

(1)

④ Form: $a_n = a_{n-1} + d$ $a_1 = a$

↑ ↑
difference start value
(seed)

- For any pair of a & d we get a unique sequence.

Ex

let $a = 2$ and $d = 3$

$\Rightarrow a_n = a_{n-1} + 3, a_1 = 2$

$a_1 = \text{seed} = 2$

$n=2 a_2 = a_{2-1} + 3 = a_1 + 3 = 2 + 3 = 5$

$n=3 a_3 = a_2 + 3 = 5 + 3 = 8$

$n=4 a_4 = a_3 + 3 = 8 + 3 = 11$

\vdots

\ddots

$\{a_n\} = \{2, 5, 8, 11, \dots\}$

$+3 +3 +3 \leftarrow \text{The behavior of an arithmetic sequence.}$

* general term, n^{th} term:

$a_n = a + (n-1)d$

$\begin{cases} a = a_1 = \text{seed} \\ d = \text{common difference} \end{cases}$

(2)

Non-Arithmetic seq. (by contrast)

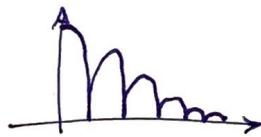
EX: Analyze

$$\{4, 16, 64, 256, 1024, \dots\}$$

- How do I get from 4 to 16? $\xrightarrow{*4} +12$ - or -
- How do I get from 16 to 64? $\xrightarrow{*4} +48$ - or -
- How do I get from 64 to 256? $\xrightarrow{*4} +192$

Q: Is this arithmetic? No we are not adding a common difference.

{ B.T.W.: this sequence is a geometric sequence since we are multiplying by a constant ratio, 4 } 11.3



EX:

$$\{11.4, 9.3, 7.2, 5.1, 3.0, \dots\}$$
 Find the gen. term

• recursive form

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + d$$

$$a_n = a_{n-1} - 2.1$$

• arithmetic

$$d = -2.1$$

• general term

$$a_n = a_1 + (n-1)d$$

$$a_n = 11.4 + (n-1)(-2.1)$$

$$a_n = 11.4 - 2.1(n-1)$$



Revisit 1st example, write gen. term

(2)

$$\left\{ 2, 5, 8, 11, \dots, 2 + (n-1)3, \dots \right\}$$



Find the 24th term of the sequence

$n=1, 2, 3, 4$

$$\{-3, 0, 3, 6, \dots\}$$

Strategy: get the
gen. term 1st

(i) determine a & d

$$a = \underline{-3}, \quad d = \underline{3}$$

(ii) general term:

$$a_n = a + (n-1)d = \boxed{-3 + (n-1)3}$$

(iii) compute: $a_{24} = -3 + (24-1)3$

$$= -3 + (23)3$$

$$= -3 + 69$$

$$a_{24} = \boxed{66}$$

* C.S.I. problems

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Q: How do we build/determine a sequence given two members of the sequence and told that the sequence is arithmetic?

Ex

If $a_1 = 17$ and $a_7 = -31$ Find a_{20}

- general term

$$a_n = a + (n-1)d \quad \text{Arithmetic form}$$

- $\Rightarrow a = a_1$, so $a = 17$ \leftarrow start term

so then the form becomes $a_n = 17 + (n-1)d$ what is $d = ?$

- use the last piece of info : $a_7 = -31$

$$\Rightarrow a_7 = 17 + (7-1)d$$

$$-31 = 17 + 6d \quad \rightarrow \text{solve for } d$$

$$\frac{-31-17}{6} = d$$

$$d = \frac{-48}{6} = -8$$

- general term:

$$a_n = 17 + (n-1)(-8)$$

answer: $a_{20} = 17 - 8(20-1) = 17 - 8 \cdot 19 = -135$

EX

Not a_1 like in the last example 4
 Write the 1st 3 terms of an arithmetic sequence if $a_{13} = -60$ and $a_{33} = -160$

general term :

$$a_n = a + (n-1)d$$

- $n = 13$:

$$a_{13} = a + (13-1)d \rightarrow -60 = a + 12d \quad \text{eqns}$$

- $n = 33$:

$$a_{33} = a + (33-1)d \rightarrow -160 = a + 32d \quad \text{eqns}$$

Solve

$$a + 12d = -60$$

$$\textcircled{+} \quad a + 32d = -160 \quad * -1$$

$$-20d = 100$$

$$d = -5 \quad \text{unknows}$$

Insert into top eqn

$$a + 12(-5) = -60 \Rightarrow a = 0$$

General term:

$$a_n = -5(n-1)$$

Answer question:

$$\begin{cases} a_1 = 0 \\ a_2 = -5 \\ a_3 = -10 \end{cases}$$

$$\{0, -5, -10, \dots, -5(n-1), \dots\}$$

* Finally, recursive formula...

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EX Use the given recursive formula to write the first four terms: $\begin{cases} a_1 = 39 \\ a_n = a_{n-1} - 3 \end{cases}$ $d = -3$

$$\{39, 36, 33, 30, 27, \dots\}$$

$\downarrow -3 \quad \downarrow -3 \quad \downarrow -3$

In non-recursive form
 $a_n = 39 - 3(n-1)$

EX Write a recursive relation if $\{-15, -7, 1, \dots\}$

$$a_1 = -15, a_n = a_{n-1} + 8$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \uparrow +8 \quad \uparrow +8 \\ d = 8 \end{array}$$

seed

Alternatively
Convert to
general
term

$$a_n = -15 + 8(n-1)$$

explicit general term

11.2 is finished