



## Sequences and Summations

Section 2.4

## **Section Summary**

- Sequences.
  - Examples: Geometric Progression, Arithmetic Progression
- Recurrence Relations
  - Example: Fibonacci Sequence
- Summations
- Special Integer Sequences (optional)

#### Introduction

- Sequences are ordered lists of elements.
  - -1, 2, 3, 5, 8
  - 1, 3, 9, 27, 81, ......
- Sequences arise throughout mathematics, computer science, and in many other disciplines, ranging from botany to music.
- We will introduce the terminology to represent sequences and sums of the terms in the sequences.

### Sequences

- **Definition**: A *sequence* is a function from a subset of the integers (usually either the set  $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, \ldots\}$ ) or  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, \ldots\}$ ) to a set S.
- The notation  $a_n$  is used to denote the image of the integer n. We can think of  $a_n$  as the equivalent of f(n) where f is a function from  $\{0,1,2,....\}$  to S. We call  $a_n$  a term of the sequence.

## Sequences

**Example:** Consider the sequence  $\{a_n\}$  where

$$a_n = \frac{1}{n}$$
  $\{a_n\} = \{a_1, a_2, a_3, \ldots\}$ 

$$1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4} \dots$$

## **Geometric Progression**

**Definition**: A *geometric progression* is a sequence of the form: a, ar, ar<sup>2</sup>, ..., ar<sup>n</sup> where the *initial term a* and the *common ratio r* are real numbers.

#### Examples:

1. Let a = 1 and r = -1. Then:

$$\{b_n\} = \{b_0, b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4, \dots\} = \{1, -1, 1, -1, 1, \dots\}$$

2. Let a = 2 and r = 5. Then:

$$\{c_n\} = \{c_0, c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4, \dots\} = \{2, 10, 50, 250, 1250, \dots\}$$

3. Let a = 6 and r = 1/3. Then:

$$\{d_n\} = \{d_0, d_1, d_2, d_3, d_4, \dots\} = \{6, 2, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{9}, \frac{2}{27}, \dots\}$$

## **Arithmetic Progression**

**Definition**: A *arithmetic progression* is a sequence of the form: a, a+d, a+2d, ..., a+nd,... where the *initial term a* and the *common difference d* are real numbers.

#### Examples:

- 1. Let a = -1 and d = 4:  $\{s_n\} = \{s_0, s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4, \dots\} = \{-1, 3, 7, 11, 15, \dots\}$
- 2. Let a = 7 and d = -3:  $\{t_n\} = \{t_0, t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4, \dots\} = \{7, 4, 1, -2, -5, \dots\}$
- 3. Let a = 1 and d = 2:  $\{u_n\} = \{u_0, u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4, \dots\} = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9, \dots\}$

## **Strings**

**Definition**: A *string* is a finite sequence of characters from a finite set (an alphabet).

- Sequences of characters or bits are important in computer science.
- The *empty string* is represented by  $\lambda$ .
- The string *abcde* has *length* 5.

#### **Recurrence Relations**

**Definition:** A *recurrence relation* for the sequence  $\{a_n\}$  is an equation that expresses  $a_n$  in terms of one or more of the previous terms of the sequence, namely,  $a_0$ ,  $a_1$ , ...,  $a_{n-1}$ , for all integers n with  $n \ge n_0$ , where  $n_0$  is a nonnegative integer.

- A sequence is called a *solution* of a recurrence relation if its terms satisfy the recurrence relation.
- The *initial conditions* for a sequence specify the terms that precede the first term where the recurrence relation takes effect.

## Questions about Recurrence Relations

**Example** 1: Let  $\{a_n\}$  be a sequence that satisfies the recurrence relation  $a_n = a_{n-1} + 3$  for n = 1,2,3,4,... and suppose that  $a_0 = 2$ . What are  $a_1$ ,  $a_2$  and  $a_3$ ? [Here  $a_0 = 2$  is the initial condition.]

**Solution**: We see from the recurrence relation that

$$a_1 = a_0 + 3 = 2 + 3 = 5$$
  
 $a_2 = 5 + 3 = 8$   
 $a_3 = 8 + 3 = 11$ 

# Questions about Recurrence Relations

**Example** 2: Let  $\{a_n\}$  be a sequence that satisfies the recurrence relation  $a_n = a_{n-1} - a_{n-2}$  for n = 2,3,4,... and suppose that  $a_0 = 3$  and  $a_1 = 5$ . What are  $a_2$  and  $a_3$ ? [Here the initial conditions are  $a_0 = 3$  and  $a_1 = 5$ .]

**Solution**: We see from the recurrence relation that

$$a_2 = a_1 - a_0 = 5 - 3 = 2$$
  
 $a_3 = a_2 - a_1 = 2 - 5 = -3$ 

## Fibonacci Sequence

**Definition**: Define the *Fibonacci sequence*,  $f_0$ ,  $f_1$ ,  $f_2$ ,..., by:

- Initial Conditions:  $f_0 = 0$ ,  $f_1 = 1$
- Recurrence Relation:  $f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}$

**Example:** Find  $f_2, f_3, f_4, f_5$  and  $f_6$ .

#### Answer:

$$f_2 = f_1 + f_0 = 1 + 0 = 1,$$
  
 $f_3 = f_2 + f_1 = 1 + 1 = 2,$   
 $f_4 = f_3 + f_2 = 2 + 1 = 3,$   
 $f_5 = f_4 + f_3 = 3 + 2 = 5,$   
 $f_6 = f_5 + f_4 = 5 + 3 = 8.$ 

## **Solving Recurrence Relations**

- Finding a formula for the *n*th term of the sequence generated by a recurrence relation is called *solving the* recurrence relation.
- Such a formula is called a *closed formula*.
- Various methods for solving recurrence relations will be covered in Chapter 8 where recurrence relations will be studied in greater depth.
- Here we illustrate by example the method of iteration in which we need to guess the formula. The guess can be proved correct by the method of induction (Chapter 5).

### **Iterative Solution Example**

#### **Method 1**: Working upward, forward substitution

Let  $\{a_n\}$  be a sequence that satisfies the recurrence relation  $a_n = a_{n-1} + 3$  for n = 2,3,4,... and suppose that  $a_1 = 2$ .

$$a_{n-1} + 3 \cdot 101 \cdot H - 2,3,1,...$$
 and suppose  $a_2 = 2 + 3$ 
 $a_3 = (2 + 3) + 3 = 2 + 3 \cdot 2$ 
 $a_4 = (2 + 2 \cdot 3) + 3 = 2 + 3 \cdot 3$ 
.

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + 3 = (2 + 3 \cdot (n - 2)) + 3 = 2 + 3(n - 1)$$

### **Iterative Solution Example**

Method 2: Working downward, backward substitution

Let  $\{a_n\}$  be a sequence that satisfies the recurrence relation  $a_n = a_{n-1} + 3$  for n = 2,3,4,... and suppose that  $a_1 = 2$ .

$$a_n = a_{n-1} + 3$$

$$= (a_{n-2} + 3) + 3 = a_{n-2} + 3 \cdot 2$$

$$= (a_{n-3} + 3) + 3 \cdot 2 = a_{n-3} + 3 \cdot 3$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\vdots$$

$$= a_2 + 3(n-2) = (a_1 + 3) + 3(n-2) = 2 + 3(n-1)$$

## **Financial Application**

**Example:** Suppose that a person deposits \$10,000.00 in a savings account at a bank yielding 11% per year with interest compounded annually. How much will be in the account after 30 years?

Let  $P_n$  denote the amount in the account after 30 years.  $P_n$  satisfies the following recurrence relation:

$$P_n = P_{n-1} + 0.11 P_{n-1} = (1.11) P_{n-1}$$
 with the initial condition  $P_0 = 10,000$ 

Continued on next slide  $\rightarrow$ 

## **Financial Application**

$$P_n = P_{n-1} + 0.11 P_{n-1} = (1.11) P_{n-1}$$
 with the initial condition  $P_0 = 10,000$ 

Solution: Forward Substitution

Solution: Forward Substitution 
$$P_1 = (1.11)P_0$$

$$P_2 = (1.11)P_1 = (1.11)^2P_0$$

$$P_3 = (1.11)P_2 = (1.11)^3P_0$$

$$\vdots$$

$$P_n = (1.11)P_{n-1} = (1.11)^nP_0 = (1.11)^n \ 10,000$$

$$P_n = (1.11)^n \ 10,000 \ (\text{Can prove by induction, covered in Chapter 5})$$

$$P_{30} = (1.11)^{30} \ 10,000 = \$228,992.97$$

## **Useful Sequences**

TABLE 1 Some Useful Sequences.		
nth Term	First 10 Terms	
$n^2$	1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, 81, 100,	
$n^3$	1, 8, 27, 64, 125, 216, 343, 512, 729, 1000,	
$n^4$	1, 16, 81, 256, 625, 1296, 2401, 4096, 6561, 10000,	
$2^{n}$	2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, 512, 1024,	
$3^n$	3, 9, 27, 81, 243, 729, 2187, 6561, 19683, 59049,	
n!	1, 2, 6, 24, 120, 720, 5040, 40320, 362880, 3628800,	
$f_n$	1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89,	

## **Guessing Sequences (optional)**

**Example:** Conjecture a simple formula for  $a_n$  if the first 10 terms of the sequence  $\{a_n\}$  are 1, 7, 25, 79, 241, 727, 2185, 6559, 19681, 59047.

**Solution**: Note the ratio of each term to the previous approximates 3. So now compare with the sequence  $3^n$ . We notice that the *n*th term is 2 less than the corresponding power of 3. So a good conjecture is that  $a_n = 3^n - 2$ .

#### **Summations**

- Sum of the terms  $a_m, a_{m+1}, \ldots, a_n$  from the sequence  $\{a_n\}$
- The notation:

$$\sum_{j=m}^{n} a_j \quad \sum_{j=m}^{n} a_j \quad \sum_{m \le j \le n} a_j$$

represents

$$a_m + a_{m+1} + \dots + a_n$$

• The variable *j* is called the *index of summation*. It runs through all the integers starting with its *lower limit m* and ending with its *upper limit n*.

#### **Summations**

• More generally for a set S:

$$\sum_{j \in S} a_j$$

• Examples:

$$r^{0} + r^{1} + r^{2} + r^{3} + \dots + r^{n} = \sum_{i=0}^{n} r^{i}$$

$$1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \dots = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i}$$
If  $S = \{2, 5, 7, 10\}$  then  $\sum_{j \in S} a_{j} = a_{2} + a_{5} + a_{7} + a_{10}$ 

## **Product Notation (optional)**

- Product of the terms  $a_m, a_{m+1}, \ldots, a_n$  from the sequence  $\{a_n\}$
- The notation:

$$\prod_{j=m}^{n} a_j \qquad \prod_{j=m}^{n} a_j \qquad \prod_{m \le j \le n} a_j$$
 represents

$$a_m \times a_{m+1} \times \cdots \times a_n$$

#### **Geometric Series**

#### Sums of terms of geometric progressions

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n} ar^{j} = \begin{cases} \frac{ar^{n+1}-a}{r-1} & r \neq 1\\ (n+1)a & r = 1 \end{cases}$$

**Proof:** Let 
$$S_n = \sum_{j=0}^n ar^j$$

$$rS_n = r\sum_{j=0}^n ar^j$$

$$=\sum_{j=0}^{n} ar^{j+1}$$

**Proof:** Let  $S_n = \sum_{j=0}^n ar^j$  To compute  $S_n$ , first multiply both sides of the equality by r and then manipulate  $rS_n = r \sum_{j=0}^{n} ar^j$  and then the resulting sum as follows:

 $= \sum_{i=0}^{n} ar^{j+1} \qquad Continued on next slide$ 

#### **Geometric Series**

$$= \sum_{j=0}^{n} ar^{j+1}$$
 From previous slide.

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{n} ar^{k}$$
 Shifting the index of summation with  $k = j + 1$ .

$$= \left(\sum_{k=0}^{n} ar^{k}\right) + (ar^{n+1} - a)$$
 Removing  $k = n + 1$  term and adding  $k = 0$  term.

$$= S_n + (ar^{n+1} - a)$$
 Substituting S for summation formula

$$rS_n = S_n + (ar^{n+1} - a)$$

$$S_n = \frac{ar^{n+1} - a}{r - 1} \quad \text{if } r \neq 1$$

$$S_n = \sum_{j=0}^n ar^j = \sum_{j=0}^n a = (n+1)a$$
 if  $r = 1$ 

## Some Useful Summation Formulae

<b>TABLE 2</b> Some Useful Summation Formulae.		
Sum	Closed Form	
$\sum_{k=0}^{n} ar^k \ (r \neq 0)$	$\frac{ar^{n+1}-a}{r-1}, r \neq 1$	
$\sum_{k=1}^{n} k$	$\frac{n(n+1)}{2}$	
$\sum_{k=1}^{n} k^2$	$\frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$	
$\sum_{k=1}^{n} k^3$	$\frac{n^2(n+1)^2}{4}$	
$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k,  x  < 1$	$\frac{1}{1-x}$	
$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} kx^{k-1},  x  < 1$	$\frac{1}{(1-x)^2}$	

Geometric Series: We just proved this.

Later we will prove some of these by induction.

Proof in text (requires calculus)

## Query???

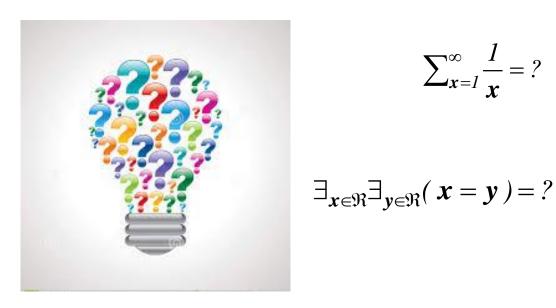


$$\sqrt{1+\sqrt{2+\sqrt{3+\sqrt{4....}}}}$$

$$\exists_{x \in \Re} \exists_{y \in \Re} (x = y) = ?$$

$$\sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x = ?$$

$$\forall_{\mathbf{x}}(\Re/\mathbf{x}) = ?$$



 $\sum_{x=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} = ?$ 

$$\sqrt{1+\sqrt{2+\sqrt{3+\sqrt{4....}}}}=2$$

$$\sqrt{1+\sqrt{2+\sqrt{3+\sqrt{4....}}}} = ?$$
 $1-1+1-1+1....=?$ 

$$\sum_{x=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} = ?$$