

## Problem Set 7

### Problem 1

Show that the recurrence

$$h_0 = 1 + h_1, \quad h_n = 0, \quad \forall j \in \{0, \dots, n-1\} : h_j \leq 1 + \frac{2}{3}h_{j-1} + \frac{1}{3}h_{j+1}$$

implies that  $h_j \leq 2^{n+2} - 2^{j+2} - 3(n-j)$  for all  $j \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ . *Hint:* First show by induction that for all  $j \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$ ,  $h_j \leq h_{j+1} + 2^{j+2} - 3$  holds.

(This task completes the proof of Lemma 4.7).

### Problem 2

Let  $a \in \{0, 1\}^n$  be uniformly chosen from all possible assignments  $\{0, 1\}^n$ , and let  $a^*$  be an unknown but fixed assignment. Let  $r := |\{i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \mid a_i = a_i^*\}|$  be the number of positions where  $a$  and  $a^*$  agree. Show that

$$\Pr(r \geq n/2) \geq 1/2.$$