6n^2 + 22n + 23$

Exercise D:

Find the general solution for the following.

1.
$$y_{n+2} - y_{n+1} - 2y_n = 3^n$$

2.
$$y_n + 2y_{n-1} - 8y_{n-2} = 5^{n-2}$$

3.
$$y_n - 9y_{n-2} = n^2 - 4n - 1$$

4.
$$2y_{n+1} - 3y_n - 5y_{n-1} = 5^{n-1} - 4$$

5.
$$y_{n+2} - y_{n+1} - 2y_n = 2^n$$
; $y_0 = 2$, $y_1 = 1$

6.
$$y_{n+2} + 2y_{n+1} - 8y_n = -5n + 14$$
; $y_0 = 0$, $y_1 = 1$

End of Lecture

Questions...???

Thanks