

Lesson 5 Sequence



Announcement

1. Mock Exam: Available under Lesson 4 Learning Materials
2. Mock Exam Explanation Session: 7/16 Wed 5-7PM PDT





Concept 1

Comprehensive Application of Arithmetic and Geometric Sequence



Properties of Arithmetic Sequence

1. Definition: $a_{n+1} - a_n = d$, $a_n = a_1 + (n - 1)d$

$$a_1$$

$$a_2 = a_1 + d$$

$$a_3 = a_1 + 2d$$

$$a_m = a_1 + (m-1)d$$

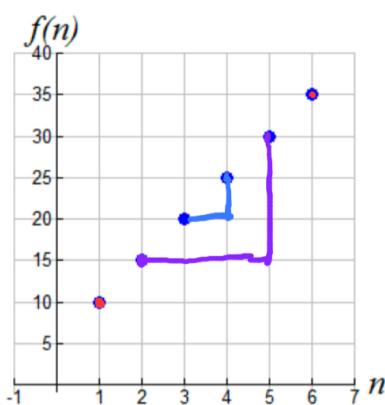
2. Sum: $S_n = \frac{n(a_1 + a_n)}{2}$

$$\frac{n(a_1 + a_n)}{2}$$

Average

3. Midpoint Formula:

If $m + n = p + q$, then $a_m + a_n = a_p + a_q$





Properties of Geometric Sequence

1. Definition: $\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = r$, $a_n = a_1 r^{n-1}$

a_1

$a_2 = a_1 \cdot r$

$a_3 = a_1 \cdot r \cdot r = a_1 \cdot r^2$

2. Sum: $S_n = a_1 \frac{1 - r^n}{1 - r}$ if $r \neq 1$

3. Sum of infinite geometric series: $S = \frac{a_1}{1 - r}$ if $-1 < r < 1$

$r^n (n \rightarrow \infty) \rightarrow 0$

$$S_n = a_1 + a_1 r + \dots + a_1 r^{n-1}$$

$$r \cdot S_n = a_1 r + a_1 r^2 + \dots + a_1 r^{n-1} + a_1 r^n$$

$$\Rightarrow S_n - r \cdot S_n = a_1 - a_1 r^n$$

$$S_n = \frac{a_1(1 - r^n)}{1 - r}$$



MC(1)



Math Exploration 1.1

A four-term sequence is formed by adding each term of a four-term arithmetic sequence of positive integers to the corresponding term of a four-term geometric sequence of positive integers. The first three terms of the resulting four-term sequence are 57, 60, and 91. What is the fourth term of this sequence? (2022 AMC 10A Problems, Question #20)

A. 190

B. 194

C. 198

D. 202

E. 206

Arithmetic: $a, a+d, a+2d, a+3d$

check!

$$\textcircled{1} (r-1)^2 = 1 \Rightarrow r=2$$

Geometric: b, br, br^2, br^3

$b=28$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} 60-57=d+br-b \\ 91-60=d+br^2-br \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} 28 &= br(r-1) - b(r-1) \\ 28 &= b(r-1)(r-1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} 3 = d+b(r-1) \\ 31 = d+br(r-1) \end{cases}$$

$$\underline{28 = b(r-1)^2}$$

pos. integer

$$\Rightarrow (r-1)^2 = 1 \text{ or } 4$$

$$\textcircled{2} (r-1)^2 = 4 \Rightarrow r=3$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 50 \\ 39 \\ 28 \\ 17 \\ \hline 7 \quad 21 \quad 63 \quad 189 \end{array}$$

$b=7$

Math Exploration 1.2

$\text{Ans} = 8 + 9 + 10 + 17 + 18 + 19 + 26 + 27 + 28 + 35$
 $= 197$

For each integer $n \geq 2$, let S_n be the sum of all products jk , where j and k are integers and $1 \leq j < k \leq n$. What is the sum of the 10 least values of n such that S_n is divisible by 3? (2021 Fall AMC 10B Problems, Question #22)

A. 196

B. 197

C. 198

D. 199

E. 200

$$n=2: S_2 = 1 \times 2$$

$$n=3: S_3 = 1 \times 2 + 1 \times 3 + 2 \times 3$$

$$n=4: S_4 = 1 \times 2 + 1 \times 3 + 1 \times 4 + 2 \times 3 + 2 \times 4 + 3 \times 4$$

$$\Rightarrow S_{n+1} - S_n = 1 \times (n+1) + 2 \times (n+1) + \dots + n \cdot (n+1)$$

$$= (n+1)(1+2+\dots+n) = (n+1) \frac{(n+1)}{2} \cdot n = \frac{n(n+1)^2}{2}$$

Divided by 3:

$$S_2 = 2$$

$$S_3 = 2 + \frac{2(2+1)^2}{2}$$

| S_n | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|----------|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|
| Reminder | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2+2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

divisible by 3

If $n \equiv 0 \text{ or } 2 \pmod{3}$
 $\Rightarrow \frac{n(n+1)^2}{2}$ is divisible by 3

If $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$
 $\Rightarrow \frac{n(n+1)^2}{2} \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$



Practice 1.1

Given an arithmetic sequence $\{a_n\}$ with a nonzero common difference, and that the terms a_2, a_3, a_9 form a geometric sequence, what is the value

of $\frac{a_4 + a_5 + a_6}{a_2 + a_3 + a_4}$?

Midpoint: $a_4 + a_6 = 2a_5$

$a_3 - d$ $a_5 + d$

A. $\frac{8}{3}$

B. $\frac{7}{3}$

C. 3

D. $\frac{5}{3}$

$$a_3 = a_2 + d$$

$$a_9 = a_2 + 7d$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{a_3}{a_2} \times \frac{a_9}{a_3} \Rightarrow a_3^2 = a_2 \cdot a_9$$

$$(a_2+d)^2 = a_2(a_2+7d)$$

$$a_2^2 + 2a_2d + d^2 = a_2^2 + 7a_2d$$

$$d = 5a_2 \Rightarrow a_2 = \frac{d}{5}$$

$$\frac{a_4 + a_5 + a_6}{a_2 + a_3 + a_4} = \frac{3a_5}{3a_3}$$

$$= \frac{a_2 + 3d}{a_2 + d}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{16}{5}d}{\frac{6}{5}d} = \frac{16}{6} = \frac{8}{3}$$





Practice 1.2

From the sequence $\{a_n\}$ satisfying the recurrence relation $a_1 = a_2 = 1$, and $a_{n+2} = a_{n+1} + a_n (n \geq 1)$, extract the terms that are divisible by 3 to form a new sequence $\{b_n\}$. What is the value of b_{100} ?

A. a_{100} B. a_{200} C. a_{300} D. a_{400}

$$a_1 = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow b_{100} = a_{4 \times 100} = a_{400}$$

$$a_2 = 1$$

$$a_3 = 2$$

$$a_4 = 3 \times$$

$$a_5 = 5$$

$$a_6 = 8$$

$$a_7 = 13$$

$$a_8 = 21 \times$$



Concept 2

Recursive Sequence

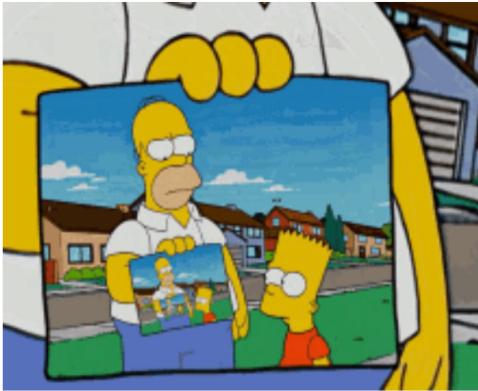




A **recursive sequence** is a sequence in which terms are defined using one or more previous terms which are given.

Addition Form: $a_{n+1} = a_n + f(n)$

Multiplication Form: $a_{n+1} = a_n \cdot f(n)$.



Ways to Solve Recursive sequence:

- Find patterns through enumeration

$$f(n) = f(f(n))$$

$$\Delta, \dots, \Delta, \dots, \Delta, \dots$$

Default

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| $\overset{\uparrow}{\overbrace{0 \quad 1}}$ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| $0 + 1 = 1$ | | | | |
| $1 + 1 = 2$ | | | | |
| $1 + 2 = 3$ | | | | |
| $2 + 3 = 5$ | | | | |

- Express the sequence as $f(n) = f(f(n))$ and solve for $f(n)$

$$F(n) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n}_{G(n)} - \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^n}_{E(n)}$$

*Almost every problem can be solved by finding patterns, but it could be time consuming.



Math Exploration 2.1

Let a_1, a_2, \dots , be a sequence with the following properties.

- (i) $a_1 = 1$, and
 - (ii) $a_{2n} = n \cdot a_n$ for any positive integer n .

What is the value of $a_{2^{100}}$?

- A. 1 B. 2^{99} C. 2^{100} D. 2^{4950} E. 2^{9999}

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_2^{100} &= a_{\underline{\underline{2 \cdot 2^9}}} = 2^9 \cdot a_2^{99} = 2^9 \cdot 2^{98} \cdot a_2^{98} \\
 &= 2^9 \cdot 2^{98} \cdot \dots \cdot 2^1 \cdot 1 \cdot a_1 \\
 &= 2^{99+98+\dots+1} \\
 &= 2^{\frac{(99+1) \cdot 99}{2}} \\
 &= 2^{4950}
 \end{aligned}$$



Math Exploration 2.2

Define a sequence recursively by $F_0 = 0$, $F_1 = 1$, and F_n = the remainder when $F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$ is divided by 3, for all $n \geq 2$. Thus the sequence starts 0, 1, 1, 2, 0, 2, ... What is

$$F_{2017} + F_{2018} + F_{2019} + F_{2020} + F_{2021} + F_{2022} + F_{2023} + F_{2024} ? \quad (2017)$$

AMC 10A Problems, Question #13)

- A. 6 B. 7 C. 8 D. 9 E. 10

Pattern: 0, 1, 1, 2, 0, 2, 2, 1, 0, 1, 1, 2, 0
8 numbers in a cycle.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sum} &= 0 + 1 + 1 + 2 + 0 + 2 + 2 + 1 \\ &= 9 \end{aligned}$$





Math Exploration 2.3

The Fibonacci numbers are defined by $F_1 = 1$, $F_2 = 1$, and

$F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$ for $n \geq 3$. What is $\frac{F_2}{F_1} + \frac{F_4}{F_2} + \frac{F_6}{F_3} + \dots + \frac{F_{20}}{F_{10}}$?

(2024 AMC 10B Problems, Question #23)

A. 318

B. 319

C. 320

D. 321

E. 322

$F_n: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, \dots$

$$\frac{F_2}{F_1} = 1 \quad \frac{F_4}{F_2} = 3 \quad \frac{F_6}{F_3} = \frac{8}{2} = 4 \quad \frac{F_8}{F_4} = \frac{21}{3} = 7$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sum} &= 1 + 3 + 4 + 7 + 11 + 18 + 29 + 47 + 76 + 123 \\ &= 319 \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{F_{2n}}{F_n} = \frac{F_{2n-2}}{F_{n-1}} + \frac{F_{2n-4}}{F_{n-2}}$$



Practice 2.1

Let S_n denote the sum of the first n terms of the sequence $\{a_n\}$. Given that $a_1 = 1$, and that $S_{n+1} = 4a_n + 2$.

(1) Let $b_n = a_{n+1} - 2a_n$. Prove that $\{b_n\}$ is a geometric sequence.

$$S_n = 4a_{n-1} + 2 \quad \text{and} \quad S_{n+1} - S_n = a_{n+1}$$

(2) Find the general formula of the sequence $\{b_n\}$. Let

$$T_n = b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n. \text{ Find } T_n. \quad a_2 = S_2 - a_1 = 4a_1 + 2 - a_1 = 5$$

$$(1) S_{n+1} - S_n = a_{n+1}$$

$$(4a_n + 2) - (4a_{n-1} + 2) = a_{n+1}$$

$$4a_n - 4a_{n-1} = a_{n+1}$$

$$2a_n - 4a_{n-1} = a_{n+1} - 2a_n$$

$$2(a_n - 2a_{n-1}) = a_{n+1} - 2a_n$$

$$2b_{n-1} = b_n$$

$$(2) b_1 = a_2 - 2a_1 = 5 - 2 = 3$$

$\{b_n\}$ is a geometric sequence, $b_n = 3 \cdot 2^{n-1}$

$$\Rightarrow T_n = \frac{3(1-2^n)}{1-2} = 3(2^n - 1)$$





Practice 2.2

Sequence $\{a_n\}$ satisfies $a_1 = 3$, and $a_{n+1} = \frac{5a_n - 13}{3a_n - 7}$. $a_{2016} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$.

A. 4

B. 3

C. 

D. 1

E. 0

Pattern: $a_1 = 3$

$$a_2 = \frac{5 \cdot 3 - 13}{3 \cdot 3 - 7} = 1$$

$$a_3 = \frac{5 \cdot 1 - 13}{3 \cdot 1 - 7} = 2$$

$$a_4 = \frac{5 \cdot 2 - 13}{3 \cdot 2 - 7} = 3$$

$\Rightarrow 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, \dots$

$$2016 \div 3 = R0 \Rightarrow a_{2016} = a_3 = 2$$




Practice 2.3

Consider the following operation. Given a positive integer n , if n is a multiple of 3, then you replace n by $\frac{n}{3}$. If n is not a multiple of 3, then you replace n by $n + 10$. Then continue this process. For example, beginning with $n = 4$, this procedure gives

$4 \rightarrow 14 \rightarrow 24 \rightarrow 8 \rightarrow 18 \rightarrow 6 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 12 \rightarrow \dots$. Suppose you start with $n = 100$. What value results if you perform this operation exactly 100 times? (2024 AMC 10A Problems, Question #10)

A. 10

B. 20

C.  30

D. 40

E. 50

$$100 \rightarrow 110 \rightarrow 120 \rightarrow 40 \rightarrow 50 \rightarrow 60 \rightarrow 20 \rightarrow 30 \rightarrow 10 \rightarrow 20$$

$a_1 \quad a_2 \quad a_3 \quad a_4 \quad a_5 \quad a_6 \quad a_7 \quad a_8 \quad a_9$

$100 \div 3 = 33R1$

$$\Rightarrow a_{100} = a_7 = 30$$



Math Exploration 3.1

A sequence of numbers is defined recursively by $a_1 = 1$, $a_2 = \frac{3}{7}$, and $a_n = \frac{a_{n-2} \cdot a_{n-1}}{2a_{n-2} - a_{n-1}}$ for all $n > 3$. Then a_{2019} can be written as $\frac{p}{q}$, where p and q are relatively prime positive integers. What is $p + q$? (2019 AMC 10A Problems, Question #15)

A. 2020

B. 4039

C. 6057

D. 6061

E. ✓ 8078

$$a_3 = \frac{1 \cdot \frac{3}{7}}{2 - \frac{3}{7}} = \frac{\frac{3}{7}}{\frac{11}{7}} = \frac{3}{11}$$

$$a_{2019} = \frac{3}{4^{2019-1}} = \frac{3}{8078}$$

Pattern: $\frac{3}{3}, \frac{3}{7}, \frac{3}{11}, \dots, \frac{3}{4m-1}$

Ans = 8078



Math Exploration 3.2

Skip

Define a sequence recursively by $x_0 = 5$ and $x_{n+1} = \frac{x_n^2 + 5x_n + 4}{x_n + 6}$ for all nonnegative integers n . Let m be the least positive integer such that

$x_m \leq 4 + \frac{1}{2^{20}}$. In which of the following intervals does m lie? (2019 AMC 10B Problems, Question #24)

A. [9, 26]

B. [27, 80]

✓ C. [81, 242]

D. [243, 728]

E. [729, ∞)

$$\Rightarrow x_{n+1} - x_n = \frac{4 - x_n}{x_n + 6}$$

$$\text{Let } x_n = 4 + f_n$$

$$\Rightarrow x_{n+1} - x_n = \frac{-f_n}{10 + f_n}$$

$$x_n - x_{n+1} = \frac{f_n}{10 + f_n} \approx \frac{f_n}{10}$$

Find $x_m \leq 4 + \frac{1}{2^{20}}$ and $x_0 = 4 + \frac{1}{2^{20}}$

\Rightarrow Step to $\frac{1}{2^{n+1}} = x_k$ from $\frac{1}{2^n} = x_j$

$$x_j - x_k = \frac{1}{2^n} - \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} = \frac{f_j}{10} + \frac{f_{j+1}}{10} + \dots + \frac{f_k}{10}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2^n} = f_j > f_k = \frac{1}{2^{n+1}}$$

\Rightarrow from f_0 to f_{20} : $100 < m < 200$



 **Practice 4.1** Same as Lesson 3 Practice 5.1

A function f is defined recursively by $f(1) = f(2) = 1$ and
 $f(n) = f(n - 1) - f(n - 2) + n$ for all integers $n \geq 3$. What is $f(2018)$?

(2018 AMC 10B Problems, Question #20)

- A. 2016
- B. 2017
- C. 2018
- D. 2019
- E. 2020

