

4 - Number and Sequences

Sequences

- **Linear/Arithmetic Sequence** → a number pattern that increases/decreases by the same amount between terms ($dn+e$)
- Common Difference → the difference between 2 terms of a linear/arithmetic sequence (when the difference is the same)

e.g. Linear →

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | →terms/n |
| 14 | 20 | 26 | 32 | →sequence |
| | +6 | +6 | +6 | →common difference |

6 = common difference ↗

nth term = $6n + 8$

d in front of n = common difference

n = term number

$\pm e$ = extra difference = 0th term

- **Quadratic Sequences** → $xn^2 \pm e$

Sequences that involve n^2

We also know that a sequence is quadratic if the 2nd difference is the same.

Sample Sequence =

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------|
| 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | →terms/n |
| -1 | 5 | 15 | 29 | 47 | →sequence |
| | +6 | +10 | +14 | +18 | →1st difference |
| | | +4 | +4 | +4 | →2nd difference(constant) |

- ① To find what value goes in front of n^2 , we divide the 2nd difference by 2.

$$xn^2+e \rightarrow x = 2\text{nd difference} \div 2$$

In the sample sequence, 4 = 2nd difference

so $x = 4 \div 2 = 2 = 2n^2$

- ② To find the rest of the nth term (e), we use a comparison method/table →

1st row = Terms

2nd row = xn^2 , the value of x changes depending on 2nd difference $\div 2$

3rd row = original quadratic sequence

4th row = the difference between xn^2 to the original quadratic sequence.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Term (n) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| $2n^2$ | 2 | 8 | 18 | 32 | 50 |
| Sequence | -1 | 5 | 15 | 29 | 47 |
| Subtract (d) /difference | -3 | -3 | -3 | -3 | -3 |

Now we know that our nth Term rule = $2n^2 - 3$

• **Complex Quadratic** →

However, A quadratic sequence can also appear as → $xn^2 + bn + e$

x = multiplier of n^2 e.g. $2n^2/3n^2$

b = multiplier of n

x/b are variables, n^2/e are constant

e = extra value

To work out a $xn^2 + bn + d$ sequence

e.g. 5 15 31 53

① Make the table after working out 1st/2nd difference

2nd difference = 6 → so $x = 3$ ($6/2$)

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----|----|----|
| Term (n) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Sequence | 5 | 15 | 31 | 53 |
| $3n^2$ | 3 | 12 | 27 | 48 |
| Subtract/Difference (e) | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Here we see that the difference between the original and $3n^2$ is not constant.

Now we need to create a new table, a different table to go back to the 0th term.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Term (n) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Original sequence (e) | 1 | 5 | 15 | 31 | 53 |
| 1st Diff ($x+b$) | | +4 | +10 | +16 | +22 |
| 2nd Diff ($2x$) | | | +6 | +6 | +6 |

Using the formulas table, what we already know and the 0th term →

$2x = 6 \implies$

$b = (4 - 3) = 1 \implies$

$x = 3 \implies$

$e = 1$

$x + b = 4 \implies$

$xn^2 + bn + e$

$3n^2 + 1n + 1$

The pattern we see is now $3n^2 + n + 1 = nth$ term rule

• **Special Sequences** →

2^n

2,4,8,16,32,64

10^n

10,100,1000,10000

Prime Numbers

2,3,5,7,11,13,17,19

n^2

1,4,9,16,25,36,49,64

n^3

1,8,27,64,125,216

Triangular numbers = $\frac{1}{2}n(n+1)$

1,3,6,10,15,21

• **Fibonacci Sequence** →

Next term = 2 previous terms added

e.g. 1 1 2 3 5 8

a,b, a+b, a+2b, 2a+3b, 3a+5b, 5a+8b, 8a+13b, 13a+21b

the 3rd term always = 1st + 2nd term

• **Geometric** →

Geometric involves multiplication of terms e.g.

7 21 63 189 (×3)
 a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4

For geometric sequences we need to find the common ratio =

2nd term ÷ 1st term = a_2/a_1

e.g. 21/7 = 3

then we use the formula $a_1 \times r^{n-1}$

e.g. $5 \times 2^{n-1}$

- 1st term =
- ① $1-1 = 0$ (r^{n-1})
 - ② $2^0 = 1$ (r^{n-1})
 - ③ $5 \times 1 = 5$ ($a_1 \times r^{n-1}$)
 - ④ $5 = a_1$ in sequence

a_1 varies depending on 1st term of the geometric sequence

r , varies depending on the common ratio

- 2nd term =
- ① $2-1 = 1$
 - ② $2^1 = 2$
 - ③ $5 \times 2 = 10$ ($a_1 \times r^{n-1}$)
 - ④ $10 = a_2$

n varies depending on which term you are looking for

Sequence = 5 10 20 40
 a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4

Sequence Recap

Geometric sequences = $a_1 \times (r)^{n-1}$
 Arithmetic/Linear = $dn + e$
 Quadratic = $xn^2 + e$
 Fibonacci = $a, b, (a + b)$

a = **1st** term of geo sequence
 r = common ratio of geo sequence
 e = extra value
 d = common difference
 $2d$ = 2nd difference
 n = Term

To work out e (extra value), we work out the difference original sequence and the current.

e = the difference between them

e.g.

$2n^2 \rightarrow$ 2 8 18 32 \Rightarrow $e = 2$ here
 $2n^2 + e \rightarrow$ 4 10 20 34 \Rightarrow

* $a_1 \times (r)^{n-1}$ not $(a_1 \times r)^{n-1}$