

Arithmetic and Geometric Sequences

The following sequences are Arithmetic Sequences:	Find an explicit formula for $t_n$ (or $f(n)$ ):
<p><math>t_n = a + (n-1)d</math></p> <p><math>n = 1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5</math>  <math>1, 4, 7, 10, 13, \dots</math>  <math>\swarrow \ \swarrow \ \swarrow \ \swarrow</math>  <math>+3 \ +3 \ +3</math></p> <p>* Recursive Formula  <math>t_n = t_{n-1} + 3, t_1 = 1</math></p>	<p><math>t_n = 1 + 3(n-1)</math>  <math>t_n = 1 + 3n - 3</math>  <math>t_n = 3n - 2</math></p>
<p><math>n = 1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5 \ 6</math>  <math>-5, -4, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, \dots</math>  <math>\swarrow \ \swarrow \ \swarrow</math>  <math>+1 \ +1 \ +1</math></p> <p>* Recursive Formula  <math>t_n = t_{n-1} - 10, t_1 = 15</math></p> <p><math>15, 5, -5, -15, -25, \dots</math>  <math>\swarrow \ \swarrow \ \swarrow \ \swarrow</math>  <math>-10 \ -10 \ -10 \ -10</math></p>	<p><math>t_n = -5 + 1(n-1)</math>  <math>t_n = -5 + n - 1</math>  <math>t_n = n - 6</math></p> <p><math>t_n = 15 + [-10(n-1)]</math>  <math>t_n = -10n + 25</math></p>
The following sequences are Geometric Sequences:	Find an explicit formula $t_n$ (or $f(n)$ ):
<p>* Recursive Formula  <math>t_n = t_{n-1} \times 2, t_1 = 1</math></p> <p><math>n \ 1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5 \ 6 \ 7</math>  <math>1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, \dots</math>  <math>\swarrow \ \swarrow \ \swarrow \ \swarrow</math>  <math>\times 2 \ \times 2 \ \times 2 \ \times 2</math></p> <p>* RF: <math>t_n = t_{n-1} \times 2, t_1 = 7</math></p> <p><math>1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5</math>  <math>7, 14, 28, 56, 112, \dots</math>  <math>\swarrow \ \swarrow \ \swarrow</math>  <math>\times 2 \ \times 2 \ \times 2</math></p> <p>* RF: <math>t_n = t_{n-1} \times 3, t_1 = -6</math></p> <p><math>1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4</math>  <math>-6, -18, -54, -162, \dots</math>  <math>\swarrow \ \swarrow</math>  <math>\times 3 \ \times 3</math></p>	<p><math>t_n = a(r)^{n-1}</math>  <math>t_n = 1(2)^{n-1}</math>  <math>t_n = (2)^{n-1}</math>  <math>t_n = 7(2)^{n-1}</math></p> <p><math>t_n = -6(3)^{n-1}</math></p>

$$8, -4, 2, -1, \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{4}, \dots$$

$\swarrow$        $\swarrow$   
 $\times -\frac{1}{2}$      $\times -\frac{1}{2}$

$$t_n = 8 \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-1}$$

or

$$t_n = \frac{8}{(-2)^{n-1}}$$

$$11, 22, 44, 88, \dots$$

$\swarrow$        $\swarrow$   
 $\times 2$        $\times 2$

$$t_n = 11 (2)^{n-1}$$

def **Arithmetic Sequences**

a) How can you tell when a sequence is Arithmetic?

is a sequence where the **difference** between consecutive terms is a constant.  
 add or minus

b) If  $a$  is the first term and  $d$  is common difference, what is the general formula  $t_n$ ?

$$t_n = a + (n-1)d \quad (\text{Explicit Form})$$

$\downarrow$        $\downarrow$        $\downarrow$   
 first term    common difference    difference between consecutive terms  
 term number (=input)

def **Geometric Sequences**

a) How can you tell when a sequence is Geometric?

is a sequence in which the **ratio** of consecutive terms is a constant.

b) If  $a$  is the first term and  $r$  is common ratio, what is the general formula  $t_n$ ?

ratio between consecutive terms

**Example 1** Is the following sequence arithmetic or geometric?

$$-13, -19, -25, \dots$$

$\swarrow$        $\swarrow$   
 $-6$      $-6$

→ Arithmetic Sequence

$$AS \rightarrow t_n = a + (n-1)d \quad (\text{explicit formula})$$

a) Determine an **explicit formula** for the general term of the sequence.

$$t_n = -13 - 6(n-1) = -6n - 7$$

b) Determine a **recursive formula** for the general term of the sequence.

$$t_n = t_{n-1} - 6, \quad t_1 = -13$$

c) What is the value of the 15<sup>th</sup> term of the sequence?

$$\begin{aligned} t_{15} &= -13 - 6(15-1) = -13 - (6 \cdot 14) = -13 - 84 \\ &= -97 \end{aligned}$$

**Example 2** Determine the 25<sup>th</sup> term of the sequence  $-17, -10, -3, 4, \dots$ .  $t_{25} = ?$

Arithmetic sequence:  $t_n = a + d(n-1)$   $+7$   $+7$

$$t_n = -17 + 7(n-1)$$

$$t_n = -17 + 7n - 7$$

$$\therefore t_n = 7n - 24$$

$$\begin{aligned} t_n &= 7(25) - 24 \quad \therefore t_{25} = 151 \\ &= 175 - 24 \\ &= 151 \end{aligned}$$

**Example 3** Find the number of terms in the sequence  $3, 15, 27, \dots, 495$ .  $n = ?$

Arithmetic Seq:  $t_n = 3 + 12(n-1)$   $+12$

$$495 = 3 + 12n - 12$$

$$\therefore n = 42$$

$$495 + 9 = 12n$$

$$\frac{504}{12} = n$$

**Example 4** In an arithmetic sequence,  $t_{12} = 52$  and  $t_{22} = 102$ , determine the first

3

terms.

**Example 5** In a sequence, the common difference is 5, and  $t_{12} = 62$ . Is this sequence arithmetic or geometric? Find the first term of the sequence, and then write an explicit formula for the general term of the sequence.

**Example 6** Is the following sequence arithmetic or geometric? Calculate the value of the 12<sup>th</sup> term.

72, 48, 32, ...

**Example 7** A sequence has a first term of 5, and a common ratio of  $-2$ .

a) Is this sequence arithmetic or geometric? Write the first 4 terms of the sequence.

b) If  $t_n = 20480$ , find  $n$ .

**Example 8** Determine the number of terms in the sequence

$\frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{2}, 1, 2, 4, 8, \dots, 1024$