

Math 20 Fall 2003
Owl Population Homework

Recent spotted owl data indicates that the northern spotted owl population can be modeled by the following equation. (See the §7.1 handout for an explanation of the notation used below.)

$$\begin{bmatrix} j_{k+1} \\ s_{k+1} \\ a_{k+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & .125 & .26 \\ .33 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & .85 & .85 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} j_k \\ s_k \\ a_k \end{bmatrix}$$

Using this data, determine the long-range population of the northern spotted owl.

In answering this question, you might find the following website useful.

<http://mss.math.vanderbilt.edu/~pscrooke/MSS/solvepoly.html>

You can enter a polynomial equation like

$$0 = x^2 - 4$$

and then click on solve. You'll then be given the solutions to the equation.