

1. Q — Find the general solution of the recurrence equation

$$g_{n+2} = 3g_{n+1} - 2g_n.$$

A — The recurrence can be written as a homogenous equation,
 $g_{n+2} - 3g_{n+1} + 2g_n = 0$. On summing:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_{n+2} - 3 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_{n+1} + 2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_n = 0 \quad (1)$$

Let $f(x)$ represent the generating function for the sequence $\{r_n : n \geq 0\}$:

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_n x^n = g_0 + g_1 x + g_2 x^2 + g_3 x^3 + \dots$$

Multiplying (1) by x^n :

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_{n+2} x^n - 3 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_{n+1} x^n + 2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_n x^n = 0 \quad (2)$$

We observe that:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_{n+2} x^n &= g_2 + g_3 x + g_4 x^2 + g_5 x^3 + \dots \\ x^2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_{n+2} x^n &= g_2 x^2 + g_3 x^3 + g_4 x^4 + g_5 x^5 + \dots \\ &= f(x) - g_0 - g_1 x \\ \therefore \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_{n+2} x^n &= \frac{f(x) - g_0 - g_1 x}{x^2} \end{aligned}$$

Also that:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_{n+1} x^n &= g_1 + g_2 x + g_3 x^2 + g_4 x^3 + \dots \\ x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_{n+1} x^n &= g_1 x + g_2 x^2 + g_3 x^3 + g_4 x^4 + \dots \\ &= f(x) - g_0 \\ \therefore \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g_{n+1} x^n &= \frac{f(x) - g_0}{x} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore (2) can be re-written as:

$$\frac{f(x) - g_0 - g_1 x}{x^2} - 3 \frac{f(x) - g_0}{x} + 2f(x) = 0 \quad (3)$$

Simplifying:

$$\frac{f(x) - g_0 - g_1x - 3(f(x)x^2 - g_0x^2) + 2f(x)x^2}{x^2} = 0 \quad (4)$$

$$f(x)(1 - x^2) - g_0 - g_1x + 3g_0x^2 = 0$$

$$f(x)(1 - x^2) = g_0 + g_1x - 3g_0x^2$$

$$f(x) = \frac{g_0 + g_1x - 3g_0x^2}{1 - x^2}$$

$$= \frac{g_0 + g_1x - 3g_0x^2}{(1+x)(1-x)}$$

$$= \frac{A}{1+x} + \frac{B}{1-x}$$

$$= \frac{A(1-x) + B(1+x)}{1-x^2}$$

$$= \frac{(A+B) + x(B-A)}{1-x^2}$$

$$\frac{g_0 + g_1x - 3g_0x^2}{1-x^2} = \frac{(A+B) + x(B-A)}{1-x^2}$$

$$A+B = g_0$$

$$B-A = g_1$$

$$2B = g_0 + g_1, B = \frac{g_0 + g_1}{2}$$

$$\text{and, } 2A = g_0 - g_1, A = \frac{g_0 - g_1}{2}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{g_0 - g_1}{2(1+x)} + \frac{g_0 + g_1}{2(1-x)}$$

Using the geometric series expansion of $\frac{1}{1-x}$ and $\frac{1}{1+x}$, we conclude that $f(x) = \frac{g_0 - g_1}{2} \sum (-1)^n x^n + \frac{g_0 + g_1}{2} \sum x^n$. In other words

$$\boxed{r_n = \frac{g_0 - g_1}{2}(-1)^n + \frac{g_0 + g_1}{2}}$$