

Arithmetic sequences and series

Lesson #24

MAT 1375 Precalculus

New York City College of Technology CUNY



Sequences

Definition

A **sequence** is an ordered list of numbers.

$$a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, \dots$$

Here a_1 is the first number, a_2 is the second number, a_3 is the third number, etc.

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Examples of sequences:

- 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, ...
- 3, 6, 12, 24, 48, 96, 192, ...
- 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, ...

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(arithmetic sequence)
 $a_1 = 5$, $a_2 = 8$, $a_3 = 11$
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- 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, ...

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(Fibonacci sequence)

Find the first 5 terms of the sequence:

- 1 $a_n = 4n + 5$
- 2 $a_n = \sqrt{2n + 3}$
- 3 $a_n = n^2$
- 4 $a_n = \frac{n+2}{n+3}$

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Find the first 6 terms of the sequence given by the recursive rule.

- 1 $a_1 = 5, a_n = 2 \cdot a_{n-1}$
- 2 $a_1 = 2, a_n = a_{n-1} + 6$
- 3 $a_1 = 1, a_2 = 1$
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- ① $a_1 = 5, a_n = 2 \cdot a_{n-1}$
5, 10, 20, 40, 80, 160 ...
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Arithmetic sequences

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An **arithmetic sequence** is a sequence where each term follows from its previous term by adding a fixed number d :

$$a_1 \xrightarrow{+d} a_2 \xrightarrow{+d} a_3 \xrightarrow{+d} a_4 \xrightarrow{+d} a_5 \quad \dots$$

d is called the **common difference**.

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$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} a_1 & & a_2 & & a_3 & & a_4 & & a_5 & & \dots \\ \curvearrowright & & \curvearrowright & & \curvearrowright & & \curvearrowright & & & & \\ +d & & +d & & +d & & +d & & & & \end{array}$$

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Example

- Find the first 5 terms of the sequence $a_n = 7 + (n - 1) \cdot 3$.

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Answer:

$$7, 10, 13, 16, 19, \dots$$

This is an **arithmetic sequence** with first term $a_1 = 7$ and common difference $d = 3$.

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- ② Find the rule of the arithmetic sequence: $6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31, \dots$

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- ② Find the rule of the arithmetic sequence: $6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31, \dots$

Answer:

$$a_n = 6 + (n - 1) \cdot 5$$

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d is called the **common difference**. An arithmetic sequence has the closed form formula:

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

Example

- ① Find the first 5 terms of the sequence $a_n = 7 + (n - 1) \cdot 3$.

Answer:

$$7, 10, 13, 16, 19, \dots$$

This is an **arithmetic sequence** with first term $a_1 = 7$ and common difference $d = 3$.

- ② Find the rule of the arithmetic sequence: 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31, ...

Answer:

$$a_n = 6 + (n - 1) \cdot 5$$

Arithmetic sequence

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

Find the closed form formula for the given arithmetic sequence.

- 1 8, 14, 20, 26, ...
- 2 15, 22, 29, 36, ...
- 3 13, 10, 7, 4, 1, -2, -5, ...
- 4 -19, -11, -3, 5, 13, 21, ...

Arithmetic sequence

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

Find the closed form formula for the given arithmetic sequence.

① $8, 14, 20, 26, \dots$

$$a_n = 8 + (n - 1) \cdot 6$$

② $15, 22, 29, 36, \dots$

③ $13, 10, 7, 4, 1, -2, -5, \dots$

④ $-19, -11, -3, 5, 13, 21, \dots$

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① 8, 14, 20, 26, ...

$$a_n = 8 + (n - 1) \cdot 6$$

② 15, 22, 29, 36, ...

$$a_n = 15 + (n - 1) \cdot 7$$

③ 13, 10, 7, 4, 1, -2, -5, ...

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③ 13, 10, 7, 4, 1, -2, -5, ...

$$a_n = 13 + (n - 1) \cdot (-3)$$

④ -19, -11, -3, 5, 13, 21, ...

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$$a_n = 13 + (n - 1) \cdot (-3)$$

④ -19, -11, -3, 5, 13, 21, ...

$$a_n = -19 + (n - 1) \cdot 8$$

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③ 13, 10, 7, 4, 1, -2, -5, ...

$$a_n = 13 + (n - 1) \cdot (-3)$$

④ -19, -11, -3, 5, 13, 21, ...

$$a_n = -19 + (n - 1) \cdot 8$$

Find the stated term of the given arithmetic sequence.

① 500th term of 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, ...

② 444th term of 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, ...

③ 57th term of 5, -1, -7, -13, -20, ...

④ 1234th term of -5, -7, -9, -11, -13, ...

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① 8, 14, 20, 26, ...

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③ 13, 10, 7, 4, 1, -2, -5, ...

$$a_n = 13 + (n - 1) \cdot (-3)$$

④ -19, -11, -3, 5, 13, 21, ...

$$a_n = -19 + (n - 1) \cdot 8$$

Find the stated term of the given arithmetic sequence.

① 500th term of 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, ...

$$a_n = 8 + (n - 1) \cdot 4$$

$$\Rightarrow a_{500} = 8 + 499 \cdot 4 = 2004$$

② 444th term of 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, ...

③ 57th term of 5, -1, -7, -13, -20, ...

④ 1234th term of -5, -7, -9, -11, -13, ...

Arithmetic sequence

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

Find the closed form formula for the given arithmetic sequence.

① 8, 14, 20, 26, ...

$$a_n = 8 + (n - 1) \cdot 6$$

② 15, 22, 29, 36, ...

$$a_n = 15 + (n - 1) \cdot 7$$

③ 13, 10, 7, 4, 1, -2, -5, ...

$$a_n = 13 + (n - 1) \cdot (-3)$$

④ -19, -11, -3, 5, 13, 21, ...

$$a_n = -19 + (n - 1) \cdot 8$$

Find the stated term of the given arithmetic sequence.

① 500th term of 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, ...

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② 444th term of 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, ...

$$a_n = 4 + (n - 1) \cdot 3$$

$$\Rightarrow a_{444} = 4 + 443 \cdot 3 = 1333$$

③ 57th term of 5, -1, -7, -13, -20, ...

$$a_n = 5 + (n - 1) \cdot (-6)$$

$$\Rightarrow a_{57} = 5 + 56 \cdot (-6) = -331$$

④ 1234th term of -5, -7, -9, -11, -13, ...

$$a_n = -5 + (n - 1) \cdot (-2)$$

$$\Rightarrow a_{1234} = -5 + 1233 \cdot (-2) = -2471$$

Definition

A **series** is a sum of terms in a sequence. We use the following \sum “sigma” notation:

$$\sum_{n=1}^p a_n = a_1 + \cdots + a_p$$

More generally: $\sum_{n=m}^p a_n = a_m + \cdots + a_p.$

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$$\textcircled{1} \sum_{n=1}^4 (2n + 3) =$$

$$\textcircled{3} \sum_{n=1}^5 (n^2 + 2n) =$$

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Example

Find the sum of the first 100 terms of $2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, \dots$

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Answer: Use the "Gauss trick" (Carl Friedrich Gauss, 1777-1855):

$$\begin{array}{rccccccc} 2 & +4 & +6 & \dots & +196 & +198 & +200 \\ 200 & +198 & +196 & \dots & +6 & +4 & +2 \\ \hline 202 & +202 & +202 & \dots & +202 & +202 & +202 \end{array}$$

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Therefore: $2 \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{100} a_n = 100 \cdot 202$

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Arithmetic series

For any arithmetic sequence $a_n = a_1 + (n - 1) \cdot d$ the sum of the first p terms is

$$\sum_{n=1}^p a_n = \frac{p}{2} \cdot (a_1 + a_p)$$

Arithmetic series - exercises

Arithmetic series

For $a_n = a_1 + (n - 1) \cdot d$:

$$\sum_{n=1}^p a_n = \frac{p}{2} \cdot (a_1 + a_p)$$

Find the sum of the given arithmetic sequence.

1 Find $\sum_{n=1}^{300} (7 + (n - 1) \cdot 5)$

1 Sum the first 97 terms of 11, 15, 19, 23, ...

2 Sum the first 234 terms of $-17, -5, 7, 19, \dots$

2 Find $\sum_{n=1}^{555} (-3n + 9)$

3 Sum the first 500 terms of 18, 13, 8, 3, $-2, \dots$

Arithmetic series - exercises

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For $a_n = a_1 + (n - 1) \cdot d$:

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① Find $\sum_{n=1}^{300} (7 + (n - 1) \cdot 5)$
 $p = 300, \quad a_1 = 7,$
 $a_{300} = 7 + 299 \cdot 5 = 1502$

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Arithmetic series - exercises

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 $p = 555, \quad a_1 = 6,$
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We need $\sum_{n=1}^{97} a_n$ for $a_n = 11 + (n - 1) \cdot 4$.
 $p = 97, \quad a_1 = 11, \quad a_{97} = 11 + 96 \cdot 4 = 395$

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Arithmetic series - exercises

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Arithmetic series - exercises

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$$p = 234, \quad a_1 = -17, \quad a_{234} = -17 + 233 \cdot 12 = 2,779$$

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Arithmetic series

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$$p = 500, \quad a_1 = 18, \quad a_{500} = 18 + 499 \cdot (-5) = -2,477$$

Arithmetic series - exercises

Arithmetic series

For $a_n = a_1 + (n - 1) \cdot d$:

$$\sum_{n=1}^p a_n = \frac{p}{2} \cdot (a_1 + a_p)$$

① Find $\sum_{n=1}^{300} (7 + (n - 1) \cdot 5)$
 $p = 300, \quad a_1 = 7,$
 $a_{300} = 7 + 299 \cdot 5 = 1502$
 $\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{300} (7 + (n - 1) \cdot 5)$
 $= \frac{300}{2} \cdot (7 + 1502) = 226,350$

② Find $\sum_{n=1}^{555} (-3n + 9)$
 $p = 555, \quad a_1 = 6,$
 $a_{555} = -3 \cdot 555 + 9 = -1656$
 $\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{555} (-3n + 9)$
 $= \frac{555}{2} \cdot (6 + (-1656)) = -457,875$

Find the sum of the given arithmetic sequence.

- ① Sum the first 97 terms of 11, 15, 19, 23, ...

We need $\sum_{n=1}^{97} a_n$ for $a_n = 11 + (n - 1) \cdot 4$.
 $p = 97, \quad a_1 = 11, \quad a_{97} = 11 + 96 \cdot 4 = 395$
 $\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{97} a_n = \frac{97}{2} \cdot (11 + 395) = 19,691$

- ② Sum the first 234 terms of -17, -5, 7, 19, ...

We need $\sum_{n=1}^{234} a_n$ for $a_n = -17 + (n - 1) \cdot 12$.
 $p = 234, \quad a_1 = -17, \quad a_{234} = -17 + 233 \cdot 12 = 2,779$
 $\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{234} a_n = \frac{234}{2} \cdot (-17 + 2779) = 323,154$

- ③ Sum the first 500 terms of 18, 13, 8, 3, -2, ...

We need $\sum_{n=1}^{500} a_n$ for $a_n = 18 + (n - 1) \cdot (-5)$.
 $p = 500, \quad a_1 = 18, \quad a_{500} = 18 + 499 \cdot (-5) = -2,477$
 $\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{500} a_n = \frac{500}{2} \cdot (18 + (-2,477)) = -614,750$

