

# Lecture 5

188 200

Discrete Mathematics and Linear Algebra

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# Overview

Today we will learn about **Sequence** and **Recursion**.

- ▶ Sequence
- ▶ Summation, Product notation, Factorial notation
- ▶ Recursion
- ▶ Arithmetic sequence, Geometric sequence
- ▶ Tower of Hanoi, Fibonacci sequence
- ▶ Determining an explicit formula by a second-order linear homogeneous recurrence relation technique

## Reference

- ▶ Section 4.1, Section 8.1 - 8.3

# Sequence

**Sequence is an ordered list of elements.**

- ▶ sequence is denoted as

$$a_m, a_{m+1}, a_{m+2}, \dots, a_n(, \dots)$$

- can be finite or infinite.
- ▶ each  $a_k$  (read “a sub k” or simply “a k”) is called “**term**”.
- ▶  $k$  is called “**index**”.
- ▶  $a_m$  is called an “**initial term**”.
- ▶  $m$  usually starts from 0 or 1.
- ▶ For example 0, 3, 6, 9, ...
- ▶ an **explicit formula** (or **general formula**) of a sequence is a rule that shows **how the values of  $a_k$  depends on  $k$** .
  - for example  $a_k = 3k$  for all integers  $k \geq 0$

## Finding Terms of Sequences from Explicit Formulas

**Example:** Compute the first three terms of the following explicit formula:

▶  $a_k = \frac{k}{k+1}$  for all integers  $k \geq 1$

▶  $b_i = \frac{i-1}{i}$  for all integers  $i \geq 2$

### Solution

$$a_1 = \frac{1}{1+1} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$a_2 = \frac{2}{2+1} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$a_3 = \frac{3}{3+1} = \frac{3}{4}$$

$$b_2 = \frac{2-1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$b_3 = \frac{3-1}{3} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$b_4 = \frac{4-1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$$

## Finding an Explicit Formula for Sequences

**Example:** Find an explicit formula for the following sequence:

$$1, -\frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{9}, -\frac{1}{16}, \frac{1}{25}, -\frac{1}{36}, \dots$$

### Solution

- ▶ The sequence can be written as  $\frac{1}{1^2}, -\frac{1}{2^2}, \frac{1}{3^2}, -\frac{1}{4^2}, \frac{1}{5^2}, -\frac{1}{6^2}, \dots$ 
  - $a_k = \frac{\pm 1}{k^2}$  for every integers  $k \geq 1$ .
- ▶ The sign of the sequence alternates between **positive** and **negative**.
  - **positive** with odd term and **negative** with even term.
  - $(-1)^{k+1}$
- ▶ Thus the explicit formula is  $a_k = \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{k^2}$  for  $k \geq 1$ .
  - To start  $k$  with 0,  $a_k = \frac{(-1)^k}{(k+1)^2}$  for  $k \geq 0$ .

# Summation

The summation is denoted by

$$\sum_{k=m}^n a_k$$

- ▶ “the summation from  $k = m$  to  $n$  of  $a_k$ ”.
- ▶ **The expanded form:**  $a_m + a_{m+1} + a_{m+2} \dots + a_n$
- ▶  $m$  is lower limit and  $n$  is upper limit.
- ▶  $\sum_{k=1}^5 k + 1 = 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 = 20$
- ▶  $\sum_{k=1}^5 3 = 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 15$
- ▶  $\sum_{k=0}^4 (2^{k+1} - 2^k) =$   
 $(2^1 - 2^0) + (2^2 - 2^1) + (2^3 - 2^2) + (2^4 - 2^3) = 15$

## Finding Sum Notation of Expanded Forms

**Example:** Find the summation notation of the following expanded form

$$\frac{1}{n} + \frac{2}{n+1} + \frac{3}{n+2} + \frac{3}{n+2} + \dots + \frac{n+1}{2n}$$

**Solution:** The sequence can be listed as:

$$\frac{0+1}{n+0} + \frac{1+1}{n+1} + \frac{2+1}{n+2} + \frac{3+1}{n+3} + \dots + \frac{n+1}{n+n}$$

The general term of this summation then can be expressed as  $\frac{k+1}{n+k}$  for integers  $k$  from  $0$  to  $n$ .

Hence the summation notation is

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \frac{k+1}{n+k}$$

# Product Notation

The product of a sequence is denoted as

$$\prod_{k=m}^n a_k$$

- ▶ the product from  $k = m$  to  $n$  of  $a_k$ .
- ▶  $a_m \cdot a_{m+1} \cdot a_{m+2} \cdot \dots \cdot a_n$

For example:

- ▶  $\prod_{k=1}^5 k = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 = 120$
- ▶  $\prod_{k=1}^4 \frac{k}{k+1} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{3}{4} \cdot \frac{4}{5} = \frac{1}{5}$

## Factorial Notation

For  $n \geq 1$ ,  **$n$  factorial** (denoted as  $n!$ ) is the product of all the integers from 1 to  $n$

$$n! = n \cdot (n - 1) \cdot (n - 2) \cdot \dots \cdot 2 \cdot 1$$

Note that **zero factorial** ( $0!$ ) is defined to be 1.

For example:

▶  $2! = 2 \cdot 1 = 2$

▶  $5! = 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = 120$

▶  $\frac{n!}{(n-3)!} = n \cdot (n - 1) \cdot (n - 2)$

# Properties of Summations and Products

1.

$$\sum_{k=m}^n a_k + \sum_{k=m}^n b_k = \sum_{k=m}^n (a_k + b_k)$$

2. For some constant  $c$

$$c \cdot \sum_{k=m}^n a_k = \sum_{k=m}^n c \cdot a_k$$

3.

$$\left( \prod_{k=m}^n a_k \right) \cdot \left( \prod_{k=m}^n b_k \right) = \prod_{k=m}^n (a_k \cdot b_k)$$

## Example Using Property of Summations and Products

**Example:** Let  $a_k = k + 1$  and  $b_k = k - 1$  for all integers  $k$ , write each of the following as a single summation or product.

►  $\sum_{k=m}^n a_k + 2 \sum_{k=m}^n b_k$

$$\sum_{k=m}^n a_k + 2 \sum_{k=m}^n b_k = \sum_{k=m}^n (k + 1) + 2 \sum_{k=m}^n (k - 1) \quad \text{by substitution}$$

$$= \sum_{k=m}^n (k + 1) + \sum_{k=m}^n 2(k - 1) \quad \text{by property 2}$$

$$= \sum_{k=m}^n ((k + 1) + 2(k - 1)) \quad \text{by property 1}$$

$$= \sum_{k=m}^n (3k - 1) \quad \text{by simplification}$$

## Changing Variable of Summations

**Example:** Transforming the following summation

$$\sum_{k=0}^6 \frac{1}{k+1}$$

by changing  $j = k + 1$  (i.e. change index to 1 to 7).

**Solution:**

- ▶ First calculate the new lower and upper limit
  - when  $k = 0, j = 1$
  - when  $k = 6, j = 7$
- ▶ Since  $j = k + 1, \frac{1}{k+1} = \frac{1}{j}$
- ▶ Thus

$$\sum_{k=0}^6 \frac{1}{k+1} = \sum_{j=1}^7 \frac{1}{j}$$

## Changing Variable : More Example

**Example:** Write the following summations as a single summation.

$$3 \cdot \sum_{k=-1}^{n-1} (2k + 3) + \sum_{k=2}^{n+2} (4 - 5k)$$

**Solution:** First change both summations to the same index.

- ▶ First summation: Let  $j = 0$ , then  $j = k + 1$ .
  - when  $k = n - 1$ ,  $j = n$ .
  - $2k + 3 = 2(j - 1) + 3 = 2j + 1$ .
- ▶ Second summation: Let  $j = 0$ , then  $j = k - 2$ .
  - when  $k = n + 2$ ,  $j = n$ .
  - $4 - 5k = 4 - 5(j + 2) = -6 - j$ .

$$3 \cdot \sum_{j=0}^n (2j + 1) + \sum_{j=0}^n (-6 - j) = \sum_{j=0}^n (5j - 3)$$

# Recursion

**Recursion can be used to defined sequence.**

- ▶ **A recurrence relation:** a formula that relates each term  $a_k$  to some previous terms  $a_{k-1}, a_{k-2}, \dots$ 
  - $a_k = a_{k-1} + 2a_{k-2}$
- ▶ **The initial conditions:** the values of  $a_0, a_1, \dots$

**Example:** For all integers  $k \geq 2$ , find the terms  $b_2, b_3$  and  $b_4$ :

- ▶  $b_k = b_{k-1} + k \cdot b_{k-2} + 1$  (recurrence relation)
- ▶  $b_0 = 1$  and  $b_1 = 2$  (initial conditions)

**Solution:**

$$b_2 = b_1 + 2b_0 + 1 = 2 + 2 \cdot 1 + 1 = 5$$

$$b_3 = b_2 + 2b_1 + 1 = 5 + 3 \cdot 2 + 1 = 12$$

$$b_4 = b_3 + 2b_2 + 1 = 12 + 4 \cdot 5 + 1 = 33$$

## Arithmetic Sequence

A sequence is called **arithmetic sequence** iff each term equals the previous term plus a fixed constant.

Formally, a sequence is called arithmetic sequence iff there is a constant  $d$  such that its recurrence relation is

$$a_k = a_{k-1} + d \quad \text{for all integers } k \geq 1$$

Or equivalently,

$$a_n = a_0 + d \cdot n \quad \text{for all integers } n \geq 0$$

# Arithmetic Sequence: Example

## Example:

- ▶ Assume there is no air resistant, a ball will fall 9.8 meter each second.
- ▶ The ball falls 4.8 meter between 0 and 1 second.
- ▶ How far will the ball fall between 60 and 61 second?

## Solution:

- ▶ Let  $d_k$  be the distance that a ball would fall between  $k$  and  $k + 1$  second.
- ▶ Thus  $d_k = d_{k-1} + 9.8$  for  $k \geq 1$ .
- ▶ Equivalently,  $d_n = d_0 + n \cdot 9.8$  for  $n \geq 0$ .
- ▶ And  $a_0 = 4.8$
- ▶ Hence,  $d_{60} = 4.8 + 80 \cdot 9.8 = 592.8$  meters.

## Geometric Sequence

A sequence is called a **geometric sequence** iff each term equals the previous term times a fixed constant.

Formally, sequence is called geometric sequence iff there is  $r$  such that its recurrence relation are

$$a_k = r \cdot a_{k-1} \quad \text{for } k \geq 1.$$

Or equivalently

$$a_n = a_0 \cdot r^n \quad \text{for } n \geq 0.$$

## Geometric Sequence: Example

**Example:** Consider the following situation:

- ▶ A bank pays interest rate of 4% per year.
- ▶ Suppose the initial deposit is 100,000 baht.
- ▶ How much money will there be at the end of year 21?

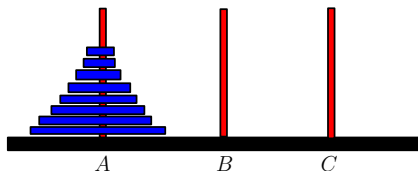
**Solution:**

- ▶ Let  $a_k$  be the amount of money at the end of year  $k$ .
- ▶ Money end of  $k =$  Money end of  $k - 1 +$  interest gained in  $k$ .
  - $a_k = a_{k-1} + 0.04 \cdot a_{k-1} = (1.04)a_{k-1}$ .
- ▶ Equivalently,  $a_n = a_0 \cdot (1.04)^n$ .
- ▶ Hence  $a_{21} = (100,000)(1.04)^{21} \approx 227,876.81$  baht.

# The Tower of Hanoi

The **tower of Hanoi** is a puzzle that consists of:

- ▶  $k$  disks of woods of different sizes
- ▶ 3 poles:  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$



**Rules:**

- move a disk one at a time
- never place a larger disk on top of a smaller one

You want to move all disks from  $A$  to  $C$ .

How many moves will it take if there are 8 disks?

Can you show how to move 1 disk? 2 disks? 3 disks?

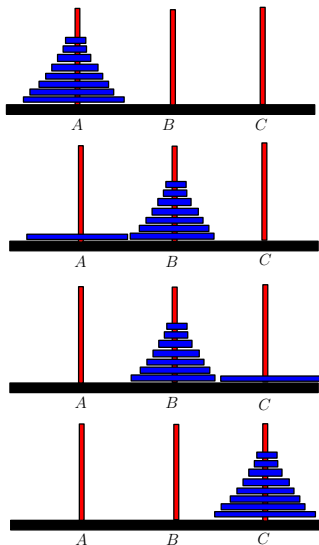
## The Tower of Hanoi 2

Let's use recursion!

Consider moving  $k$  disks from  $A$  to  $C$ :

1. Moving the top  $k - 1$  disks from  $A$  to  $B$ .
2. Moving the bottom disk from  $A$  to  $C$ .
3. Moving the top  $k - 1$  disks from  $B$  to  $C$ .

We will assume that we know how to move  $k - 1$  disks from  $A$  to  $B$ .



## The Tower of Hanoi 4

Hence,

**# of moves of  $k$  from  $A$  to  $B$**

**= # of moves of  $k - 1$  from  $A$  to  $B$**

**+ # of moves of the bottom disk from  $A$  to  $C$**

**+ # of moves of  $k - 1$  from  $B$  to  $C$**

Let  $m_k$  be the minimum number of moves needed to transfer a tower of  $k$  disks from one pole to another. Hence

$$m_k = m_{k-1} + 1 + m_{k-1} = 2m_{k-1} + 1$$

And  $m_1 = 1$ .

## The Tower of Hanoi 5

So how many moves does it take to move 8 disks?

$$m_1 = 1$$

$$m_2 = 2 \cdot m_1 + 1 = 2 \cdot 1 + 1 = 3$$

$$m_3 = 2 \cdot m_2 + 1 = 2 \cdot 3 + 1 = 7$$

$$m_4 = 2 \cdot m_3 + 1 = 2 \cdot 7 + 1 = 15$$

$$m_5 = 2 \cdot m_4 + 1 = 2 \cdot 15 + 1 = 31$$

$$m_6 = 2 \cdot m_5 + 1 = 2 \cdot 31 + 1 = 63$$

$$m_7 = 2 \cdot m_6 + 1 = 2 \cdot 63 + 1 = 127$$

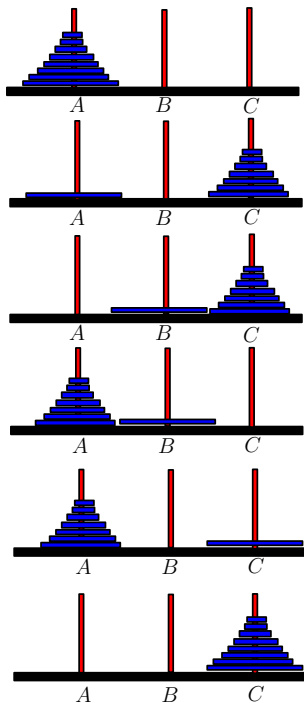
$$m_8 = 2 \cdot m_7 + 1 = 2 \cdot 127 + 1 = 255$$

# The Tower of Hanoi 3

Is this the most efficient?

**Yes!** Because:

1. Moving the bottom disk from  $A$  to  $C$ , first move the top  $k - 1$  disks out.
2. Instead move  $k - 1$  to  $C$ , at least two extra steps.
  - Move  $k - 1$  from  $A$  to  $C$ .
  - Move  $k - 1$  from  $C$  to  $A$ .



# Fibonacci Sequence

Consider the sequence where

- ▶ **Each term is the sum of the previous two terms.**
- ▶ **Recurrence relation** is  $a_k = a_{k-1} + a_{k-2}$ , where the first two terms are 1, i.e.  $a_1 = a_2 = 1$ .
- ▶ 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, ...
- ▶ This is the **Fibonacci sequence**

## Reproducing Rabbits

You have one pair of rabbits (male and female) on an island:

- ▶ Suppose the following statements are true:
  - Every rabbit pairs pregnant for one month.
  - They start pregnant after they are one month old.
  - They give birth to another pair every month.
- ▶ This process repeats indefinitely
  - Assume that every pairs live forever (no rabbit will die).

**How many rabbit pairs are there after 10 months?**

## Reproducing Rabbits 2

- ▶ **Starting: 1 pair**
  - The original pair was born.
- ▶ **End of first month: 1 pair**
  - The original (and now pregnant) pair
- ▶ **End of second month: 2 pairs**
  - One new pair and one original pair
- ▶ **End of third month: 3 pairs**
  - One new pair, and two old pairs
- ▶ **End of fourth month: 5 pairs**
  - 2 new pairs plus 3 old pairs
- ▶ **End of fifth month: 8 pairs**
  - 3 new pairs and 5 old pairs

## Reproducing Rabbits 3

- ▶ **End of sixth month: 13 pairs**
  - 5 new rabbit pairs and 8 old pairs
- ▶ **End of seventh month: 21 pairs**
  - 8 new rabbit pairs and 13 old pairs
- ▶ **End of eighth month: 34 pairs**
  - 13 new rabbit pairs and 21 old pairs
- ▶ **End of ninth month: 55 pairs**
  - 21 new rabbit pairs and 34 old pairs
- ▶ **End of tenth month: 89 pairs**
  - 34 new rabbit pairs, and 55 old pairs

Note the sequence:  $\{ 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, \dots \}$

**The Fibonacci sequence again!**

## Solving Reproducing Rabbits with Recursion

**Observation:** number of rabbit pairs born at the end of month  $k$  is the same as the number of pairs alive at the end of month  $k - 2$ .

Because rabbits pairs born at the end of  $k - 2$  give birth at the end of month  $k$ .

Thus,

**# rabbit pairs alive at end month  $k$**

**= # rabbit pairs alive at end of month  $k - 1$**

**+ # rabbit pairs born at end of month  $k$**

**= # rabbit pairs alive at end of month  $k - 1$**

**+ # rabbit pairs alive at end of month  $k - 2$**

## Solving Reproducing Rabbits with Recursion 2

Let  $a_k$  be the number of rabbit pairs alive at the end of month  $k$ .

$$a_k = a_{k-1} + a_{k-2}$$

We know  $a_0 = a_1 = 0$ .

So what is  $a_{10}$ ? (How many pairs alive at the end of month 10?)

$$a_2 = a_1 + a_0 = 1 + 1 = 2$$

$$a_3 = a_2 + a_1 = 2 + 1 = 3$$

$$a_4 = a_3 + a_2 = 3 + 2 = 5$$

$$a_5 = a_4 + a_3 = 5 + 3 = 8$$

$$a_6 = a_5 + a_4 = 8 + 5 = 13$$

$$a_7 = a_6 + a_5 = 13 + 8 = 21$$

$$a_8 = a_7 + a_6 = 21 + 13 = 34$$

$$a_9 = a_8 + a_7 = 34 + 21 = 55$$

$$a_{10} = a_9 + a_8 = 55 + 34 = 89$$

## Finding an Explicit Formula

**Tower of Hanoi :** The recurrence relation is  $m_k = 2m_{k-1} + 1$  for  $k \geq 2$  and  $m_1 = 1$ . Find the explicit formula for the tower of Hanoi sequence.

**Solution:** Recall that

$$m_2 = 2 \cdot 1 + 1 = 2^1 + 1$$

$$m_3 = 2 \cdot (2 + 1) + 1 = 2^2 + 2 + 1$$

$$m_4 = 2 \cdot (2^2 + 2 + 1) + 1 = 2^3 + 2^2 + 2 + 1$$

$$m_5 = 2 \cdot (2^3 + 2^2 + 2 + 1) + 1 = 2^4 + 2^3 + 2^2 + 2 + 1$$

Hence  $m_k = 2^{k-1} + 2^{k-2} + \dots + 2 + 1$ .

▶ And  $2m_k = 2^k + 2^{k-1} + \dots + 2^2 + 2$ .

▶ So  $2m_k - m_k = 2^k - 1$ .

**Therefore the explicit formula is  $a_k = 2^k - 1$ .**

## Finding Sequence that Satisfies Recurrence Relation

**A second order linear homogeneous recurrence relation with constant coefficient** is a recurrence relation of the form

$$a_k = A \cdot a_{k-1} + B \cdot a_{k-2}$$

for  $k \geq$  some fixed integer,  $A$  and  $B$  are constant and  $B \neq 0$ .

The sequence  $1, t, t^2, t^3, \dots$  satisfies  $a_k$  where  $t$  is a nonzero real number iff  $t$  satisfies the following equation:

$$t^2 - At - B = 0$$

$t^2 - At - B = 0$  is called the **characteristic equation** of the relation.

## Finding Sequence that Satisfies Relation : Example

**Example:** Consider the following recurrence relation

$$a_k = a_{k-1} + 2a_{k-2} \text{ for all } k \geq 2$$

Find sequences that satisfy the relation.

**Solution:**

- ▶ The relation is second linear homogeneous where  $A = 1$  and  $B = 2$ .
- ▶ The sequence  $1, t, t^2, t^3, \dots$  satisfies  $a_k$  iff  $t^2 - At - B = 0$ 
  - $t^2 - t - 2 = 0$ .
- ▶ Solve for  $t$ ,  $t = 2$  and  $-1$ .
- ▶ Hence the following sequences satisfy the relation

$$1, 2, 2^2, 2^3, 2^4, \dots$$

$$1, -1, (-1)^2, (-1)^3, \dots$$

## Finding an Explicit Formula Using Characteristic Equation

For a second-order linear homogeneous recurrence relation

$$a_k = A \cdot a_{k-1} + B \cdot a_{k-2}$$

If its **characteristic equation** has two distinct solutions,  $r$  and  $s$ , then the explicit formula of the recurrence is

$$a_k = C \cdot r^k + D \cdot s^k$$

where  $C$  and  $D$  can be computed from  $a_0$  and  $a_1$ .

## Finding an Explicit Formula : Example

**Example:** Find an explicit formula of  $a_k = a_{k-1} + 2a_{k-2}$  for all  $k \geq 2$ , with initial conditions  $a_0 = 1$  and  $a_1 = 8$ .

**Solution:** From the previous example the solutions to the characteristic equation are 2 and -1. Because they are distinct ( $2 \neq -1$ ), an explicit formula is  $a_k = C \cdot r^k + D \cdot s^k$ .

▶ When  $a_0 = 1$ ,  $1 = C \cdot 2^0 + D \cdot (-1)^0$

•  $1 = C + D$

▶ When  $a_1 = 8$ ,  $8 = C \cdot 2^1 + D \cdot (-1)^1$

•  $8 = 2C - D$

Solving both equations,  $C = 3$  and  $D = -2$ .

Therefore  $a_k = 3 \cdot 2^k + (-2) \cdot (-1)^k$ .

•  $a_k = 3 \cdot 2^k - 2 \cdot (-1)^k$

## Summarizing How to Find an Explicit

1. Determine  $A$  and  $B$  from a second order relation.
  - $a_k = A \cdot a_{k-1} + B \cdot a_{k-2}$
2. Solve it's characteristic equation, say  $r$  and  $s$ .
  - $t^2 - A \cdot t - B = 0$
3. If  $r \neq s$ , we solve an explicit formula  $a_k = C \cdot r^k + D \cdot s^k$  for  $C$  and  $D$ .
  - By substitute  $a_0$  and  $a_1$ .
4. Substitute  $C$  and  $D$  back to obtain an explicit formula  $a_k$ .
  - $a_k = C \cdot r^k + D \cdot s^k$

# Explicit Formula for Fibonacci Sequence

Consider the Fibonacci sequence

$$a_k = a_{k-1} + a_{k-2} \text{ for } k \geq 2$$

with  $a_0 = a_1 = 1$ . Find an explicit formula.

## Solution:

- ▶ The Fibonacci sequence is second-order linear homogeneous recurrence relation with  $A = B = 1$ .
- ▶ The characteristic equation is  $t^2 - t - 1 = 0$ .
- ▶ The solution are

$$\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2}.$$

## Explicit Formula for Fibonacci Sequence 2

Hence, an explicit formula is

$$a_k = C \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^k + D \left( \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^k$$

for  $k \geq 0$ .

Next step is to solve for  $C$  and  $D$ :

▶ Substitute  $a_0$  :  $C + D = 1$

▶ Substitute  $a_1$  :  $C \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right) + D \left( \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right) = 1$ .

Solving both equations, we get

$$C = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}} \quad \text{and} \quad D = \frac{-(1 - \sqrt{5})}{2\sqrt{5}}.$$

## Explicit Formula for Fibonacci Sequence 3

Hence,

$$a_k = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}} \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^k + \frac{-(1 - \sqrt{5})}{2\sqrt{5}} \left( \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^k$$

Or equivalently,

$$a_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^{k+1} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left( \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^{k+1} \quad \text{for } k \geq 2.$$

- { 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, ... }?