

用不动点法求数列的通项

定义: 方程 $f(x) = x$ 的根称为函数 $f(x)$ 的不动点.

利用递推数列 $f(x)$ 的不动点, 可将某些递推关系 $a_n = f(a_{n-1})$ 所确定的数列化为等比数列或较易求通项的数列, 这种方法称为不动点法.

定理 1: 若 $f(x) = ax + b (a \neq 0, a \neq 1)$, p 是 $f(x)$ 的不动点, a_n 满足递推关系 $a_n = f(a_{n-1}) (n > 1)$, 则 $a_n - p = a(a_{n-1} - p)$, 即 $\{a_n - p\}$ 是公比为 a 的等比数列.

证明: 因为 p 是 $f(x)$ 的不动点

$$\therefore ap + b = p$$

$$\therefore b - p = -ap \text{ 由 } a_n = a \cdot a_{n-1} + b \text{ 得 } a_n - p = a \cdot a_{n-1} + b - p = a(a_{n-1} - p)$$

所以 $\{a_n - p\}$ 是公比为 a 的等比数列.

定理 2: 设 $f(x) = \frac{ax+b}{cx+d} (c \neq 0, ad - bc \neq 0)$, $\{a_n\}$ 满足递推关系 $a_n = f(a_{n-1}), n > 1$,

初值条件 $a_1 \neq f(a_1)$

$$(1): \text{ 若 } f(x) \text{ 有两个相异的不动点 } p, q, \text{ 则 } \frac{a_n - p}{a_n - q} = k \cdot \frac{a_{n-1} - p}{a_{n-1} - q} \quad \left(\text{这里 } k = \frac{a - pc}{a - qc} \right)$$

$$(2): \text{ 若 } f(x) \text{ 只有唯一不动点 } p, \text{ 则 } \frac{1}{a_n - p} = \frac{1}{a_{n-1} - p} + k \quad \left(\text{这里 } k = \frac{2c}{a + d} \right)$$

证明: 由 $f(x) = x$ 得 $f(x) = \frac{ax+b}{cx+d} = x$, 所以 $cx^2 + (d-a)x - b = 0$

$$(1) \text{ 因为 } p, q \text{ 是不动点, 所以 } \begin{cases} cp^2 + (d-a)p - b = 0 \\ cq^2 + (d-a)q - b = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} p = \frac{pd-b}{a-pc} \\ q = \frac{qd-b}{a-qc} \end{cases}, \text{ 所以}$$

$$\frac{a_n - p}{a_n - q} = \frac{\frac{aa_{n-1} + b}{ca_{n-1} + d} - p}{\frac{aa_{n-1} + b}{ca_{n-1} + d} - q} = \frac{(a - pc)a_{n-1} + b - pd}{(a - qc)a_{n-1} + b - qd} = \frac{a - pc}{a - qc} \cdot \frac{a_{n-1} - \frac{pd-b}{a-pc}}{a_{n-1} - \frac{qd-b}{a-qc}} = \frac{a - pc}{a - qc} \cdot \frac{a_{n-1} - p}{a_{n-1} - q}$$

$$\text{令 } k = \frac{a - pc}{a - qc}, \text{ 则 } \frac{a_n - p}{a_n - q} = k \frac{a_{n-1} - p}{a_{n-1} - q}$$

(2) 因为 p 是方程 $cx^2 + (d-a)x - b = 0$ 的唯一解, 所以 $cp^2 + (d-a)p - b = 0$

所以 $b - pd = cp^2 - ap$, $p = \frac{a-d}{2c}$ 所以

$$a_n - p = \frac{aa_{n-1} + b}{ca_{n-1} + d} - p = \frac{(a-cp)a_{n-1} + b - pd}{ca_{n-1} + d} = \frac{(a-cp)a_{n-1} + cp^2 - ap}{ca_{n-1} + d} = \frac{(a-cp)(a_{n-1} - p)}{ca_{n-1} + d}$$

所以

$$\frac{1}{a_n - p} = \frac{1}{a - cp} \cdot \frac{ca_{n-1} + d}{a_{n-1} - p} = \frac{1}{a - cp} \cdot \frac{c(a_{n-1} - p) + d + cp}{a_{n-1} - p} = \frac{c}{a - cp} + \frac{d + cp}{a - cp} \cdot \frac{1}{a_{n-1} - p} = \frac{1}{a_{n-1} - p} + \frac{2c}{a + d}$$

令 $k = \frac{2c}{a + d}$, 则 $\frac{1}{a_n - p} = \frac{1}{a_{n-1} - p} + k$

例 1: 设 $\{a_n\}$ 满足 $a_1 = 1, a_{n+1} = \frac{a_n + 2}{a_n}, n \in N^*$, 求数列 $\{a_n\}$ 的通项公式

解: 作函数 $f(x) = \frac{x+2}{x}$, 解方程 $f(x) = x$ 求出不动点 $p = 2, q = -1$, 于是

$$\frac{a_{n+1} - 2}{a_{n+1} + 1} = \frac{a_n + 2 - 2a_n}{a_n + 2 + a_n} = -\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{a_n - 2}{a_n + 1}, \text{ 逐次迭代得 } \frac{a_n - 2}{a_n + 1} = \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-1} \cdot \frac{a_1 - 2}{a_1 + 1} = \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$$

由此解得 $a_n = \frac{2^{n+1} + (-1)^n}{2^n - (-1)^n}$

例 2: 数列 $\{a_n\}$ 满足下列关系: $a_1 = 2a, a_{n+1} = 2a - \frac{a^2}{a_n}, a \neq 0$, 求数列 $\{a_n\}$ 的通项公式

解: 作函数 $f(x) = 2a - \frac{a^2}{x}$, 解方程 $f(x) = x$ 求出不动点 $p = a$, 于是

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

所以 $\left\{\frac{1}{a_n - a}\right\}$ 是以 $\frac{1}{a_1 - a} = \frac{1}{a}$ 为首项, 公差为 $\frac{1}{a}$ 的等差数列

所以 $\frac{1}{a_n - a} = \frac{1}{a_1 - a} + (n-1) \cdot \frac{1}{a} = \frac{1}{a} + (n-1) \cdot \frac{1}{a} = \frac{n}{a}$, 所以 $a_n = a + \frac{a}{n}$

定理 3: 设函数 $f(x) = \frac{ax^2 + bx + c}{ex + f}$ ($a \neq 0, e \neq 0$) 有两个不同的不动点 x_1, x_2 , 且由

$u_{n+1} = f(u_n)$ 确定着数列 $\{u_n\}$, 那么当且仅当 $b=0, e=2a$ 时, $\frac{u_{n+1}-x_1}{u_{n+1}-x_2} = \left(\frac{u_n-x_1}{u_n-x_2}\right)^2$

证明: $\because x_k$ 是 $f(x)$ 的两个不动点

$$\therefore x_k = \frac{ax_k^2 + bx_k + c}{ex_k + f} \text{ 即 } c - x_k f = (e-a)x_k^2 - bx_k \quad (k=1,2)$$

\therefore

$$\frac{u_{n+1}-x_1}{u_{n+1}-x_2} = \frac{au_n^2 + bu_n + c - x_1(eu_n + f)}{au_n^2 + bu_n + c - x_2(eu_n + f)} = \frac{au_n^2 + (b-ex_1)u_n + c - x_1 f}{au_n^2 + (b-ex_2)u_n + c - x_2 f} = \frac{au_n^2 + (b-ex_1)u_n + (e-a)x_1^2 - bx_1}{au_n^2 + (b-ex_2)u_n + (e-a)x_2^2 - bx_2}$$

于是,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{u_{n+1}-x_1}{u_{n+1}-x_2} = \left(\frac{u_n-x_1}{u_n-x_2}\right)^2 &\Leftrightarrow \frac{au_n^2 + (b-ex_1)u_n + (e-a)x_1^2 - bx_1}{au_n^2 + (b-ex_2)u_n + (e-a)x_2^2 - bx_2} = \frac{u_n^2 - 2x_1u_n + x_1^2}{u_n^2 - 2x_2u_n + x_2^2} \\ &\Leftrightarrow \frac{u_n^2 + \frac{b-ex_1}{a}u_n + \frac{(e-a)x_1^2 - bx_1}{a}}{u_n^2 + \frac{b-ex_2}{a}u_n + \frac{(e-a)x_2^2 - bx_2}{a}} = \frac{u_n^2 - 2x_1u_n + x_1^2}{u_n^2 - 2x_2u_n + x_2^2} \\ &\Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \frac{b-ex_1}{a} = -2x_1 \\ \frac{b-ex_2}{a} = -2x_2 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} b + (2a-e)x_1 = 0 \\ b + (2a-e)x_2 = 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \begin{vmatrix} 1 & x_1 \\ 1 & x_2 \end{vmatrix} \neq 0 \quad \therefore \text{方程组有唯一解 } b=0, e=2a$$

例 3: 已知数列 $\{a_n\}$ 中, $a_1 = 2, a_{n+1} = \frac{a_n^2 + 2}{2a_n}, n \in N^*$, 求数列 $\{a_n\}$ 的通项.

解: 作函数为 $f(x) = \frac{x^2 + 2}{2x}$, 解方程 $f(x) = x$ 得 $f(x)$ 的两个不动点为 $\pm\sqrt{2}$

$$\frac{a_{n+1} - \sqrt{2}}{a_{n+1} + \sqrt{2}} = \frac{\frac{a_n^2 + 2}{2a_n} - \sqrt{2}}{\frac{a_n^2 + 2}{2a_n} + \sqrt{2}} = \frac{a_n^2 + 2 - 2\sqrt{2}a_n}{a_n^2 + 2 + 2\sqrt{2}a_n} = \left(\frac{a_n - \sqrt{2}}{a_n + \sqrt{2}}\right)^2$$

再经过反复迭代, 得

$$\frac{a_n - \sqrt{2}}{a_n + \sqrt{2}} = \left(\frac{a_{n-1} - \sqrt{2}}{a_{n-1} + \sqrt{2}}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{a_{n-2} - \sqrt{2}}{a_{n-2} + \sqrt{2}}\right)^{2^2} = \dots = \left(\frac{a_1 - \sqrt{2}}{a_1 + \sqrt{2}}\right)^{2^{n-1}} = \left(\frac{2 - \sqrt{2}}{2 + \sqrt{2}}\right)^{2^{n-1}}$$

$$\text{由此解得 } a_n = \sqrt{2} \cdot \frac{(2 + \sqrt{2})^{2^{n-1}} + (2 - \sqrt{2})^{2^{n-1}}}{(2 + \sqrt{2})^{2^{n-1}} - (2 - \sqrt{2})^{2^{n-1}}}$$

其实不动点法除了解决上面所考虑的求数列通项的几种情形,还可以解决如下问题:

例 4: 已知 $a_1 > 0, a_1 \neq 1$ 且 $a_{n+1} = \frac{a_n^4 + 6a_n^2 + 1}{4a_n(a_n^2 + 1)}$, 求数列 $\{a_n\}$ 的通项.

解: 作函数为 $f(x) = \frac{x^4 + 6x^2 + 1}{4x(x^2 + 1)}$, 解方程 $f(x) = x$ 得 $f(x)$ 的不动点为

$$x_1 = -1, x_2 = 1, x_3 = -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}i, x_4 = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}i. \text{ 取 } p = 1, q = -1, \text{ 作如下代换:}$$

$$\frac{a_{n+1} + 1}{a_{n+1} - 1} = \frac{\frac{a_n^4 + 6a_n^2 + 1}{4a_n(a_n^2 + 1)} + 1}{\frac{a_n^4 + 6a_n^2 + 1}{4a_n(a_n^2 + 1)} - 1} = \frac{a_n^4 + 4a_n^3 + 6a_n^2 + 4a_n + 1}{a_n^4 - 4a_n^3 + 6a_n^2 - 4a_n + 1} = \left(\frac{a_n + 1}{a_n - 1}\right)^4$$

$$\text{逐次迭代后, 得: } a_n = \frac{(a_1 + 1)^{4^{n-1}} + (a_1 - 1)^{4^{n-1}}}{(a_1 + 1)^{4^{n-1}} - (a_1 - 1)^{4^{n-1}}}$$