

PROBLEM 1. Suppose that  $a \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$  is a polynomial sequence of degree 4. Use the following table of differences to determine a formula for  $a_n$ .

|                 |   |   |    |     |     |     |
|-----------------|---|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| $a_n$           | 0 | 0 | 4  | 12  | 72  | ... |
| $\Delta[a]_n$   | 0 | 4 | 8  | 60  | ... |     |
| $\Delta^2[a]_n$ |   | 4 | 4  | 52  | ... |     |
| $\Delta^3[a]_n$ |   |   | 0  | 48  | ... |     |
| $\Delta^4[a]_n$ |   |   | 48 | ... |     |     |

PROBLEM 2. With your group, choose a “random” polynomial  $p$  of degree at most 5. Prepare a table of the values  $p(n)$  for  $n = 0, 1, \dots, 6$ . Swap tables of values with another group and then reconstruct each others polynomials.

PROBLEM 3.

- For  $r, n \geq 0$  define  $a_{r,n} = \sum_{k=0}^n k^r$ . Prove that  $(a_{r,n})_{n=0}^{\infty}$  is a degree  $r+1$  polynomial sequence.
- Use a table of differences to determine a polynomial expression for

$$a_{3,n} = \sum_{k=0}^n k^3.$$

PROBLEM 4.

- Prove that  $3 \mid n^3 + 2n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .
- Suppose that  $f$  is a numerical polynomial of degree  $d$ . Prove that  $d$  divides  $f(n)$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  if and only if  $d$  divides  $\Delta^k[f]_0$  for all  $k \geq 0$ .
- What is the largest number dividing  $n^5 - n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ?