

Sample Vocabulary Notecards

(updated: May 2022)

Learning vocabulary is the first step towards mastering the course material. “Vocabulary” means terminology, formulas, and facts. The most effective way to learn vocabulary is to make a notecard for each vocabulary item. You can use physical cards, like 3 by 5 inch index cards, or you can use some equivalent electronic medium.

Here are some examples.

FRONT of card, or LEFT column of list: term, formula or fact name	BACK of card, or RIGHT column: definition, statement, example(s)
linear sequence	<p>A sequence is linear if there is a fixed constant d so that each term in the sequence is equal to the previous term plus d.</p> <p>Example with $d = 4$ 3, 7, 11, 15, ...</p>
exponential sequence	<p>A sequence is exponential if there is a fixed constant r so that each term in the sequence is equal to the previous term times r.</p> <p>Example with $r = -2$ 1, -2, 4, -8, 16, ...</p>
quadratic formula	<p>The quadratic formula</p> <p>If $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ and $a \neq 0$ then</p> $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}.$ <p>If $b^2 - 4ac < 0$, then there are no real solutions.</p>