

$$a_n = \frac{1 + a_{n-1}^2}{a_{n-2}}$$

Suppose $a_n = 3a_{n-1} - a_{n-2}$ is true for all $2 \leq n \leq k$ for some $k \geq 2$. Consider a_{k+1} :

$$\begin{aligned} a_{k+1} &= \frac{1 + a_k^2}{a_{k-1}} \\ &= \frac{1 + (3a_{k-1} - a_{k-2})^2}{a_{k-1}} \\ &= \frac{1 + 9a_{k-1}^2 - 6a_{k-1}a_{k-2} + a_{k-2}^2}{a_{k-1}} \\ &= \frac{1}{a_{k-1}} + 9a_{k-1} - 6a_{k-2} + \frac{a_{k-2}^2}{a_{k-1}} \\ &= \frac{1 + a_{k-2}^2}{a_{k-1}} + 9a_{k-1} - 6a_{k-2} \\ &= \frac{a_{k-3}}{a_{k-1}} \cdot \frac{1 + a_{k-2}^2}{a_{k-3}} + 9a_{k-1} - 6a_{k-2} \\ &= \frac{a_{k-3}}{a_{k-1}} \cdot a_{k-1} + 9a_{k-1} - 6a_{k-2} \\ &= a_{k-3} + 9a_{k-1} - 6a_{k-2} \\ &= -(3a_{k-2} - a_{k-3}) + 9a_{k-1} - 6a_{k-2} + 3a_{k-2} \\ &= -a_{k-1} + 9a_{k-1} - 6a_{k-2} + 3a_{k-2} \\ &= 8a_{k-1} - 3a_{k-2} \\ &= 3(3a_{k-1} - a_{k-2}) - a_{k-1} \\ a_{k+1} &= 3a_k - a_{k-1} \end{aligned}$$

Hence if $a_n = 3a_{n-1} - a_{n-2}$ is true for all $2 \leq n \leq k$ for some $k \geq 2$, then it is also true for all $n > k$. Consider a_2 :

$$\begin{aligned} a_2 &= \frac{1 + a_1^2}{a_0} = 2 \\ a_2 &= 3a_1 - a_0 = 2 \end{aligned}$$

The two formulae agree, so since it is true for $n = 2$, it is also true for all $n \geq 2$.

Suppose $a_n = r^n$ for some non-zero r satisfies the relation $a_n = 3a_{n-1} - a_{n-2}$.

$$r^n = 3r^{n-1} - r^{n-2}$$

$$r^n - 3r^{n-1} + r^{n-2} = 0$$

$$r^2 - 3r + 1 = 0$$

$$r = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{9-4}}{2} = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2} = 1 + \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$$

Let $\beta_+ = 1 + \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$ and $\beta_- = 1 + \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}$. Any linear combination of β_+^n and β_-^n will satisfy the relation $a_n = 3a_{n-1} - a_{n-2}$.

Let us consider some powers of α :

$$\alpha = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha^2 &= \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^2 = \frac{1 + 2\sqrt{5} + 5}{4} = \frac{6 + 2\sqrt{5}}{4} \\ &= 1 + \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} = 1 + \alpha \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha^{-2} &= \left(-\frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^2 = \frac{1 - 2\sqrt{5} + 5}{4} = \frac{6 - 2\sqrt{5}}{4} \\ &= 1 + \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} = 1 - \alpha^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $\beta_+^n = \alpha^{2n}$ and $\beta_-^n = \alpha^{-2n}$. We also note that $\alpha + \alpha^{-1} = \sqrt{5}$.

Let $a_n = A\alpha^{2n} + B\alpha^{-2n}$ where A and B are coefficients to be determined. $a_1 = 1$, $a_2 = 2$, hence,

$$\begin{cases} A\alpha^2 + B\alpha^{-2} = 1 \\ A\alpha^4 + B\alpha^{-4} = 2 \end{cases}$$

Multiplying the first equation by α^{-2} :

$$A + B\alpha^{-4} = \alpha^{-2}$$

Subtract it from the second equation:

$$(A\alpha^4 + B\alpha^{-4}) - (A + B\alpha^{-4}) = 2 - \alpha^{-2}$$

$$A\alpha^4 - A = 2 - \alpha^{-2}$$

$$A(\alpha^4 - 1) = 2 - \alpha^{-2}$$

$$A = \frac{2 - \alpha^{-2}}{\alpha^4 - 1} = \frac{2 - (1 - \alpha^{-1})}{(\alpha^2 + 1)(\alpha^2 - 1)} = \frac{1 + \alpha^{-1}}{\alpha(\alpha + \alpha^{-1})(\alpha^2 - 1)}$$

But $\alpha^{-1} = \alpha - 1$ and $\alpha^2 = 1 + \alpha$, hence,

$$A = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha^2(\alpha + \alpha^{-1})} = \frac{\alpha^{-1}}{\sqrt{5}} \quad (1)$$

$A\alpha^2 + B\alpha^{-2} = \frac{\alpha^{-1}}{\sqrt{5}} \cdot \alpha^2 + B\alpha^{-2} = 1$, hence:

$$\frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{5}} + B\alpha^{-2} = 1$$

$$B\alpha^{-2} = 1 - \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{5}}$$

$$B = \alpha^2 \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{5}} \right)$$

$$= \alpha^2 \cdot \frac{\sqrt{5} - \alpha}{\sqrt{5}}$$

$$= \alpha^2 \cdot \frac{(\alpha + \alpha^{-1}) - \alpha}{\sqrt{5}}$$

$$= \alpha^2 \cdot \frac{\alpha^{-1}}{\sqrt{5}}$$

$$B = \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{5}} \quad (2)$$

Hence,

$$a_n = \frac{\alpha^{-1}}{\sqrt{5}} \cdot \alpha^{2n} + \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{5}} \cdot \alpha^{-2n} = \frac{\alpha^{2n-1} + \alpha^{-(2n-1)}}{\sqrt{5}}$$