Arithmetic Sequences and Series

University of Minnesota

Preliminaries and Objectives

Preliminaries

- Sequences defined by explicit formulas
- Sequences defined by recursive formulas
- Sigma notation
- Slope-intercept form of a line

Objectives

- Define arithmetic sequences
- Find the sum of an arithmetic series

Sequences

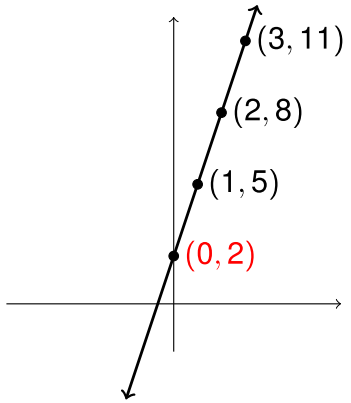
An **arithmetic** sequence is a sequence of numbers in which the recursion is to add a constant, called the *common difference*.

Explicit formula

n	0	1	2	3	4
a_n	2	5	8	11	14

As the input n changes by 1, the output a_n changes by 3

$a_n = 3n + 2$



Example 2

$\{a_n\} = -7\ \{-3, 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 \ldots\}$ $\quad d = 4$

Find the nth term.

Find the 23rd term.

$a_n = 4n - 7$

$a_{23} = 4(23) - 7 = 85$

Example 3

If $a_7 = 22$ and $a_{10} = 31$, find the nth term.

$$d = \frac{31 - 22}{10 - 7} = \frac{9}{3} = 3$$

$a_0 = 22 - 7(3) = 1$

$\{a_n\} = 1\{4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, \ldots\}$

$a_n = 3n + 1$

Example 4

Find the sum $S = 1 + 2 + 3 + \ldots + 100$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{100} n$$

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccc} S &=& 1 &+& 2 &+& 3 & \ldots & + & 100 \\ S &=& 100 &+& 99 &+& 98 & \ldots & + & 1 \\ \hline 2S &=& 101 &+& 101 &+& 101 & \ldots & + & 101 \end{array}$$

$$2S = (101)(100)$$

$$S = \frac{(101)(100)}{2} = 5050$$

Example 5

Find the sum $S = 2 + 4 + 6 + \ldots + 100$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{50} 2n$$

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccc} S &=& 2 &+& 4 &+& 6 & \ldots & + & 100 \\ S &=& 100 &+& 98 &+& 96 & \ldots & + & 2 \\ \hline 2S &=& 102 &+& 102 &+& 102 & \ldots & + & 102 \end{array}$$

$$2S = (102)(50)$$

$$S = \frac{(102)(50)}{2} = 2550$$

Example 6

Find the sum $S = 5 + 8 + 11 + \ldots + 74$

$d = 3 \qquad a_0 = 2 \qquad a_n = 3n + 2 \qquad 74 = 3n + 2 \qquad n = 24$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{24} 3n + 2$$

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccc} S & = & 5 & + & 8 & + & 11 & \ldots & + & 74 \\ S & = & 74 & + & 71 & + & 68 & \ldots & + & 5 \\ \hline 2S & = & 79 & + & 79 & + & 79 & \ldots & + & 79 \end{array}$$

$$2S = (79)(24)$$

$$S = \frac{(79)(24)}{2} = 948$$

Recap

- Explicit definition of an arithmetic sequence $a_n = a_0 + nd$
- Find the sum of an arithmetic sequence by writing the sum forward and backward and adding vertically.