

# ITT9132 Concrete Mathematics

Lecture 3: 9 February 2021

Chapter One

**The repertoire method**

**Binary representation of  
generalized Josephus function**

Chapter Two

**Sequences**

**Notation for sums**

**Sums and Recurrences**

**The perturbation method**

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# The repertoire method: Basic ideas

Let the recursion scheme

$$\begin{aligned}g(0) &= \alpha, \\g(n+1) &= \Phi(g(n)) + \Psi(n; \beta, \gamma, \dots) \quad \text{for } n \geq 0.\end{aligned}$$

have the following properties:

**1**  $\Phi$  is linear in  $g$ :

If  $g(n) = \lambda_1 g_1(n) + \lambda_2 g_2(n)$ , then  $\Phi(g(n)) = \lambda_1 \Phi(g_1(n)) + \lambda_2 \Phi(g_2(n))$ .  
No hypotheses are made on the dependence of  $g$  on  $n$ .

**2**  $\Psi$  is linear in each of the  $m-1$  parameters  $\beta, \gamma, \dots$

No hypotheses are made on the dependence of  $\Psi$  on  $n$ .

Then the whole system is linear in the parameters  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dots$

We can then look for a general solution of the form

$$g(n) = \alpha A(n) + \beta B(n) + \gamma C(n) + \dots$$

# The repertoire method: Description

Suppose we have a *repertoire* of  $m$  pairs of the form  $((\alpha_i, \beta_i, \gamma_i, \dots), g_i(n))$  satisfying the following conditions:

- 1 For every  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ,  $g_i(n)$  is the solution of the system corresponding to the values  $\alpha = \alpha_i, \beta = \beta_i, \gamma = \gamma_i, \dots$
- 2 The  $m$   $m$ -tuples  $(\alpha_i, \beta_i, \gamma_i, \dots)$  are linearly independent.

Then the functions  $A(n), B(n), C(n), \dots$  are uniquely determined. The reason is that, for every fixed  $n$ ,

$$\begin{array}{rcccccc} \alpha_1 A(n) & + \beta_1 B(n) & + \gamma_1 C(n) & + \dots & = & g_1(n) \\ \vdots & & & & = & \vdots \\ \alpha_m A(n) & + \beta_m B(n) & + \gamma_m C(n) & + \dots & = & g_m(n) \end{array}$$

is a system of  $m$  linear equations in the  $m$  unknowns  $A(n), B(n), C(n), \dots$  whose coefficients matrix is invertible.

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# Binary representation of generalized Josephus function

## Definition

The generalized Josephus function (GJ-function) is defined for  $\alpha, \beta_0, \beta_1$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} f(1) &= \alpha \\ f(2n+j) &= 2f(n) + \beta_j \text{ for } j = 0, 1 \text{ and } n > 0. \end{aligned}$$

We obtain the definition used before if to select  $\beta_0 = \beta$  and  $\beta_1 = \gamma$ .

## Binary representation of generalized Josephus function (2)

### Case A: Argument is even

If  $2n = 2^m + \ell$ , then the binary notation is

$$2n = (b_m b_{m-1} \dots b_1 b_0)_2$$

or

$$2n = b_m 2^m + b_{m-1} 2^{m-1} + \dots + b_1 2 + b_0$$

where  $b_i \in \{0, 1\}$ ,  $b_0 = 0$  and  $b_m = 1$ .

Hence

$$n = b_m 2^{m-1} + b_{m-1} 2^{m-2} + \dots + b_2 2 + b_1$$

or

$$n = (b_m b_{m-1} \dots b_1)_2$$



# Binary representation of generalized Josephus function (3)

## Case B: Argument is odd

If  $2n+1 = 2^m + \ell$ , then the binary notation is

$$2n+1 = (b_m b_{m-1} \dots b_1 b_0)_2$$

or

$$2n+1 = b_m 2^m + b_{m-1} 2^{m-1} + \dots + b_1 2 + b_0$$

where  $b_i \in \{0,1\}$ ,  $b_0 = 1$  and  $b_m = 1$ .

We get

$$\begin{aligned} 2n+1 &= b_m 2^m + b_{m-1} 2^{m-1} + \dots + b_1 2 + 1 \\ 2n &= b_m 2^m + b_{m-1} 2^{m-1} + \dots + b_1 2 \\ n &= b_m 2^{m-1} + b_{m-1} 2^{m-2} + \dots + b_2 2 + b_1 \end{aligned}$$

or

$$n = (b_m b_{m-1} \dots b_1)_2$$

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We get

$$\begin{aligned} 2n+1 &= b_m 2^m + b_{m-1} 2^{m-1} + \dots + b_1 2 + 1 \\ 2n &= b_m 2^m + b_{m-1} 2^{m-1} + \dots + b_1 2 \\ n &= b_m 2^{m-1} + b_{m-1} 2^{m-2} + \dots + b_2 2 + b_1 \end{aligned}$$

Same results for cases A and B indicates that we don't need to consider even and odd cases separately.

# Binary representation of generalized Josephus function (4)

Let's evaluate:

$$\begin{aligned} f((b_m, b_{m-1}, \dots, b_1, b_0)_2) &= 2f((b_m, b_{m-1}, \dots, b_1)_2) + \beta_{b_0} \\ &= 2 \cdot (2f((b_m, b_{m-1}, \dots, b_2)_2) + \beta_{b_1}) + \beta_{b_0} \\ &= 4f((b_m, b_{m-1}, \dots, b_2)_2) + 2\beta_{b_1} + \beta_{b_0} \\ &= \vdots \\ &= f((b_m)_2)2^m + \beta_{b_{m-1}}2^{m-1} + \dots + \beta_{b_1}2 + \beta_{b_0} \\ &= f(1)2^m + \beta_{b_{m-1}}2^{m-1} + \dots + \beta_{b_1}2 + \beta_{b_0} \\ &= \alpha 2^m + \beta_{b_{m-1}}2^{m-1} + \dots + \beta_{b_1}2 + \beta_{b_0}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\beta_{b_j} = \begin{cases} \beta_1, & \text{if } b_j = 1 \\ \beta_0 & \text{if } b_j = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$f((b_m b_{m-1} \dots b_1 b_0)_2) = (\alpha \beta_{b_{m-1}} \beta_{b_{m-2}} \dots \beta_{b_1} \beta_{b_0})_2$$

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# Example

Original Josephus function:  $\alpha = 1$ ,  $\beta_0 = -1$ ,  $\beta_1 = 1$  i.e.

$$\begin{aligned}f(1) &= 1 \\f(2n) &= 2f(n) - 1 \\f(2n+1) &= 2f(n) + 1\end{aligned}$$

Compute

$$f((b_m b_{m-1} \dots b_1 b_0)_2) = (\alpha \beta_{b_{m-1}} \beta_{b_{m-2}} \dots \beta_{b_1} \beta_{b_0})_2$$

$$\begin{aligned}f(100) = f((1100100)_2) &= (1, 1, -1, -1, 1, -1, -1)_2 \\ &= 64 + 32 - 16 - 8 + 4 - 2 - 1 = 73\end{aligned}$$

# Generalized Josephus function: Multiple bases

Let  $c, d \geq 2$  be integers.

Consider the following recurrent problem:

$$\begin{aligned} f(j) &= \alpha_j && \text{for } 1 \leq j < d; \\ f(dn+j) &= cf(n) + \beta_j && \text{for } 0 \leq j < d \text{ and } n \geq 1. \end{aligned}$$

How can we compute  $f(n)$  for an arbitrary positive integer  $n$ , without having to go through the entire iterative process?

# Multiple bases representation

We can actually use the **same** technique!

Let  $(b_m b_{m-1} \dots b_1 b_0)_d$  be the base- $d$  writing of  $n$ . Then  $b_m \neq 0$  and:

$$\begin{aligned} f((b_m, b_{m-1}, \dots, b_1, b_0)_d) &= cf((b_m, b_{m-1}, \dots, b_1)_d) + \beta_{b_0} \\ &= c \cdot (cf((b_m, b_{m-1}, \dots, b_2)_d) + \beta_{b_1}) + \beta_{b_0} \\ &= c^2 f((b_m, b_{m-1}, \dots, b_2)_d) + c\beta_{b_1} + \beta_{b_0} \\ &= \vdots \\ &= c^m \cdot f(b_m) + c^{m-1} \beta_{b_{m-1}} + \dots + c\beta_{b_1} + \beta_{b_0} \\ &= c^m \alpha_{b_m} + c^{m-1} \beta_{b_{m-1}} + \dots + c\beta_{b_1} + \beta_{b_0} \end{aligned}$$

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With a slight abuse of notation: (the  $\beta_i$ 's need not be base- $c$  digits)

$$f((b_m b_{m-1} \dots b_1 b_0)_d) = (\alpha_{b_m} \beta_{b_{m-1}} \beta_{b_{m-2}} \dots \beta_{b_1} \beta_{b_0})_c$$



# Multiple bases representation

We can actually use the **same** technique!

Let  $(b_m b_{m-1} \dots b_1 b_0)_d$  be the base- $d$  writing of  $n$ . Then  $b_m \neq 0$  and:

$$\begin{aligned} f((b_m, b_{m-1}, \dots, b_1, b_0)_d) &= cf((b_m, b_{m-1}, \dots, b_1)_d) + \beta_{b_0} \\ &= c \cdot (cf((b_m, b_{m-1}, \dots, b_2)_d) + \beta_{b_1}) + \beta_{b_0} \\ &= c^2 f((b_m, b_{m-1}, \dots, b_2)_d) + c\beta_{b_1} + \beta_{b_0} \\ &= \vdots \\ &= c^m \cdot f(b_m) + c^{m-1} \beta_{b_{m-1}} + \dots + c\beta_{b_1} + \beta_{b_0} \\ &= c^m \alpha_{b_m} + c^{m-1} \beta_{b_{m-1}} + \dots + c\beta_{b_1} + \beta_{b_0} \end{aligned}$$

Or, more precisely:

$$f((b_m b_{m-1} \dots b_1 b_0)_d) = p(c) \text{ where } p(x) = \alpha_{b_m} x^m + \beta_{b_{m-1}} x^{m-1} + \dots + \beta_{b_1} x + \beta_{b_0}$$

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## Definition

A **sequence** of elements of a set  $A$  is a function  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow A$ , where  $\mathbb{N}$  is the set of natural numbers.

### Notations used:

- $f = \langle a_n \rangle$ , where we denote  $a_n = f(n)$ ;
- $\{a_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ ;
- $\langle a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots \rangle$ .

$a_n$  is called the  **$n$ th term** of the sequence  $f$

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## Example

$$a_0 = 0, a_1 = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3}, a_2 = \frac{2}{3 \cdot 4}, a_3 = \frac{3}{4 \cdot 5}, \dots$$

or

$$\left\langle 0, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{3}{20}, \frac{2}{15}, \dots, \frac{n}{(n+1)(n+2)}, \dots \right\rangle$$

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## Notation

$$f(n) = \frac{n}{(n+1)(n+2)}$$

or

$$a_n = \frac{n}{(n+1)(n+2)}$$

- Default assumption:  $\mathbb{N}$ .
- Actually, any **countably** infinite set can be used as an index set. Examples:
  - $\mathbb{Z}^+ = \mathbb{N} - \{0\} \sim \mathbb{N}$ .
  - $\mathbb{N} \setminus K$ , where  $K \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  is finite.
  - The set  $\mathbb{Z}$  of relative integers.
  - $\{1, 3, 5, 7, \dots\} = \text{Odd}$ .
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# Sets of indices

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  - $\{1, 3, 5, 7, \dots\} = \text{Odd}$ .
  - $\{0, 2, 4, 6, \dots\} = \text{Even}$ .

The writing  $A \sim B$  denotes that sets  $A$  and  $B$  are of the same **cardinality**.

- For finite sets,  $|A|$  is the number of elements of  $A$ .
- In general,  $A$  and  $B$  are said to have the same cardinality if there exists a *bijection* between the two.

We then write  $A \sim B$ , or  $|A| = |B|$

(See <http://www.mathsisfun.com/sets/injective-surjective-bijective.html> for detailed explanation)



# Finite sequences

- A **finite sequence** of elements of a set  $A$  is a function  $f : K \rightarrow A$ , where  $K$  is set a finite subset of natural numbers

For example:  $f : \{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots, n\} \rightarrow A, n \in \mathbb{N}$

Special case:  $n = 0$ , i.e. **empty sequence**:  $f(\emptyset) = e$

## Domain of the sequence

$$f : T \rightarrow A$$

$$a_n = \frac{n}{(n-2)(n-5)}$$

The **domain** of  $f$  is  $T = \mathbb{N} - \{2, 5\}$ .

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# Notation

For a **finite** set  $K = \{1, 2, \dots, m\} = [1 : m]$  (a **slice** of  $\mathbb{N}$ ) and a sequence  $\langle a_n \rangle$  we write:

$$\sum_{k=1}^m a_k = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_m$$

This specific writing takes into account the **order** of summation. Other writings, in which the order is less or not important, are:

$$\sum_{1 \leq k \leq m} a_k; \quad \sum_{k \in [1:m]} a_k; \quad \sum_{k \in K} a_k; \quad \sum_K a_k$$

# Warmup: What does this notation mean?

$$\sum_{k=4}^0 q_k$$

Options:

1  $\sum_{k=4}^0 q_k = q_4 + q_3 + q_2 + q_1 + q_0 = \sum_{k \in \{4,3,2,1,0\}} q_k = \sum_{k=0}^4 q_k$ .  
This **seems** the sensible thing—**but**:

2  $\sum_{4 \leq k \leq 0} q_k = 0$  also looks like a feasible interpretation—**but**:

3 If

$$\sum_{k=m}^n q_k = \sum_{k \leq n} q_k - \sum_{k < m} q_k,$$

(provided the two sums on the right-hand side exist finite)

then  $\sum_{k=4}^0 q_k = \sum_{k \leq 0} q_k - \sum_{k < 4} q_k = -q_1 - q_2 - q_3$ .

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## Warmup: Interpreting the $\Sigma$ -notation

Compute  $\sum_{\{0 \leq k \leq 5\}} a_k$  and  $\sum_{\{0 \leq k^2 \leq 5\}} a_{k^2}$ .

First sum

$$\{0 \leq k \leq 5\} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} :$$

thus,  $\sum_{\{0 \leq k \leq 5\}} a_k = a_0 + a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4 + a_5$ .

Second sum

$$\{0 \leq k^2 \leq 5\} = \{0, 1, 2, -1, -2\} :$$

thus,

$\sum_{\{0 \leq k^2 \leq 5\}} a_{k^2} = a_{0^2} + a_{1^2} + a_{2^2} + a_{(-1)^2} + a_{(-2)^2} = a_0 + 2a_1 + 2a_2$ .

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# A universal writing

We can decrease our worries about notation by using the *Iverson brackets*:

- $[\text{True}] = 1$  and  $[\text{False}] = 0$ ;
- if  $a$  is infinite or undefined, then  $a \cdot [\text{False}] = 0$ .

Then we can write:

$$\sum_{k \in K} a_k = \sum_k a_k [k \in K]$$

or more generally:

$$\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z} | P(k)} a_k = \sum_k a_k [P(k)]$$

where  $P$  is a property of (some) integers. For example:

$$\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z} | k \text{ is prime}} \frac{1}{k} = \sum_p \frac{1}{p} [p \text{ is prime}]$$

# Next section

- 1 The repertoire method
- 2 Binary representation of generalized Josephus function
- 3 Sequences
- 4 Notations for sums
- 5 Sums and Recurrences**
  - The repertoire method
  - Perturbation method

# Sums and Recurrences

A sum of the form  $S_n = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k$  can be presented in recursive form:

$$S_0 = a_0;$$

$$S_n = S_{n-1} + a_n \text{ for every } n \geq 1$$

that is, as the solution of a first-order recurrence.

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# Recalling the repertoire method

- Given

$$\begin{aligned}g(0) &= \alpha_1 \\g(n) &= \Phi(g(n-1)) + \Psi_n(\alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k) \text{ for every } n > 0.\end{aligned}$$

where  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi_n$  are **linear**.

- Suppose we have  $k$   $(k+1)$ -tuples  $(g_i; \alpha_{i,1}, \alpha_{i,2}, \dots, \alpha_{i,k})$  such that:
  - 1  $g_i(0) = \alpha_{i,1}$  and  $g_i(n) = \Phi(g_i(n-1)) + \Psi_n(\alpha_{i,2}, \dots, \alpha_{i,k})$  for every  $i \in [1 : k]$ ;
  - 2 the  $k$   $k$ -tuples  $(\alpha_{i,1}, \alpha_{i,2}, \dots, \alpha_{i,k})$  are linearly independent.
- Then the recurrence has a solution in closed form:

$$g(n) = \alpha_1 A_1(n) + \alpha_2 A_2(n) + \dots + \alpha_k A_k(n)$$

where the functions  $A_1(n), A_2(n), \dots, A_k(n)$  can be determined from the system of equations:

$$\alpha_{1,1}A_1(n) + \alpha_{1,2}A_2(n) + \dots + \alpha_{1,k}A_k(n) = g_1(n)$$

⋮

$$\alpha_{k,1}A_1(n) + \alpha_{k,2}A_2(n) + \dots + \alpha_{k,k}A_k(n) = g_k(n)$$

## Example 1: arithmetic sequence

Arithmetic sequence:  $a_n = a + bn$

Recurrence equation for the sum  $S_n = a_0 + a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n$ :

$$S_0 = a$$

$$S_n = S_{n-1} + (a + bn), \text{ for } n > 0.$$

Let's find a closed form for a bit more general recurrent equation:

$$R_0 = \alpha$$

$$R_n = R_{n-1} + (\beta + \gamma n), \text{ for } n > 0.$$

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# Evaluation of terms $R_n = R_{n-1} + (\beta + \gamma n)$

$$R_0 = \alpha$$

$$R_1 = \alpha + \beta + \gamma$$

$$R_2 = \alpha + \beta + \gamma + (\beta + 2\gamma) = \alpha + 2\beta + 3\gamma$$

$$R_3 = \alpha + 2\beta + 3\gamma + (\beta + 3\gamma) = \alpha + 3\beta + 6\gamma$$

## Observation

$$R_n = A(n)\alpha + B(n)\beta + C(n)\gamma$$

$A(n), B(n), C(n)$  can be evaluated using repertoire method:  
we will consider three cases

- 1  $R_n = 1$  for all  $n$
- 2  $R_n = n$  for all  $n$
- 3  $R_n = n^2$  for all  $n$

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$$R_3 = \alpha + 2\beta + 3\gamma + (\beta + 3\gamma) = \alpha + 3\beta + 6\gamma$$

## Observation

$$R_n = A(n)\alpha + B(n)\beta + C(n)\gamma$$

$A(n), B(n), C(n)$  can be evaluated using **repertoire method**:  
we will consider three cases

- 1  $R_n = 1$  for all  $n$
- 2  $R_n = n$  for all  $n$
- 3  $R_n = n^2$  for all  $n$

# Repertoire method: case 1

Lemma 1:  $A(n) = 1$  for all  $n$

- $1 = R_0 = \alpha$
- From  $R_n = R_{n-1} + (\beta + \gamma n)$  follows that  $1 = 1 + (\beta + \gamma n)$ .  
This must be true for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , so  $\beta = \gamma = 0$

Hence

$$1 = A(n) \cdot 1 + B(n) \cdot 0 + C(n) \cdot 0$$



## Repertoire method: case 2

Lemma 2:  $B(n) = n$  for all  $n$

- $\alpha = R_0 = 0$
- From  $R_n = R_{n-1} + (\beta + \gamma n)$  follows that  $n = (n-1) + (\beta + \gamma n)$ .  
i.e.  $1 = \beta + \gamma n$ .

This must be true for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , so  $\beta = 1$  and  $\gamma = 0$

Hence

$$n = A(n) \cdot 0 + B(n) \cdot 1 + C(n) \cdot 0$$



## Repertoire method: case 3

Lemma 3:  $C(n) = \frac{n^2+n}{2}$  for all  $n$

- $\alpha = R_0 = 0^2 = 0$ .
- Equation  $R_n = R_{n-1} + (\beta + \gamma n)$  can be rewritten as:
  - $n^2 = (n-1)^2 + \beta + \gamma n$ .
  - $n^2 = n^2 - 2n + 1 + \beta + \gamma n$ .
  - $0 = (1 + \beta) + n(\gamma - 2)$ .

This must be true for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , so  $\beta = -1$  and  $\gamma = 2$ .

Hence:

$$\begin{aligned}n^2 &= A(n) \cdot 0 + B(n) \cdot (-1) + C(n) \cdot 2 \\ &= -n + 2C(n) \text{ by Lemma 2}\end{aligned}$$



# Repertoire method: summing up

According to Lemma 1, 2, 3, we get:

$$\mathbf{1} \quad R_n = 1 \text{ for all } n \quad \implies \quad A(n) = 1$$

$$\mathbf{2} \quad R_n = n \text{ for all } n \quad \implies \quad B(n) = n$$

$$\mathbf{3} \quad R_n = n^2 \text{ for all } n \quad \implies \quad C(n) = \frac{n^2 + n}{2}$$

Hence,

$$R_n = \alpha + n\beta + \left(\frac{n^2 + n}{2}\right)\gamma$$

For  $\alpha = \beta = a$  and  $\gamma = b$  we get:

$$S_n = \sum_{k=0}^n (a + bk) = (n+1)a + \frac{n(n+1)}{2}b$$

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# Perturbation method

To find a closed form for  $S_n = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} a_k$ :

- 1 Rewrite  $S_{n+1}$  by splitting off first and last term:

$$\begin{aligned} S_n + a_{n+1} &= a_0 + \sum_{1 \leq k \leq n+1} a_k \\ &= a_0 + \sum_{1 \leq k+1 \leq n+1} a_{k+1} \\ &= a_0 + \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} a_{k+1} \end{aligned}$$

- 2 Work on the sum on the right and express it as a function of  $S_n$ .
- 3 Solve with respect to  $S_n$ .

## Example 2: geometric sequence

Geometric sequence:  $a_n = ax^n, x \neq 1$

Recurrence equation for the sum  $S_n = a_0 + a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} ax^k$ :

$$S_0 = a$$

$$S_n = S_{n-1} + ax^n, \text{ for } n > 0.$$

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$$S_0 = a$$

$$S_n = S_{n-1} + ax^n, \text{ for } n > 0.$$

- Splitting off the first term gives

$$\begin{aligned} S_n + a_{n+1} &= a_0 + \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} a_{k+1} \\ &= a + \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} ax^{k+1} \\ &= a + x \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} ax^k \\ &= a + xS_n \end{aligned}$$

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Geometric sequence:  $a_n = ax^n, x \neq 1$

Recurrence equation for the sum  $S_n = a_0 + a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} ax^k$ :

$$S_0 = a$$

$$S_n = S_{n-1} + ax^n, \text{ for } n > 0.$$

- From this we obtain the equality:

$$S_n + ax^{n+1} = a + xS_n,$$

that is:  $(1-x)S_n = a - ax^{n+1}$ .

- As  $x \neq 1$  we can divide and obtain:

$$S_n = a \cdot \frac{1 - x^{n+1}}{1 - x}$$

## Example 3: When perturbation doesn't work . . .

Compute:  $S_n = \sum_{k=0}^n k^2$ .

**1** Perturb the sum:

$$S_n + (n+1)^2 = 0 + \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} k^2$$

Um . . . that **shifted  $k^2$**  sounds bad . . .

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- 2 Rewrite the right-hand side so that it depends on  $S_n$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} k^2 &= \sum_{k=0}^n (k+1)^2 \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n (k^2 + 2k + 1) \\ &= S_n + \sum_{k=0}^n (2k + 1) \\ &= S_n + 2 \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + n + 1 \end{aligned}$$



## Example 3: When perturbation doesn't work ...

Compute:  $S_n = \sum_{k=0}^n k^2$ .

- 1 Perturb the sum:

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- 2 Rewrite the right-hand side so that it depends on  $S_n$ :

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n+1} k^2 = S_n + 2 \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + n + 1$$

- 3 Solve with respect to  $S_n$ :

$$\begin{aligned} S_n + (n+1)^2 &= S_n + (n+1) + 2 \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \\ (n+1)^2 &= (n+1) + n(n+1) \end{aligned}$$

... which is true, but where is  $S_n$ ?

...try perturbing *another* sum!

In addition to  $S_n$ , consider the sum:  $T_n = \sum_{k=0}^n k^3$ .

**1** Perturb  $T_n$ :

$$T_n + (n+1)^3 = 0 + \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} k^3$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} k^3 &= \sum_{k=0}^n (k+1)^3 \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n (k^3 + 3k^2 + 3k + 1) \\ &= T_n + 3S_n + \sum_{k=0}^n (3k + 1) \end{aligned}$$

## ... try perturbing *another* sum!

In addition to  $S_n$ , consider the sum:  $T_n = \sum_{k=0}^n k^3$ .

1 Perturb  $T_n$ :

$$T_n + (n+1)^3 = 0 + \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} k^3$$

2 Rewrite the right-hand side so that it depends on  $T_n$  and on  $S_n$ :

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n+1} k^3 = T_n + 3S_n + \sum_{k=0}^n (3k+1)$$

3 Solve with respect to  $S_n$ :

$$\begin{aligned}(n+1)^3 &= 3S_n + 3\frac{n(n+1)}{2} + n+1 \\ &= 3S_n + (n+1)\left(\frac{3}{2}n+1\right) \\ 3S_n &= (n+1)\left(n^2 + 2n + 1 - \frac{3}{2}n - 1\right) \\ S_n &= \frac{1}{3}(n+1)\left(n^2 + \frac{n}{2}\right) = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}\end{aligned}$$