

1. Q — Solve the advancement operator equation  
 $(A^2 + 3A - 10)f = 0$  if  $f(0) = 2$  and  $f(1) = 10$ .

A — The original equation can be written as  $(A + 5)(A - 2)f = 0$ .

$(A - 2)f = 0$  can also be written as  $Af(n) = 2f(n)$ , i.e.,  $f_{n+1} = 2f_n$ . A function that, when advanced, gives twice the value as its predecessor is  $f_1 = c_1 2^n$ . When we try this solution in our original problem we have that  $(A + 5)(A - 2)f_1(n) = (A + 5)0 = 0$  hence  $f_1$  is a solution to the original problem.

Similarly  $(A + 5)f = 0$  has a solution  $f_2 = c_2(-5)^n$  which is also a solution to the original problem.

To see if combined,  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  give us all the solutions to the advancement operator equation, we substitute  $f(n) = c_1 2^n + c_2(-5)^n$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 (A + 5)(A - 2)f(n) &= (A + 5)(A - 2)(c_1 2^n + c_2(-5)^n) \\
 &= (A + 5)(c_1 2^{n+1} + c_2(-5)^{n+1} - 2(c_1 2^n + c_2(-5)^n)) \\
 &= (A + 5)(c_1 2^{n+1} + c_2(-5)^{n+1} - c_1 2^{n+1} - 2c_2(-5)^n) \\
 &= (A + 5)(-7c_2(-5)^n) \\
 &= -7c_2(A + 5)((-5)^n) \\
 &= -7c_2(-5(-5)^n + 5(-5)^n) \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore f(n) = c_1 2^n + c_2(-5)^n$  are the solutions.

$$f(0) = c_1 + c_2 = 2$$

$$f(1) = 2c_1 - 5c_2 = 10$$

$$(c_1 = \frac{20}{7}, c_2 = -\frac{6}{7})$$

$$f(n) = \frac{20}{7} 2^n - \frac{6}{7}(-5)^n$$