

## Section 11.2

Def: An **arithmetic sequence** is a sequence in which each term after the first differs from the preceding term by a constant amount. The difference between consecutive terms is called the **common difference** of the sequence.

Ex: Is it an arith. seq?

• 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, ... NO

$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & \curvearrowright & \curvearrowright & & & \\ & & 4 & 8 & & & \end{array}$

• 2, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, ... NO

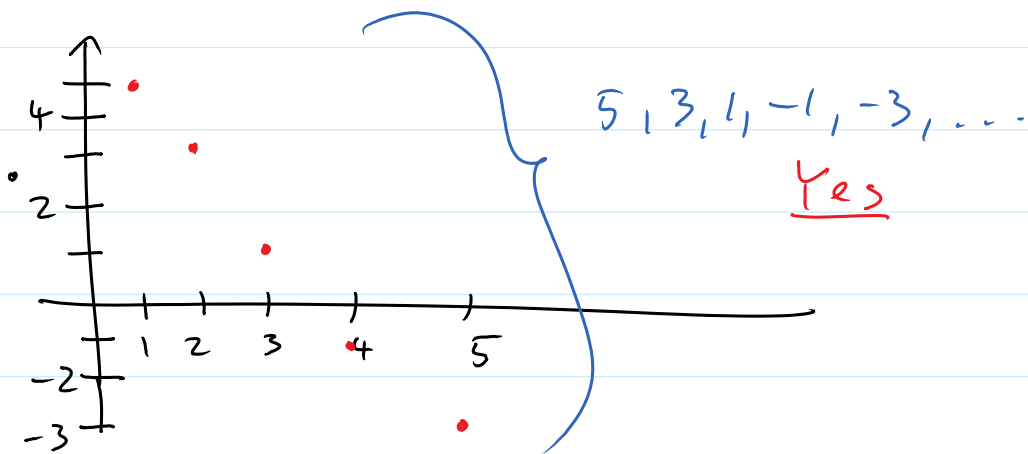
$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & \curvearrowright & \curvearrowright & \curvearrowright & \curvearrowright & & \\ & -2 & +2 & -2 & +2 & & \end{array}$

• 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, ... Yes

$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & \curvearrowright & \curvearrowright & \curvearrowright & \curvearrowright & & \\ & +2 & +2 & +2 & +2 & & \end{array}$

• 4, 1, -2, -5, ... Yes

$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & \curvearrowright & \curvearrowright & \curvearrowright & & & \\ & -3 & -3 & -3 & & & \end{array}$



General term of an arithmetic seq. is

$$a_n = a_1 + (n-1)d$$

↑
↑  
 first term                      comm. diff

Ex: Find the first five terms of the seq. where  $a_1 = 6$  and  $a_n = a_{n-1} - 2$ . Find the general term.

$$a_1 = 6, a_2 = 6 - 2 = 4, a_3 = 2, a_4 = 0, a_5 = -2$$

$$a_n = 6 + (n-1)(-2)$$

↑  
comm. diff

$$a_n = 6 - 2(n-1)$$

Ex: Find  $a_8$  of an arith. seq. whose first term is 4 and the common difference is -7.

$$a_n = 4 + (n-1)(-7)$$

$$a_8 = 4 + (8-1)(-7) = 4 + 7 \cdot (-7) = 4 - 49 \\ = \boxed{-45}$$

Ex: Find the general term of the arith. seqs

$$-2, 8, 18, 28, \dots$$

↖ ↗  
+10 +10

$$a_n = -2 + (n-1) \cdot 10$$

$$\boxed{a_n = -2 + 10(n-1)}$$

$$= -2 + 10n - 10 = \boxed{10n - 12}$$

Ex: Find the sum of the first 99 terms of the arith. seq.

$$1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$$

$$a_n = 1 + (n-1) \cdot 1 = 1 + n - 1 = \boxed{n}$$

99

$$\text{Find } \sum_{i=1} i = 1+2+3+4+\dots+96+97+98+99$$

$$= 1+2+3+4+\dots+49 \quad +50 = 100 \cdot 0.5$$

$$99+98+97+96+\dots+51$$

$$\hline 100+100+100+100+\dots+100+50$$

$$49 \cdot 100 + 50 = 4900 + 50$$

$$= \boxed{4950}$$

$$49 \cdot 100 + 0.5 \cdot 100$$

$$= 49.5 \cdot 100$$



number of terms  
divided by 2.

↖ sum of the first and last term

Sum of an arith. seq.

If  $a_n = a_1 + (n-1)d$ , then

$$\boxed{\sum_{i=1}^N a_i = \frac{N}{2}(a_1 + a_N)}$$

Ex: Find the sum of the first 100 terms  
of the seq: 1, 3, 5, 7, ...

$$a_1 = 1, \quad a_{100} = ?$$

$$\hookrightarrow a_n = 1 + (n-1) \cdot 2$$

$$a_{100} = 1 + 99 \cdot 2 = 199$$

$$\text{The sum } S_{100} = \sum_{i=1}^{100} a_n = \frac{100}{2} (1 + 199)$$

$$= 50 \cdot 200 = \boxed{10000}$$

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Ex: Find  $\sum_{i=1}^{25} (5i - 9)$

$\hookrightarrow$  is this an arith. seq?

last term:

$$i=25 \Rightarrow 5 \cdot 25 - 9 = 116$$

$$i=1 \Rightarrow 5 \cdot 1 - 9 = -4$$

$$i=2 \Rightarrow 5 \cdot 2 - 9 = 1$$

$$i=3 \Rightarrow 5 \cdot 3 - 9 = 6$$

Yes.

Any linear function will correspond to an arith. seq.

$$\sum_{i=1}^{25} (5i - 9) = S_{25} = \frac{25}{2} (-4 + 116)$$

$$= \frac{25}{2} (\overset{56}{\cancel{112}}) = 25 \cdot 56 = \boxed{1400}$$

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Ex: Find the general term of the arith. seq with  $a_2 = 3$  and  $a_{14} = 51$

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

$$a_{14} = a_1 + (14-1)d = a_1 + 13d = 51$$

$$a_1 + 13d = 51$$

$$-(a_1 + d = 3)$$

$$\hline 12d = 48$$

$$d = \frac{48}{12} = 4 \rightarrow a_1 + 4 = 3$$

$$\boxed{a_1 = -1}$$

$$\boxed{a_n = -1 + (n-1)4}$$

How many terms will add to 2300?

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

$$2300 = \frac{n}{2}(-1 + (-1 + (n-1)4))$$

$$2300 = \frac{n}{2}(-1 - 1 + 4n - 4)$$

$$2300 = \frac{n}{2}(4n - 6)$$

$$2300 = 2n^2 - 3n$$

$$0 = 2n^2 - 3n - 2300$$

$$n = \boxed{40} - \frac{115}{3}$$