

Nonlinear recurrence which equivalent to linear.

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Let $a_n \neq 0$ be a real sequence such that $a_{n+1} = \frac{a_n^2 - 1}{a_{n-1}}, n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Prove there exists a real number α such that $a_{n+1} = \alpha a_n - a_{n-1}, n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Solution by Arkady Alt, San Jose, California, USA.

Since $a_{n+1} = \frac{a_n^2 - 1}{a_{n-1}} \Leftrightarrow a_{n+1}a_{n-1} + 1 = a_n^2$ and $a_n \neq 0$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ then

$$a_{n+2}a_n + 1 - (a_{n+1}a_{n-1} + 1) = a_{n+2}^2 - a_n^2 \Leftrightarrow a_{n+2}a_n + a_n^2 = a_{n+1}a_{n-1} + a_{n+1}^2 \Leftrightarrow \frac{a_{n+2} + a_n}{a_{n+1}} = \frac{a_{n+1} + a_{n-1}}{a_n}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ and, therefore, } \frac{a_{n+1} + a_{n-1}}{a_n} = \frac{a_2 + a_0}{a_1} \Leftrightarrow$$

$$a_{n+1} = \alpha a_n - a_{n-1}, n \in \mathbb{N}, \text{ where } \alpha = \frac{a_2 + a_0}{a_1} = \frac{a_1^2 - 1}{a_0} + a_0 = \frac{a_0^2 + a_1^2 - 1}{a_1 a_0}$$