

1. (a) $n = 2$:

$$\begin{aligned} a^2 - 2a + 2 - 1 &= a^2 - 2a + 1 \\ &= (a - 1)^2 \end{aligned}$$

Assume $\forall n \geq 2, (a - 1)^2 \mid a^n - an + n - 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} a^n - an + n - 1 = k(a - 1)^2 &\Rightarrow a^{n+1} - a^2n + an - a = ka(a - 1)^2, k \in \mathbb{Z} \\ &\Rightarrow a^{n+1} - an - a + n = ka(a - 1)^2 + a^2n - 2an + n \\ &\Rightarrow a^{n+1} - a(n + 1) + n = ka(a - 1)^2 + n(a - 1)^2 \\ &\Rightarrow a^{n+1} - a(n + 1) + n = (ka + n)(a - 1)^2 \\ &\Rightarrow (a - 1)^2 \mid a^{n+1} - a(n + 1) + n \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

(b) $n = 1$:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^1 \frac{(k + m)!}{(k - 1)!} &= (1 + m)! \\ \frac{(1 + m + 1)!}{(1 - 1)!(m + 2)} &= (1 + m)! \\ \sum_{k=1}^1 \frac{(k + m)!}{(k - 1)!} &= \frac{(1 + m + 1)!}{(1 - 1)!(m + 2)} \end{aligned}$$

Assume $\forall n \geq 1$,

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(k + m)!}{(k - 1)!} = \frac{(n + m + 1)!}{(n - 1)!(m + 2)}$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} \frac{(k + m)!}{(k - 1)!} &= \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(k + m)!}{(k - 1)!} + \frac{(n + 1 + m)!}{n!} \\ &= \frac{(n + m + 1)!}{(n - 1)!(m + 2)} + \frac{(n + 1 + m)!}{n!} \\ &= \frac{(n + m + 1)!n! + (n + m + 1)!(n - 1)!(m + 2)}{(n - 1)!(m + 2)n!} \\ &= \frac{(n + m + 1)!(n! + (n - 1)!(m + 2))}{(n - 1)!(m + 2)n!} \\ &= \frac{(n + m + 1)!(n - 1)!(n + m + 2)}{(n - 1)!(m + 2)n!} \\ &= \frac{(n + m + 2)!}{n!(m + 2)} \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

(c) $n = 1$:

$$1 = \sum_{i=1}^1 1 \cdot i!$$

Let $m \geq 1$ be given. Assume all $n \leq m$ has such a representation.
Now proving $n = m + 1$ also has such a representation.

Let k largest integer such that

$$(1) \quad k! \leq m + 1 \leq (k + 1)!$$

If $k! = m + 1$, then $m + 1$ has the desired representation.

If $k! < m + 1$, let m' such that $k! + m' = m + 1$

$$k! + m' = m + 1 \Rightarrow m' = m + 1 - k!$$

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \leq k! < m + 1 &\Rightarrow -m - 1 < -k! \leq -1 \\ &\Rightarrow 0 < m + 1 - k! \leq m \\ &\Rightarrow 0 \leq m' \leq m \end{aligned}$$

Thus m' has the desired representation.

Then, $k! + m' = m + 1$ is a sum of factorials.

Now checking if $k! + m'$ satisfies $0 \leq c_i < i$.

If $k!$ is absent from the representation of m' , the condition is satisfied.

If $k!$ is present in the representation of m' , we have 2 cases: $c_k \leq k - 1$ and $c_k = k$.

$c_k \leq k - 1$:

$$k! + m' = \dots + (c_k + 1)k!$$

with $c_k + 1 \leq k$, satisfying the condition.

$c_k = k$:

$$\begin{aligned} m + 1 &= m' + k! \\ &\geq d_k k! + k! \\ &\geq k k! + k! \\ &\geq (k + 1)! \end{aligned}$$

which contradicts (1).

This case is thus impossible.

Therefore, $n = m + 1$ has the desired representation.

In conclusion, $\forall n \geq 1$,

$$n = \sum_{i=1}^k c_i i! \quad \square$$

2. (a) $n = 1$:

$$\begin{aligned} (-1)^1 f_1 + 1 &= -1 + 1 \\ &= 0 \\ &= 1 - 1 \\ &= f_1 - f_2 \end{aligned}$$

Assume $\forall n \geq 1, f_1 - f_2 + f_3 + \dots + (-1)^n f_{n+1} = (-1)^n f_n + 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} f_1 - f_2 + f_3 + \dots + (-1)^{n+1} f_{n+2} &= (-1)^n f_n + 1 + (-1)^{n+1} f_{n+2} \\ &= (-1)^n f_n + 1 + (-1)^{n+1} f_n + (-1)^{n+1} f_{n+1} \\ &= (-1)^n f_n - (-1)^n f_n + (-1)^{n+1} f_{n+1} + 1 \\ &= (-1)^{n+1} f_{n+1} + 1 \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

(b) $n = 1 :$

$$\begin{aligned} f_1 f_2 &= 1 \\ &= 1^2 \\ &= f_2^2 \end{aligned}$$

Assume $\forall n \geq 1, f_1 f_2 + f_2 f_3 + f_3 f_4 + \dots + f_{2n-1} f_{2n} = f_{2n}^2$.

$$\begin{aligned} f_1 f_2 + f_2 f_3 + f_3 f_4 + \dots + f_{2(n+1)-1} f_{2(n+1)} &= f_{2n}^2 + f_{2n} f_{2n+1} + f_{2(n+1)-1} f_{2(n+1)} \\ &= f_{2n}^2 + f_{2n} f_{2n+1} + f_{2n+1} f_{2n+2} \\ &= f_{2n}^2 + 2f_{2n} f_{2n+1} + f_{2n+1}^2 \\ &= (f_{2n} + f_{2n+1})^2 \\ &= f_{2n+2}^2 \\ &= f_{2(n+1)}^2 \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

3. (a) $a_m = \frac{3}{2}a_{m-1} - \frac{1}{4}a_{m-2} - 6m$

(b) Let $p_m = am + b$

$$\begin{aligned} am + b &= \frac{3}{2}(a(m-1) + b) - \frac{1}{4}(a(m-2) + b) - 6m \\ &= \frac{3}{2}am - \frac{3}{2}a + \frac{3}{2}b - \frac{1}{4}am + \frac{1}{2}a - \frac{1}{4}b - 6m \\ 0 &= \frac{1}{4}am - 6m - a + \frac{1}{4}b \\ &= -a + \frac{1}{4}b + \left(\frac{1}{4}a - 6\right)m \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{cases} -a + \frac{1}{4}b = 0 \\ \frac{1}{4}a - 6 = 0 \end{cases} &\Rightarrow \begin{cases} b = 96 \\ a = 24 \end{cases} \\ &\Rightarrow p_m = 24m + 96 \end{aligned}$$

Now solving $a_m = \frac{3}{2}a_{m-1} - \frac{1}{4}a_{m-2}$

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 - \frac{3}{2}x + \frac{1}{4} &= \left(x - \frac{3}{4}\right)^2 - \frac{5}{16} \\ &= \left(x - \frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4}\right)\left(x - \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{4}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Let } q_m = c_1 \left(\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4}\right)^m + c_2 \left(\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{4}\right)^m$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} a_m &= p_m + q_m \\ &= 24m + 96 + c_1 \left(\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4}\right)^m + c_2 \left(\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{4}\right)^m \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\begin{cases} a_0 = 40 \\ a_1 = 54 \end{cases} &\Rightarrow \begin{cases} 40 = 96 + c_1 + c_2 \\ 54 = 24 + 96 + c_1 \left(\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4} \right) + c_2 \left(\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{4} \right) \end{cases} \\
&\Rightarrow \begin{cases} c_1 + c_2 = -56 \\ c_1 \left(\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4} \right) + c_2 \left(\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{4} \right) = -66 \end{cases} \\
&\Rightarrow \begin{cases} c_1 = -c_2 - 56 \\ -c_2 \left(\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4} \right) - 56 \left(\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4} \right) + c_2 \left(\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{4} \right) = -66 \end{cases} \\
&\Rightarrow \begin{cases} c_1 = -c_2 - 56 \\ -\frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}c_2 - 42 - 14\sqrt{5} = -66 \end{cases} \\
&\Rightarrow \begin{cases} c_1 = \frac{-48\sqrt{5}-140}{5} \\ c_2 = \frac{48\sqrt{5}-140}{5} \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
a_m &= 24m + 96 + c_1 \left(\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4} \right)^m + c_2 \left(\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{4} \right)^m \\
&= 24m + 96 - \frac{140 + 48\sqrt{5}}{5} \left(\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4} \right)^m - \frac{140 - 48\sqrt{5}}{5} \left(\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{4} \right)^m
\end{aligned}$$

(c) Now proving $\frac{da_m}{dm} < 0$ for $m \geq 3$

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{da_m}{dm} &= 24 - \frac{140 + 48\sqrt{5}}{5} \ln \left(\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4} \right) \left(\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4} \right)^m - \frac{140 - 48\sqrt{5}}{5} \ln \left(\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{4} \right) \left(\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{4} \right)^m \\
\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{140 + 48\sqrt{5}}{5} \ln \left(\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4} \right) \left(\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4} \right)^m &= \infty \\
\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{140 - 48\sqrt{5}}{5} \ln \left(\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{4} \right) \left(\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{4} \right)^m &= 0
\end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{140 + 48\sqrt{5}}{5} \ln \left(\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4} \right) \left(\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4} \right)^m + \frac{140 - 48\sqrt{5}}{5} \ln \left(\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{4} \right) \left(\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{4} \right)^m &= \infty \\
\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} 24 - \frac{140 + 48\sqrt{5}}{5} \ln \left(\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4} \right) \left(\frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{4} \right)^m - \frac{140 - 48\sqrt{5}}{5} \ln \left(\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{4} \right) \left(\frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{4} \right)^m &= -\infty \\
\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{da_m}{dm} &= -\infty
\end{aligned}$$

Let $f'(m) = \frac{da_m}{dm}$

$$\begin{aligned}
f'(3) &\approx -5.8 \\
&< 0
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\forall m \geq 3, \frac{da_m}{dm} < 0$ \square

This means after 3 minutes, the prize money a_m only decreases.

Checking a_0, a_1, a_2 and a_3 :

$$\begin{aligned}
a_0 &= 40 \\
a_1 &= 54 \\
a_2 &= 59 \\
a_3 &= 57
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, leaving the chair after 2 minutes maximizes the winnings.