

Workshop „Difference Equations“

Part 2:

Long-term behaviour of linear difference equations

Definition: $y_{n+1} = a \cdot y_n + b$ are called linear difference equations

Mathematical models of the following growth processes are linear difference equations:

	Linear difference equation $y_{n+1} = a \cdot y_n + b$	
Exponential growth	$y_{n+1} = q \cdot y_n$	$a = q$ and $b = 0$
Limited growth	$y_{n+1} = y_n + r \cdot (G - y_n)$ $y_{n+1} = (1-r) \cdot y_n + r \cdot G$	$a = (1-r)$ and $b = r \cdot G$
Growth with intervention	$y_{n+1} = y_n + r \cdot y_n - e$ $y_{n+1} = (1+r) \cdot y_n - e$	$a = (1+r)$ and $b = e$

Calculate the fixed point y^* of the difference equation ($y^* = f(y^*)$) and investigate the long-term behavior of the difference equation for following cases (y_0 : is the initial value):

	$y_0 < y^*$	$y_0 > y^*$
$a > 1$		
$0 < a < 1$		
$a = 0$		
$-1 < a < 0$		
$a = -1$		
$a < -1$		

Select the initial point in the respective interval and draw the suitable graphs in the “time mode” and the “web mode”. A possible value for b is 2, but for $a > 1$ it is better to take $b = -2$.

Choose the suitable window variable; in the “web mode” it is necessary to choose “zoom square” to get the correct position of the 1st median.

Expected solutions:

a) Graphs in the "time mode"

	$y_0 < y^*$	$y_0 > y^*$
$a > 1$	<p> $a:=1.1$ 1.1 $b:=-2$ -2 solve($y=a \cdot y+b \cdot y$) $y=20.$ $u0:=15$ 15 4/99 </p>	<p> $a:=1.1$ 1.1 $b:=-2$ -2 solve($y=a \cdot y+b \cdot y$) $y=20.$ $u0:=22$ 22 4/99 </p>
$0 < a < 1$	<p> $a:=0.5$ 0.5 $b:=2$ 2 solve($y=a \cdot y+b \cdot y$) $y=4.$ $u0:=2$ 2 4/99 </p>	<p> $a:=0.5$ 0.5 $b:=2$ 2 solve($y=a \cdot y+b \cdot y$) $y=4.$ $u0:=6$ 6 4/99 </p>
$a = 0$	<p> $a:=0$ 0 $b:=2$ 2 solve($y=a \cdot y+b \cdot y$) $y=2$ $u0:=1$ 1 4/99 </p>	<p> $a:=0$ 0 $b:=2$ 2 solve($y=a \cdot y+b \cdot y$) $y=2$ $u0:=4$ 4 4/99 </p>
$-1 < a < 0$	<p> $a:=-0.9$ -0.9 $b:=2$ 2 solve($y=a \cdot y+b \cdot y$) $y=1.05263$ $u0:=0.5$ 0.5 4/99 </p>	<p> $a:=-0.9$ -0.9 $b:=2$ 2 solve($y=a \cdot y+b \cdot y$) $y=1.05263$ $u0:=1.5$ 1.5 4/99 </p>

