

Session 5

All number sequences are generated from counting numbers.

Consider the sequence 5, 7, 9, 11,

$$5 = 2 \times 1 + 3$$

$$7 = 2 \times 2 + 3$$

$$9 = 2 \times 3 + 3$$

$$11 = 2 \times 4 + 3$$

.This sequence is written by multiplying the numbers 1, 2, 3, ... by 2 and adding 3.

n th term is $2 \times n + 3$. n th term is called algebraic form of the sequence.

The algebraic form of an arithmetic sequence can be written easily . On adding $n - 1$ common differences to the first term we get n th term.

$$n \text{ th term} = f + (n - 1)d.$$

This can be written as $f + nd - d$ or $nd + (f - d)$.

$$n \text{ th term } x_n = dn + (f - d)$$

Example

- 1) Common difference of an arithmetic sequence is 4, first term 11
 - a) Write the algebraic form of the sequence .
 - b) What is the 10 th term of the sequence .
 - c) What is the 20 th term of the sequence ?

Answer

$$\text{a) } x_n = dn + (f - d) = 4n + (11 - 4) = 4n + 7$$

$$\text{b) } x_{10} = 4 \times 10 + 7 = 47$$

$$\text{c) } x_{20} = 4 \times 20 + 7 = 87$$

2) Consider the arithmetic sequence with first term 7 and common difference 4. 2

- Write the sequence .
- Write the algebraic form of the sequence .
- How can we understand common difference in the algebraic form?
- What about the first term in the algebraic form?

Answer

- $7, 11, 15, 19, 23 \dots$
- $x_n = dn + (f - d) = 4n + (7 - 4) = 4n + 3$
- In the algebraic form $an + b$ the coefficient of n , that is a is the common difference .
- First term is $a + b = 7$

3) 12 th term of an arithmetic sequence is 28 and its 16 th term 36.

- What is the common difference ?
- What is the first term of the sequence ?
- Write the algebraic form of the sequence .
- What is the 30 th term of the sequence?

Answer

- $4d = 36 - 28 = 8, d = 2$
- $f = x_{12} - 11d = 28 - 11 \times 2 = 28 - 22 = 6$
- $x_n = dn + (f - d) = 2n + (6 - 2) = 2n + 4$
- $x_{30} = 2 \times 30 + 4 = 64$

4) First term of an arithmetic sequences is 7 and its 10 th term is 34.

- What is the common difference ?
- Write the sequence ?
- Write the algebraic form of the sequence
- Write the 50 th term of the sequence .

Answer

- a) $9d = 34 - 7 = 27, d = \frac{27}{9} = 3$
- b) 7, 10, 13, 16...
- c) $x_n = dn + (f - d) = 3n + (7 - 3) = 3n + 4$
- d) $x_{50} = 3 \times 50 + 4 = 154$

5) Algebraic form of an arithmetic sequence is $7n + 4$

- a) What is the common difference ?
- b) What is the first term ?
- c) What is the difference between 10 th term and 18 th term
- d) Can the difference between two terms 123?

Answer

- a) $d = 7$
- b) $f = 7 + 4 = 11$
- c) $x_{18} - x_{10} = 8d = 8 \times 7 = 56$
- d) Divide 123 by 7 . 123 is not divisible by 7 . So 123 cannot be the difference .